



WESTCAS

The Western Coalition of Arid States

October 24, 2018

Federal Action Plan

Winter/Spring 2020

Hicks-Ray Associates



HRA Update

PART 1
Background
"Playing Field"

PART 2
Update
"Ongoing WESTCAS Issues"

PART 3
"Federal Issues Survey Results"
(Thursday)

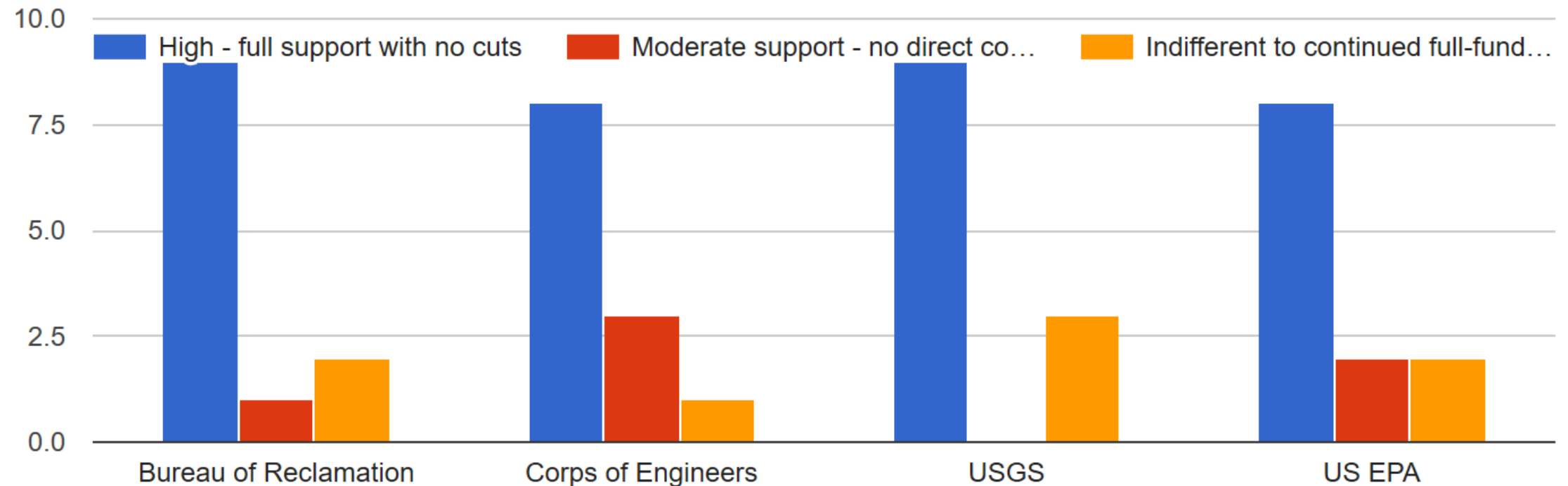
PART 4
"WESTCAS Portfolio & Actions"
(Thursday)

PART 3:

