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### FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Tsosie	DATE TYPED:	02/07/00	HB	
SHORT TITLE:	Indian Water Rights Claims			SB	SJM 53
				ANALYST:	Pickering

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
		NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HJM 59

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

## **SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of Bill

SJM53 requests the LFC to investigate and report on the necessity, practicability and appropriate strategy for creating a trust fund to support negotiation and settlement of Indian water rights claims in New Mexico.

### Significant Issues

According to OSE, SJM53 presents a good opportunity to accelerate negotiation and settlement of outstanding Indian water rights claims outside of the lengthy and costly judicial process. By developing a strategy with demonstrated support from the legislature, OSE believes this would show serious intent on the part of the state to settle these claims.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The agency feels that legislative support can help produce a successful resolution of the Indian water rights claims. However, if no legislative assistance is provided, the consequences are continued protracted and expensive adjudications.

## **CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP**

SJM 53 duplicates HJM 59.

RWP/gm