

# 7TU Water Ways

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy  
Nov 4, 2022

## Small But Mighty?

Mississippi River levels drop further still. In conditions of near biblical proportions, folks can now [walk across the water](#) – or lack thereof. While lower basin states are seeing the immediate effects, the impacts will be felt around the world. Low water levels have thousands of barges backed up along the river, slowing food supply shipments, and in turn, [skyrocketing grocery prices](#). For context, the price of moving a bushel of soybeans went up 300%. It's all [dollars and cents](#).

Shifting a bit eastward, tensions are once again mounting among Alabama, Georgia, and Florida – and it's not over SEC football. [Drought conditions in the Deep South](#) are stirring up an old [Tri-State conflict](#) of water usage by a growing Atlanta, agriculture, and flows down to Florida. Observers have more cause to worry, as Alabama (unlike many other states) doesn't have a statewide water plan. Then again, having a plan doesn't ensure success. Extreme heat and low precipitation have highlighted issues with [Texas' water plan](#). On the bright side, [federal dollars are flowing to Texas](#) to update drinking water infrastructure thanks to funds from the Water Infrastructure and Innovation Act.

Up north, [waterfront development in New York City](#) has increased in the decade after Hurricane Sandy. These trends raised some eyebrows given the devastating flooding the storm brought to the city. But the [Big Apple has some Big Plans on the ballot](#), including a \$4.3 billion bond issue for clean air and water programs. If state voters approve it, funds would go towards modernizing flood protection infrastructure and improving water quality. It would also serve as an important step towards [New York's ambitious emissions reduction law](#).

And finally, out west, flood protection infrastructure is also getting attention in an unlikely place—[Los Angeles](#). Yes, you read that right. An analysis of 100-year flood events, paired with the city's aging water infrastructure, revealed high risks across the city. With talk of atmospheric rivers in L.A. and a trickling Mississippi River, it appears [anything is possible](#).

## 9/10 Dentists Recommend This

But can it stand in court? A lawsuit brought by [environmental groups to force the EPA to ban fluoridation](#) practices will proceed after a two-year hiatus. A federal judge recently lifted the stay, finding sufficient evidence of potential health risks from adding fluoride to public water supply warrants discovery. Fluoridation is common practice in the U.S., but it can be divisive, from California to [Pawnee](#) all the way to [this small town in Vermont](#). Currently, the agency is

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:

[CPRA 2023 Coastal Master Plan Community Conversations](#); November 1-10; Various Locations

LA Bucket Brigade, Down By the River Bike Ride;

Water Resources Committee Meeting, November 30; Baton Rouge, LA

[Center for Planning Excellence, 2022 Louisiana Smart Growth Summit](#); December 7-8; Baton Rouge, LA

[Restore America's Estuaries, 2022 Coastal and Estuarine Summit](#); December 4-8; New Orleans, LA

Tulane Environmental and Energy Law Summit; March 17-18; New Orleans, LA

## Water jobs:

[Project Manager, Louisiana Political Affairs](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Remote

[Assistant Professor of Marine Affairs: Fisheries Management and Policy](#); University of Rhode Island; Kingston, RI

[Restoration Programs Director](#); Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana; New Orleans, LA

[Regional Watershed Coordinator](#); Capitol Region Planning Commission; Baton Rouge, LA

[Water Quality Technician](#); Pontchartrain Conservancy; Metairie, LA

[Clinical Instructor](#); Tulane Environmental Law Clinic; New Orleans, LA

[Associate Attorney, Senior Attorney, and Paralegal](#); Earthjustice; Multiple Locations

6325 Freret Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
504-865-5982

[tulanewater.org](http://tulanewater.org)

TWITTER: [@TulaneWaterLaw](#)

INSTAGRAM: [@TulaneWaterLaw](#)

busy with other water quality matters. On Wednesday, [EPA released its final Drinking Water Contaminants List](#) which will inform the agency's regulatory decisions pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act over the next 5 years. A group of PFAS (but nowhere near all of them) made the list for consideration, which could maaaaybe lead to enforceable standards in the future.

If you've been keeping up with WaterWays, you'll know drinking water has stayed in the headlines. After two months, water in Jackson, Mississippi is [finally up to Safe Drink Water Act standards](#). The EPA launched a [civil rights investigation](#) into the public water crisis that plagued the majority Black city. Management of the treatment plant that failed in August will be transferred from the state to a private operator, a decision which hasn't left everyone happy.

### **Warning: Irreversible Climate Impacts May Be Closer Than They Appear**

The United Nations just released its [climate adaptation gap report](#), which highlighted the shortcomings of existing efforts and lack of tangible progress in many areas. While pledges of emissions reductions are crucial, financing for climate adaptation, particularly in developing countries, is taking a front seat in the current discussion. The report comes just ahead of [COP27](#). World leaders will be gathering in Egypt over the next week at the annual UN climate conference.

International cooperation is becoming increasingly important in [current geopolitical conditions](#). The Russia-Ukraine war has disrupted global markets, readily visible in soaring energy prices and supply shortages. But water resource conflicts between Russia and Ukraine tell the story through a different lens. [Kyiv's water supply took a devastating hit](#) after a Russian missile strike targeted critical Ukrainian infrastructure. Fortunately, water has been restored. Unfortunately, attacks to water infrastructure have been a constant [since the start of the war](#). The world's [long history of water wars](#) continues.