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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Wilson DATE TYPED: 01/24/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Complete Regional Water Planning Process SB 80
 ANALYST: Dotson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 1,500.0	See Narrative		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act SB 81, HB 114 and 113.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Engineer

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB 80 appropriates \$1.5 million from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission to complete the regional water planning process.

Significant Issues

According to the State Engineer, funds appropriated in 1998 for statewide water planning activities have assisted seven of the sixteen water planning regions in significantly advancing their water plans. Four regions still need additional funds to complete their water plans. Six regions had no funding under the 1998 appropriation. Ten of New Mexico's water planning regions still need funds to complete their regional water plans. Three regions have completed plans with funds appropriated by the Legislature in previous years.

These matching funds would help to advance the timeliness and enhance the quality of water planning efforts.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

According to the State Engineer, planning for high quality and active water resources management is of critical importance to quality of life and economic development in New Mexico's water planning regions.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.5 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund in the FY02 and FY03. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the State Engineer, implementing recommended alternatives in water plans relating to data gathering, water resources measuring and monitoring, and construction of water works could become a recurring cost to the state. Long term cost of not conducting and implementing water planning is huge, including reduced government revenues.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

HB 113 is a companion bill. HB 114 and SB 81 appropriate \$500,000 in general funds for implementing regional water plans.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the State Engineer, completion of regional water plans under the state's regional planning program will be suspended if the bill is not enacted.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Were the funds appropriated in 1998 intended to complete any planning activities? If so, which ones?

What indication does the Interstate Stream Commission have that this appropriation is sufficient to complete the planning process?

PD/ar