WESTCAS Federal Issues Survey

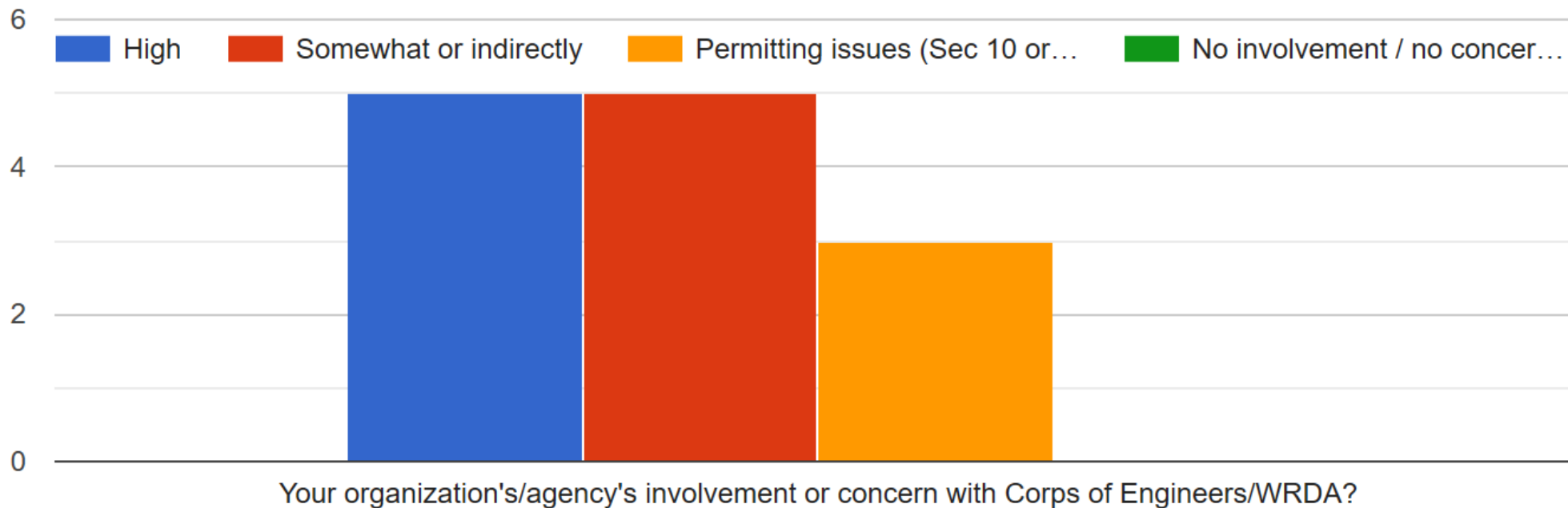
RESULTS

For the following federal resource agencies, please indicate your **SUPPORT** for continued federal appropriations (no cuts in funding).

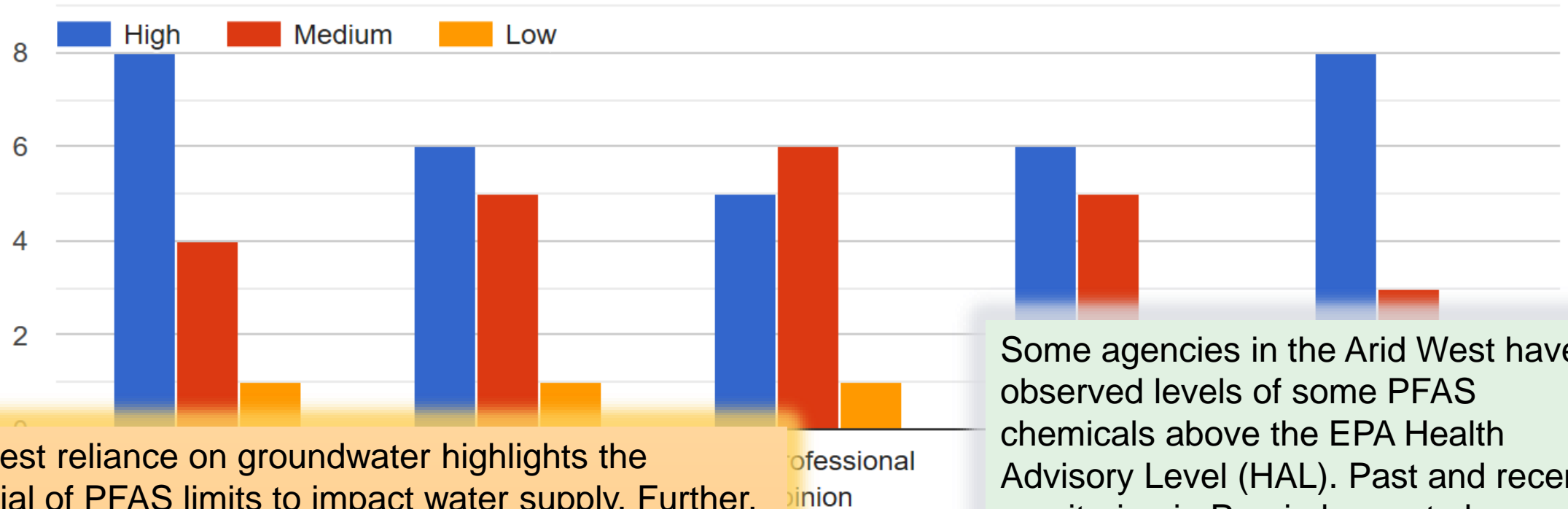


WRDA Involvement

Is your organization or agency involved directly or indirectly (e.g., Sec 404 permitting) with the Corps of Engineers? What is the level of WRDA involvement or concern?



