

Hicks-Ray Associates

Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success



September 4, 2018

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Setting the Stage for September

After being out of session since July 26, the House of Representatives returns to session today. The Senate has been meeting since mid-August, although none of the WESTCAS arid west water agenda has been addressed during this period.

The day after Labor Day used to herald the end of summer. But that is less true today. For those with children, summer probably ended weeks ago with the beginning of the school year. It's also hard to get a grasp on where we stand with regard to the calendar when stores have had their full displays of Halloween candy and costumes up since late August.

Two dates that can be easily understood is that as of September 4 both chambers of the Congress are in session and a Continuing Resolution [CR] will have to be worked out by September 30 if the government is to remain open. President Trump has suggested that he might entertain a government shutdown to secure his funding priorities. But it is doubtful that the House and Senate Republican Leadership will want to see this happen, particularly since it would come just five weeks before the mid-term elections.

A more likely scenario is a non-controversial CR that keeps the Federal government open after September 30 extending until after the November 6th elections. The period that follows will be the lame duck session of the 115th Congress that will run until final adjournment in mid-December. The nature of this lame duck session will be determined by the voters on November 6th as they choose which party will have a majority in the House and the Senate.

So, we're seeing some certainty in the midst of even greater uncertainty. We hope you are planning to attend the WESTCAS Fall conference, October 22-23, in Phoenix where these issues and the political process will be discussed in detail.

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