

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/07

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation SB 293

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB12, SB62, SB115, HB 344

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 293 appropriates \$40,000 from the general fund to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture for expenditure in fiscal year 2008 for the east Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District SWCD to conduct education and training programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

East Torrance District is one of the 47 SWCDs of DOA. The East Torrance District makes up 1,142,028 acres of Estancia New Mexico. A variety of land use occurs in this district including

25,000 acres of irrigated crop land, 2,000 acres of dry crop land, 1,059,923 acres of range land, 47,405 acres of forest, and 7,700 acres of urban land. All of the soil and water conservation efforts in this area are conducted by one SWCD office that has only one paid employee and a seven person volunteer board.

The East Torrance County SWCD office is trying to reach more students through Estancia's single private secondary school and all public schools and Head Start Programs in the area. In addition to working with school children the office holds public outreach programs and workshops for private land owners. According to the East Torrance County SWCD office, demand for these programs is high but the resources are not available to meet the demand. This appropriation will supplement the existing operating budget by adding funds to hire one additional person to conduct outreach programs and workshops. Additionally, a small portion of the funding will go toward materials used to teach about watershed and soil conservation issues.

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by New Mexico State University to the HED for review and was not included in the HED funding recommendations for FY08.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The DOA will be responsible for administering the provisions of this bill as part of its ongoing responsibilities.

RELATIONSHIP

SB293 relates to SB12, SB62, SB115, and HB 344

DW/nt