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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/13
LAST UPDATED 02/14/13 **HJM** 24/aHAGC

SPONSOR Trujillo, CA

SHORT TITLE San Juan-Chama Water Project Infrastructure **SB** _____

ANALYST McCoy

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC)

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAGC Amendment

The House Agriculture and Water Resources amendment to House Joint Memorial 24 deletes the section requesting the federal and state work group evaluate the risk from wildfire and flood damage to all watersheds originating on federal lands within New Mexico. The OSE/ISC noted, it was not practical or possible to implement best management practices upon such vast acreage.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Joint Memorial 24 (HJM 24) requests the New Mexico congressional delegation to request the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture establish a work group of the appropriate water, land, and emergency management agencies of New Mexico and the United States to: evaluate potential risks to the San Juan-Chama project operations and deliveries from wildfire and flood damage; evaluate the risk from wildfire and flood damage to all watersheds originating on federal lands within New Mexico that provide domestic and agricultural water sources for the people of New Mexico; and develop and implement best management practices to reduce and eliminate those risks prior to forest fire.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMDA states multiple reports and predictions indicated drought conditions will continue to affect agriculture and cities in New Mexico. Increased risks from wildfire may impact the state's economy and infrastructure from post-fire flooding.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

According to the OSE/ISC, evaluating all watersheds originating on federal lands, which include essentially all the major mountain ranges within the state and vast acreage managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, in a meaningful and technically defensible manner could be costly and time consuming. The OSE/ISC also points out, it may not be practical or possible to implement best management practices upon such vast acreage and achieve the results envisioned by the memorial.

AMENDMENTS

The OSE/ISC recommends amending HJM 24 to focus on evaluating and alleviating the risks to the San Juan-Chama Project, which provides a critical supplemental supply of water to the Rio Grande valley for municipal, industrial, domestic, tribal and irrigation purposes, and prepare a rapid-response plan to mitigate and repair the San Juan-Chama Project's infrastructure should a damaging fire occur.

MTM/bm:svb