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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2007

SPONSOR J. M. Gutierrez LAST UPDATED _____ HB 113

SHORT TITLE NMSU Water Quality & Availability Research SB _____

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$1,600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 174.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University - Institute for Energy and the Environment (NMSU-IEE)
 Office of the State Engineer (OSE)
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 Environment Department – Ground Water Quality Bureau (ED-GWQB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 113 appropriates \$1,600,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 2008 to expand research in water quality and availability.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,600,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMSU IEE and NMSU Water Resource Research Institute (WRRI) water programs propose to increase the number of innovative technology development and deployment that would have direct impact on water affordability and availability. The objectives of the state request will be managing programmatic efforts associated with the Tularosa Basin National Inland Water Desalination facility and conducting research focused on water quality, availability, affordability and management as well as the Energy-Water connection issues. The IEE and the WRRI will also focus on increasing water education and outreach as well as training programs.

This appropriation would provide up to 25 graduate student fellowships, 12 faculty members, and up to 10 staff members. Some examples of education and outreach include Water Wise Festival, Summer Academy, and Project Wet. Community workshops, adult education programs, multimedia presentations, and newsletters are educational programs this appropriation would help to support.

This proposal was submitted to the HED by New Mexico State University and included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08 in the amount of \$1,500,000.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The proposal did not indicate goals and objectives and how they will be measured. The roles and responsibilities are unclear for federal agencies, private entities, and New Mexico State University as research partners in working toward desalinization technologies of inland brackish water that are cost effective and can be easily implemented.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicates SB 174.

BM/nt