

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

[May 28, 2021](#)

How Dry I Am...

The 2021 soundtrack for New Orleans, where it has already rained more than 35 inches, could be topped by [Who'll Stop the Rain](#), but that isn't the case everywhere. Out west, where this is already shaping up to be not just a dry year but a disastrously dry year, people are singing a [different tune](#). For farmers and fishers along the Klamath River basin on the California-Oregon border this is the driest they have been in 127 years. [Things are so dry that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has already shut off irrigation water from Upper Klamath Lake and announced there will be no "flushing flows" to benefit the endangered coho salmon in the Lower Klamath River](#). Where some see a lack of water and a painful but orderly management process [others see an overbearing Federal government \(which built the Klamath Reclamation Project\) and an oppressive Endangered Species Act](#). If only someone could have seen this coming and made preparations, maybe this would not be so severe. Maybe steps could have been taken to manage and use water more efficiently, not just out West but across this great land. [Well, they did—they just weren't funded](#). Of course when times get tough and tempers get short there is always [the option of curing a shortage by taking water from someone/someplace else](#). Just try it...

Getting the Lead Out in the Queen City

Sometimes in life you get what you pay for and most of the time, you don't get what you don't pay for. That sure seems the case with lead in drinking water. People have only known that lead is a toxin for about 4,000 years, so it's not surprising that it took until middle part of the 20th Century to recognize that by putting it into plumbing, paint, gasoline and lots of other objects of daily life there was a public health hazard that needed to be dealt with. [But once that risk was clear, businesses, governments, and trade unions spang into action to ensure that lead exposure would be abated—as slowly as possible](#). And no pathway to exposure has moved more slowly than lead in pipes. Of course, to remove lead pipes one had to develop technological breakthroughs such as shovels, sledgehammers, pipes not made of lead, and dust masks but with those now in hand, only two things are missing—the will and the funding to act. Both of which have been in short supply. But things are looking up at least in [Cincinnati, Ohio where local officials are proposing a major water rate hike to fund the replacement of all lead pipes in residential and commercial buildings](#). Currently, the cost of replacement is shared between the utility and the property owner, which has guaranteed that work would be slow and spotty. Of course, property owners will still be footing part of the bill via higher rates, but the city would

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and legal stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[State of the Coast 2021](#); June 2-4

[Comments due for Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#); June 3

Water jobs:

[Legal Fellowship – Tribal and Federal Natural Resources Mitigation Law and Policy](#); Environmental Policy and Innovation Center; Washington, D.C.

[Federal Policy Manager – Plastic Pollution Campaign](#); Oceana; Washington, D.C.

[Director, Sustainable Land Science](#); Conservation International; Arlington, VA

[Lands and Rivers Senior Policy Analyst](#); Western Resource Advocates; New Mexico

[Vice President of Regional Conservation](#); American Rivers; Washington, DC

[Climate Adaptation Planner](#); Center for Planning Excellence; Baton Rouge, LA

[Law Clerk](#); San Francisco Baykeeper; San Francisco, CA

[Attorney III](#); State Water Resources Control Board; Sacramento, CA

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take over sole responsibility for acting. Since some people can't pay their bills now, it will be interesting to see how this plays out. But the sad truth in many cities is that a compromised water supply already imposes a dual water bill on people—the first for what comes out of the tap and the second for bottled water or for the health costs linked to being slowly poisoned.

Goodbye to the Water Man

It may soon be easier to get a clean drink of water in Cincy, but it just got harder in Riverview, Florida—at least at the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue and Providence Road. [That's because Cory Cobb is, sadly, no more.](#) At a time when the economics and politics of water are stress testing our institutions and collective sense of self, Cory Cobb took a different tack. He gave water and a smile to anyone who needed it. A [parched motorist](#)—sure here you go. A [thirsty pedestrian](#)—got you covered. A [dehydrated worker](#)—not to worry. Inspired by good parents and supported by a small group of “Cory's Angels,” Cory just did what he thought was right. Cory died last week from cardiac arrest leaving the corner Bloomingdale and Providence and the world a bit better from his having been there. Cory is also a reminder that we can talk and legislate for eternity about water being a human right but until we actually find ways of [making it so](#), we haven't done much.