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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/20/19

SPONSOR Ramos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Ohkay Owingeh Groundwater Study SB 552

ANALYST _____

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$500.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 552 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to IAD for Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo to study the impacts on streams and aquifers in the Española basin of groundwater pumping, water rights, and compact deliveries to determine water yield and water quality.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh has been in discussions regarding the adjudication of its water rights claims with the State, the United States, the city of Espanola, and acequia associations on the Truchas, Santa Cruz, and Chama rivers. This study could benefit the understanding of the impacts of groundwater pumping on existing water rights in the basin, and the availability and quality of surface and groundwater. However, OSE analysis notes it may be duplicative of other studies being conducted by the United States or other parties.

JA/gb