

Hicks-Ray Associates



November 8, 2011

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Funding the Future

If one looked out of the west windows of the conference hotel during the recent WESTCAS fall meeting in Phoenix, your attention was immediately drawn to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport just to your left. And after that, the new rail connection depot for the airport which was swarming with construction workers. Looking at these sites, one could conclude, "These are prime examples of the infrastructure needs of the greater Phoenix area." And you would be correct.

But in the same visual sweep out the windows of the hotel, it would have been easy to at first miss the piece of infrastructure that makes life possible in the Phoenix area. And that was the tiny ribbon of water from the Salt River project flowing through its concrete canal just outside the conference hotel and serving the Eastern part of Metropolitan Phoenix.

Without this ribbon of water, there could be no "Metro Phoenix." But it is so very easy for Federal policy-makers to ignore this reality in favor of "glamour projects" like international airports.

Groups like WESTCAS have two priorities. The first is to carry into the Legislative and Executive Branches of government the word that Federal funding partnerships must include water infrastructure as an important part of the mix. The second is to try and find ways to continue to fund the multi-generational partnership that the Federal government has forged with local sponsors in building this water resources infrastructure.

WESTCAS is preparing to launch a major new initiative where you will be asked to help develop new ideas for how to secure the hundreds of billions of dollars necessary for our nation's water future. One special focus will be infrastructure banks. How can they be made to work to address the needs of your agency and the public?

Coming up with answers will be a "work in progress" for WESTCAS over the coming weeks and months. The thoughts and participation of every member will be essential, particularly how these programs can be made to work in the Arid West. There was considerable excitement in Phoenix over this concept. We look forward to working with you as these concepts are developed.

Fred Hicks - 703.866.4290
P.O. Box 2115
Springfield, VA 22152-0115
fred@hicks-ray.com

Tom Ray - 254.855.0880
P.O. Box 955
Waco, TX 76703-0955
tom@hicks-ray.com