

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
February 8, 2017

Take a Bow Tahoe

After years of bleak water news for the U.S.'s second deepest lake, we are happy to report that Lake Tahoe has staged a remarkable comeback thanks to a strong winter storm season that has seen the Lake gain more [than 8 billion gallons](#) of water over a two-day period. This does not mean California does not still face tough water choices (see next story) or can afford to slide on water conservation but it is news worth noting and celebrating. Hurray for weather.

Drawing a Trump Card? Prospects for Cadiz Water Project Get a Boost

White House released [list of emergency and national security projects](#). Great projects. Everybody loves them. Except haters. [Cadiz Water Conveyance Project](#) is on the list. Private project would pump California ground water and sell it to water utilities. Real water, not fake. Just needs fed permits and right of way. Maybe new Trump team can expedite. Great project. [Everybody loves it. Except haters. And Senator Diane Feinstein. And conservationists. And some ranchers.](#) Is commercial water harvesting a good/bad idea? Does it really need permits and rights of way? Does inclusion of commercial projects in the list suggest approval? You decide.

Time to Transubstantiate?

In Louisiana, we take our traditions seriously. Traditions like baptism. So the residents of St. Joseph, LA, [long plagued by water troubles](#), can be forgiven for wondering, "why, if water can be turned to wine, then why can't it be turned into clean water?" Because without clean water it is hard to responsibly do full immersion baptisms like those Pastor [Donald Scott used to do](#). In the absence of a miracle, officials are resorting to [trucking in replacement water and replacing water pipes, a process that will takes months](#). Harder to replace will be the sense of trust that has been lost, a factor that will likely only continue to grow in importance as the legacy of broken water systems and public trust in Flint MI, St. Joseph and elsewhere.

FLASH! Doing Things Can Change Things (and So Can Not Doing Things)

For a long time, plans to salvage as much of coastal Louisiana as possible have called for reintroducing river flows into the delta system those rivers built. Louisiana's draft 2017

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:

[CRCL Coastal Restoration Road Show](#)

Abbeville, Lafitte, Cameron & Lacombe, LA
February & March, 2017

[Tulane Environmental Law & Policy Summit](#)
New Orleans, LA

March 10-11, 2017

Water jobs:

[Senior Analyst/Water Resources](#)

Abt Associates

Cambridge, MA

[AgCenter Assistant/Associate Professor](#)
(Natural Resource Economics)

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA

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Coastal Master Plan certainly takes that view. But reaching for that tool comes with consequences, just like building a house changes things for the critters that used to call the lot home. Confirmation now comes courtesy of a [paper released by the U.S. Geological Survey](#). Not too surprisingly, the paper concludes that putting lots of river water back into the coast will likely move salinity zones and habitats important things like fish, shrimp, and crabs around more than smaller doses would. The report also notes that given sea level rise trends, not putting river water back would lead to areas getting saltier and move things around too. The trick of course is to know what you are trying to do and to be thoughtful about it. Which is exactly what the paper's authors suggest. Amazingly, state and federal environmental laws (NEPA, Clean Water Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and state public trust law) provide for just that. Isn't it great when law and science [come together](#)?

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Everyone likes to have a job where they do good work, do it well, and are justly compensated for it so they can buy all the widgets they need. Around here at Chateau D'Eau, the preferred jobs are water jobs. Therefore, the TUWaterWays team are big fans (big!) of [joshwaterjobs.com](#) where you can find water related jobs listed from all over the world. If you'd like a weekly update on the jobs Josh is listing, Michael Campana's [WaterWired](#) blog has you covered. Keep up the good work of helping others get and do good work, Josh and Michael.