

Hicks-Ray Associates

Implementing Strategies, Achieving Success



May 6, 2020

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates

SUBJECT: Senate Committee Unanimously Advance WRDA Legislation

Earlier today the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works voted unanimously to advance S. 3591, the “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020,” and S. 3590, the “America’s Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020.” The 21-0 vote and the fact that both bills were introduced in a bi-partisan fashion are a welcome contrast to the political infighting that characterizes so much of today’s legislative process.

Both S. 3591 and S. 3590 now move to the full Senate for debate and passage. WRDA authorizers in the House are preparing to consider their own bill so the process to have a WRDA signed into law by the end of the year appears to be on track.

S. 3591 contains \$17 billion in authorizations for the Army Corps of Engineers and a reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. S.3590 includes \$2.5 billion for drinking water infrastructure. Hicks-Ray will be sending out a detailed review of both bills focused on their impact on the Arid West.

Today’s mark up was conducted under the new policies that require the wearing of masks, social distancing of 6 feet, and other safety precautions. Many WESTCAS members will be familiar with the Environment and Public Works Committee hearing room in the Dirksen Senate Office Building where today’s mark up was held. Things looked strange with the chairs removed from the public seating area and a U-shaped table extending well into the room to accommodate Senators and their staff.

Good news that important infrastructure legislation is advancing in the Congress with strong bi-partisan support.

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