

Hicks-Ray Associates

Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success



May 25, 2018

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: WRDA Legislation Advances in House and Senate Committees

In a year when the Congress appears to be embroiled in partisan politics it was a refreshing breath of fresh air this week when the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works both passed their respective versions of the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018. This is:

- H.R. 8, Water Resources Development Act of 2018.
- S. 2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

The Committee votes to advance this legislation were unanimous and bi-partisan in both the House and Senate with full Senate Committee markup on May 22 and House Committee markup the following day.

A WRDA reauthorization process can be compared to the creation of a layer cake. The pastry chefs [aka: the House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction] mix up the basic ingredients in separate bowls and then begin the discussion of how many layers will be included in the final version of the cake. The icing on the final cake is usually applied during the post-Thanksgiving lame duck session of Congress during final House/Senate conference discussions on the bill.

Thanks to the full Committee markups of earlier this week we are now at the "two separate bowls" stage of the process. It is a very positive sign that both the House and the Senate Committees have succeeded in marking up their respective bills before the Memorial Day recess. That should provide sufficient time to develop a final conference version of the legislation.

There are many provisions in both H.R. 8/S. 2800 that impact the Arid West. We will have a full report and update in our presentation during the WESTCAS annual conference, June 20-22 in San Diego and we will also prepare a suggested draft WESTCAS letter of comment on the House/Senate version of WRDA for discussion and consideration of the Board of Directors. There is still time to register if you have not already done so. See you in San Diego!

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