



washington dc update

House Natural Resources Committee Hearing Calendar

HRA Follow-up

July 12, 2010

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As a new service, WESTCAS has recently initiated making the hearing calendars for pertinent Congressional committees available to its Members electronically.

HRA will follow up on these reports with a brief analysis of what's important in those calendars. Our intent is to help WESTCAS members sort through the information provided and focus on what is most important for the arid west.

Let us know how we do!

You will have just received from Dawn Moore the hearing calendar this week for the House Natural Resources Committee. This Committee has jurisdiction over agencies and programs that are of particular concern to WESTCAS members including the Bureau of Reclamation.

We call your attention in particular to a hearing that has been scheduled for this Thursday morning by the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the full Committee on Natural Resources. This Subcommittee is chaired by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano who has long been a champion of funding for water resources, particularly in the arid West. We will be sending out additional reports on this hearing as the week progresses.

The specific focus on the hearing is to review the recent investments of ARRA funding through the Bureau of Reclamation and their impact. The Bureau received \$945 million in ARRA funds 17 months ago, of which only \$158.4 million has been paid out with \$745.8 million still available.

Thursday afternoon, the action shifts to the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee of the House Transportation Committee which will hold a hearing entitled "Putting America Back to Work through Clean Water Infrastructure Investment." Studies have been recently released which claim that for every \$1 billion in Federal investment in water and wastewater infrastructure, 27,000 jobs are created.

Both of these House hearings this week will hopefully cast more light on the role of Federal investment in water resources infrastructure. This should be interesting so stay tuned.

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