

# Hicks-Ray Associates



October 14, 2009

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Legislation Moves Forward on the Hill

The FY10 Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report has been adopted by the full House of Representatives. Speedy action was also expected in the Senate until the bill became bogged down by procedural issues. But there is no doubt that the bill will pass, almost certainly as a stand-alone measure. And that is a great and welcome change over the past many years.

One of the disappointments of the FY10 bill is that only \$9 million was provided by Bureau of Reclamation Title 16 programs. To be fair to the Congress, this was also the amount requested by the Obama Administration. One of the reasons given for this small amount was that \$126 million had already been provided earlier in the year via the Stimulus. However, Title 16 proponents were hoping to use the generous amount of Stimulus funding as a springboard to a larger program. They pointed out there is a more than \$600 million backlog in already authorized programs.

The \$9 million in the FY10 bill for Title 16 only reminds us of the work that is yet to be done. Continued appreciation should be given to Congresswoman Grace Napolitano of California who has championed the cause of greater funding.

One strength/weakness of the Title 16 program is that it is almost entirely centered on California with very little funding going to the other 16 Bureau of Reclamation states. The “strength” part is that the California projects represent hard work by the local sponsors and real contributions to finding solutions to the current drought.

The “weakness” part is that of the \$9,000,000 in FY10 Title 16 funding, \$8,745,000, or more than 97%, went to California projects. And that makes it tough to build western-wide momentum for the program.

---

Fred Hicks - 703.866.4290  
P.O. Box 2115  
Springfield, VA 22152-0115  
[fred@hicks-ray.com](mailto:fred@hicks-ray.com)

Tom Ray - 254.855.0880  
P.O. Box 955  
Waco, TX 76703-0955  
[tom@hicks-ray.com](mailto:tom@hicks-ray.com)