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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez, M. DATE TYPED 03-04-05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Rio Grande Water Model Info System SB 965

ANALYST Woods

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$80.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.  
Relates to HB1066

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LFC Files
- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
- New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
- Interstate Stream Commission (ISC)
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 965 – Making an Appropriation to Acquire and Maintain a Geographic Information System to Enhance the Middle Rio Grande Collaborative Water Model – appropriates \$80,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to acquire a geographic information system for the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District for geospatial visualization, hosting and data maintenance to enhance the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly's collaborative water model. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

#### Significant Issues

NMDA indicates that this initiative builds upon a dynamic water model created for the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly to develop a 50-year plan. This funding would allow for expansion

of the model by adding a geographic information system (GIS) interface to the simulations. The GIS interface would allow for a graphical view of results and changes to simulated water and land use scenarios in the Middle Rio Grande region.

CHE notes that this expansion request was not in the list of priority projects submitted by NMSU to the commission for review. Consequently, this request was not included in the commission's funding recommendation for FY06.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$80,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

New Mexico State University will retain oversight of this program.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB1066 in that HB1066 seeks to appropriate \$3,000,000 from the general fund to the Office of the State Engineer for expenditure in FY06 to improve water conservation, efficiency and management of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The ISC suggests that the water model developed for use by the Assembly is a planning model that was used to assist with the evaluation of various water management alternatives during formulation of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. A GIS cannot be linked in an efficient or useful way to that type of model. Further, ISC observes that the legislation is duplicative or redundant of current GIS database development within the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District which has already cataloged water related information within the valley portion of the area covered by the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition, other agencies – such as the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service – also have robust GIS systems covering this area.

**BFW/lg**