

Hicks-Ray Associates



February 24, 2009

TO: WESTCAS Members

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: DC Updates for Tuesday, February 24th

Just as we have all gotten used to talking and thinking about the Stimulus bill, the scene is set to shift in DC this week on two crucial fronts. First, the President will give his State of the Union speech on Tuesday, reminding us that the FY10 appropriations cycle is about to officially begin. Second, the Congress is set to pass either this week or next the nine remaining FY09 Appropriations bills that have yet to be enacted into law. This will be in the form of another large omnibus bill.

At the moment, the easiest way to look at the FY09 Omnibus and the Explanatory Statement is to:

- Go to www.House.gov
- Click on “Committees”
- Click on “Rules Committee” and you will see the document.

So far, this year has been a little like a CPA who goes through a regular tax season and then has to deal with yet another parallel tax season which appears at the same time and has its own separate rules. That’s how the regular appropriations cycle and the Stimulus have interacted with each other. To get some clue of how these processes are all moving forward consider the following schedule put out by the Corps of Engineers. This is a good guide for other Federal agencies as well.

- March, 2009, Stimulus funds issued to field offices.
- February/March, FY09 Appropriations Omnibus concluded.
- March, 2009 FY09 Appropriations Act funds issued to field offices.
- February 26, President presents FY10 budget overview.
- February, 2009, Corps HQ issues FY11 Budget guidance to field offices.
- April, 2009 FY10 Budget details released to public.
- April/May, 2009 House-Senate FY10 Budget hearings.
- Early/mid 2010, another possible Stimulus bill!!

Those who care about local/Federal partnerships to secure the water future of the West need to be very aware of this cycle. Please stay tuned.

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