



washington dc update

September 26, 2012

Priorities for the Lame Duck Session of Congress

As we mentioned in an earlier report, the “lame duck” session of the 112th Congress will begin on November 13 and likely end just before Christmas. Speaker Boehner in the House and Leader Reid in the Senate will be responsible for determining the priorities of the lame duck. The number one issue has already been identified as taking the steps necessary to prevent the United States from going over a fiscal cliff brought on by sequestration. This will involve debate and compromise on Federal spending and the expiration of the Bush era tax cuts.

But with close to five weeks to work with, other priorities may also be dealt with during the lame duck and before the 112th Congress adjourns. As discussed during the most recent WESTCAS Board conference call, it seems appropriate and timely for WESTCAS to write to key Members of Congress in support of water resource priorities in the Arid West that might be considered during the lame duck.

This might include:

- Progress on legislation that would create federally sponsored infrastructure banks that include new ideas for how to leverage private investment money in support of projects. And also some guidance on who should control these infrastructure banks. EPA? Regional EPA Offices? State SRF Programs?
- Continued support for regular appropriations cycle funding for water infrastructure.
- Recognition of the impact of the regulatory burden on the cost of water infrastructure.

These three issues were part of the WESTCAS DC Fly-In in April and were discussed extensively with the Committees of jurisdiction. Can you, as a WESTCAS member, suggest other priorities that the Board might consider including in a letter to key Members of Congress with regard to water priorities during the lame duck session?



Important for the Calendar

WESTCAS

**2012 Fall Conference
October 10-12, 2012**

**Westward Look Resort
Tucson, AZ**

What will the new Congress and new Administration mean to Western water managers?

Join us at the WESTCAS Fall Conference for that presentation and discussion.

Help draft a WESTCAS letter to key Congressional Members to support western states' water priorities.

We will also focus on:

- Clean Water Act and regulatory efforts
- Using our WESTCAS contacts in Washington, DC effectively
- The future for regulatory relief and water infrastructure funding.
- Implementing a WESTCAS FY13 Federal strategy,

and much more.

