



washington dc update

October 4, 2012

Washington, DC Updates – Lame Duck around the Corner

If you wanted to be involved with a successful wager, you might offer to bet people on whether Congress is in recess right now. Many would probably respond, “They are in recess and won’t go back until November 13th for the lame duck.” And you would win your bet.

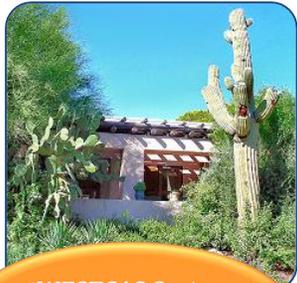
The fact is that both the House and the Senate are in session several times a week. At least technically. For example, a Senate session earlier this week lasted 13 seconds before adjournment was announced. Pretty hard to do much floor business in such a time span.

But other than the current “pro-forma” sessions, Congress won’t really be back until November 13 which is the start of the “lame duck.” We have been told that the opening act of the lame duck will begin with about a week’s worth of work. Then adjournment for Thanksgiving. And then back into session the last week of November.

There will be an attempt to wrap things up by mid-December. But we have been told that huge issues such as the sequester, tax policy, and a host of other unfinished business will likely keep the Congress in session until right before Christmas, perhaps even as late as Christmas Eve.

If you look at your calendars, Christmas Eve is on a Monday. Our personal bet is that if the Congress is still going on Friday, December 21, that we will see a “Christmas miracle” as Congress will somehow manage to complete its work on the weekend of December 22-23 and still make it home for Christmas.

We look forward to offer a more detailed idea for what issues may be addressed during the lame duck session of Congress, including water resources issues, and how WESTCAS can play a part in the process in its capacity as the voice of water in the Arid West.



“WESTCAS Sprints Ahead in the Water Quality Olympics”

**WESTCAS
2012 Fall Conference
October 10-12, 2012
Westward Look Resort
Tucson, AZ**

WESTCAS, led by its 120 water agencies, Associate, and Affiliate members, has championed western water quality issues in the legislative, regulatory, and technical arenas for over 20 years earning gold, silver, and bronze medals on all of these playing fields.

To continue its winning tradition, the WESTCAS Fall 2012 Conference will feature renowned speakers with insights on current national and regional policies, Federal legislation, pressing regulatory issues, significant national litigation, as well as the latest technical and policy perspectives on contaminants of emerging concern (CECs).

What does WESTCAS offer?

WESTCAS provides members with a powerful presence in Washington, DC and in regional and state regulatory and legislative decision-making; an effective vehicle for information exchanges through meetings and publications; the opportunity to help draft federal, regional, state and local legislation and regulations about water quality and supply.

