

Senate budget hearing highlights

(Editor's note: Here are highlights from Mike Hacskaylo's March 7 testimony on Western's FY 2001 budget before the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.)

Western's fiscal year 2001 budget request of \$206.4 million is 2.9 percent or \$6.2 million below the current FY 2000 program.

This decrease is due to an \$11 million drop in requests for funding for construction and rehabilitation. Western has seen completion of transmission line and terminal facility projects this year plus several additional transmission line projects nearing

completion and no project starts for 2001.

Other budgetary shifts include:

- ◆ an increase of \$1.1 million (to \$114.7 million) for the Colorado River Basin Project
- ◆ an increase of \$1.4 million (to \$2.7 million) for the Falcon and Amistad Maintenance Account
- ◆ an increase of \$2.1 million (to \$106.6 million) for Program Direction
- ◆ an increase of \$1.4 million (to \$36.1 million) for Operation and Maintenance.
- ◆ a decrease of \$3.3 million (to \$23.1 million) for Construction and Rehabilitation
- ◆ a decrease of \$6.4 million (to \$35.5 million) for Purchase Power and Wheeling