

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
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This week's elections probably didn't change much about how the United States deals with climate change

Sometimes it feels like “ugh, I just want to talk about interesting water policy developments! Why do we have to keep talking about climate change?” Well, climate change is water change, and the ramifications are countless – too much, too little, too warm, too salty, too acidic, etc. So, what did Tuesday's elections mean for climate change response? Locally, there were developments, like [Miami Beach](#) voters approving general obligation bonds to address climate change impacts. Californians, on the other hand, appear to have [rejected an \\$8.9 billion bond](#) to fund water projects. In Washington, voters seem to have been swayed by some [big money](#) coming into the state and [rejected](#) what would have been the country's first carbon tax. Washington wasn't alone, and [ballot measures to respond to climate change](#) in other states also fared poorly.

Of course, in Congress, Democrats took the House and Republicans kept the Senate, but climate change didn't seem to be much of an issue overall. Maybe that's because it's not covered much in the media or maybe that's because no one at the national level has [much of a plan](#) to do anything. And, the bipartisan [Climate Solutions Caucus fell apart](#), but it doesn't have much of a track record, either. But, hey, the world has [ten years](#) to limit climate change to manageable levels, right? All it will take is New Deal/WWII-level commitment instead of another four or five election cycles of ignoring the problem!

If this election has got you worn out, channel this week's most thrilling viral video – a short film making an emotional impact the likes of which haven't been seen since Fatboy Slim's [“Weapon of Choice.”](#) What film is this? Why, [the struggle of the baby bear to get up a snow slope!](#) Let's all keep being the bear and persevering while trying to not be [the drone that freaked the poor bears out in the first place.](#)

What does sea level rise look like? To Los Angeles, it looks like \$6.4 billion

A new [report](#) from the New York Academy of Sciences predicts a hefty price tag for Los Angeles's sea level rise adaptation. (It's like [“mind your own business, Big Apple!](#) Let [LA](#) do its own thang!” [Amirite?](#)) This \$6.4 billion estimate covers only the response to sea level rise and flooding – not other issues, such as extreme heat and drought that will come along with global warming. It would cover the cost of all the sand and concrete to keep beaches, ports, and homes above water. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach take in half of the country's container shipping, but are not built to adapt to changing water levels (unlike some river-based ports [elsewhere](#) in 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.

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Washington, DC

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US) and will have to make major adaptations. What might be most striking about this report is the fact that Los Angeles, and coastal California in general, are usually thought of as less exposed to sea level rise than many coastal areas. The West Coast is, after all, much hillier and more elevated than basically the entire US Atlantic and Gulf Coasts south of Portland, Maine. The reminder here might be that economic exposure to sea level rise is just as tied to the intensity of coastal development as it is to elevation.

As suspected, most songs about storms and hurricanes are not actually about storms and hurricanes, at all.

A couple of months ago, the bat-signal went out and we asked for songs about storms and hurricanes for our latest [water-themed playlist](#). Next week, the playlist will be unveiled, but just remember: the word “hurricane” in the title doesn’t mean it’s actually about a hurricane. For instance, you already know that Scorpions’ “Rock You Like a Hurricane” isn’t about a hurricane. But then you put it on and actually pay attention to the lyrics and yikes! Surely our intrepid readers are up to the job of separating the stormy wheat from the self-congratulatory chaff! Email suggestions to cdalbom@tulane.edu.