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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wooley **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/30/14
LAST UPDATED 01/31/14 **HB** 164

SHORT TITLE Lea & Roosevelt Weather Modification **SB** _____

ANALYST McCoy

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 164 appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission for a weather modification program in Lea and Roosevelt counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Bill 2 of the 2013 legislative session included a special appropriation of \$100,000 from the general fund to the Office of the State Engineer for a weather modification program in Lea and Roosevelt counties; however, the governor line item vetoed this appropriation.

The Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC) notes, weather

modification in New Mexico is governed by the Weather Control Act (75-3 NMSA 1978) which requires a licensee to file with the ISC a final evaluation of the project within ninety days after conclusion of any weather control or cloud modification project. Each evaluation report shall contain such information as required by the commission in order to aid in research and development in weather modification and to aid in the protection of life and property. The Weather Control Act allows the ISC to make all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the act; make any field investigations and inspections necessary to the enforcement of the act; make periodic reports on weather control and cloud modification activities in this state together with evaluations of the results of such activities; and make recommendations to the legislature on needed legislation in the regard to weather control and cloud modification. The regulations promulgated by the ISC require the applicant provide a quantification analysis of operational results.

MTM/ds