



# washington dc update

January 3, 2012

## DC Updates

We trust that everybody had a wonderful holiday season. Perhaps a small part of this enjoyment could be attributed to the fact that the political nation pretty much went silent with the Congress in recess and the President in Hawaii.

But today the political year begins again. Well, perhaps not completely since the House will be in recess until January 17 and the Senate until Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. But the fact is that today is the beginning of a very important 10 month period which will culminate with Election Day, 2012 on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Many believe that this will be one of the most important elections since 1860 in terms of determining the future direction of the nation.

After Congress comes back into session, the President will give the State of the Union on January 24<sup>th</sup>, and soon afterwards release his proposed FY13 budget. You will recall that the FY12 Appropriations cycle ended shortly before Christmas when President Obama signed into law the FY12 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

As we embark on the FY13 process, one certainty in the whole process is that regardless of which candidate or which party prevails in November; the nation cannot prosper without water resources infrastructure. And this infrastructure must be funded and sensibly regulated.

While the political nation slowly comes back to life next week, WESTCAS is planning major new initiatives that will help guide Federal policymakers. This will include supporting regular Appropriations funding from the Bureau, the Corps, and USEPA. It will also include preparation by WESTCAS of new ideas for how the Federal government can expand its role as a funding partner for water infrastructure. Our special emphasis will be the needs of the Arid West.

Please watch your in-boxes because we will shortly be sending out an additional survey which will help to underpin the drafting process.

**Summary & Take-Away .**

**112<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, Key Dates**

- House convenes - Jan 17<sup>th</sup>
- Senate convenes - Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>
- State of Union – Jan 24<sup>th</sup>
- Proposed FY 13 budget – early Feb 2012

**WESTCAS Infrastructure Investment Proposal Work to Date and Possible Future Schedule**

- Annual conference discussions – Oct 2011
- Workplan – Nov 2011
- Survey #1 on message and key concepts – Dec 8
- Survey #2 on combining concepts – Jan 2012
- One day fly-in for drafting proposal – late Feb 2012
- March/Apr 2012 Complete Document and DC Retreat

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**WESTCAS**  
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