



# washington dc update

## New Jobs Bill Takes Shape in the Congress

December 21, 2009

This past week, before going on Christmas recess, the House completed action on what is in effect Stimulus 11. Because the Stimulus 1 legislation has proven controversial, this latest effort has been renamed, the “Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010.” The title refers to the fact that at least some \$48.3 billion of the \$158 billion bill will be re-directed away from unspent TARP funds.

The vote in the House was a close 217 to 212 in favor of passage of the bill. The Senate is expected to take up and pass its version in the New Year with a conference convening to create a final bill. With high unemployment and the November elections looming, it is a good bet that we’ll see a final bill early next year. There are several key provisions in this bill that are of special interest to WESTCAS including:

- \$30 million in environmental infrastructure for the Corps of Engineers to distribute.
- \$26 million for Title 16 water reclamation and reuse projects and up to \$10 million for investigations and feasibility studies and R&D projects.
- \$1 billion in additional EPA wastewater revolving loan program and \$1 billion for the drinking water program.

There are other interesting provisions in the House bill for the various categories of funding including one that requires OMB to release Corps of Engineers funding within 30 days and for the Corps to allocate the money to projects within 45 days of the bill being signed into law.

Funding for Corps of Engineers Environmental Infrastructure, BOR Title 16, and EPA Clean Water and Safe Drinking water Revolving Loan funds totals \$2,056,000,000. That is not inconsiderable but even this sum represents less than 4.5% of the total funding in the bill of \$48.3 billion and falls far short of the actual needs of the water community.

This is yet another reason why WESTCAS will be working in the New Year to identify new sources of Federal revenue that can be used to support water infrastructure.

### **Contact Fred or Tom**

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