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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/19/2007

SPONSOR Stewart LAST UPDATED _____ HB 41

SHORT TITLE STATEWIDE AQUIFER MAPPING PROJECT SB _____

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$650.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 81

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 41 appropriates \$650,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for expenditure in FY 2008 and subsequent fiscal years for the Bureau of Geology and Mineral resources to conduct statewide aquifer mapping.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on program history at NMTech, the appropriation of \$650,000 contained in this bill is identified as a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Information on the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology website indicates that the Bureau of Geology and Mineral resources has been engaged in hydrogeologic studies of New Mexico's aquifers for ten years in cooperation with partners at the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer and the New Mexico Environment Department. Beginning in the mid-1990s with geologic mapping and aquifer analysis in the Albuquerque Basin and a hydrogeology study in Placitas, the Bureau has since developed an aquifer mapping program that applies a combination

of geologic geophysical, hydrologic, and geochemical information to develop descriptive models of groundwater flow in important aquifers around the state.

Aquifer studies range in scope from short-term local projects to long-term, regional studies engaging a variety of disciplines and collaborators. With support from the 2005 State Legislature in the form of a \$300,000 one-year appropriation, the program has been able to complete some studies while continuing or starting others. Past efforts have completed or contributed to studies in the Albuquerque Basin, Placitas, Estancia Basin, and the Taos Valley. Results of a three-year study in the Española Basin are contributing to a collaborative effort by Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe to build a regional groundwater flow model to assist with resource administration and management. In 2005, a multi-year water-level monitoring study continued in the Roswell artesian basin, while studies in Arroyo Hondo north of Taos and the Peñasco Valley were completed and new investigations initiated in the Sacramento Mountains east of Alamogordo and near Seven Rivers in the lower Pecos River valley.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMTech provides administrative support for the Bureau of Geology and Mineral significant additional impact is anticipated if this legislation is adopted.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 41 duplicates SB 81.

BM/mt