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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/19

SPONSOR Neville LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Soil & Water Conservation Programs SB 485

ANALYST Hawker

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation					Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23		
	\$3,000.0				Recurring	General Fund

Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 485 appropriates \$3 million to New Mexico State University from the general fund to New Mexico State University for New Mexico Department of Agriculture to administer state funds to match federal funds for programs and projects directly through soil and water conversation districts (SWCD).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB 485 would provide funding so that NMDA through SWCDs can leverage state funds. Programs such as the environmental quality incentives program, conservation stewardship program, and the regional conservation partnership program require non-federal matching funds.

SWCDs have the legal authority to work on local, state, federal, tribal and private land. This allows SWCDs to have continuity in projects when partnerships are formed to implement conservation projects. The checkerboard pattern of land ownership in New Mexico makes this legal authority important.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Many SWCDs in New Mexico have responsibility for dam structures. Dams require ongoing maintenance, a number need rehabilitation. The appropriation provided in SB 485 would provide opportunities for SWCD boards to pursue solutions where leveraged funding is required. For example, SWCDs with responsibility for dams could leverage funding to engage expert assistance to complete emergency action plans and inundation mapping before dam rehabilitation activities can be undertaken. Inundation mapping is estimated to cost \$40 thousand to \$60 thousand per dam. An inundation map is a map that shows areas which would be affected by flooding, either controlled or uncontrolled, from releases from a dam's reservoir.

VKH/sb