

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
August 2, 2016

Into the Wayback Machine, Sherman, Its Time to Learn the Secrets of Future Water Management!

Remember those instructive conversations with your grandparents? "[You call that music?](#) [You really want to see that movie?](#) In my day we wouldn't call that water management". It turns out that, in the latter case anyway, they may have been on to something. As water gets harder to come by in places like Lima, Peru the [future of water management may have more of an old timey feel to it](#) (think pre-Pizzaro and pre-Incan in Lima's case) than many might have imagined.

Specifically, what is on the table is the reappreciation and rehabilitation of [mamanteos](#) (a system of stone lined channels for harvesting, transporting and infiltrating water). Anybody who has spent time in Lima knows that it is dry, dry that is getting nothing but bigger and bigger. Maybe the wisdom of the ancients can keep a little moisture in the pearl of the Pacific.

So You Think You Know Water, Eh?

Pop quiz: If you own desert property in a state that has experienced historic drought, has seen existing communities force to truck water in, and that by law favors existing water users and uses over new ones, what do you do?

- Appreciate your desert land for what it is.
- Pursue land use options that might be profitable but not require (much) water.
- Build a bunch of houses on it and sell them to people even though there might be no water for them to access.

The correct answer is of course C. At least it is for some landowners in southern California, who are seeking permission from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to develop new communities. After all, lots of desert land was allowed to be developed in the past and fair's fair isn't it? Not in the view of the [Los Angeles Times](#) which is of the opinion that there is nothing unfair about not compounding severe water existing problems and being smarter about how doing things smarter future development. We will just have to see about that.

Easier Said than Done: Rio Loses the Race to Clean Up Water for Olympics

To be awarded a prestigious gig like the Olympics is a big deal, and they don't let just anybody host the games. You have to promise to build arenas, [boat launches, and bike paths](#)

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:

The 19th Annual Conference on Litigating Takings Challenges to Land Use and Environmental Regulations
New Orleans, LA
November 4, 2016

[RAE/The Coastal Society Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration](#)

New Orleans, LA
December 10-15, 2016

Water jobs:

[Associate Attorney](#)
Northwest Office of Earthjustice
Seattle, WA

[CLEE Water Fellow](#)
UC Berkeley School of Law
Berkeley, CA

[Executive Director](#)
Galveston Baykeeper
Houston, TX

Tulane Institute
on Water Resources Law & Policy

6325 Freret Street, 1st Floor
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-865-5982

tulanewater.org

TWITTER: [@TulaneWaterLaw](https://twitter.com/TulaneWaterLaw)

and have things like water that is clean enough to swim and sail in. But you don't *actually* have to do all of that stuff, especially the water thing. Want proof? Check out the summer games in Rio de Janeiro where commitments to clean up the City's infamously nasty waters led to months and months of tests, assurances and finally resignation that it just [wasn't going to happen](#). So here we are days away from the opening ceremony and the best water management option left on the table is to tell athletes to keep their [heads above water](#). Really. Of course the worst of this is not that some elite athletes may be at risk but rather that not even the prospect of elite athletes and world exposure were enough to prompt the investments and changes that would clean up the waters for the citizens and unassuming visitors who make up the daily life of Rio. To be fair, the hope was otherwise, but a weakened economy and political instability conspired with the traditional laxity that characterizes water and environmental management in Rio and many other places to pull the rug out from beneath those plans. So cheer for your favorites and hope for the best, but keep in mind that Rio already lost the prize it needed most to win—clean water. Maybe events like these should only be held at safe reliable places like [old Cape Cod](#). Oops, apparently [not](#).

Put That Kayak Back in the Garage, Matt Damon

It was nice while it lasted. Dreams of white water adventures on the untamed rapids of Mars took it on the chin if recent reports hold up. When [news broke back in 2000](#) of Martian gullies it sure looked like they might have been formed by running water. But [new data](#) from the Mars Reconnaissance Observer backs the views of a group of killjoy scientists who suggested that the gullies were formed by the seasonal freezing of carbon dioxide instead by water. This doesn't mean that there is no hope for astronauts to do a little tubing in the future. There is a second type of gully, [recurring slope lineae \(RSLs\)](#) that were found back in 2014. The word on the street is that those may well have been caused by running water. But even then we must urge [extreme caution](#) when messing with water on Mars.

I'll Drink to That

According to [Bloomberg](#), bottled water is finally going to take down carbonated soft drinks in the battle of the thirst quenchers. Why would people prefer good old H₂O to root beer and cola and why would they opt for buying bottles of water at cost up to 2000 times more than tap water? It is not news that the public tastes have been changing or that beverage companies have invested lots of money in marketing campaigns to tout the benefits of bottled water (both real and imagined). Another driver, and an important one, is that fact that public water supplies have gotten less reliable whether due to drought (see story number one above), [boil water advisories](#), or calamities like those in Flint Michigan, [Fort Worth](#), and other places. With both [Candidate Trump](#) and [Candidate Clinton](#) promising massive public works investments, maybe that will change. There may be no accounting for taste, but there should be for a deserved lack of public confidence.

Arrivederci

With this issue of WaterWays we say farewell to postgraduate fellow Caitrin Reilly. Caitrin came to us from the splendors of [Ohio](#) and leaves us better than she found us. Her contributions may not always have been publicly acknowledged (like her co-editorship of this newsletter) but they were always valued. There's plenty more we could say but time, space, and Midwestern modesty tell us to simply say a heartfelt [goodbye](#).