How great is the concern is PFAS/PFOs for the arid-West water?

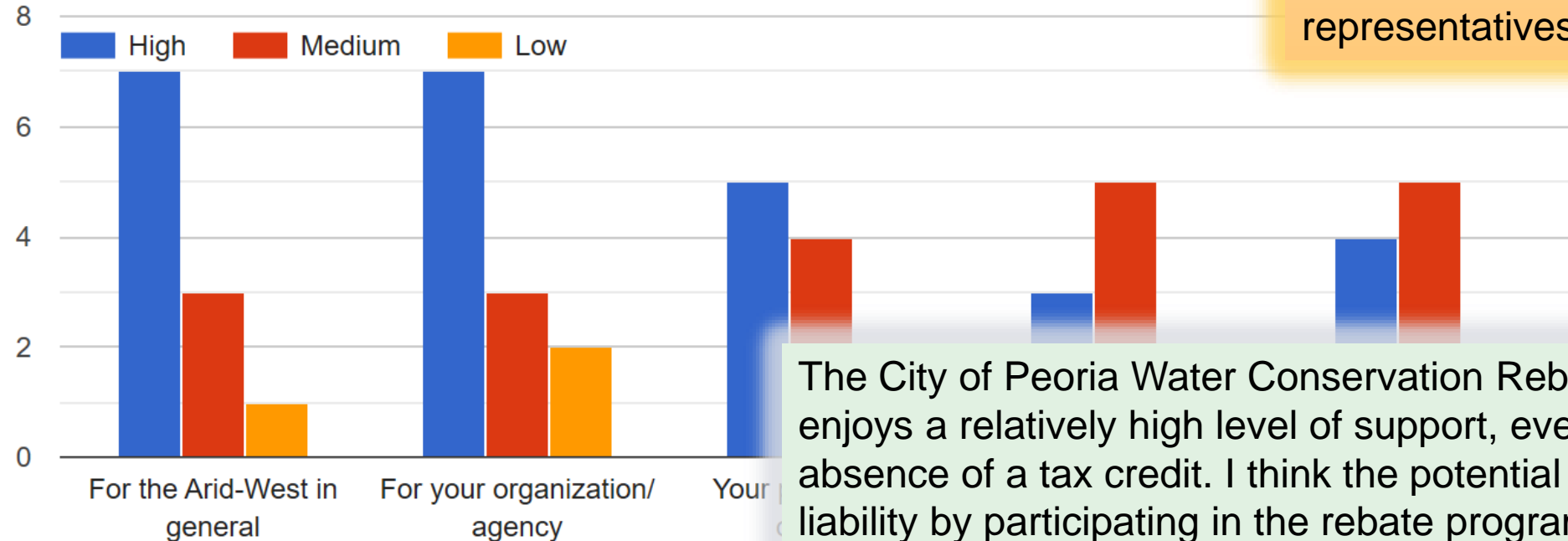


Arid west reliance on groundwater highlights the potential of PFAS limits to impact water supply. Further, wastewater discharges into effluent dependent water courses means end-of-pipe compliance with PFAS limits (Colorado has just put PFAS limits on wastewater discharges). All of which would be warranted if the research on human and ecosystem impacts was done and risk-based limits had been established.

Some agencies in the Arid West have observed levels of some PFAS chemicals above the EPA Health Advisory Level (HAL). Past and recent monitoring in Peoria has not observed any levels above EPA HALs. Concern for the future will depend on future legislative and regulatory efforts. We should be reviewing EPA's PFAS Action Plan.

