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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-10-06

SPONSOR Sanchez, M. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly SB 608

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$125.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

No Responses Received From

Office of the State Engineer- Interstate Stream Commission (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 608, which makes an appropriation to support the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, seeks to appropriate \$125,000 from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission for expenditure in fiscal year 2007 to create an open-access, nonproprietary, web-based application for viewing the potential outcomes of specific water management decisions as reflected in changes in land use, including a geographic information system model for geo-spatial visualization complete with hosting and data collection. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) indicates that the appropriation may not be sufficient to accomplish such an ambitious task, in which case additional appropriations may be necessary. If successful, additional fiscal impact may be experienced if any of the fifteen other regions request funding for similar modeling applications for their planning and public outreach processes.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DFA further suggests that this appropriation would fund an application for modeling various water management scenarios. The Rio Grande Water Assembly is a group that formed in response to development of the middle Rio Grande regional water plan, which is part of the State Water Plan process. One of the difficulties encountered by the agency and regions in developing regional water plans is figuring out ways to communicate how various decisions in one part of the plan may affect other parts of the plan. The Assembly believes this modeling application would result in better understanding on the part of stakeholders involved in the process and may ultimately lead to better, more holistic decision making.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DFA concludes that the application funded by this appropriation could improve the depth and quality of the region's plan and lead to a greater understanding among participant stakeholders of the effect of various decisions. However, since this region's plan (like most others) has already been completed, access to this informative tool may actually revive debate and cause the periodic regional plan review and update process to take longer and cost more than anticipated.

BW/mt