

# Hicks-Ray Associates

*Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success*



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June 7, 2018

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: House Passes Its Version of a WRDA Bill; Having To Stay in Your Classroom During Recess

## **House Passes Its Version of a WRDA Bill**

Last night the House of Representatives passed their version of a Water Resources Development Act [WRDA] by a final vote of 408 to 2. This represents a stunning bi-partisan statement regarding the importance of water infrastructure that is all the more remarkable given the current atmosphere on Capitol Hill. Action on a Senate version of the bill is anticipated soon. At that point the House and Senate will conference a final version of the bill that can be passed and sent to President Trump for his signature.

During the upcoming WESTCAS annual conference in San Diego, June 20-22, the WESTCAS Board of Directors will review and finalize a WRDA letter to House and Senate authorizers identifying Arid West priorities that we ask be reflected in the final version of the bill.

## **Senator McConnell Cancels Senate August Recess**

Do you remember in grade school when your teacher told the class; “if you don’t behave you will all have to stay in the classroom and not go outside for recess?” Much the same thing happened this week in the Senate when Leader McConnell cancelled much of the Senate’s August recess. Senator McConnell pointed out the large volume of unfinished work ranging from confirmations of Trump nominees for Federal positions, FY19 Appropriations the National Defense Authorization Act, WRDA, the Farm Bill, FAA reauthorization, and reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

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Plans now are for the Senate to come back into session beginning the week of August 13 and continuing until Labor Day. That would mean that the Senate would be at work during the dreaded dog days of August. It seems unlikely that the House would join them in session since they are not responsible for confirming Presidential nominations and are making solid progress moving bills like FY19 Appropriations, WRDA, and others.

Back in grade school a classroom of unruly students could usually reclaim their recess period by improving their behavior. It should be noted that Senator McConnell's cancellation announcement this week isn't set in stone and could be withdrawn if the Senate begins to make faster progress with regard to its legislative agenda.