

Hicks-Ray Associates

Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success



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TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Holds Drought Hearing

One of the challenges that the Congress has been grappling with over the past several years is how to try and craft legislation to address the persistent and severe drought that afflicts much of the Arid West. California-focused legislation has not advanced simply because there are not enough California Members of Congress to get the job done.

This has led to efforts to expand the outreach of drought legislation. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Ranking Committee Democrat, Maria Cantwell of Washington, have been working for some months now on how this might be accomplished.

This morning the full Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing entitled: "Drought Conditions Throughout the Western United States and Actions States and Others Are Taking to Address Them." Many of the witnesses will be familiar to WESTCAS members including Mike Connor of the Department of Interior and also witnesses for the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Family Farm Alliance, and the Western Governors Association.

It will be interesting to see how this hearing helps to move the process forward with regard to the drafting of Western drought legislation.

Fortunately, one of the States no longer in need of attention is Texas where rains all during the month of May put an end to their multi-year drought.

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