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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Begaye	DATE TYPED:	02/01/00	HB	206
SHORT TITLE:	Facilitate Water Rights Negotiations			SB	
				ANALYST:	Kehoe

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
	\$ 25.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of Indian Affairs (OIA)

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 206 appropriates \$25.0 from the general fund to the New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs for the purpose of facilitating water rights negotiations between the Navajo Nation and the state.

Significant Issues

Negotiations between the state engineer and the Navajo Nation are currently taking place regarding the use of water within the Navajo Nation Reservation (New Mexico portion) and the San Juan River.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 206 appropriates \$25.0 from the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2001 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Office of Indian Affairs would act as the fiscal agent for the fund, but the facilitator would be contracted or retained by a Joint Powers Agreement.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- A grant was provided in FY99-00 from a private foundation to support an independent facilitator to

assist both the State Engineer's Office and the Navajo Nation in the negotiation process. Are the same negotiations currently underway?

- What is the current status of the negotiations?

LMK/gm