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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/18/2007

SPONSOR Anderson LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 4

SHORT TITLE VLA Telescope in Recognition SB _____

ANALYST Schuss

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 4 recognizes the national radio astronomy observatory's very large array radio telescope for its prominence in the field of astronomy and for its contributions toward the advancement of scientific knowledge.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The very large array radio telescope, situated outside of Socorro, New Mexico, is one of the world's premier astronomical radio observatories. The very large array radio telescope is an exceedingly powerful scientific instrument, which has transformed many areas of astronomy in its years of operation. It has a long history in New Mexico, having been approved by congress in 1972, constructed between 1973 and 1980 and dedicated in 1980.

The very large array radio telescope in New Mexico is still the most productive astronomical instrument on earth. It is used by astronomers from around the world to conduct fundamental research on the nature of the universe and to seek answers to some of the biggest questions, such as how the universe began, how big it is, how old it is and how it will end. Astronomy stirs scientific curiosity in thousands of young people every year, who learn that astronomy involves nearly the whole range of physical sciences, including mathematics, physics, geology, engineering and computer science.

House Joint Memorial 4 – Page 2

Many professional scientists in these and other fields first became interested in their profession through astronomy.

The very large array radio telescope is of economic benefit to New Mexico, in that it employs up to a hundred people on a given day, who work to keep the telescope in good working condition. The popular and award-winning movie “Contact” was filmed in part at the very large array radio telescope which increased tourism to the area and has further supported the local economy.

The national radio astronomy observatory, which operates the very large array radio telescope, is a facility of the national science foundation, which is operated under cooperative agreement by associated universities, incorporated. The legislature of the State of New Mexico requests that the national radio astronomy observatory’s very large array radio telescope be recognized for its significant contributions to science and to the state of New Mexico.

BS/mt