



TUWaterWays

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

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MERCHANDISING! MERCHANDISING! MERCHANDISING!

For 12 years, TUWaterWays has graced the inboxes and spam filters of hundreds, maybe even thousands, of the world's email accounts. Over those years, we have heard back more than once that TUWaterWays is your favorite newsletter. What hasn't been said is that all that's really missing in your life is some awesome merch that would allow you to rep the creators of your favorite newsletter. But we read between the lines and knew you meant to say it. Therefore, we've taken some of the amazing designs [students at Tulane's School of Professional Advancement made](#) for us and turned it into merch! [These bags and hats are currently on pre-sale, but the shop will close by August 12th. So go check it out right now!](#) Of course, we are hoping these items are a fundraiser for us, but if you're not into any of these items, you can just [make a donation](#)! That would surely be more satisfying than just waiting until the next round of swaggy-ness drops.

Calling All Recent Law School Graduates!

Well, at least two recent law school graduates. This Institute is in the market for our newest postgraduate research fellow. It's a two-year position for someone who graduated law school with a JD or LLM degree in the last two years. This fellow will play an important role in our research and publishing on a variety of water law and policy issues, supervise students, and contribute to this very newsletter. It's [a program with a pretty impressive track record](#) at this point. [Find the water law job posting here.](#)

The Water Law postgraduate fellow program has been so successful, that those handsome devils over at the Tulane Center for Environmental Law decided they needed a postgraduate research fellow of their own. This will also be a two-year position, but it will have a purview wider than just water law and concentrate on natural resource and environmental issues that affect Louisiana and related locales. [Find this environmental law job posting here.](#)

And if you have any such bright law school graduate in your life who you think might be a good fit, share this with them over the next week or two. There's a good chance they're currently not reading TUWaterWays while up to their eyeballs in the bar exam.

Fire and Rain

[James Taylor may have seen fire and rain](#) but probably not the way the residents of Ruidoso, New Mexico have. If he hasn't, he should count his blessings because the [combination of wildfires in June and the ½ to 1 inch of rain on a July day have combined to create flash floods that have driven residents from their homes and crippled the economy of the Southern New Mexico town.](#) For many places in America, that may not sound like a lot of rain (here in New Orleans it could be called high humidity), but in dry places with vertical topography and little vegetation to hold the soil, it can be a recipe for disaster—which is what Ruidoso got. Sometimes this is the hand that nature deals you, but in this case it seems that [the fires were caused by—even possibly set by—people](#), which makes it highly likely that those people set the stage for some of the flooding. The point being that everyone is at greater risk disaster than they probably care to admit, especially given how disasters can stack up when risk drivers both natural and human ([acute](#) and [chronic](#)) add up.

Ideally, coming to grips with those risks can lead to better understanding and management for both water and fire, like this Institute and the Tulane Center for Environmental Law's [Utility Vegetation Management Initiative](#) work towards. At the very least, it might endear us towards [kindness towards those like the residents of Ruidoso](#). There but for [the grace of God go we](#).

The More the Merrier?

To divert or not divert, that is the question. At least it is the question at the heart of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project that is the keystone of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency's Master Plan. Long talked about and planned for, the project would reintroduce (the real diversion actually happened years ago when the Mississippi River was leveed off from its coastal delta and estuaries) the Mississippi River to the swamps, marshes, and waters of the vast but disappearing Barataria estuary in Southeastern Louisiana. Of course, that estuary is not remotely what it once was and, heaven knows, the River is not the same kind of river that it once was. Indeed, there are concerns that so much has changed that the federal permits for the project are being challenged by [some environmental and fishing groups on the grounds that permits and process followed to issue them don't adequately consider the harms the project could produce](#). Stopping the project would not stop the degradation of the coast since the process of sea level rise, wetland loss and fisheries displacement would continue, though without the benefits the project touts. One might presume the Federal government would robustly make those arguments and others, but [another coalition of fishing and environmental groups aren't willing to assume that and are seeking to intervene in the suit on the side of the government](#). Even if the defendants win this suit, it does not mean the project will go forward, it only means that it may. The ultimate decision may fall to the State of Louisiana, which is the project sponsor but not a party to the ongoing lawsuit. A year ago, there was little doubt they would have intervened, but that was then and a new Administration is now and Governor [Jeff Landry's support for the project has been open to interpretation](#). Stay tuned.

My Big Fat, Dry, Greek Wedding

[Mamma mia, here we go again](#) talking about water, or more accurately the lack of it. When it comes to destination weddings, Greek islands are high on many couple's list, but for folks heading to certain islands—specifically Leros, Sifnos, and parts of Crete and Kefalonia—the experience might be different than they imagined. That's because [those islands are facing water shortages, and the culprits are multitude](#): climate change, drought, inadequate water supplies, burgeoning demand, inadequate infrastructure, and inadequate maintenance on existing infrastructure. Whatever the reason, concerns are that unless something changes soon, bookings may be cancelled, taps might go dry, and dreams of wedded bliss may be shattered. Nobody wants any of that, but when your realities don't align with your hopes and plans, reality usually wins. Too many people don't seem to believe that where water is concerned, and they don't all live in Greece!

Coming Up:

[Mississippi River Commission Inspection Meetings](#)

Cape Girardeau MO, Aug. 19, 2024

Memphis TN, Aug. 20, 2024

Lake Village AR, Aug. 21, 2024

Morgan City LA, Aug. 23, 2024

[Application Deadline for Coastal Leadership](#)

[Institute](#)

August 23, 2024

Water jobs:

[Senior Research Fellow](#); Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy; New Orleans, LA

[Senior Research Fellow](#); Tulane Center for Environmental Law; New Orleans, LA

[Visiting Professor \(Clinical Assistant Professor\)](#); Tulane Environmental Law Clinic; New Orleans, LA

[Director or US Environmental and Economic Justice Program](#); Namati, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, or Delaware

[Principal Counsel, Environmental Law](#); Berkeley Lab, San Francisco Bay Area, CA

[Attorney](#); California State Water Resources Board

[Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist](#); The Water Institute, Baton Rouge LA



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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