

Hicks-Ray Associates



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TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Waiting For Hurricanes

WESTCAS members probably don't have much experience in dealing firsthand with hurricanes unless you happened to live in the Southeastern part of the US at some point in your lives.

But you know from watching the Weather Channel that hurricanes are preceded by many days of warnings from the National Hurricane Center accompanied by images of people boarding up their homes, buying emergency supplies, and eventually evacuating a given area. But in another way, the approach of a hurricane can almost be surreal since the storms are slow moving and it takes many days for them to actually strike land.

The political situation in our country is much like a hurricane. We are constantly bombarded with a countdown of how many days remain till the vote on November 6 and also dire warnings of what may happen afterwards. But here is what we know so far:

- Instead of staying in session until October 5th, Congress has decided to adjourn until after the elections. The House will adjourn today and the Senate at some point this weekend after it works through procedural issues surrounding a vote on the FY13 Continuing Resolution.
- The CR will run through March 27, 2013 or just short of the first six months of FY13. Federal agency budgets will be increased by an across the board .6 of 1%.
- Final disposition of FY13 spending will be dealt with in the 113th Congress and could be an Omnibus, regular order Appropriations bills being passed, or an extension of the CR into one that lasts all of FY13.
- The lame duck session of the 112th Congress is scheduled to convene on November 13 and should last until just before Christmas.

That's all we know for sure. Because the coming storms will include water related funding and regulatory challenges, WESTCAS and its members will be right in the center of things. We'll talk much more about this in Tucson during the fall conference.

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