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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

	ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/06		
SPONSOR	Sanchez, M	LAST UPDATED	HB
	STATE FAIR RELOCATION TO VALENCIA		
SHORT TITLE	COUNTY	SM	47
			ANALYST Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	none		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

No comments from agencies had been received at the time this FIR was prepared.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 47 would request the Property Control Division (PCD) of the General Services Department (GSD) to work in conjunction with the state fair commission to study the feasibility of relocating the New Mexico state fair to Valencia County. The study would be presented to the appropriate legislative interim committee no later than October 1, 2006.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

GSD would incur costs related to conducting the study, particularly for contractual services if the study were not completed by GSD staff. A recent task force estimated it would cost \$330 million to move the State Fair versus about \$150 million to modernize existing facilities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The State Fair has had an uneasy relationship with surrounding neighborhoods for many years. There have been complaints about increased crime, traffic, noise, parking and other concerns. Although members of the State Fair Commission and Fair staff have maintained an active dialogue with nearby neighborhoods to address these concerns, this continues to be one source of pressure to move the Fair to a new location. Proponents of moving the Fair also point out that

the current location is not easily accessible from interstate highways and that the facilities at the current location are antiquated.

In November 2005, Governor Bill Richardson established a State Fair Task Force to do an analysis of the State Fair and to determine the core mission of the Fair and Fairgrounds in order to develop a plan that would reflect all of New Mexico's traditions, while positioning the Fair to be strong and relevant in the 21st century. The task force commissioned a statewide public opinion poll on issues related to the State Fair. The poll found that 71 percent of New Mexicans surveyed said to keep the Fair at its current location. The Task Force recommended that the Fair not be relocated but that the State should make a significant capital investment into upgrading its facilities.

Task force members included Terri Cole (Chair), Del Archuleta (Vice Chair), Bill Garcia, Bob Goodman, Nick Knapison, David Smoak, Ed Adams, Maria Elena Alvarez, Anthony Herrera, Caren Cowan, Larry Garcia, Roland Johnson, Sandy Jones, Mick McMahan, David Norvell, Fred Peralta, Ned Shepherd, Ron Solimon, Sheila Thomas, Bill Whittington, Bill Hume, Kathy Domenici.

DH/mt