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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
LAST UPDATED 2-6-06 **HB** 846

SPONSOR Lujan

SHORT TITLE Acequia and Community Ditch Fund **SB** _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB121, HB495, HB635, HB665, SB191, SB377, SB706

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of the State Engineer-Interstate Stream Commission (OSE)
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07	FY08		
	\$200.0		Recurring	Acequias & Community Ditch Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 846 seeks to appropriate \$200,000 from the general fund to the Acequia and Community Ditch Fund for expenditure in fiscal years 2007 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the Acequia and Community Ditch Fund Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Office of the State Engineer-Interstate Stream Commission (OSE) indicates that in 1988, the Legislature created the acequia and community ditch fund to provide assistance to community ditches and acequias for expenses incurred during water-right adjudication suits. The fund is available for historical studies, economic impact reports, expert witness fees, legal fees and other technical services related to the adjudication process.

Completion of water-right adjudications is a priority for the State of New Mexico, and providing funding for acequias and community ditches to accurately define and defend their water rights will speed the adjudication process.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

OSE indicates that this legislation is related to several bills that include funding for acequias and community ditches:

- HB121 and SB377 provide \$44M for “acequia and dam safety improvements statewide”
- HB495 provides \$475K for acequia education, technical assistance and planning
- HB635 provides \$250K for “archival and ethnographic research on acequias to be incorporated into New Mexico history courses in the public schools.”
- HB665 provides \$130K for “operations of the Acequia Commission”.
- SB191 provides \$250K for “acequia technical assistance.”
- SB706 provides \$250K for the “acequia rehabilitation and restoration fund”

BW/yr