

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
October 10, 2013

## **Bayou St John: Better Days for an Historic Stream**

[Bayou St. John](#) offers a glimpse of how the new Urban Water Plan might transform how water is seen and managed in the New Orleans area. Once one of America's most important water ways—serving as a link between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, it was a big reason for the founding of New Orleans—Bayou St. John has become a cherished but degraded concrete lined urban waterway. Thanks to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, a [project](#) is underway to recreate half an acre of native marsh along the Bayou's banks. Restoring both natural function and greater public use to this Bayou has gained steam recently with the development of the [New Orleans Urban Water Plan](#).

## **Water for Sale, We Got Your Surplus Water Right Here—Well Maybe**

With more and more places in the heartland facing a dry future, the Army Corps of Engineers is busily assembling a rule that would govern how it would [sell "surplus" Missouri River water](#) for municipal and industrial use. The Corps' efforts under the Missouri River Municipal and Industrial Water Storage Reallocation Study are running into a wide array of concerns and objections, principally over the issue of exactly what "surplus" is and how the Corps' plans square with state and tribal water rights. Given the importance of river flows to the survival of coastal Louisiana and the Corps' legal duty to act consistently with plans to save that coast (and the ports, habitats, communities, and industries it is home to), we all may be in for a very interesting ride.

## **California Takes Another Whack at Its Gordian Water Knot**

California is no stranger to water troubles. Faced with growing demand, diminishing supply, compromised water qualities, and even "[blue babies](#)", Governor Jerry Brown has [signed into law](#) more than a dozen bills aimed at dealing with contaminated ground water, water recycling, and water affordability. We can't say how effective these measures will be, but the mere fact of them should remind newer players in the water game how big the stakes are.

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 stewardship of water.

## Coming up:

**October 11**

[Bayou Rebirth Native Plant Symposium](#)  
Delgado Community College  
New Orleans, LA

**October 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm – 4:00pm**

[Second Annual Anba Dlo Water Symposium](#)  
New Orleans Healing Center  
New Orleans, LA

**October 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00am**

[Day Paddle on the Tangipahoa River](#)  
Land Trust for Louisiana  
Independence, LA

**October 24-25, 2013**

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
[Basics of the Basin 2013](#)  
New Orleans, LA

**February 21-23, 2014**

Tulane Environmental Law Summit  
Tulane Law School  
New Orleans, LA

**Tulane Institute**  
on Water Resources Law & Policy

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### **October 19—Election on New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Revamp**

For our readers in New Orleans we would like to remind you that there is an election on Saturday October 19. If Traffic Court judgeships were not enough to get you to the polls, we would hope that the referendum on the revamp of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board would be. The proposed changes, which have already cleared local political and civic hurdles and a vote of the Louisiana Legislature, are intended to add technical expertise to the Board and to take some of the politics out of it. To get more informed you may find a [summary of the ballot initiative](#) by the Bureau of Governmental Research (which, ironically, is nongovernmental) to be helpful.

### **Anba Dlo Symposium—Come for the Water, Stay for the Festival.**

There may be places where you can learn about the challenges and opportunities facing our water resources without having the chance eat, drink, wear costumes, parade and listen to music, but New Orleans is not one of them. At least not on Saturday October 19 at [the 2nd<sup>th</sup> Annual Anba Dlo Water Symposium](#). The water symposium piece will (which is part for the broader 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Anba Dlo Festival) will feature panels on the increasingly important role water plays in our lives and on the decisions that are looming regarding the fate and use of the Mississippi River and the coast. Bring the kids, the symposium is free.

### **Where Art and Water Meet—New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center and Edward Burtynsky's "Water"**

Believe it or not, there are aspects of water that are not conveyed best, if at all, by a white paper. If you need proof of that we suggest that you drop by the [New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center](#) and experience its new exhibit, "[Water](#)", a sweeping photographic survey by Edward Burtynsky of how water, shapes us and is shaped by us. This is the premier of the show which has drawn strong [reviews](#) both in and out of the art world. The show is a co-production of the New Orleans Museum of Art and the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center.