



washington dc update

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Funding Increases for Water Resources Infrastructure

Despite it's nearly half a trillion dollar price tag, there appears to be no water resources infrastructure funding in the President's recent proposals to Congress for stimulating the economy. But there was some unexpected good news on this front last week from the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee and its FY12 markup for Corps and Bureau of Reclamation spending.

Senate Energy and Water is chaired by Senator Diane Feinstein has long been an advocate and a leader in terms of water resources issues. In her FY12 bill last week, Chair Feinstein addressed two major infrastructure funding issues.

- (1) A year and a half ago, there was \$340,000,000 for Corps of Engineers Environmental Infrastructure funding. This has dwindled to zero. In her FY12 bill, Senator Feinstein included a special category called "Additional funding for ongoing work" and provided \$40,000,000 for Corps Environmental Infrastructure in this account. The House Energy and Water bill does not include this \$40 million.
- (2) The Administration had proposed a funding level of \$805,187,000 for Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources funding. But Senator Feinstein increased this by \$80,483,000 to a level of \$885,670,000.

The \$40,000,000 for Corps Environmental Infrastructure funding and the \$80.483 million in Bureau of Reclamation funding are but a tiny part of our water resources infrastructure needs. But at a time of severe budget cutting, finding these additional dollars for both agencies represents real leadership and foresight on the part of Chair Feinstein and her Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee.

The WESTCAS Legislative Committee will be drafting a letter to Senator Feinstein thanking her for this funding support. Individual WESTCAS members may also want to join in expressing their thanks as well.

Summary & Take-Away .

While water was not specifically addressed in the latest jobs bill proposal, there is some good news: the Senate Energy & Water Cmt has not forgotten the water needs of this country.

The Environmental Infrastructure (EI) was boosted to \$40 million for ongoing work, and the Bureau of Reclamation's funding was increased by \$80 million.

A WESTCAS support letter to Senator Feinstein, Chair of Energy & Water Cmt., is being drafted.

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