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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wallace DATE TYPED 2/21/2005 HB 996

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe River Water Master SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$90.0		Indeterminate	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 996 appropriates \$90 thousand dollars from the general fund to the Office of the State Engineer for the purpose of creating a water district for the Santa Fe river system and appointing a water master.

Funds appropriated by the bill do not revert at the end of a fiscal year.

Significant Issues

The establishment of a Santa Fe River system water district and the appointment of a water master would provide a means of distributing the waters of the Santa Fe River system consistent with state law.

The water master would facilitate monitoring and measuring of the distribution of those waters within the Santa Fe river system.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Office of the State Engineer has established performance measures relating to the percent readiness to perform active water resource management. A portion of this initiative involves the establishment of water masters within various basins.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$90 million dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

The Office of the State Engineer notes \$90 thousand dollars may prove insufficient to fully cover preliminary planning costs for a water district (i.e., hydrologist salary, attorney salary, and water master salary).

PA/yr