

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
February 24, 2016

Sea Level Rise. It's Bad. It's Going to Get Worse. But it Could be Even Worse-r?

[Global warming is happening](#). Quickly. One prominent result of global warming is that [sea level rise is happening](#). [Quickly](#). Just how quickly it's going to keep happening is the great unknown. And while we know it's going to happen all over, just how much and how quickly in certain spots is a whole bunch of "great unknowns." Especially when we know places like [Louisiana](#), the [Chesapeake Bay](#), and [Halifax](#) are seeing those rising seas meet with falling lands. Plans such as Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan have to deal with that reality and plan for future sea level rise scenarios that range from [less than a meter](#) in a century to [several meters](#) in several decades. There are still so many variables and surprises in making these predictions.

For example, how many would have thought that while global warming causes sea level rise, one aspect of it might slow sea level rise? A new [study](#) shows that sea level rise has slowed (rather, been less-fast) because of [increase of water on land](#) thanks to increased precipitation. It's even been enough to more than offset groundwater depletion's contribution to sea level rise. Just imagine how much we might be able to slow sea level rise if we weren't pumping fossil water out of the ground and putting it back into the hydrologic cycle.

This Just in From Delhi: Depriving 10 Million People of Drinking Water Will Get the Army's Attention

But it might not get you what you want. A group of protesters outside of India's capital [disrupted](#) the city's water supply. The Indian army [came in](#) quickly to reclaim the canal, but restoring water to the city will take a little longer. The protesters are [Jats](#), an agricultural caste whose dispossessed farmers are flooding into the city to qualify for quotas of education and government jobs. Nonetheless, several days of protests and violence culminated in cutting off the main water supply for the city by blowing up the canal outside of town. There's a couple possible lessons to take from all this: the precarious nature of people's water infrastructure (the people least affected by the damage were the city's poorest who already were without access to the municipal supply); or that while water supply might make an attractive target, messing with it might not get you what you want, rather like messing with the bull [gets you the horns](#).

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:

[Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy](#)

New Orleans, LA

March 20-22, 2016

[River Rally](#)

Mobile, AL

May 20-23, 2016

[State of the Coast 2016](#)

New Orleans, LA

June 1-3, 2016

[Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration](#)

New Orleans, LA

December 10-15, 2016

Water jobs:

[Clean Water Advocate](#)

Environment America

[Staff Attorney](#)

Tennessee Clean Water Network

Knoxville, TN

[Assistant Water Program Leader](#)

Forest Service

Washington, D.C.

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Governance? We Don't Need No Stinkin' Governance.

The North Texas Municipal Water District [needs water](#), y'all! They're going to keep growing, and people are going to keep needing more water! Conservation will help some, but it just won't be enough. Because they're functioning under the assumption that people's desire to live outside of Dallas won't wane at all over the next few decades, and because they've convinced their congressmen the same, Rep. Sam Johnson has introduced the "North Texas Reservoir Approval Act" in Congress this month. What does this bill propose? Just [removing](#) a prospective 16,526 acre reservoir on Bois D'Arc Creek from federal regulation. Why? Because federal regulation just takes too darn long. So, rather than stump for better funding for the EPA and Corps of Engineers so that they can respond to permit applications in a more timely fashion, Rep. Johnson and two of his neighboring colleagues simply want to step outside of the laws put in place to protect people and resources. Perhaps these fine responsible folks in North Texas should look southward in their own state to Crystal City. In Crystal City, the waters run black. No, really, the water coming out of the taps is black and there is no one in charge to regulate or administer it because almost the [entire city government](#) is under federal indictment.

Deepwater Horizon Restoration Plan Finalized. So now what? More Work!

Federal agencies have [released](#) the Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The plan points the way towards spending more than \$8 billion on ecosystem restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico. As dictated by the settlement with BP, most of the money will be spent in Louisiana, but specific projects are (still) yet to be identified. Those projects will be put through public comment as they come along, so the public will continue to play an important role in spending the settlement funds. Everyone's still got a lot of work to do, because, as Bon Scott reminds us, [it's a long way to the top](#) (of the country's biggest environmental disaster ever).

Bring Us Your Swamps, Marshes, Bogs, & Fens! A Final Call for Wetland Songs

As many of you know, we like to put together a [music playlist](#) every now and then. A few months ago we put out a call for suggestions for a new playlist. A wetlands song playlist. Well, we'll unveil this new list next week, so if you'd like to contribute, now's the time! Email our program manager, [Chris Dalbom](#), with your suggestions.