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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cisneros **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/01/14
LAST UPDATED 02/04/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Acequia & Community Ditch Education Program **SB** 254

ANALYST Boerner

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$100.0	\$100.0	\$200.0	Recurring	DFA Special Appropriations

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMAG)

New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 254 appropriates \$100 thousand dollars from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for an acequia and community ditch education program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2015 shall revert to the general fund.

The acequia and community ditch education program currently has an FY14 operating budget of \$200 thousand dollars received as a special appropriation that “passes through” the DFA; this is down 35 percent from the program’s fiscal year 2009 operating budget of \$307.7 thousand dollars. This appropriation proposed in this bill would increase the FY15 proposed operating budget to \$300 thousand dollars.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMAA provided some background regarding New Mexico acequias and the services the NMAA provides for them.

Acequias are political subdivisions of the state governed by Chapter 72, Articles 2 and 3, NMSA 1972. Over 400 acequias throughout the state have benefited from specialized training and technical assistance on acequia governance including bylaws, water management, easements, and infrastructure planning. The Acequia Governance Project of the New Mexico Acequia Association strengthens local acequia governance through community education, training, and technical assistance.

More recently, the NMAA launched an initiative to assist acequias in complying with audit and financial reporting requirements including creation of educational materials and workshops. The NMAA is requesting additional resources to focus on this growing need.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Acequia and Community Ditch Education Program’s special appropriation through the DFA would remain at \$200 thousand dollars.

CB/ds:svb