

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
March 15, 2016

Batman is Investing in Water! Well, no. [It's not Batman!](#)

But the actor who played Batman also played another billionaire who is investing in water. At the end of [The Big Short](#), a [postscript stated](#) that after taking on the big banks and the real estate bubble, Dr. Michael Burry, the finance guru who predicted the housing market collapse, is now spending his time investing in [virtual water](#). Which sort of makes Dr. Burry the Batman of the finance world, tackling the banks, safeguarding the food. Finance Batman is very interested in the water that it takes to produce something, and as far as he is concerned the biggest something is food. He has been investing in agricultural land with access to water. He reasons that because it is difficult to move water from place to place, it is far better to invest in places with water, grow more food, and then move the food. This creates a redistribution of water that is far less political and more sustainable. For example, instead of moving the 400 bottles of water it takes to produce one bottle of wine, invest where the grapes can be grown so they can afford the 400 bottles of water, then move the one bottle of wine. All vineyards should now be equipped with the [bat signal](#). Invest in the wine, Batman!

Rain, Rain, Go Away

Much of the South was really hoping nursery rhymes worked to change the weather this past week. They didn't. Two feet of rain was [dumped on Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas](#) last week, and though the slow moving storm is finally gone, the flood risk is still real as rivers, creeks, and bayous reach their cresting points. Deweyville, which sits on the Sabine River, has been completely isolated with flood waters well over 30 feet, and projected to reach 35.2 feet today – the state even [shut down I-10](#) due to Sabine River flooding. President Obama declared the flooding in Louisiana a major disaster, which qualifies it for federal aid. People have taken to social media to post photos and videos of their inundated towns, including some [confused fish](#). This flood event comes just a few months after the deadly flooding up and down the Mississippi River. According to Apple Weather, more rain is on its way this week. Let's hope it's wrong, [as per usual](#). Though the especially wet year is attributable to El Nino, there is no question that this [wacky weather will continue](#) as climate change progresses.

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:

[Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy](#)

New Orleans, LA

March 20-22, 2016

[River Rally](#)

Mobile, AL

May 20-23, 2016

[State of the Coast 2016](#)

New Orleans, LA

June 1-3, 2016

[Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration](#)

New Orleans, LA

December 10-15, 2016

Water jobs:

[Clean Water Advocate](#)

Environment America

[Staff Attorney](#)

Tennessee Clean Water Network

Knoxville, TN

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The Not So Parched Earth

Louisiana isn't the only place being doused with rain. [Recent research](#) suggests that climate change will increase rain in deserts and other typically dry-non-tropic-arid places (that people grow food in anyway). But said people should not get their hopes up, because researchers have shown that despite the increase in rainfall and flashflood events, water storage capacity will likely not increase. So before climate change deniers decide to use this tidbit as proof that climate change is not happening or is a good thing or is a natural cycle or what have you, know that climate change still means an increase in temperatures and those higher temperatures will mean [faster rates of evaporation](#). Arid regions can expect that this excess precipitation will be gone almost as fast as it appeared. Unfortunately the increased rain will likely only lead to negative impacts. Because the areas that will experience increased rain and flooding events are typically dry to begin with, they will not have the infrastructure in place to cope with the deluge, which will lead to significant economic impact.

And in even [cheerier climate news](#), it appears that Greenland's ice is getting darker and therefore absorbing more heat, and melting faster. Which inevitably leads to sea level rise. And more melting. And more sea level rise, etc. Scientists predict that Greenland's [albedo](#) will decrease by ten percent by the end of the century. The darker ice is not necessarily a failure on Greenland's part to clean, but rather is the result of feedback loops. During particularly warm, cloudless summers, the solar radiation hitting Greenland melts the ice, which drains into the sea, which is dark and absorbs the sun and is rising up onto Greenland's ice, melting it further, and all the while the melting ice is revealing layers of soot that were blown onto the land and left there years and years ago, which also absorb sun, causing yet more melting. Unfortunately for Greenland, it may soon [live up to its name](#).

And Now This:

So after yet another cheery TUWaterWays you may feel that you need a drink, and if you aren't into Finance Batman's wine and prefer something harder, [here](#) is some water that purports to bring out the flavor nuances of your favorite bourbon. Can't say how many bottles of water it took to produce, though.