

# Hicks-Ray Associates



October 24, 2013

TO: WESTCAS Membership  
FROM: Hicks-Ray Associates  
SUBJECT: WRRDA Passes the Full House of Representatives

In a surprise outburst of bi-partisan enthusiasm, last night the full House of Representatives passed the Water Resources and Reform and Development Act [WRRDA] by a vote of 417 to 3. It is astonishing that this vote came only 7 days after a bitterly divided Congress voted to re-open the Federal government and increase the debt ceiling.

The next step in the process is for the House and the Senate to appoint conferees who will hammer out a single, final version of the bill. This can be a somewhat tedious process since provisions in one version of the bill may not be in the other. However, the overwhelming 81 to 18 vote that passed the Senate WRDA bill back in the spring and the 417-3 vote in the House last night greatly increase the chances that a bill will reach the President's desk, perhaps before the end of the year.

Hicks-Ray is reviewing the House and Senate WRDA/WRRDA bills and will present an update during the WESTCAS Fall conference next week. We will also prepare a draft WESTCAS letter to the House/Senate conferees for the bill which will highlight issues of concern to the Arid West which we hope will be reflected in the final version of the bill.

It is encouraging that the legislative gridlock that seemed so intractable just seven days ago was broken by a huge outpouring of support for a water resources infrastructure bill. Our nation needs this kind of legislation and WESTCAS should do everything in its power to support the process of creating a final version of the WRDA bill.

We salute the leadership of T&I Committee Chair Shuster, Ranking Democrat Rahall, and to Chairman Gibbs and Ranking Democrat Bishop of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, and also John Anderson, Jon Pawlow, and Geof Bowman of the Subcommittee staff whose hard work made last night's vote possible.

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