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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodella/Larranaga **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/30/18
LAST UPDATED 2/9/18 **HB** 246/aHAFC
SHORT TITLE Establish Advanced Mapping Fund **SB** _____
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
	-	Nonrecurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology (NM Tech)
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee amendment to House Bill 246 strikes the \$1 million appropriation to the advanced mapping fund; if enacted, the HB246 will create a fund to support advanced mapping techniques for water resources but no funding for these activities.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 246 appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to the newly-created advanced mapping fund administered by the OSE for the purpose of water resource mapping.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB246 would appropriate \$1 million from the general fund to OSE for water mapping. The fund is nonreverting and subject to Legislative appropriation. OSE does not anticipate an additional operating budget impact associated with enactment of HB246.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

OSE notes that New Mexico’s 16 regional water planning regions have just completed a two-year process of updating their regional water plans. Several key collaborative projects have been identified during that process. Data collection and monitoring, including advanced aquifer mapping, was one of the priorities identified by the 16 regions to improve understanding of regional water resources.

NM Tech states “other state agencies could perform the listed projects including the New Mexico bureau of geology and mineral resources at NM Tech.”

Both the OSE and NM Tech state that, should SB246 be enacted, the OSE would likely need to coordinate with other agencies and outside entities on mapping projects. NM Tech adds that “The fund and initial appropriation is a critical first step in the acquisition of new data in the state, especially in the arena of high resolution elevation data (LiDAR) and imagery. Opportunities for matching programs for capturing this data exist and having a state fund available will allow New Mexico to participate in these programs.”

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

While OSE noted the need for coordination with other entities to accomplish mapping projects, the agency did not note any potential difficulties in coordinating these efforts.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Should SB246 be enacted, OSE would require authority to spend monies in the advanced mapping fund.

CJ/jle