

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
September 27, 2017

Nice Work if You Can Get It

Books closed class, its pop quiz time.

1. If you run a lumber business, is the cost of timber a significant cost of doing business?
2. If you run a steel-making company, is the cost of iron ore a significant cost of doing business?
3. If you run bottled water company, is the cost of water a significant cost of doing business?

Pencils down! How did you do? If you answered yes to all three questions, we need to talk. Because the answer to question 3 is often “not really or not at all.” Why? Because, as [Bloomberg Businessweek](#) explains, water is often obtained for free or for close to it. When purchased from municipal utilities, the price per gallon is often measured in thousandths of a cent and when taken from ground water, the cost can be zero, nada, zilch. On the other end, a gallon of bottled water, depending the marketing muscle behind it, can be more than \$10 a gallon. Not a bad return. Even free water can become costly if you let the hype get beyond the hydrology, which actually is at issue in a recent [lawsuit](#) filed against Nestle’s Poland Spring Water. Nevertheless, there is no stopping this watery cascade because thirsty people have [choices](#) and increasingly bottled water is the [hip choice](#)*, surpassing pop as the [fave of British drinkers](#) this summer. So, the lesson here is that while there’s [no free lunch](#), there is free water—for some. [Stay thirsty, my friends.](#)

Boring Report Says Bottled Water Ban Made Parks Cleaner, Agency Reacts by Reversing Ban.

Six years of work to reduce waste and litter at National Parks worked, according to a [report](#) released last week by the National Park Service, that we bet you didn’t read. The key: Banning sales of bottled water. Unsurprisingly, visitors to parks get thirsty and when they do they usually reach for nature’s perfect thirst slaker—water, often in convenient plastic bottles. The down side is that lots of those bottles end up in trash cans or on trails or roadsides, taking something away from the splendor of the parks. So, what is a Park Service to do? The answer was a pilot program to ban the sale of bottled water in a number of National Parks, albeit with bottle filling stations and soda pop and reusable bottles still being available. The program reduced waste by 5,000 pounds and, so far as we

* This is a parody. But it mentions the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain, and jazz so what choice did we have? Also, just because it is a parody does not mean it is not true.

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:

September 27, 2017

Louisiana Water Resources Commission
11:00 a.m.

LaBelle Room, LaSalle Building, 617 N. 3rd St
Baton Rouge, LA

September 28, 2017

[Life by the Drop: A Forum on Water Management in New Orleans](#)

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Loyola University

Nunemaker Auditorium, Monroe Hall
6363 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans

October 27, 2017

[Rights of Nature Symposium](#)

8:30 a.m.

Tulane University Law School

6329 Freret Street, New Orleans

Water jobs:

[Senior Policy Advisor, Intl. Climate Policy](#)

The Nature Conservancy

Washington, DC

[Manager, Coastal Projects and Programs](#)

Environmental Defense Fund

New Orleans, LA or Washington, DC

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)

know, did not leave any dehydrated hikers gasping by the trailside that would not have been there anyway. So kudos to the NPS, but don't go thinking that the work will be rewarded. [The bottled water ban was eliminated in late August](#). Clearly, this week's theme is "[yay, capitalism!](#)"

Scooped!

Sometimes here at Chateau de Eau, we take a break from our toil to see what our neighbors at Loyola University (New Orleans) are up to, and wouldn't you know it, they are hosting a [forum on water management in New Orleans this Thursday](#), (September 28 for those don't know what week this is). Lesser people might take this as walking on our fightin' side but all we can say is, [nice job](#). If you are in the Crescent City this Thursday evening, this is the gig for you.