

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
August 20, 2015

## Louisiana's Next Governor Will Prioritize Coastal Restoration, Say Men Vying to be Louisiana's Next Governor to Room of People Interested in Coastal Restoration

At the [CRCL](#) Coastal Issues Forum in Thibodaux this week, all four candidates in the Louisiana Governor race [spoke](#) of the necessity of robust coastal restoration. They all backed the [Coastal Master Plan](#) wholeheartedly, and said they were frustrated by the slow pace of plan implementation, but no one referenced building the institutional capacity that will have to expand within state government to speed things up. All the candidates [acknowledged](#) the necessity of the controversial river diversions, and maybe they're right that coastal restoration has been too slow to implement given that the Mid-Barataria Diversion plan has been around for [over 40 years](#). Also noteworthy were the multiple mentions of the role the oil and gas industry needs to play. However, funding the restoration remains elusive, and the Institute's [\\$100+ billion price tag](#) was referenced multiple times, but the "winner" of the forum might just boil down to whomever voters feel is most likely to get all hands (public, private, state, federal, local ...) on deck to fund the work. To make up for lost time and nonexistent funds, these men will have to "[fight every disaster for the world's richest find](#)."

## Projects Across the Gulf of Mexico [One Step Closer](#) to Receiving First Round of RESTORE Act Dollars

Last week the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council ("RESTORE Council") released their [draft Initial Funded Priorities List](#) ("Draft FPL") that [proposes to spend](#) \$139 million on projects across the Gulf. These funds come from the civil settlement Transocean made with the Federal government a couple of years ago. Seven projects will be [in Louisiana](#), and five of those are Coastal Master Plan projects in the planning stage. The list is a draft, so [public comments](#) are being accepted until September 28<sup>th</sup> and [public meetings](#) will take place across the Gulf until then. Given that this FPL is likely a drop in the bucket compared to what's coming over the next 16 years, expect plenty more projects and plenty more meetings.

## California's Central Valley is a [Going Down, Down, Down](#)

The Louisiana Coast has subsidence problems. So do the Chesapeake Bay and Houston, but, yeesh, is the Central Valley sinking fast. A new [report](#) from NASA's Jet Propulsion

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

[RISE Katrina +10 Conference](#)

August 26-28, 2015

The Urban League  
New Orleans, LA

## 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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Laboratory shows parts of the Valley sinking [nearly two inches per month](#). The region has long had subsidence problems because of excessive groundwater pumping, but increased pumping in response to the drought is leading to faster subsidence. Although the area isn't coastal and (mostly) doesn't face rising sea levels, the subsiding land can and does wreck infrastructure, and the subsidence represents lost groundwater capacity that can't be recovered. Expanding infrastructure costs are likely something this area cannot afford; a new [study](#) from the PPIC Water Policy Center shows that poor rural communities (such as those in the Central Valley) and the California environment will [suffer](#) the most should the drought continue. Even if this one doesn't last much longer (see: [Godzilla El Niño](#)), future droughts in California are expected to be worsened by climate change, according to a new [paper](#) in *Geophysical Research Letters*.

### **[Buy Me Beer and Whisky Before Water Goes Far Away](#)**

The main ingredient in whisky isn't corn or barley. The main ingredient in beer isn't hops. It's water. Also, water is pretty important to that corn, barley, and hops. In fact, the majority of hops in the US are grown in Washington's [droughty Yakima Valley](#), so expect beer prices to creep up as the hops supply tightens up over the next few years. Elsewhere, one brewery in California is doing [their share](#) to help reduce water consumption. Beer drinkers wanting to do their part or just avoid rising costs of their favorite IPAs could switch to whisky. Hopefully that distiller is giving thought to their water supply, because it [makes a difference](#), but good old tap water might be their best option anyways. Presumably, they're not using tap water that's been out overnight, because that stuff [goes stale](#) and no one has really tried to figure out why yet.