

Hicks-Ray Associates

Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success



April 17, 2018

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Administration Readies Rescission Package to send to the Hill

The act of rescinding already approved Federal spending is called “the rescission” process. This is when the Administration sends a rescission message to the Congress proposing the impoundment of already approved Federal funding.

The 2,300 page \$1.3 trillion FY18 Omnibus Appropriations bill signed into law by President Trump continues to be controversial in the wake of our \$20 trillion national debt. In response, the Trump Administration is preparing to send the Congress around May 1 a rescission proposal to cut \$30 to \$60 billion in spending out of the FY18 Omnibus. It’s anybody’s guess as to exactly where these cuts may fall. We’ll have to wait until the Office of Management and Budget gives us the specifics when the rescission package is submitted to Congress. There could be an across the board cut of upwards of 4.5% or the reductions could be focused on specific programs.

After submittal the Congress has 45 days to approve or disapprove of the rescission request. If either House or Senate votes no or even if they don’t vote at all within the 45-day time-period, the rescission would be rejected.

Despite the controversy surrounding the \$1.3 trillion FY18 Omnibus it does represent a bi-partisan agreement among House and Senate Republicans and Democrats finalized just over three weeks ago. With the ink barely dry on the Omnibus many doubt that the Congress will be in any mood to approve of an attempt to claw back some of the funds that have just been voted into law.

WESTCAS members will recall that the FY18 Omnibus included generous extra funding for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation’s water infrastructure programs. We will be watching closely as the rescission request takes shape and report back to you with regard to whether water infrastructure programs that are important to the Arid West could be on the chopping block.

The one certainty is that the rescission process adds another point of confusion to what has already been a year filled with surprises. Making sense of this confusion is yet another reason why we hope you are planning to attend the WESTCAS annual conference, June 20-22 in San Diego. Registration details coming soon!

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