

Hicks-Ray Associates



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TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Hearing on EPA Regulations

This is the time of year when people head to the beach or maybe the mountains for their vacations. Newspapers and magazines frequently publish lists of suggested reading for people while they are away. Hicks-Ray would like to suggest for your vacation reading, “Water Hearing Briefing Memo 7-25-12” released by the House Water and Environment Subcommittee this week in preparation for their hearing yesterday.

The full title of the hearing was: “Integrated Planning and Permitting, Part 2. An opportunity for EPA to provide communities with flexibility to make smart investments in water quality.”

People who don’t know WESTCAS might jump to the conclusion that such a reading suggestion might indicate that we are a pretty boring group of people. But this would be far from correct. The hearing in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee yesterday goes to the very heart of the challenge of how our nation can prioritize and pay for regulation related infrastructure.

Seen in that light, the 21 pages of the attached briefing document could hardly be more relevant for WESTCAS members and this in turn guarantees that it is a very good and quick read.

There were seven public witnesses yesterday at the hearing along with Nancy Stoner, Acting AA for Water, USEPA and Cynthia Giles, AA, Office of Enforcement and Compliance, USEPA.

Those who participated in the WESTCAS DC Fly-In back in April will remember our meeting with John Anderson and Jon Pawlow of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. These gentlemen produced the briefing paper and organized yesterday’s hearing.

This is the first in a series of HRA reports on the hearing. Whether you are on vacation, getting ready to go, or have just returned, or maybe not going at all, we urge you to download this document and read it. WESTCAS is the voice of water in the Arid West and your thoughts as a WESTCAS member are an essential part of this process.

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