



# washington dc update

## DC Updates or Living through “Snowmageddon”

February 10, 2010

If life went as planned, both of us would be on the Hill participating in Texas Water Day and getting ready for tonight’s reception in the Rayburn House Office Building. But Texas Water Day, along with the rest of the week, has fallen victim to “Snowmageddon” which dumped almost 30 inches of snow on DC over the weekend and almost 10 more today with 40 MPH winds. Not only is the Federal Government and Congress shut down, along with virtually all schools and local governments, but even those who are tempted to go up to the Hill and pound on the doors can’t get there because most public transit is unavailable except for underground Metro trains that come by about every half hour. It’s hard to believe that cherry blossom season is only a few weeks away.

The storm this week has played havoc with plans of the Executive and Legislative Branches of government whose schedules for consideration of important issues has been set back by more than a week. This includes plans for testimony by key officials from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers defending the President’s requested FY11 budget proposals. The cuts in proposed Corps funding and the only \$20 million for new Title 16 initiatives will be hot topics in Congress this spring, and many expect Congress to increase funding for these programs.

The Congress has recessed for this week because of the snowstorms and they will be off next week for the President’s Day State/District Work Periods.” But when they return on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be watching the following issues very closely and reporting back to you:

- The “Jobs” bill that is under consideration in the Senate and its impact on WESTCS members.
- FY11 Appropriations issues, particularly affecting EPA, BOR, and the Corps.
- Infrastructure financing bills with an emphasis on ones we believe have the best chance to move in the current session of Congress.
- Continued efforts by the Executive branch to regulate via Executive Orders.

Each of these issues has the potential to profoundly impact WESTCAS members. We will update you with regard to each and suggest strategies for WESTCAS involvement.

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