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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2008

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation SB 289

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Senate Bill 289 is related to SB47, HB85, and HB140.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

Higher Education Department (HED)

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 289 appropriates \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture for expenditure in FY 09 for the east Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District SWCD to conduct education and training programs and general district operations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 09 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

East Torrance District is one of the 47 SWCDs of DOA. The East Torrance District makes up 1,142,028 acres in the Estancia area of New Mexico. A variety of land use occurs in this district

including 25,000 acres of irrigated crop land, 2,000 acres of dry crop land, 1,059,923 acres of range land, 47,405 acres of forest, and 7,700 acres of urban land. All of the soil and water conservation efforts in this area are conducted by one SWCD office that has only one paid employee and a seven person volunteer board.

The East Tarrant County SWCD office is trying to reach more students through Estancia's single private secondary school and all public schools and Head Start Programs in the area. In addition to working with school children the office holds public outreach programs and workshops for private land owners. According to the East Tarrant County SWCD office, demand for these programs is high but the resources are not available to meet the demand. This appropriation will supplement the existing operating budget by adding funds to hire one additional person to conduct outreach programs and workshops. Additionally, a small portion of the funding will go toward materials used to teach about watershed and soil conservation issues.

This request was not submitted by NMSU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) and this request is not included in the NMHED's executive funding recommendations for FY09.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The NMDA will be responsible for administering the provisions of this bill as part of its ongoing responsibilities.

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 289 is a companion to SB47, HB85, HB140 - each of which deals with monies being administered by NMSU for the NMDA for soil and water conservation districts and restoration efforts.

BM/bb