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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/08

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Dona Ana Regional Comprehensive Planning SB 94

ANALYST Propst

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 94, Making an Appropriation for Dona Ana County to Conduct a Regional Comprehensive Planning Process, appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to DFA for the purpose of conducting a regional comprehensive planning process.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DFA notes that SB 94 will enhance the work begun with the following funding:

In accordance with the laws of 2007, Chapter 42, Section 68, Paragraph 289, \$25.0 thousand was appropriated from the general fund for a master plan to determine land use and infrastructure projects and identify areas of development and preservation in Dona Ana county. This grant is administered by the DFA. The County has begun the process of conducting a regional plan through this funding.

Dona Ana Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved a resolution on March 29, 2007, with the City of Las Cruces and New Mexico State University to share the costs of a regional planning project entitled Vision 2040 which will provide a policy framework to guide actions of the County and plan for long-term growth and change. This Vision 2040 plan also provides for the updating of the County Comprehensive Plan. The Dona Ana County comprehensive plan has not been updated since 1995. The agreement designated the City of Las Cruces as the fiscal agent for the project. A consultant contract has already been awarded for this project.

Geographically, Dona County is located at the southernmost end of the state, along the border. The intent of the bill is to provide a regional approach to the planning process and address issues related to growth, economy, environment, and transportation. A Regional plan would look at rural communities, many of which are colonias, and include them in planning for infrastructure, housing, and the establishment of school bus routes.

Yearly, DFA receives approximately \$14 million from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Small Cities Program. Ten percent of these funds are set aside for the purpose of addressing colonias' needs relating to water and waste water (only). This leaves a myriad of services needing to be addressed in a regional comprehensive plan.

The following are counties where colonias (139) exist in New Mexico: Dona Ana County (35); Grant County (33); Otero County (16); Catron County (34); Hidalgo County (7); Luna County (6); Eddy County (5); Sierra County (1); Chavez County (1); and Socorro County (1).

A regional plan for Dona County is underway through a \$25.0 thousand 2007 general fund appropriation for the purpose of conducting a land/infrastructure master plan. Funding in SB 94 would enhance the 2007 funds already appropriated.

All work completed through the 2007 appropriation should be incorporated into the final result of SB 94.

WEP/bb