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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/24/13
 SPONSOR SCONC LAST UPDATED 03/15/13 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE Study Albuquerque-Bernalillo Water Authority SM 50/SCONCS
 ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Unknown				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The Senate Conservation Committee substitute for Senate Memorial 50 (SM 50) requests that the Mid-Region Council of Governments convene a task force to study the ability of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County water authority to accomplish its required duties and responsibilities, to identify alternative approaches to the composition of the board of directors of the authority, collect data and recommend strategies that will strengthen the ability of the water authority to meet the current and future water utility needs of the region, and to report its findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 1, 2014.

SM 50 gives specifics regarding the composition of the task force and resolves that the task force meetings be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation, open to the public, and held at times and places that shall encourage public participation.

The task force shall include representatives from the following entities:

- A. One from the League of Women Voters;
- B. One from an environmental organization;
- C. One from the Southwest Organizing Project;
- D. One from the New Mexico chapter of NAIOP;
- E. One from the board of directors of the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly;

- F. One from the Ciudad soil and water conservation district;
- G. One from the Bernalillo County Farm Bureau;
- H. One from the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Authority;
- I. One from the South Valley Acequia Association;
- J. One from the middle Rio Grande conservancy district;
- K. One from the Home Builder's Association of Central New Mexico;
- L. One from the MS4 Stormwater group;
- M. One from the Albuquerque Economic Forum;
- N. One from the middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act collaborative working group;
- O. One from the Albuquerque area office of the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation;
- P. One from the water resources program at the University of New Mexico;
- Q. Two representing the South Valley coalition of neighborhood associations, the West Side coalition of neighborhood associations, the Southwest Alliance of Neighbors and the North Valley coalition;
- R. Two representing the East Gateway coalition of neighborhood associations, and the coalition of neighborhood associations, Districts 4, 6, 7, and 8; and
- S. The executive director of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo water utility authority who shall serve on the task force ex officio.

The task force shall elect one of its members as chair and meet at the call of the chair, but no fewer than three times.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), SM 50 will require that meetings be advertised in a newspaper and that task force members meet and collect information and report findings. This will require a budget or funds to be expended. SM 50 does not appropriate any funds for this task.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SM 50 notes that the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority was created in 2003 to make policy decisions about water and sewer usage, set water and sewage rates, and establish drought restrictions and other water regulations and ordinances. The Authority is currently composed of the mayor of Albuquerque, 3 city councilors and 3 county commissioners.

SM 50 points to a number of concerns regarding the Authority:

It is unclear whether the regulations and ordinances have the authority of law given that local elected governing councils have sole authority over land use and private property matters;

The duties of the authority are complex and time consuming and may exceed the abilities of and the time available to members of the Albuquerque city council and the Bernalillo county commission and limit their effectiveness in accomplishing the other duties and responsibilities that are required of them; and

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The regional water plan for the middle Rio Grande identified an existing gap between regional water supply and demand that is expected to grow without focused and intensive actions to stop it. Additionally, concerns have been raised as to the testing and treating of drinking water, as well as the handling of the jet fuel spill originating at Kirtland Air Force Base.

KC/blm:svb