

Hicks-Ray Associates

Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success



May 7, 2018

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: House Subcommittee Prepares to Mark Up FY19 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

This afternoon at 5:30 PM the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up its FY19 bill. There are a number of provisions in the bill draft that are of interest to the Arid West including a repeal of the Obama era WOTUS rule issued in June 2015 and also generous increases for both the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. Here are some details of these actions:

“SEC. 108. The final rule issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army entitled “Clean Water Rule: ‘Definition of Waters of the United States’” (80 Fed. Reg 37053 (June 29, 2015) is repealed, and, until such time as the Administrator and the Secretary issue a final rule after the date of enactment of this Act defining the scope of waters protected under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and such new final rule goes into effect, any regulation or policy revised under, or otherwise affected as a result of, the rule repealed by this section shall be applied as if that repealed rule had not been issued.”

There are also generous increases over and above the FY19 Trump Administration requests for key programs at the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. These are over and above the also generous increases provided for these programs in the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. They include:

Army Corps of Engineers

Investigations: \$128,000,000 House Funding Figure; [\$82,000,000 FY19 Trump Administration Request]

Construction: \$2,323,000,000 House Funding Figure; [\$872,000,000 FY19 Trump Administration Request]

O&M: \$3,820,000,000 House Funding Figure; [\$2,077,000,000 FY19 Trump Administration Request]

Bureau of Reclamation

Water and Related Resources: \$1,383,992,000 House Funding Figure; [\$891,017,000 Request]

The June 20-22 WESTCAS annual conference in San Diego will give participants the opportunity to fully review important legislative provisions like the ones highlighted in this update. Hope you are making plans to attend!

Fred Hicks - 703.866.4290
P.O. Box 2115
Springfield, VA 22152-0115
fred@hicks-ray.com

Tom Ray - 254.855.0880
P.O. Box 955
Waco, TX 76703-0955
tom@hicks-ray.com