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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/27/09

SPONSOR Stewart LAST UPDATED _____ HB 17

SHORT TITLE Aquifer Mapping SB _____

ANALYST Williams

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$450.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Office of State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 17 appropriates \$450 thousand from the General Fund to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the purpose of statewide aquifer mapping and characterization by the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$450.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY10 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to HED, these studies improve understanding of the geologic framework of aquifers, their hydrologic characteristics, water levels in the aquifers and how they change over time, and the occurrence of natural and human-caused contaminants that affect the potability of groundwater.

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This request was submitted by the university in the HED budget review process.

The LFC budget recommendation for FY10 contains \$250.8 thousand for Aquifer Mapping at NM Tech.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

OSE notes the need for an amendment: “All work funded through this appropriation shall be coordinated with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer”.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What are the outcomes of this project?

AW/svb