

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy  
March 20, 2018

## [You Can't Pee On My Leg and Tell Me It's Raining](#)

But it turns out that you *can* give someone treated wastewater [to drink](#) and they will likely enjoy it more than rainwater. A new [study](#) from the University of California, Riverside indicates that the taste of treated waste water is preferred over groundwater-sourced water. Studies have found reverse osmosis removes virtually all contaminants but this is the first time that its relative taste has been considered in a scientific blind taste test. If we all take this taste test even half as seriously as Californians took [the taste test](#) that declared their wines better than France's wines, then the [social stigma](#) that recycled wastewater projects currently face will be gone in no time.

## [Don't Panic! Water availability may seem at an All Time Low, but the UN has a Brand New, Simple Plan for a Green Day](#)

The 2018 edition of the [United Nations World Water Development Report](#) has been released focusing on the role that nature-based solutions have in boosting both the quality and supply of water and mitigating that impact of natural disasters. The report estimates that, currently, 47% of the world's population live in areas with a potential for water scarcity for at least one month per year. They estimate that this number could rise to a whopping 59% (representing 5.7 billion people) by 2050. This report proposes solutions that are based on nature to manage water better. Nature-based solutions either use or mimic naturally-occurring processes to help improve the management of water. Examples include dry toilets, rainwater recycling, artificial wetlands and permeable pavements. Maybe these nature-based solutions will result in some [New Found Glory](#).

## [Flint Update](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court has [upheld](#) the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit's decision that the civil rights claims of several Flint residents and businesses may proceed. The Court rejected the city and state's argument that the claims are precluded by the Safe Drinking Water Act which has its own provisions for citizens to file suit over unsafe water. Unlike a claim under the Safe Drinking Water Act, a civil rights claim will allow the plaintiffs to seek monetary damages. The state of Michigan is still spending more than [\\$22,000 per day](#) on bottled water.

## [Walk on Water](#)

Millennials allegedly have [no interest](#) in diamonds (referring of course to the precious stone variety, there is no reason to believe that millennials don't have all due respect for the [Neil](#) variety). But scientists are still very interested in diamonds. A [new study](#) of diamonds formed at depths between 370 to 500 miles below the

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:

March 27-28, 2018

[The 12 Annual Louisiana Water Conference](#)  
Baton Rouge, LA

## Water jobs:

### [Coordinator](#)

Raise the River Coalition  
Not location specific

### [Environmental Program Manager](#)

Apple  
Santa Clara, CA

### [Wisconsin Water Resources Science-Policy Fellow](#)

Society for Freshwater Science  
Madison, WI

### [Water Policy Analyst](#)

Kyl Center for Water Policy  
Phoenix, AZ

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Earth's surface provided the first known natural samples of a form of crystallized water known as ice VII which has now been declared a new mineral. The study also provides the first evidence that pockets of watery fluids exist at such great depths in the Earth's mantle. This water, rather than being chemically bound in rocks in combinations called hydrated minerals, is free-floating and remains a liquid—despite the high temperatures found in the mantle, the layer sandwiched between Earth's crust and core. Overall, the team's new findings may lead to more accurate models of what's going on at different depths deep within Earth which ultimately influences the frequency of earthquakes driven by the scraping of tectonic plates at Earth's surface.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisiana Water Conference**

March 27 and 28. The place Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The venue, LSU's Energy Coast and Environment Building. The reason? The 12 Annual Louisiana Water Conference, of course. Cap off your month with a trip to the Red Stick and hang with some of coolest kids on the block and learn something to boot. Click [here](#) for more information.