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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Gonzales ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/2007  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 1135  
SHORT TITLE Acequia Agricultural Youth Project SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Moser

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: HB 745

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1135 appropriates \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) for expenditure in FY08 to contract with a non-profit organization for an acequia agricultural youth project.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

This request was not submitted by NMSU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for review and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

HED indicates that this proposal requests needed funding to support the work of the New Mexico Acequia Association's (NMAA) Sembrando Las Semillas youth program. The NMAA was founded in 1990 to build a united voice for acequia communities throughout the state. The association is a grassroots, membership-based organization that has worked to protect and strengthen acequias through community education, community organizing, and policy advocacy.

Sembrando Las Semillas is a high school youth project in its second year that aims to develop media literacy, build critical thinking skills, improve leadership abilities, engage in natural resource stewardship, and promote agricultural production. Currently, NMAA youth projects take place in Embudo, Taos, Penasco, and Mora. Programs are designed and utilize mentorship as a key teaching module.

Youth participants document and produce videos that highlight these efforts and have been aired on various local radio programs such as the solar radio station located in Taos, K-Taos 101.9 FM. Other accomplishments of the Sembrando Las Semillas program include:

- Participants in annual Bioneers Conference
- Participants in Quivera Coalition
- Presentations before local growers and ranchers meetings, legislative committees, and local governing bodies.
- Participants in Seeds Sovereignty Proclamation
- Participants in a Literacy Program featuring Jimmy Santiago Baca

DHE indicates that this request will be used to expand service areas, provide funds for staff members who serve as program educators, and supply educational materials to assist participants in writing assignments that include creative writing, scripts, fact sheets, informational brochures etc. Approximately 50 students are involved with this program and this appropriation will help to increase the number of participants.

GM/csd