

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



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September 5, 2017

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: They're Back

The Congress has been back in session for slightly over 24 hours after returning yesterday from its summer recess. But already an agreement has been reached to address the three most immediate issues that awaited them. This included raising the debt ceiling; keeping the government open after September 30; and providing initial relief for victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Earlier this morning, President Trump struck a deal with House Democratic Leader Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer to pass a Continuing Resolution that goes until mid-December and to increase the Federal Debt Ceiling, also until mid-December. With Democrats fully on board there are now enough votes to deal with both issues.

This agreement was accompanied by the House passage of a Hurricane Harvey relief bill by a vote of 419 to 3. This measure, only three pages long, provides \$7.4 billion in FY17 funding for FEMA and an additional \$450 million for the Small Business Administration. The Senate will now consider this measure.

It is important to note that the Congress will take up a second, more complex bill, in the coming weeks after a more accurate assessment of damage and needs in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and likely Hurricane Irma as well. This legislation will contain many of the measures that will hopefully protect the public during storm events of the future.

The Congress has now kicked the can down the road once again, this time for just over 90 days. In order to appreciate the next pivot point in the process forget that it is September 5 and allow your mind to fast-forward to the holiday season of 2017 with all of the traditional sights and sounds.....including a governmental crisis at the Federal level.

The WESTCAS Fall conference, October 25-27 in Tucson is well timed to allow members to develop and finalize position papers on a number of topics that address water issues in the Arid West. If you have not already registered we hope you will do so.

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