

Hicks-Ray Associates

Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success



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TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Riding the Congressional Roller Coaster

One feature of great roller coasters is that they typically creep uphill very slowly on their rails before plunging headlong down the other side. The United States Congress shares similar characteristics that are currently on display this week as both FY19 Appropriations bills and WRDA reauthorization have gone from no action to being put on a fast track to final passage.

On Thursday, the House will consider the conference agreement of S. 3021, the “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018,” [aka “WRDA”]. The debate will be under suspension of the Rules that means that there will be only a brief discussion and no amendments offered before passing the measure by a voice vote. After this S. 3021 will go to the Senate for final consideration. Legislation passed under “suspension” is an indication of bi-partisan support and is a tribute to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works in working successfully with both sides of the aisle.

Also on Thursday, the House will take up the conference report on a FY19 Appropriations 3 bill “minibus” consisting of Energy and Water, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Legislative Branch spending. WESTCAS members will be especially interested in the Energy and Water component of the minibus since it provides strong funding levels for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation for the upcoming fiscal year.

Hicks-Ray will be sending out details on both the WRDA and Energy and Water Appropriations bills to the membership. We will also report extensively on these measures and their impacts on the Arid West during the WESTCAS conference in Phoenix October 23-24. We hope to see you there.

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