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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodella ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/18
 LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 8

SHORT TITLE Update Acequia Commission Authorities SB _____

ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA)

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

No Response Received From

Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 8 requests the acequia commission (commission) and other entities collaborate to create a report to update the commission’s authorities and how the commission can better meet the needs of the acequia associations. HJM 8 requests the Office of the State Engineer, the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the New Mexico Acequia Association, and members of the public work together to create the report.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The NMDA noted that staff time would have to be used for this purpose, but did not include a fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HJM 8 contains language stating that in FY16, \$94 thousand was appropriated to the Acequia Commission, but noted that this funding could not be appropriated because the commission lacked the authority to distribute the funding. The NMAA notes the ISC historically appropriates funding for acequias and states that any report should consider the role of the ISC in providing capital outlay funding for acequia projects.

The ISC did not provide analysis for HJM 8.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

According to NMAA:

Acequias and community ditches are defined in statute as political subdivisions of the state. They are not considered “associations” which is a term usually used for non-governmental entities. Anywhere that the words “acequia association” are used, those words should be replaced with “acequia.” Likewise, the same correction should be made for community ditches.

CJ/jle