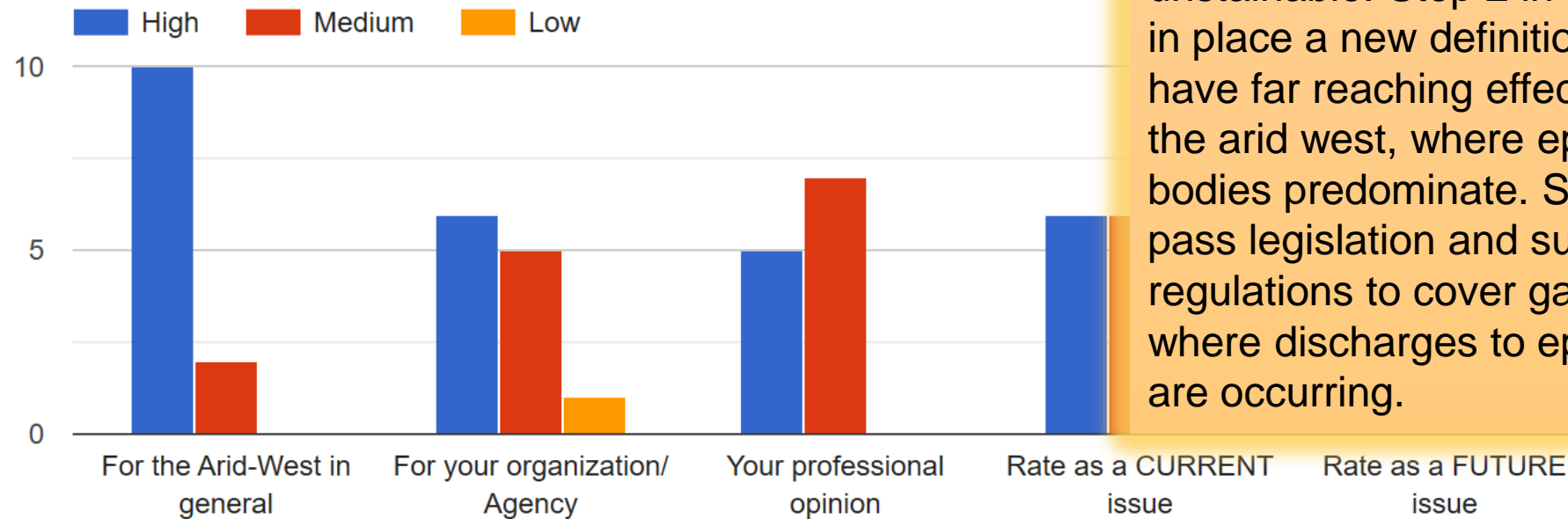
How important is the Water Conservation Tax Credit issue to your utility, for the Arid West in general, and what kind of priority would you assign supporting H.R. 2313 as a WESTCAS issue?

I do not represent an agency, so I could not respond to the question. I do think one answer is getting customers to complain to the congressional representatives.



The City of Peoria Water Conservation Rebate Program enjoys a relatively high level of support, even in the absence of a tax credit. I think the potential increase in tax liability by participating in the rebate program is offset by reduced water bills from conserving water. A tax credit for water conservation rebate programs would probably be fair given the existence of energy tax credits.

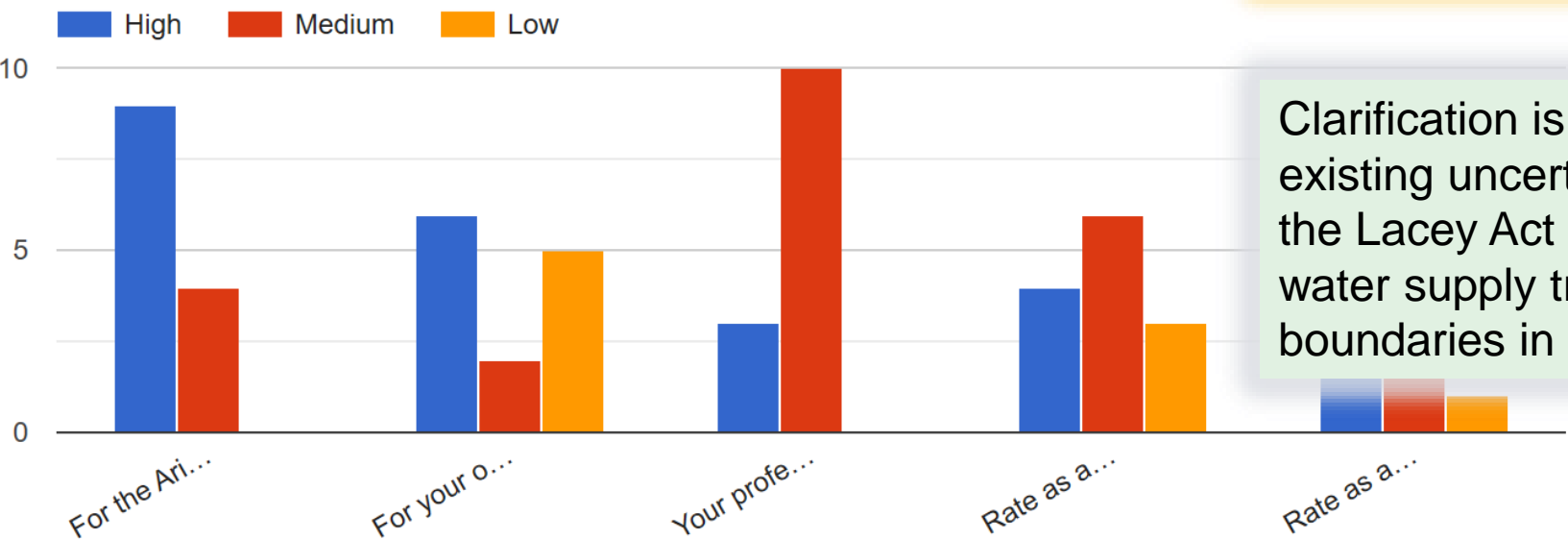
What is your interest, concern & opinion regarding the current situation with the pending repeal of the 2015 definition?



