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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lujan, B DATE TYPED 02/24/05 HB HJM 44

SHORT TITLE Water Conservation and Infrastructure Financing SB _____

ANALYST Ford

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			Minimal – see narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
 New Mexico Department of Agriculture
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
 Office of the State Engineer (OSE)
 New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
 New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA)
 Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 44 creates the water conservation and infrastructure task force which shall, in consultation with the technical advisory team, gather and distill information, develop strategic options and adopt recommendations for a strategic water conservation and infrastructure financing and administration plan that will promote the state's economy, natural resources and quality of life. The resolution specifies certain areas and questions for the task force to address.

The task force shall be comprised of 18 members and assisted by a technical advisory team whose staff will be drawn from several state bodies. The task force shall consist of 4 members appointed by the governor, one of which the governor shall designate as chair, six members of

the legislature (3 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and 3 by the president pro tempore of the senate), and 8 members of the public appointed by the New Mexico legislative council representing specified various interests.

The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor and legislature no later than December 1, 2006.

Significant Issues

The NMED writes, "Currently there is no coordination between funding agencies or the legislature regarding water conservation and infrastructure programs. The current situation allows for inefficient use of resources, duplication of efforts, and fails to promote coordination between water agencies in the same region. The proposed task force would investigate ways to correct this situation. A state water plan has been developed by the OSE and water conservation recommendations have been developed by the drought task force. New efforts should capitalize on past work."

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The resolution will result in increased workload to the various agencies designated for the technical advisory team. NMED, EMNRD and TRD indicate that increased requirements are minimal and can be absorbed. In its revised analysis, OSE writes that the memorial will have no fiscal impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The resolution will result in increased administrative efforts for the agencies participating on the technical advisory team.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Department of Agriculture writes that the Economic Development Department should be considered for representation on the technical advisory team and the Soil and water Conservation Districts should be considered for representation the task force.

NMED writes, "Review of existing water statutes should be conducted, to enable the task force to make recommendations for further planning and study of any needed modification/updating of existing laws or the recommendation for enactment of needed legislation. Specifically, the review should identify all existing organizational structures for water entities so their strengths and weakness and ability to accept funding can be evaluated."

EF/sb