



washington dc update

June 2, 2011

Making a Difference as A WESTCAS Member

The issues that confront our nation at the moment, including those associated with water resources, are so huge and complex that it would be easy for any individual to ask themselves “what possible difference can I make?”

Today’s markup of the FY12 Energy and Water Appropriations bill provides some answers. We continue to talk about the “Big Three” issues of Principals and Guidelines; EPA Clean Water Act Guidance; and FY12 investment in water resources funding.

The House FY12 Energy and Water Appropriations bill addresses all these concerns:

- On spending, the Corps of Engineers is reduced by only 2% which is much less than had been feared although Bureau of Reclamation spending is cut by almost 15%.
- With regard to Clean Water Act Guidance, the FY12 Energy and Water bill contains a rider which prohibits funds from being spent to pursue the Guidance.
- And there is a further rider that forbids the Administration from spending FY12 funds “to initiate, administer, promulgate, or enforce” any regulatory action which is defined as a rule with an annual implementation cost of \$100 million or more.

It is clear that House Appropriators are deeply concerned over the same issues that WESTCAS has identified. This is a great moment for you, as a WESTCAS member, to step forward and educate your Congressional delegation with regard to how these issues impact your agency. The action today by the House Energy and Water Committee is an indication that your input will be timely and appreciated. This is especially true since the two riders will be controversial. Your efforts could help tip the balance.

WESTCAS members can help make a difference bringing their informed opinions to bear on water resources investment and regulatory issues. If you have not already done so, we hope you will register today for the WESTCAS summer conference and join your colleagues in what we believe will be a great shared learning experience. You will leave San Diego ready to jump into this process with both feet. See you there!

Summary & Take-Away .

FY12 Energy & Water

Mark-up

Today’s markup provides a marker for the House concerns with critical issues of the CWA and water infrastructure funding. It is a positive sign that many in the House and on the Committee will be receptive to WESTCAS comments and concerns.

Take-Away

WESTCAS members can help make a difference bringing their informed opinions to bear on water resources investment and regulatory issues.



See you in San Diego!



WESTCAS
Western Coalition of Arid States