

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
July 27, 2018

The Lead Poisoning Problem Isn't Going Anywhere

Lead poisoning is a huge bummer. It [burdens the most vulnerable](#). And its effects linger [for generations](#). Unfortunately, it seems that [most school districts aren't testing for it](#). The EPA has said they'll [do a better job monitoring it](#). But now it seems the presumed easiest way to avoid it (flushing lines before using the water) might [make exposure worse](#). Michigan DEQ has [adopted the strictest lead rules](#) in the country, but, yeesh, how much had to happen for that to get done? Even [Elon Musk is still trying to get in](#) on that one.

DC Water In Hot Water or Under Fire or Something Else Elemental after a Boil Water Advisory

It's the twenty-first century, Washingtonians. You can't expect your systems to work, anymore. Don't be so silly. Specifically, [the biggest issue here](#) is was the lack of notice that went out about the boil water advisory. But we've all made our peace with failing infrastructure in the US, haven't we? (Sure, New York City just [announced](#) a \$1.2 billion project to improve their water supply system, but it seems like they've totally given up on their [subway system](#).)

Boil water advisories are just part of life now; it's like inverse [glamping](#)! Until we [get serious](#) about investing in our [failing infrastructure](#), expect [more boil water advisories](#) – even if the notification systems do get better.

What Would John Wayne Do?

Punch someone. But when it comes to managing California groundwater, the solutions aren't so simple. The Golden State government ignored groundwater for 160 years or so, then, hand forced by lengthy drought, they passed the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014](#). The act calls for the [formation](#) of groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) for 127 medium- or high-priority basins, and it's not been going all that smoothly. Who knew that creating 127 new agencies would be so hard! One basin, the Cuyama Valley, could be emblematic of the issues these GSAs will run into. As reported by [E&E News](#), the GSA is dominated by Big Ag interests in the basin, rather than those who actually live in the basin. Sure, Cuyama Valley might be unique in that it includes a vineyard owned by Harvard's endowment fund, but the balancing of all interests – especially when some of those interests control much more information about the groundwater than the GSA itself – after generations of imbalance is a tall task. A task taller [than the stranger who came to town to bring Mr. Kincaid to justice](#).

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:

[World Water Week](#)

August 26-31, 2018

Stockholm, Sweden

Water jobs:

[Proposal Writer](#)

Global Water Partnership

Stockholm, Sweden

[Utility Services Manager](#)

Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

New Orleans, LA

[Attorney – Water](#)

City of Houston

Houston, TX

[State Water Projects Bureau Chief](#)

Department of Natural Resources &

Conservation

Helena, MT

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)

Italian Scientists Find “[Radar Evidence of Subglacial liquid water on Mars!](#)”

Do you know what this means? [The Man who Fell to Earth](#) could have just gone home with [The Spiders From Mars!](#) We’re so lucky to have even gotten [Five Years](#) out of him when he could have stayed out [in space!](#)

New evidence from radar instruments pointed at Mars’ South Pole shows that there’s very likely liquid water trapped under ice. Don’t start saving up for Mars Bottled Water just yet. In order to be liquid at those temperatures, that water is likely something akin to [concentrated brine](#).

Discoveries of water anywhere – in the ground, in the air, on asteroids, or on moons – are exciting, and discoveries on Mars doubly so since it’s the key to astrobiologists’ search for life beyond Earth. [Life on Mars](#), man! It’s not just about the David Bowie references, honest.