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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Rehm **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/02/16  
**LAST UPDATED** 02/08/16 **HM** 33/aHAWC

**SHORT TITLE** Aqueduct to New Mexico **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Amacher

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
 Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of the House Agriculture, Water & Wildlife Committee Amendment

House Memorial 33 was amended to strike two lines in their entirety “whereas, the downstream state of Texas yearly requests additional water from New Mexico.” HM33, as amended, requests the New Mexico congressional delegation to support federal funding for an aqueduct connecting either the Missouri or the Mississippi rivers to New Mexico in an attempt to alleviate the seasonal flood waters of these rivers and divert the flood waters through various structures and tunnels. This memorial endeavors to alleviate the drought in New Mexico by way of this proposed transmountain movement of water.

#### Synopsis of the Memorial

House Memorial 33 requests the New Mexico congressional delegation to support federal funding for an aqueduct connecting either the Missouri or the Mississippi rivers to New Mexico in an attempt to alleviate the seasonal flood waters of these rivers and divert the flood waters through various structures and tunnels. This memorial endeavors to alleviate the drought in New Mexico by way of this proposed transmountain movement of water.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) the concept of river basin import alternatives may offer potential to bring a significant quantity of water into New Mexico.

## **House Memorial 33/aHAWC – Page 2**

Importation of water from either the Mississippi or the Missouri river basins to the Front Range of Colorado was evaluated in 2008 by the Seven Colorado River Basin States (including New Mexico acting through the Interstate Stream Commission) and by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as part of the 2012 Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study (2012 Basin Study).

The OSE notes the 2012 Basin Study evaluated alternatives to import 600,000 acre-feet of water annually from these rivers to the Front Range of Colorado. Either project would require at least 700 miles of conveyance infrastructure crossing at least two states and requiring at least 700 mega-watts of power for pumping. HM 33, as amended, outlines estimated costs of \$253 million if one hundred thousand acre-feet of water are diverted such as in the San Juan-Chama project.

The OSE indicates the 2012 Basin Study estimates for total capital costs for the projects ranged as high as \$14 billion.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The OSE suggests the memorial be amended to accurately reflect the finding of the 2012 Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study as follows:

On page 2, line 1, after “estimates” insert “the capital”.

On page 2, line 2, strike “importing water” and insert in lieu thereof “a project to import 600,000 acre-feet of water per year”.

On page 2, line 3, strike “be” and insert in lieu thereof “range up to \$14 billion or”

On page 2, line 5, after “acre-foot” strike the comma through the end of the line, and insert in lieu thereof “annually; and”.

On page 2, strike lines 6 and 7 in their entirety.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The OSE notes that as demonstrated by the 2012 Basin Study, importation of water from either the Mississippi or Missouri river basins, while feasible, would be fraught with numerous technical, environmental, legal and political obstacles and would be very expensive, far exceeding the costs represented in HM 33 as amended.

JMA/jle