

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
September 1, 2015

## Warming Up to the Science of Climate and Water

We know you have choices when it comes to what you read, and we know that publications from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) are rarely your choice. More likely never your choice. But were you to change that, you might want to start with NOAA's latest [State of the Climate](#) report. These reports include a wide variety of national and global climate data that can help you understand what is actually happening on our sphere and whether those claims on talk radio or in that urgent fundraising appeal make sense. But the best part of the reports is the way they put things in context so it is easier to understand how yesterday's local weather may not prove or disprove longer term trends. They also make clear how water fits into the climate change picture. The best measure of world warming is water temperatures since those shape and fuel climate patterns and weather system. And (spoiler alert) the world's surface waters are warming. Not only can this be a climate problem, it may have human health impacts as well, as demonstrated by the tragic death of 14 year old [Michael Riley, Jr.](#) The infection he succumbed to is triggered by [amoebas](#) that have a [preference for warm water](#). Even if you don't follow or believe these reports you can bet the [insurance](#) industry and [financial markets](#) do pay attention and the future they are preparing for is probably going to affect you.

## Colorado Water Plan Open for Comment

How does a desert state with a dwindling water supply, growing population and stunning natural beauty ensure there is water for all of those important things for years to come? We don't know, and we don't need to, but that is the challenge facing Colorado, a challenge it hopes to deal with in the newly crafted [Colorado Water Plan](#). The plan is open for public comment until September 17. We wish them the best but have to note that we have yet to find a major southwestern city (or southeastern for that matter) that is not both facing really hard water constraints and planning to double in size. This can't end well for everybody.

## Wanna be a Water Buffalo?

California's water troubles have gotten so bad that it has taken radical steps toward actually [managing](#) its water resources and approving the expenditure of billions of dollars of public money on water resources. But are Californians

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:

[18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Litigating Takings Challenges to Land Use & Environmental Regs.](#)

September 25, 2015

University of Maryland School of Law  
Baltimore, MD

## Water jobs:

[Virginia Energy Attorney](#)

Southern Environmental Law Center  
Charlottesville, VA

[MRD & Natural Infrastructure Economist](#)

(Two Year Postdoc Position)

Environmental Defense Fund

Washington, DC, New York City, or Boston, MA

[Attorney](#)

Community Water Center  
Sacramento, CA

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ready for a truly crazy idea? Would they ever consider moving their [water dependent selves](#) and money making ideas to some place that actually has water? Well Buffalo, New York wants to find out and is developing plans to [lure thirsty businesses](#) and [vacationers](#) to the shores of Lake Erie, which is not just any lake but a Great Lake. But why stop there? Why not make celebrities honorary [Water Buffaloes](#), or build amusement parks aimed at enticing visitors from dry places? Imagine the thrill of spending an afternoon in [Hose Land](#) where vacationers could spend hours watering lawns and washing cars—any time and [any day of the week](#). Maybe New Orleans should get into this game.