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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nunez DATE TYPED: 02/09/03 HB 97

SHORT TITLE: Water Management Research and Education SB _____

ANALYST: Williams

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$300.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 66

Relates to HB 96, SB 67

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
 Office of State Engineer (OSE)
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)
 Environment Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 97 appropriates \$300.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents at New Mexico State University for the purpose of conducting water management research and education programs. The funding is equally split between the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES).

Significant Issues

The NMSU analysis notes funding would enhance current funding and would be used for water use education and research programs including educating the public on water issues, such as agricultural consumptive use, depletion rates, hydrologic connections between surface and ground water, risks of particular land use to ground and domestic water systems.

CHE notes NMSU submitted an expansion request of \$300.0 in addition to its request for the current operations of the AES and CES. The expansion request was ranked by NMSU as #11 out of 13 research and public services requests submitted to CHE. CHE notes its funding recommendation included \$200.0 for water issues at AES and CES.

This is a Water and Natural Resources Committee-sponsored bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2004 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC budget recommendation for AES is \$11,413.9, flat compared to FY03, and for CES is \$9,135.0, flat compared to FY03.

ALTERNATIVES

CHE notes the potential for the use of indirect cost revenues as an alternative funding source.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What performance measures could be developed to determine the effectiveness of this program ?

AW/prr