



TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

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It's June! Time to Stress Out, [D'You Know What I Mean?](#)

If you live within the danger zone for North Atlantic Hurricanes, you probably do know what that means. So, [everyone from Costa Rica to Iceland](#), it's time once again to keep browser tabs open for [NOAA's National Hurricane Center](#) and [some guy name Mike](#). And maybe send up a prayer or two for [Miss Piggy and her StreamSondes](#).

One place those hurricanes tend to affect is the Louisiana coast. So, how are things going there? Well, it's a busy time, to say the least. The state's legislative session has come to a close, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's [annual plan](#) was [unanimously approved](#) and funded to the tune of \$1.7 billion. But the state is still not showing any movement on responding to a lawsuit that has [halted work on the biggest project in that plan](#), the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, and what's happening to funding for that project, which comes from Deepwater Horizon disaster's settlements. Reminder that this settlement money, which is generally the main source of funding for Louisiana's coastal projects, runs out in a few years. There are studies both [new](#) and [old](#) on that existential funding question, but as far as the state legislature has been concerned for the past decade, well, [Ned Flanders' parents said it best](#).

But there's a new hope – [a pair of bills](#) are looking to put [revenues created by offshore wind energy](#) towards coastal restoration, [which is nice](#). Or is it? Some are questioning just [where the future of offshore wind in the US lies](#), and [a very impressive new white paper](#) notes that the state still needs to institute a fair bit of structure to make sure the offshore wind industry in Louisiana has as few drawbacks as possible. Governor Landry and some of his buddies are [advocating for ever greater energy production](#), but it's unclear if that advocacy includes things like wind energy, or is about a certain empire striking back.

Also, the [legislature passed a bill](#) to exchange several agency heads for three of the governor's political appointees on the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's Board. Beyond cutting out the direct involvement of agencies that must work in the coast and are affected by coastal work, it's unclear what [the purpose](#) is, beyond concentrating yet more power in the governor's office. There were also a few bills passed relating to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans – one streamlining [drainage management](#), one opening up the talent pool for [hiring](#), and one [improving billing](#). *¡Ojalá!*

A couple of things didn't happen for (or to) SWBNO, though. The much-ballyhooed state takeover and/or privatization of the utility didn't get off the ground (at least this year). Also not happening this year is [state funding for a new power complex](#) to help pump that drainage system whose management has now been streamlined. That could've come in handy should one of those storms make its presence known in the city this year or next. Something to remember should there be a return of the [Isaac. Or Barry](#).

Coming Up:

LDENR Natural Resources Steering Committee
Public Hearing; Baton Rouge, LA; June 18, 2024

CRCLecture - Analysis of Drought Events in the
Lower Mississippi River; New Orleans, LA; June 26,
2024

Public Comments on Texas State Flood Plan;
Online; until June 17, 2024

Water jobs:

Hazard Mitigation Specialist, Senior; City of New Orleans; New Orleans,
LA

Staff Attorney; Atchafalaya Basinkeeper; Remote w/in LA

Staff Scientist; Healthy Gulf; Houston, Southeast Texas, or Southwest
Louisiana (Remote)

Chief Development Officer; Healthy Gulf; Gulf South (Remote)

Coastal Organizer; Healthy Gulf; Southeast Louisiana (Hybrid)



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 legal stewardship of water.

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