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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Gubbels DATE TYPED: 01/31/02 HB HJM 68

SHORT TITLE: La Semilla Environmental Education Facility SB _____

ANALYST: Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
		\$0.1 Minimal			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files
 State Land Office (SLO)
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

This memorial expresses the Legislature's support for the creation and establishment of La Semilla environmental education and liquid waste training facility, located on the Mesa del Sol state trust land near Albuquerque. The purpose of the La Semilla facility is to educate and train on-site liquid waste system designers and installers, contractors, public officials and the public regarding the design, installation and maintenance of on-site liquid waste systems. The memorial would allow the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and New Mexico State University to use the facility to conduct research and demonstrate new and advanced technologies in on-site liquid waste treatment, wastewater treatment, wastewater reuse and energy and resource management.

Significant Issues

Groundwater contamination from liquid waste, primarily from poorly installed or malfunctioning septic systems, is a serious problem in New Mexico. The Legislature, two years ago, passed legislation allowing the Department of Environment to promulgate liquid waste treatment rules to address the problem. The Environmental Improvement Board passed these rules in November 2001.

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A significant part of the problem is that consumers and even contractors are not adequately informed on the proper operation or installation of these systems. In fact, during the debate before the EIB, some contractors testified that in New Mexico, there is no certification requirement placed on contractors specific to septic systems.

This memorial would facilitate the establishment of an environmental education and liquid waste training facility at La Semilla. A facility such as that envisioned at La Semilla has significant potential to assist in ensuring the proper design, testing, installation, and maintenance of on-site liquid waste systems throughout New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Enactment of this joint memorial would have a minor administrative and fiscal impact on the agencies involved.

MFV/ar