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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/09

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE East Torrance Soil & Water Programs SB 233

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 233 appropriates \$40.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the east Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District to conduct education and training programs and for general district operations.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was not submitted by NMSU to the HED for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY10.

The LFC Appropriation Recommendations, Volume II, pages 364-365 states:

The committee has concerns about the growth of research and public service projects

within the higher education budget, as well as the alignment of these projects with state goals and strategic plans. The committee also continues to have significant concerns about accountability and performance outcomes for these projects.

The committee recommendation reduces funding included in the HED request by varying levels from FY09 funding amounts for research projects, public service projects and P-20 pipeline projects focusing on students.

With respect to special projects, higher education institutions advanced 114 proposals for new projects and expansions at a total general fund cost of \$54 million during the HED budget request process in fall 2008.

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.

The Executive Budget in Brief notes that over the years more than 300 RPSPs have been created, accounting for a large portion of institution budgets. The current RPSPs were reviewed while considering the relevance of the project to the core mission of the institution, the community benefit and the outcomes associated with each project. (Budget in Brief and Policy Highlights, P 9-10.)

The NMDA states:

The east torrance SWCD is an independent subdivision of state government led by a board of supervisors, the majority of which are locally elected. Local conservation districts are tasked with implementing programs to address local conservation needs.

The east torrance SWCD reported for FY 2007-2008 that the district provided seeds and educational materials for children, and information on district conservation programs and activities. The district also hosted grazing management and re-seeding workshops for local landowners, and distributed a quarterly newsletter. The east torrance SWCD made numerous educational presentations and demonstrations to schools and student groups through various events throughout the year.

The east torrance SWCD is one of 47 SWCDs in New Mexico. It encompasses approximately 1,142,028 acres in the estancia area. Land use in the SWCD includes irrigated crop land, range land, forest and urban land.

GH/svb