



# washington dc update

date

## Zozobra

The annual Santa Fe Fiesta begins each year with the ritual burning of “Old Man Gloom,” otherwise known as “Zozobra.” New Mexico WESTCAS members will be familiar with this annual ritual.

Our HRA reports have been so gloomy that we hope that attendees at the San Diego conference won't feel compelled to set fire to the principals of Hicks-Ray Associates as a necessary step towards having a pleasant conference. That's because although the news out of the Federal sector with regard to the funding of water resources; Principals and Guidelines; and Clean Water Act Guidance is dire, one piece missing from the puzzle is for organizations like WESTCAS and its membership to step up to the plate and educate first themselves and then their Congressional delegations, with regard to what is at stake.

The annual conference is designed to equip you to take on this challenge.

As a reminder of how serious the issue of water resource local/Federal funding partnerships is at the moment, consider the following:

- In FY10, there was \$140 million in Corps of Engineer Construction Grant Environmental Infrastructure funding plus a further \$200 million in ARRA funds for this purpose.
- In FY11, there was zero.
- In FY 10, there was \$2.1 billion in SRF Clean Water funding and \$1.387 billion in drinking water SRF funding.
- In FY11 these figures had declined to \$1.525 billion and \$965 million respectively with FY12 budget requests of \$1.55 billion and \$990 million.
- There was \$126 million in Bureau of Rec ARRA Title 16 funding. This figure fell to \$20.542 million in the FY11 Bureau Work Plan with only 8 projects, including 7 from California.

These are important programs that many WESTCAS members have relied upon to help build water infrastructure. There has never been a more important moment for you to carry a message to the Congress regarding the importance of these programs.

**Summary & Take-Away .**

**Water Funding**

Compared to the FY10 amounts, serious funding cuts in the FY 11 budgeted and FY 12 requested funds for water programs for USACOE, EPA, and BOR.

**Take-Away**

WESTCAS has critical opportunity to carry a message to Congress of the importance of these water programs to the Arid West; that proposed cuts should be considered in light of the benefits.



*See you in San Diego!*



**WESTCAS**  
Western Coalition of Arid States