

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Helen Gaussoin</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)  
*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)***

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** 1/27/2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 114 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Senator Pat Woods **Agency Name and Code Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Short Title:** GAME COMMISSION LAND ACQUISITIONS **Person Writing:** Vidal Gonzales  
**Phone:** 505-614-4495 **Email:** vidal@lasacequias.org

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

##### Synopsis:

SB 114 relates to the State Game Commission in altering the commission's procedure of land and water rights acquisition requiring the approval of acequia associations, land grants, board of county commissioners, and the legislature prior to acquisition and requiring reporting to the legislature. A report examining the social, cultural and economic impacts to the acequia association, land grant or county in which the acquisition is located must be compiled. The State Game Commission must report to the legislature prior to October 1 on all expenditures from the game protection fund and their purposes, the results of the social, cultural and economic impact survey of any land or water acquisition and recommendations for legislative approval for further expenditures from the fund for the acquisition of land or water rights.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Acequias and community ditches are traditional, unique public bodies, which are often small with limited resources or ability to oppose water rights or land acquisitions that will negatively impact their communities, water supply, operations, or public welfare. In many cases this capacity issue leads to acequia and community ditches being negatively impacted by development with very little ability to provide input, recommendations, or to oppose the development project. Historically, acequia and community ditches have been negatively impacted of by conservation projects, such as fish hatcheries, in the acquisition of water rights. Requiring the State Game Commission to obtain written approval by an acequia and community ditch prior to acquiring water rights or land would provide a community-based approval process and opportunity for input that is needed when considering the welfare of rural communities.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

NMAA suggests that not enacting SB 114 will result in the State Game Commission not taking into consideration the negative impacts that a water right or land acquisition would have on an acequia or community ditch. In many cases, an acequia or community ditch does not have the capacity to combat development projects that will negatively impact their public welfare. NMAA further recommends that not enacting this legislation will negatively impact the acequia or community ditches' ability to foster positive rural development that meets the needs of rural communities. Acequia and community ditches are political subdivisions of the state that often advocate for positive rural development that is consistent with the community's public welfare.

### **AMENDMENTS**