

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources
Law & Policy
May 27, 2022

Don't Make Me Stop This Car!

Getting people to do right and play nice is never easy, but when the chips are down you always count on people to pull together and do what needs doing—except when they don't. Cue every memory of long family car trips. At some point discussion and persuasion stop and [the parental foot is put down](#). When it comes to conserving California's scarce waters during a time of high heat and drought Governor Gavin Newsom probably feels more like a vexed dad than a powerful official as he and local water agencies try to convince the Golden State's residents to use less water. How's it going? [Despite the driest winter in a century and the need to cut water use by 35% in order to get through the year, water usage actually increased in March by nearly 20% compared to last year prompting Dad—we mean Governor Newsom—to threaten mandatory restrictions](#). Just what those might be beyond bans on lawn watering and car washing is not clear, but if it comes to that, the car trip may already be ruined.

Cool, Clear Water—Well Maybe Not So Cool

Sometimes there is [nothing more refreshing than a gulp of cool clear water](#). [Sometimes there is nothing so important](#). Not just the water part but the cool part. That is certainly the case when water is needed to cool an industrial process, say, like producing electricity at a nuclear power plant. In France, which relies heavily on nuclear power plants, things are getting dicey since French rivers are getting warmer which means they are less effective as cooling agents. As a result [France may need to take some plants offline at a time when power supplies are already being tested during the an early summer heatwave](#). River water temperatures tend to correspond with air temperatures, just as they do in Gulf of Mexico where they can spawn hurricanes. No river hurricanes are in the offing, but it could be a [long hot summer](#) in France that should serve as a reminder that most electricity is water dependent in one way or another and [forgetting that can land you in hot water](#).

Quenching or Quashing the Thirst for CCS

Bummed out by the news that reducing carbon emissions by relying more on “green” nuclear power is limited by the availability of suitable water? Sit down, it gets worse. Guess what else is water-limited? Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). That's right, the much-touted approach to sequestering carbon dioxide is not just a matter of collecting and injecting it underground. No, it also requires water and lots of it—at least according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([see page 982 of the PDF of its 2022 Mitigation of Climate Change report](#)) and [new research published in Nature](#)

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:

Got some events? Send them our way!

Water jobs:

[Lead Technology and Innovation Programs](#); Environmental Law Institute; Washington, DC

[Senior Outreach Coordinator](#) and [Outreach Intern](#); National Wildlife Federation; New Orleans, LA

[Fellowship for Climate Change and Environmental Professionals](#); Atlas Corps; USA

Expert@ en Derecho Ambiental; American Bar Association; Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala

[Legislative Analyst, Coastal and Flood Resilience](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Washington, DC

[Manager, Resilient Fisheries Policy](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Remote

[Associate Attorney](#); Sher Edling LLP; San Francisco, CA

[Deputy Regional Administrator](#); EPA; Denver, CO

[Supervisory Attorney-Advisor](#); EPA; Chicago, IL

[Environmental Protection Specialist](#); EPA, Washington, DC

[Student Trainee \(Legal\)](#); EPA; Washington, DC

[Director, Water Enforcement Division](#); EPA; Washington, DC

[Water Rights Attorney](#); Halverson Northwest Law Group; Yakima, WA

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[Sustainability](#) on the hydrological limits on CCS. They may not be showstoppers but they are significant and point to the fact that the efficacy of CCS can vary greatly from place to place. What the research does not speak to yet is whether the waters needed for CCS are even legally available in places where it might otherwise appear to be physically available. The fact is, under state and federal laws, much of our surface waters and many aquifers are already spoken for, and a new use or user does not move to the front of the line just because they are important. This is fixin' to get interesting.

[Gimme Some More](#) Climate Change Songs!

We are not giving up. We're still on the hunt for songs for our next [themed playlist](#). We've gotten a few suggestions for climate change songs, but we need more! So keep your ears open for any songs you think fit the bill and send 'em over to cdalbom@tulane.edu. Maybe they're your favorites, maybe they're your least favorites—either way, he'll listen to them all!