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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Begaye DATE TYPED: 02/25/03 HB 982

SHORT TITLE: San Juan River Basin Hydrographic Survey SB _____

ANALYST: Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$500.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 982 appropriates \$500.0 from the general fund to OSE for the purpose of conducting a hydrographic survey related to adjudicating the San Juan River Basin.

Significant Issues

Adjudication of the San Juan River Basin needs to be accomplished but is currently not being worked due to lack of resources within OSE. The agency states “this appropriation will allow the Hydrographic Survey Bureau to begin work that would otherwise be put off for several years...” The basin is the key supplier of water to the San Juan-Chama project and also has extensive Native American water right claims. The San Juan River is the water source for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project. Adjudication of the basin is imperative to ensure development and legal use of water resources in Northwest New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund.

OSE assesses the funding will be sufficient to acquire and process aerial photography, acquire equipment to perform the hydrographic survey, acquire an office and begin the preliminary work on the survey. Additional funding will be required to complete adjudications.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Where does the adjudication of the San Juan Basin rank on the OSE priorities for adjudication?

GAC/njw