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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/07
 LAST UPDATED 2/23/07 HB 53/aHAGC

SPONSOR Nunez

SHORT TITLE Water Trust Board Membership & Chairperson SB _____

ANALYST Kehoe

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
NFI	NFI		NFI

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

- New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA)
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
- Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
- Office of the State Engineer (OSE)
- New Mexico Game and Fish Department (NMGFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAGC Amendment

The House Agriculture and Water Resources Committee amendment increases the Water Trust Board membership from 15 to 17 members. The three new members include the executive directors of the Rural Water Association, the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, and the New Mexico Acequia Association, or their designees. The amendment further decreases the number of public members appointed by the governor to the board from five to three members. The 3 public members shall represent the environment community, an irrigation or conservancy district that uses surface water, and an irrigation or conservancy district that uses ground water.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 53 amends a provision of the Water Finance Act to add the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration as a member of the board, strikes the language

requiring the State Engineer to serve as chairman of the board, provides for election of the chair, and allows for designees to serve in place of members.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Bill 53 expands the current membership of the Water Trust Board from 15 to 16 members. The current membership consists of: the state engineer; the executive directors of the New Mexico Finance Authority, New Mexico Municipal League and New Mexico Association of Counties; the secretaries of the Environment Department, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, Game and Fish, and Department of Agriculture; five public members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate; one public member appointed by the Indian Affairs Commission; and the president of the Navajo Nation.

The public members appointed by the governor, must represent the environmental community, an irrigation or conservancy district that uses surface water, an irrigation or conservancy district that uses ground water, acequia water users, and soil and water conservation.

Under current law (Water Finance Act, Section 72-4A-4), the State Engineer is designated to serve as the chairman of the Water Trust Board. House Bill 53 provides for election of the chair, and also allows members of the board to name a designee to serve in his or her place on the board.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The executive budget request proposes creating an Office of Water Infrastructure to ensure accountability for water projects and to streamline the application project to provide “one-stop shopping” for communities requiring assistance with their water infrastructure needs. The request includes four additional positions for the Department of Finance and Administration, and proposes to transfer the Construction Programs Bureau to the new water office.

LMK/yr:csd