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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos ORIGINAL DATE 2/23/17
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Transfer Vietnam Memorial to GSD SJR 20

ANALYST Armstrong

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
		See narrative				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB320
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

General Services Department (GSD)
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
 Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Joint Resolution

Senate Joint Resolution 20 (SJR20) provides legislative approval of the proposed transfer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park (VVMSP) from EMNRD's State Parks Division (SPD) to GSD.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct fiscal impacts from SJR20. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 (HB2) includes \$109.3 thousand for VVMSP in SPD's recurring budget for FY18, including \$4.8 thousand for maintenance costs. In addition to SJR20, Senate Bill 320 (SB320) transfers operations of VVMSP to VSD. Language in Section 3 of HB2 provides for the transfer of appropriations pursuant to other legislation changing agency responsibilities and would ensure the funding is transferred to VSD upon enactment of SJR20 and SB320.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

EMNRD provided the following:

SPD has owned and managed VVMSP since 2005 and during that time, VVMSP met the State Parks Division's mission. However, the Veterans' Services Department will be constructing a federally supported national veterans' cemetery adjacent to VVMSP in the coming years, which has precipitated discussion for this transfer between EMNRD, the Veterans' Services Department and GSD, as a cemetery is beyond the State Parks Division's mission. All agencies have discussed that sole management of both the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the cemetery would be best served by the Veterans' Services Department. As the Veterans' Services Department does not have statutory authority to own property, GSD would own the property. EMNRD, the Veterans' Services Department, and GSD held multiple meetings and involved stakeholders and the public in discussions regarding this transfer. Stakeholders have supported such a transfer. Transfer would be neutral to the overall state budget as funds from one agency would be transferred to the other. Transfer would also be neutral as related to personnel as all EMNRD staff (1 permanent FTE and 2 seasonal staff) would be transferred to the Veteran's Services Department.

VSD provided the following:

On May 22, 1971, Dr. Victor Westphall dedicated the Vietnam Memorial Chapel in honor of his son, David, who was killed in action in Vietnam. This was the first memorial ever dedicated to the men and women who had lost their lives while fighting in Vietnam. In 2004, the Westphall Foundation, then owners of the Memorial, approached the State of New Mexico about transferring the Memorial to the state. On Memorial Day 2005, the Memorial was officially transferred to the State Parks Division of EMNRD. They have had operational control of the Memorial since then. Every year, approximately 50,000 veterans from across the world visit the Memorial as a place of peace and healing. Most of these veterans served during the Vietnam Conflict and now see it as a shrine that in most cases offers them a sense of closure for their time in Vietnam. Because the Memorial sees so many veterans each year, the State Parks Division wanted to best serve those veterans who visit this place of healing, they approached VSD about taking over operational control and management and VSD agreed that this would be the proper agency to manage the Memorial and serve those veteran and families.

RELATIONSHIP

As noted above, SB320 transfers operations of VVMSP to VSD. Additionally, HB2 includes \$109.3 thousand for VVMSP to be transferred from SPD to VSD upon enactment of SJR 20 and SB320.

JA/al