

LFC Requester:

Emily Hilla

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

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SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute, or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Date

Prepared: 01/24/2024

Original Amendment

Senate Bill 160 (SB

Bill No: 160)

Correction Substitute

Sponsor: Senator Antonio Maestas
Short Title: Rio Grande State Park Restoration

Agency Name and Code

Number: EMNRD 521

Person Writing Toby G. Velasquez

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
	20,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: N/A
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act - Unknown

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 160 (SB 160) appropriates twenty million dollars (\$20,000.0) from the General Fund to the local government division of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in fiscal year 2025 and subsequent fiscal years for the City of Albuquerque to restore the Rio Grande Valley State Park.

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

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB 160 appropriates twenty million dollars for expenditure by the City of Albuquerque (the City) to restore the Rio Grande Valley State Park (the Park). The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department - State Parks Division (the Division) constructed certain improvements at Rio Grande Nature Center State Park (the State Park) starting in 1981 and has leased the land beneath those facilities from the City since 1980. The lease agreement specifically states that the Division, at its sole expense, will use its best efforts to operate and maintain the State Park for the use and benefit of the citizens of the State of New Mexico and the general public.

Being that the State Park is part of the Park, the City as owner of the leased property may use funds appropriated by SB 160 within and adjacent to the State Park.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Park was established by the New Mexico State Legislature in 1983, and is managed cooperatively by the City and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. It is comprised of 4,300 acres extending from Sandia Pueblo in the north, through Albuquerque, and south to Isleta Pueblo. It is located on both the east and west sides of the Rio Grande. The State Park is part of the Park and highlights the habitat and conservation issues of the Rio Grande bosque. The State Park is comprised of 38 acres and sees many visitors that are on their way to the Park trail system along the river and bosque. The State Park management plan includes recommendations for partnering with the City and other agencies to cooperatively manage the Park and adjacent public lands.

The lease agreement for the State Park acknowledges the role of the Division as the "operating

party" for management of the State Park, and the City as the owner of the premises and lands adjacent to the State Park. In accordance with the roles and management functions provided by the lease, the City agrees that its activities on the premises shall be consistent with the official Open Space mission statement and purpose: "to acquire, protect, maintain, and manage significant natural landscapes and cultural resources for present and future generations. Open Space enhances the urban environment and provides wildlife habitat while offering opportunities for public enjoyment through outdoor education and low-impact recreation."

If enacted, SB 160 can support and enhance our partnership with the City to restore areas adjacent to and within the Park and State Park.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Per the current lease agreement, the City and the Division are committed to seek opportunities to foster a collaborative partnership for the purpose of conducting a wide range of environmental awareness and natural resource educational programs in accordance with the State Park Management Plan; and, the City and Division intend to work closely together to ensure mutual access, teamwork, and productive communications to create an urban, natural laboratory where the public can experience the natural world and be educated in modern methods of protection, conservation, and management. The funds appropriated in SB 160 would support and enhance the Division's partnership with the City to restore areas adjacent to and within the Park and State Park.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

See Performance Implications, above.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB 160 is not enacted, twenty million dollars (\$20,000.0) from the General Fund will not be appropriated to the local government division of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in fiscal year 2025 and subsequent fiscal years for the City to restore the Park.

AMENDMENTS

None.