I think the repeal of the 2015 WOTUS definition and subsequent re-codification of the pre-2015 definition will have a temporary positive effect, but only because it will reinstate the definition that existed for a long time, and will do so nationwide. The current situation with two different definitions in effect in an almost equal number of states is unsustainable. Step 2 in the process, to put in place a new definition for WOTUS, will have far reaching effects, especially in the arid west, where ephemeral water bodies predominate. States may need to pass legislation and subsequent regulations to cover gaps, especially where discharges to ephemeral waters are occurring.

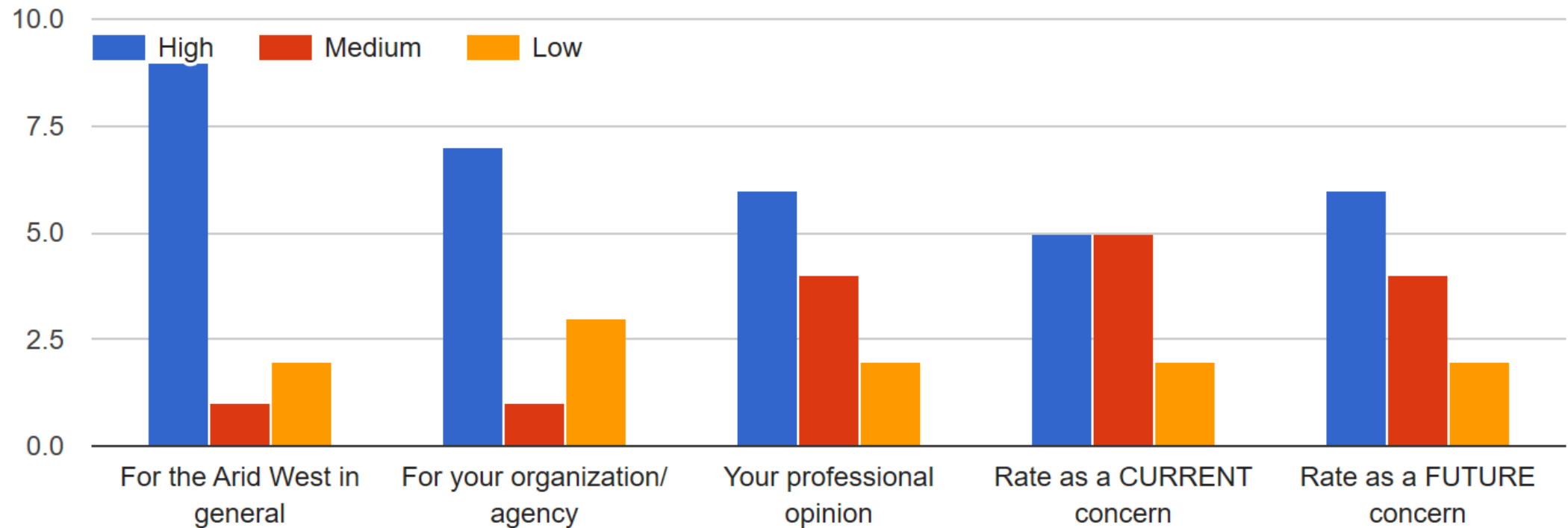
How important is the invasive species issue to your utility, for the general, and what kind of priority would you assign to H.R. 29 as an issue?

