



# washington dc update

## Chairwoman Napolitano Letter

September 8, 2009

The following link to the USACE Implementation Guidance for the various sections of WRDA 2007 may be of interest to many WESTCAS members. It is a convenient and quick reference to the guidance developed and being developed for WRDA 2007:

[http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Documents/cecwp/leg\\_manage/wrda2007/wrda07\\_imp.pdf](http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Documents/cecwp/leg_manage/wrda2007/wrda07_imp.pdf)

The Congress comes back into session starting today. There is a “target adjournment” date for the year for October 30<sup>th</sup>, but with issues such as health care reform on the front burner few would want to speculate at this point when the Congress will adjourn for the year. But we would bet that it will be closer to Christmas than Halloween.

One issue that will involve us starting tomorrow is the letter sent by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano [D:CA] to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on August 28<sup>th</sup>. [Please see attached] WESTCAS members will recall that Congresswoman Napolitano is the Chair of the Water and Power Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee and has been a champion of water issues, particularly relating to Title 16 Water Reuse projects.

Please take a moment and review the attached letter from the Congresswoman. It references the water crisis in California and proposes an immediate \$250,000,000 fix in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation. This proposal includes three primary steps:

1. \$200,000,000 in additional funding for Title 16 in the FY10 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.
2. \$25,000,000 in additional FY10 Energy and Water Appropriations funding for a “Farmer to Farmer” Water Efficiency program.
3. \$25,000,000 in additional FY10 Energy and Water funding for a “Water Conservation Initiative” administered by the Bureau to be available to both urban and rural water districts.

Congresswoman Napolitano notes in her letter; “As a result of investment, new wet, not paper, water can be created and placed in service throughout the State.”

The Association of California Water Agencies has called a meeting of interested parties to discuss the ramifications of the Napolitano letter at 1:30 PM today. WESTCAS has been invited and we will be in attendance. We’ll report back to you after the meeting.

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