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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/09/13

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Extreme Drought & Wet Water Usage Committee SJM 55/aSCONC

ANALYST Chabot

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		>\$30.0		>\$30.0	Nonrecurring	Operating Budgets

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB462, SM8, SM89, SM90

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SCONC Amendment

The Senate Conservation Committee amendment to Senate Joint Memorial 55 adds conservation to the options to be considered.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 55 resolves Legislative Council be requested to appoint a subcommittee on extreme drought and water usage which will meet at least three times for two days each in Socorro, Elephant Butte and Las Cruces to consider options for recommended state actions for augmentation of water supplies, construction of water storage infrastructure, development of drought management plans, support for development of improved drought management tools, changes to the tax code to improve drought management decision-making and assistance to agricultural producers for feed augmentation during droughts. The subcommittee is to invite input and assistance from the Elephant Butte irrigation district, the Water Resources Research Institute at New Mexico State University, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the Interstate Stream Commission, the Office of the State Engineer and any other sources with expertise on the drought.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The LFC budgets approximately \$5.0 thousand per day for committee meetings. The memorial

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requires at least six meetings which would cost \$30.0 thousand and would be increased if more meetings were held.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico has been in a drought for the past several years and predictions indicate little improvement of these conditions. Water supplies have been drawn down and estimates are Elephant Butte is below 10 percent of capacity limiting supplies that can be released for irrigation and other uses.

There are federal agencies having roles in managing New Mexico's water including the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Weather Service, and the Department of the Interior that may have input in managing the drought issue.

The subcommittee may want to review New Mexico water law and enforcement of that law by the State Engineer.

GAC/blm