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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/22/13
LAST UPDATED 01/24/13 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Cervantes

SHORT TITLE Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan **SB** 135

ANALYST McCoy

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$400.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HJM 9

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 135 (SB135) appropriates \$400,000 from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission to contract with the lower Rio Grande water users organization to update the lower Rio Grande regional water plan.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$400,000 contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2015 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC) notes the agency supported the development of sixteen regional water plans statewide through appropriations to the OSE/ISC grant program. The regional planning program was created to allow for regions to assess water demand and supply in order to identify solutions to meet future water needs. The

agency reports, all sixteen regions have OSE/ISC-accepted regional water plans and are in need of updating due to outdated information and/or changing conditions requiring new solutions. The agency adds, it is important for the OSE/ISC to manage and coordinate regional water plan updates to ensure consistency among the regions and for identification of statewide water infrastructure priorities.

RELATIONSHIP

SB135 relates to HJM9, a memorial bill requesting priority funding for the Mora-San Miguel-Guadalupe Regional Water Plan from the OSE/ISC's Regional Planning Program. The OSE/ISC notes, although the agency has the authority to manage a grant program to support the state's sixteen water planning regions in updating their plans, no funding has been appropriated for the grant program in the previous five years. According to the OSE/ISC, if funding is appropriated for regional water planning updates, OSE/ISC will support regions that are prepared to update their plans.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The OSE/ISC indicates if an appropriation is not made for updating the Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan, it is still possible the OSE/ISC could support the Lower Rio Grande in updating their plan if the ISC receives funding for its regional water planning program. The OSE/ISC notes the ISC will provide water planning support and technical assistance to those regions that are prepared to update their plans, if the ISC receives funding to do so. If the ISC does not receive funding for updating the Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan, and the ISC receives no appropriation for the regional planning program, the Lower Rio Grande region, along with the fifteen other ISC water planning regions will have to wait for available funding. The OSE/ISC concludes as more time passes, and water problems increase in magnitude statewide, existing regional water plans are outdated and useless in addressing emerging water crises.

MTM/bm