

# Hicks-Ray Associates



March 17, 2011

TO: WESTCAS Membership  
FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray  
SUBJECT: House Passes Latest FY11 Continuing Resolution

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed yet another Continuing Resolution to keep the Federal government open after the expiration of the latest CR on Friday. The Senate has adopted this House passed bill so that they can join the House in recess next week without having to worry about a government shut-down. This latest CR will run through April 8<sup>th</sup>. Progress will be essential during the coming weeks because the Congress leaves for yet another “Spring Recess” for the last two weeks of April.

This process, no matter how obtuse it may appear from the outside, it important to WESTCAS members for a number of reasons. As currently drafted, the FY11 CR contains significant reductions for many water programs in the USEPA and the Corps of Engineers. The House version also includes environmental riders and language impacting the regulatory authority of USEPA. And finally, the draconian cuts in water resources infrastructure included in the current versions of the FY11 CR may well signal a much longer term reduction in federal investment.

Only 186 Republicans voted for this latest version of the CR with 54 Republicans voting against it. This forced the House Republican Leadership to rely on Democratic votes to pass the measure. Those Republicans voting “no” did so as a protest to the constant “government by CR” that has dragged on now for more than 5 months. Their feeling is that a final measure, with additional significant cuts, should now be finalized and passed and their voting “no” yesterday signals that their patience is running out both with their own party leadership as well as Senate Democrats and the Obama Administration.

The period April 8<sup>th</sup>, when this latest CR expires, and April 18<sup>th</sup> which is when the Congress goes on its two week “Spring Recess” should be a good one for those who enjoy political theater. At the very least, if some final resolution can be agreed to for FY11 the Congress can at least get down to the serious work of moving forward on the FY12 budget.

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