

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-6-06

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

PAJARITO MESA CONDITIONS

SHORT TITLE DOCUMENTARY SB 641

ANALYST Hadwiger

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$10.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY06	FY07	FY08	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$90.0		\$90.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund, grants or private donations

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

New Mexico Department of Environment (NMED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 641 appropriates \$10 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Environment in FY07 to prepare a documentary film in conjunction with the film technicians' training program regarding conditions on the Pajarito Mesa.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$10 thousand appropriation in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance at the end of FY07 would revert to the general fund.

NMED indicated that, because NMED does not have the expertise in film, this project would have to be contracted to an outside entity. Ten thousand dollars is not enough funding to com

plete a documentary and provide adequate dollars to offset NMED costs for management, technical assistance, and oversight during the creation of a film.

According to the University of California School of Journalism, the average cost of a one-hour television documentary is about \$500 thousand, though low-budget documentaries can be made for as little as \$100 thousand. It is possible that the film technicians' training program would hold down those costs further.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

NMED provided the following background:

- The Pajarito Mesa is located west of Coors Boulevard SW in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. The area is relatively rural; residents are generally low-income; and the NMED permitted-Southwest Landfill is located on the mesa and accepts only construction and demolition debris.
- The Pajarito Mesa area continues to suffer from chronic illegal dumping of solid waste, including household waste, construction debris and scrap tires. The Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health (BCOEH) has primary jurisdiction for illegal dumping in this area. BCOEH staff completes illegal dumping investigations and takes enforcement actions in accordance with the county ordinances. NMED refers most cases received regarding this area to Bernalillo County for appropriate action.
- Both NMED Solid Waste Enforcement and the BCOEH have addressed unpermitted tire operations and illegal dumping of solid waste on numerous occasions during the last 5 - 10 years.
- As BCOEH is currently addressing a widespread area of illegal dumping upon the mesa, the NMED is not the appropriate agency to oversee the creation of a documentary regarding conditions, problems, and possible solutions on the Pajarito mesa. Additionally, NMED staff, while generally knowledgeable about the situation, does not have the depth of experience and/or familiarity with the current conditions in this area to provide the level of assistance needed to create a meaningful documentary.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

NMED indicated diverting staff time to this effort could jeopardize existing work timetables.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMED indicated that agency does not have film industry expertise and was concerned that the purpose, goals and target audience of the documentary is unclear. The tasks, activities, and time required of NMED staff are unclear. Significant time will be required to provide technical assistance and develop a script that would meet the goals of the project.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

NMED suggested that one alternative might be to provide funding in this amount or greater to assist with clean-up, additional enforcement via more area patrols, and installation of physical barriers to limit the amount of dumping in the Pajarito Mesa area.