



Washington dc update

May 10, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: WESTCAS Membership
FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates
SUBJECT: **Next Steps in the Appropriations Cycle**

The ink is barely dry on last Friday's Presidential signature signing the FY17 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law. The passage of this measure in both Houses of Congress and President Trump's signature prevented a shutdown of the Federal government at midnight last Friday.

In Washington these days, events and "breaking news" on cable TV move swiftly so it is easy to forget about complex issues like the FY17 and the FY18 Appropriations cycles. WESTCAS members cannot afford to indulge in these distractions. Here are brief descriptions on what's next with regard to an important part of the Appropriations process.

US Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan

The FY17 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations Act provided \$121,000,000 for Corps of Engineers Feasibility studies and \$1,876,000,000 for Corps of Engineers Construction. The Energy and Water Appropriators instructed the Corps to submit a "Work Plan" to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees documenting how they will spend this and the other remaining FY17 funds provided by the Congress:

"Work Plan—Not later than 45 days after the enactment of this Act, the Corps shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a work plan including the following information: (1) a detailed description of the ratings system(s) developed and used to evaluate studies and projects; (2) delineation of how these funds are to be allocated; (3) a summary of the work to be accomplished with each allocation, including phase of work; and (4) a list of all studies and projects that were considered eligible for funding but did not receive funding, including an explanation of whether the study or project was considered as being less competitive for an allocation of funds."

The Army Corps has been working on the drafts for a FY17 Work Plan for several months now and should be able to meet the mid-June deadline for submission of this list.

What's next: The release of the detailed Trump FY18 spending proposals to the Congress that is now set for the week of May 22. This document will provide line-item details for proposed spending as opposed to the "Summary" that was issued by the Trump Administration in mid-March. Not much time and a great deal of work to accomplish before the beginning of FY18 on October 1.

Join us!

June 21-23, 2017 at the Island Palms Hotel & Marina



***WESTCAS Summer Conference
San Diego, California***

WESTCAS
Western Coalition of Arid States