March 8, 2012

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Water Resources Infrastructure Funding

Our recent reports have focused on the WESTCAS effort to develop new ideas for funding water resources infrastructure. This includes the Workshop that was held late last month in Phoenix.

While WESTCAS continues its quest with a special focus on how this issue can be adapted to meet the special needs of the Arid West, it is important to remember that we are not working in isolation.

For example, the theme of the Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference is, “A Strong Foundation for Rebuilding California,” with a particular emphasis for how to renew existing infrastructure and build for the future.

There was another example this past week when the House Water and Environment Subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing titled, “Review of Innovative Financing Approaches for Community Water Infrastructure Projects.” Testimony was provided by the following groups:

- Mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Central Contra Costa Sanitation District, California
- Lehigh, Pennsylvania County Authority
- Hawkins, Delafield and Wood, New York City
- M3 Capital Partners, Chicago
- AWWA
- WEF
- D&B Engineers and Architects, Woodbury, New York

We would be happy to share the testimony of any of these groups with you if you would like to review it.

Just another reminder that the quest for a new infrastructure funding future is not confined to WESTCAS. Our special task is to adopt all that is being learned to the particular needs of the Arid West.