



# TUWaterWays

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

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## Beware of Psychics Predicting Your Frustration over a Water Main Break

Because it turns out that it's the kind of thing any supposed mind reader could mention; water main breaks are shockingly common across the United States. Want to move to Canada to get away from what must be a uniquely American problem? Nope. It's a problem in Canada, too. A [new study](#) puts this cost of fixing this problem across the United States and Canada at [\\$452,000,000,000](#) (greenbacks, not loonies). That's [four-and-a-half Dr. Evil ransoms](#). Nearly one-fifth of water-main mileage in the two countries is beyond its useful lifespan and cannot be replaced because of a lack of funding. [Failing infrastructure](#) is a huge problem beyond just water mains, of course, and it would be a massive challenge even without [climate change making it worse](#). And [there is only so much a BIL can do](#).

So, what, exactly, is climate change making worse? Well, [floods are getting worse](#). [Not just from storms](#) but from tides, too. What sometimes those [floods have knock-on effects of pollution issues](#). And [sunny day floods are extra fun](#). Of course, the American way to deal with outdated infrastructure has just been to move somewhere else. Let's see how it works out for the [new city of St. George, LA](#). They might have more work ahead of them than they know.

## River (Sometimes) Deep, Mountain (of Data) (not so) High

Rivers. [Sometimes they're great](#). [Sometimes they're not](#). But, as far as the course of human history goes, they're darned important. So, you'd think we'd take better care of them. Or at least know more about what goes into and comes out of them. Luckily, there's [a new study](#) from those rocket scientists over at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. They were able to use both stream-gauge measurements, high-resolution global mapping, and computer modeling to extract estimates of water across three million segments of streams around the world. In doing so, they have come to [a better understanding than ever of how much water rivers hold](#) – and where humans are most impacting river volumes through intense use. Would you believe that the Colorado River is one of those places?

Of course, conditions in the Colorado Basin and the rest of the American West are in the midst of [a major transition](#). From their [highest tributaries](#) to their deepest [wells](#), there's an awful lot to keep track of. Even on the law and policy side, there are [new developments addressing old problems](#) and [new infrastructure funding](#) (but [maybe not for everything](#)).

Globally, our rivers still have the possibility to [unite or divide us](#) or [provide new resources](#). If anything's for sure about fixing our rivers, it's that [beavers are probably the answer](#). Well, then [or conveyor belts](#). Or just [sheer confidence](#). Now [lakes, on the other hand...](#)

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## Coming Up:

[2029 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan Community Conversations](#); Violet, LA; May 7

## Water jobs:

[Hazard Mitigation Specialist, Senior](#); City of New Orleans; New Orleans, LA

[Staff Attorney](#); Atchafalaya Basinkeeper; Remote w/in Louisiana

[Environmental Law Clinic Fellowship](#); Case Western Reserve University; Cleveland, OH



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.

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