



# washington dc update

June 9, 2011

## Meeting the Challenge

Were you are one of the large number of people who participated in yesterday's WESTCAS sponsored conference call? If not, you need to know that for over an hour, WESTCAS members representing a broad spectrum of expertise including water associations, water agencies, consulting engineering firms, and water law attorneys discussed the WESTCAS response to EPA's Clean Water Act Guidance. This discussion will carry through to the drafting of comments which will be finalized during the upcoming annual conference in San Diego and will involve the WESTCAS Board as well as the Regulatory, Legislative, and Policy Committees.

Yesterday's call provided a vivid demonstration of why WESTCAS is such an indispensable voice for water resources in the arid west and why it is so important for you to be a WESTCAS member and if at all possible to participate in the annual conference June 22-24.

The "Big Three" issues of "Principals and Guidelines;" "Clean Water Act Guidance;" and "Federal funding for water resources infrastructure" are on the verge of transforming the water resources community as we know it. All three of these issues are in play in the Federal community right now including a July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for comments on the EPA Clean Water Act Guidance, numerous markups in the FY12 Appropriations cycle, and the issuing of an expected Executive Order on Principals and Guidelines later this month.

We don't believe that there is any organization or any conference that is so well suited or timed to address these issues as they related to the arid west than WESTCAS and its summer conference. The "Big Three" represent the biggest changes in how the Federal government approaches water resources management in a generation. It is essential that western water resource professionals help to guide this process.

One hundred and thirty five years ago, delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia spent each day in Constitution Hall where they met behind closed doors and shuttered windows during the heat of the summer. We believe that the Catamaran Resort in San Diego will provide a much more pleasant venue for the historic task that lies before the water community.



*See you in San Diego!*



**WESTCAS**  
Western Coalition of Arid States