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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Pinto DATE TYPED: 2/13/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: San Juan and McKinley Emergency Services SB 481

ANALYST: Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$600.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From
Office of Indian Affairs

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 481 appropriates \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Office of Indian Affairs to contract with the Navajo Nation for the provision of emergency services in San Juan and McKinley counties.

Significant Issues

The Office of Indian Affairs reports the funds would be used to contract with the Department of Emergency Services, Navajo Nation to coordinate and mobilize emergency services for Navajo Nation Chapters in San Juan and McKinley counties. Other Navajo Chapters that would be served are Alamo Chapter (Socorro County), Cañoncito (Bernalillo County), Grants (Cibola County), Counselor Chapter (Rio Arriba County) and Counselor Chapter, Ojo Encino, Torreon, Counselor, and Pueblo Pintado Chapters (Sandoval County).

The funds would be used to administer police, fire, and ambulance services. The department is composed of six employees. Funding would also assist disaster victims with emergency shelter, food, clothing and water, and referrals to Human Services, and to other organizations that provide relief.

While the first priority of the Department of Emergency Management Services of the Navajo Nation is human disaster victims, assistance may also be offered to livestock. The Department delivered feed and water for livestock impacted by the recent drought.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$600.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2004 shall revert to the General Fund.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Emergency services usually fall under the purview of agencies such as the Department of Public Safety, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, or the Department of Military Affairs. Emergency funds, authorized by an executive order that declares a state of emergency, are utilized by these agencies when necessary. While the Office of Indian Affairs indicated the use of the funds, the bill itself is unclear as to the exact intended purpose or definition of an emergency.

MW/yr:sb