

Hicks-Ray Associates



April 23, 2010

TO: WESTCAS Members

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization Moves to Front Burner

Until yesterday, the consensus was that there was no way that a 2010 Water Resources Development Act [WRDA] reauthorization bill could be seriously considered by the Congress. This is because there isn't a great deal of time left in the legislative year and also because the White House is largely uninterested in such an initiative.

But suddenly on Wednesday a letter was released [see attached] from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee asking that Member requests (from Senators) for WRDA be submitted to the Committee by 6:00 PM, May 18th. Senator Boxer also indicated in comments made during a function yesterday morning that moving ahead with a WRDA bill was one thing that she and Ranking Republican Senator Inhofe could agree upon.

Many Senators are requesting constituent requests and supplementary documentation by next Friday, so the window of opportunity is very narrow.

Chairman Oberstar of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has also expressed strong interest in passing a WRDA bill this year. So the odds for a bill just went from practically zero to very good.

WESTCAS members who may have a WRDA request should contact their Senators regarding any special requirements that they might have for submitting a request. Again, the window for doing so is very narrow so we urge you to act quickly.

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