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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-11-06

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Upper Fruitland Irrigation Project Funding SB SJM71

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SJM 71

Senate Joint Memorial 71 requests that the New Mexico congressional delegation to fully find the costs of renovation of the Upper Fruitland Irrigation Project. There is no appropriation attached to this legislation.

Specifically the memorial notes that:

- the Upper Fruitland irrigation project was built in 1933 and subsequent years as part of the works project administration program and runs along the south side of the San Juan river close to the Nenahnezad area; and
- the irrigable acreage of the Upper Fruitland irrigation project is three thousand six hundred seventy-five acres that was divided into small tracts for the tribal members living in the vicinity to make beneficial use of the land; and
- approximately four hundred families were served by the project when it was completed; and
- the Bureau of Indian affairs of the Department of the Interior had been responsible for funding the operation and maintenance of the Upper Fruitland irrigation project until the responsibility for funding the operation and maintenance

nance of the Upper Fruitland irrigation project was transferred to the Navajo Nation; and

- approximately five hundred acres remain under cultivation by the original project, and between 1959 and the late 1990s, seepage from the main irrigation ditch was stemmed by lining it with concrete and later adding a siphon to prevent excessive evaporation, also major renovation of the head gate at the point of diversion from the San Juan river through federal and Navajo Nation appropriations; and
- the Navajo Nation has not been able to keep up with the funding of the extensive maintenance needed on the Upper Fruitland irrigation secondary irrigation system, which is in need of capital improvement funds to continue delivering water to the fields of the Navajo families who still rely on the crops they grow to provide or supplement their family incomes; and
- the Upper Fruitland irrigation project will be a beneficiary of the San Juan river court settlement once it is adopted by congress, at which time some additional money will be available for the maintenance and operation of the project when the settlement is eventually acted upon, but repairs are needed now.

The memorial resolves that the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to work with the Shiprock irrigation operations and maintenance office of the department of water resources in the division of natural resources of the Navajo Nation and obtain a congressional appropriation for one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to upgrade and repair the secondary irrigation system of the Upper Fruitland irrigation project; and

The memorial further resolves that copies of this memorial be transmitted to all members of the New Mexico congressional delegation, to the president of the Navajo Nation, to the San Juan water users, incorporated, and to the Shiprock irrigation operations and management office of the department of water resources of the division of natural resources of the Navajo Nation.

BW/mt