

# Hicks-Ray Associates



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March 17, 2010

TO: WESTCAS Members

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Bureau of Reclamation Seeks Input on Title XVI Funding

There have been notable developments this week with regard to the future direction of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program. This included the release of two important documents. The first is a March 15<sup>th</sup> letter from Roseann Gonzales, who is Director of Policy and Administration for the Bureau to stakeholders inviting their comments concerning how future Title XVI projects should be funded. The comment period is open until April 16<sup>th</sup> and WESTCAS will be responding.

The second document is the actual proposed criteria for Title XVI funding decisions. What the Bureau is proposing with regard to criteria and scoring of projects is well organized and very "readable". We urge you, as a WESTCAS member to study these proposals carefully.

One of the challenges faced by the Title XVI program has been the very limited funding that it has received and the \$630 million backlog in authorized projects. But it is crucial to remember that the \$135,000,000 included in the ARRA and the \$29,000,000 included in the Administration's request for FY11 has reduced this backlog by more than 25% in little more than a year.

With the Bureau's WaterSmart program getting untracked, this is an important moment in the history of the Title XVI effort for stakeholders to get involved in the policy making process and working to try and make certain that this effort is relevant to your needs.

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Fred Hicks - 703.866.4290  
P.O. Box 2115  
Springfield, VA 22152-0115  
[fred@hicks-ray.com](mailto:fred@hicks-ray.com)

Tom Ray - 254.855.0880  
P.O. Box 955  
Waco, TX 76703-0955  
[tom@hicks-ray.com](mailto:tom@hicks-ray.com)