F I S C A L   I M P A C T   R E P O R T

SPONSOR	Ortez	**ORIGINAL DATE** 02/10/21 **LAST UPDATED**	**HB**	194
SHORT TITLE	Acequia Help For Adjudication Settlements		**SB**	
			ANALYST	Becerra

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	See Fiscal Implications					

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
LFC Files

Responses Received From
University of New Mexico (UNM)
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)
New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA)

No Response Received
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 194 (HB194) amends The Acequia and Community Ditch Fund (ACDF) Act, Section 73-2A-3 NMSA 1978, to expand the applicable use of the ACDF to acequia and community ditch associations that are involved in the implementation of a negotiated water right settlement in either an ongoing or completed water rights adjudication.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB194 does not contain an appropriation.

HB194 expands the number of acequia and community ditch associations that are eligible to receive ACDF funding, thus, potentially reducing the amount of money available in the fund to provide assistance to acequias for litigation activities in ongoing water rights adjudication suits.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The term "settlement implementation" is not defined and its ambiguity could give rise to difficulties in administering the fund and could lead to misinterpretation of appropriate fund uses.

MB/sb