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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/17

SPONSOR Stefanics LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe River Basin Issues SM 70

ANALYST Amacher

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of the Memorial

Senate Memorial 70 tasks the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) to convene a meeting with the representative stakeholders for the purpose of informing and making recommendation on the flow of water required for the city of Santa Fe to receive return-flow credits to the Rio Grande. SM 70 tasks the Interstate Stream Commission to resume the water rights negotiations initiated in 2009. The OSE is to produce a progress report of these subjects and make recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee by August 1, 2017.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no known fiscal impacts.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Memorial 70 tasks the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) to convene a meeting with the representative stakeholders for the purpose of informing and making recommendation on the flow of water required for the city of Santa Fe to receive return-flow credits to the Rio Grande. SM 70 tasks the Interstate Stream Commission to resume the water rights negotiations initiated in 2009. The OSE must produce a progress report of these subjects and make recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee by August 1, 2017.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

As noted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) this memorial talks about “water quality” but the intent of the memorial is clear that it is for water rights adjudications of the Santa Fe river. NMED also indicates it is unclear how the identification and cost of bioremediation systems to neutralize the emerging pollutants and pharmaceuticals from effluent water relates to the resolved of the memorial.

If statutory changes are to be considered by the legislature as a result of a progress report, it may help to effectuate real legislative changes from the group’s recommendation to identify one or more interim legislative committees which will review the requested progress report by August 1, 2017.

JMA/jle/sb