



# washington dc update

## New Year Updates

January 11, 2010

### A Late Christmas Gift?

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) may be backing-off or stopping its efforts to revamp the Floodplain Management Executive Order (EO 11988). We are attempting to confirm the status of this potential good news and will report as soon as we know.

With the beginning of the second week of the New Year, official Washington is beginning to stir. The House will be in session tomorrow and Wednesday before adjourning Thursday so that House Democrats can go on their annual “policy retreat.” House Republicans will do the same thing at the end of next week. The Senate is scheduled to come back into session next Tuesday. The first item on the agenda is completing work on the health care reform bill and getting it to the President’s desk.

Since President Obama has stated that he wants to sign the health care reform bill before he gives his State of the Union, the date of this speech has still not been set. By law, the Executive Branch must present its proposed budget to the Congress no later than the first Monday in February which this year is February 1. So, depending on how the health care negotiations go, it’s quite possible that the State of the Union may be delivered after the budget is released.

Although it’s still early January, the clock is ticking on the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. With major legislation still to be disposed of, many observers believe that there won’t be time to consider many of the issues that are currently pending. We will watch this situation on a daily basis and keep you informed and updated.

### Water Meetings In Washington

Just like snow flurries, one way to tell it’s January in Washington are the convening of various “water summits” in DC. This week, Bob Hollander and Fred will be participating in the 2010 Water Sector Leadership Summit in Washington. WESTCAS will be joined by representatives of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Federation, the National Association of Water Companies, the WaterReuse Association, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the National Rural Water Association.

Tom Ray will be participating in the Public Projects Round Table in Washington this week. Public infrastructure financing will be discussed in detail and Tom will also be attending attending meetings scheduled by the PPRT at CEQ, EPA, and the Department of Interior.

### **Contact Fred or Tom**

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