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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cisneros ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/06  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Taos County Aquifer Mapping & Monitoring SB 343  
ANALYST Earp

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$650.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: SB415, SB565, SB569, SB683, HB553 and HB685

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
Office of State Engineer (OSE)  
Department of Environment (DE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 343 appropriates \$650,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMTech) for the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR) to prepare aquifer maps and monitor aquifer conditions in Taos County.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$650,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This proposal was not included among the special program funding requests submitted by the NMTech to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. Consequently, this proposal has not been included in the HED fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the Legislature.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMTech provides administrative support for the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. No significant additional impact is anticipated if this legislation is adopted.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

This bill is generally related to SB 415, SB 565, SB569, SB683, HB553 and HB685, all of which appropriate funding for aquifer mapping and studies.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

OSE notes that aquifer mapping and monitoring provide the framework to allow administration and management of the state's water resources. A similar bill for \$300,000 was approved last year for the NMBGMR to perform statewide aquifer mapping, and was inadequate to address the aquifer mapping needs of the state. A number of recent hydrogeologic studies have been completed, or are in the process of being completed for the area surrounding the Town of Taos. The U.S Geological Survey is presently conducting a geophysical survey along the mountain front in cooperation with the NMBRMR, the OSE, and others. Geologic mapping has recently been performed by the NMBGMR. A groundwater flow model for water resource administration and planning in the Taos area has just been finalized. The OSE has a water level monitoring network for the county and local groups are also participating in water level data collection activities. Funding for Taos County may be necessary to complete on-going work presently being performed by the NMBGMR in Taos County. The continuation of funding would be essential to realize the value of these investigations. However, the bill does not provide details on the scope of work so an assessment of whether the remaining tasks will require the requested level of funding cannot be made.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

Will it be possible to complete the requested studies within a single fiscal year? (The appropriation will revert at the end of FY 07.)

DKE/mt