



washington dc update

May 15, 2013

Water Issues on the Front Burner in DC

After years of inaction, multiple water issues are bubbling away on the front burner in Washington. This includes:

- The Senate passed its version of the Water Resources Development Act later earlier today by a vote of 83 to 14. Authorizers on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will soon begin drafting their own version of the bill. The Senate measure contains many elements that are critical to water in the Arid West. Hicks-Ray will provide a full report on the bill once the Senate completes voting.
- House Appropriators will begin drafting their FY14 bills this week. The House will be observing a budget cap of \$967 billion which reflects the impact of continued sequesters in the next fiscal year. The Senate will mark up its Appropriations bills under a \$1.058 trillion cap which assumes a budget agreement that will remove the need for sequesters in FY14. The House/Senate initial versions are too far apart to ever be reconciled.
- The public comment period on Principals and Guidelines closes on May 28th. This is the opportunity for WESTCAS to register concerns over this far-reaching Executive Order that was recently released by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and will impact water resources management of Federal agencies including the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, USEPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and many others.

Hicks-Ray will be providing WESTCAS with a series of updates which will allow you to be fully aware of the latest developments with regard to these critical issues. This will include suggested strategies which detail how WESTCAS can influence these developments.

We hope that everyone will join us in San Diego for the annual WESTCAS conference. In addition to our updates, participants will hear from **Carolyn Brittin, Deputy Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board**, and **Ron Sullivan Board Member for the Eastern Municipal Water District and the Santa Ana Watershed Protection Authority** who will discuss how their respective agencies are conducting their Federal outreach on these three critical issues. This will be followed by a workshop led by Linda Christie which will provide direct interaction of conference participants with our speakers with the goal of getting our entire membership involved in the outreach.

Highlight of June Conference...

Western Water position on WRDA

Senate WRDA (S.601) Passes Senate Today

S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act, was approved by the Senate by a vote of 83-14.

There were a number of amendments considered throughout the floor debate. HRA will provide a complete review of S.601—the good and not so good for Western Water at the June Conference.

Understanding the S.601, as passed, will help us formulate a WESTCAS strategy as the House version begins to formulate. HRA anticipates that WRDA in House and possibly in a future House/Senate Conference Committee will be a drawn-out process, likely over a considerable period of the 113th Congress.

Join us in San Diego!