The City of Peoria has not had major issues with invasive species like Quagga Mussels. In the future, practical minds will find a way to decouple invasive species from water transfers, especially where the supposed invasive species are already in both source and receiving waters, and where the problem is being handled.



Clarification is needed to remove existing uncertainty involving impacts the Lacey Act may have on essential water supply transfers across State boundaries in the Arid West.

What is your view of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program and how active a role should WESTCAS play in supporting the effort in the future?



PART 4:

WESTCAS Federal Portfolio

REVIEW & DIRECTION

Issue/Concern	Proposed Actions	WESTCAS consideration	Updates to Consider	<i>Actions confirmed at 6/28/19 Board meeting</i>
FY20 Appropriations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support plus-up to resource agencies budgets (USGS, EPA, COE, BuRec) Letter of Support for FY20 E&W Appropriations bill, including additional Title XVI funding, USACE & BuRec Monitor Senate Appropriations process 	<p>Current for House appropriations</p> <p>Monitor dynamics with Senate appropriations, White House negotiations on Budget Agmt</p>	<p>Letter to support and to House E&W Appropriations Cmts to express appreciation for plus-up of USACE, BuRec (including Title XVI, WaterSMART), & USGS.</p> <p>Monitor status of Senate Approp bills</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitor outcome of Senate appropriations efforts; 2) If opportunity occurs to support funding for USGS, BuRec, USACE, EPA – prepare support letter
Water Conservation Rebate ☑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support HR 2313 Multiple support efforts needed Support letter with request for co-sponsorship consideration WESTCAS members send 'support letter' to individual Member Coordination with other MET, ACWA and other agencies or association representing rebate-using utilities Strong coordination with other TWCA for outreach to Texas Ways & Means Cmt members Support from the national drinking water associations 	<p>June 2019 San Diego</p> <p>June 2018 Santa Fe conference;</p> <p>Oct 2016 & Oct 2017 Fall Conferences;</p> <p>Feb 2018 Fly-in</p>	<p>HR 2313 June 2019 hearing in WOW Subcm</p> <p>Referred to House Ways & Means Committee</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update WESTCAS briefing paper 2) Identify Ways & Means members from WESTCAS states to target for support 3) Make available and distribute as requested the WESTCAS go-by letter (including CCVD letter)—HRA will assist with 'individualizing' support letters, incld letters to Ways & Means Cmt members 4) Assist with making city of Austin contact for support of Rep Doggett letter 5) Coordination with other associations, utilities supporting rebate effort, TWCA is particularly important due to W & M Cmt membership 6) HRA follow-up Member office visits

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Title XVI Competitive Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of HR1162, "Water Recycling Investment & Improvement Act," and Feinstein et al <i>Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act</i> Prepare draft support letters for both House and Senate bills Support funding for HR1162 or the compromise funding amount 	June 2019 San Diego House & Senate bills introduced recently in 116 th Congress	Both House & Senate bills authorize extension of Title XVI Authorized funding: > House @ \$500M > Senate @ \$50M	1) Draft written testimony for upcoming Senate hearing; 2) Update WESTCAS position paper; 3) Coordn with other associations, advise of upcoming Senate hearing 4) HRA follow-up Member office visits
WRDA 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor development of WRDA 2020 Anticipate serious drafting effort to begin in 2nd Session, 2020 calendar year WESTCAS members to identify and discuss potential WRDA issues or reforms needed 	June 2018 San Diego WESTCAS February 2018 Reg- Leg Fly-in	At NWC and other national conferences, T&I Cmt staff have indicated that a WRDA2020 will be developed	1) Draft WESTCAS letter supporting the need for WRDA 2020; 2) Monitor T&I for anticipated upcoming Hearing 3) Prepare appropriate testimony for hearing
Lacey Act Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider WESTCAS policy statement Coordinate with IWSA Support for Invasive Species Advisory Council (WESTCAS input and/or membership?) 	At several prior WESTCAS mtgs	Legislation by Gohmert and Senate companion by Cruz re-introduced early in 116 th Congress No hearing as yet in either House or Senate this Congress ARK decision removes Title 16	No Action at this time

