



TUWaterWays

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

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So, You Want to be Mayor?

With the candidate field racing towards this fall's mayoral election and [campaigns](#) well underway, it's time to get serious about the issues and actions needed to protect and strengthen our weird and wonderful city. It takes proactive leadership and innovative policies to ensure that a [place like New Orleans can thrive amidst some of today's greatest challenges](#). Simply put, water is a key indicator of this city's livability, and all public officials in the city should have a strategy around water and the future of our coast. Sure, there's a laundry list of concerns when it comes to selecting a candidate, but these are perhaps some of the most fundamental. [Join community and civic leaders on Tuesday, September 30, for an important conversation with mayoral candidates on water and coastal issues](#). All candidates have been invited and will have the chance to share their platform on public works, insurance reform, and water management strategies. The event will be held at the University of New Orleans' Senator Ted Hickey Ballroom (located in the University Center). It's free to attend and [registration is right here](#)!

While this forum is specific to the mayoral race, let's not forget the other [important local elections happening](#) this fall. Voters will also be electing [city council members](#), a new sheriff, and [bond measures that would fund infrastructure, drainage projects](#), and affordable housing. It's enough to keep you busy 'til Mardi Gras.

Water Suits! They're in Fashion!

Literally. Uniqlo's founder is in a watery entanglement with Maui Land & Pineapple Company, one of the biggest developers in Hawaii. Wondering why Tadashi Yanai, the [richest person in Japan](#), is involved in U.S. water? Well, he's got a company based in Honolulu that owns and operates the [Kapalua Plantation and golf courses](#). He acquired the property from Maui Land & Pineapple, which is under contractual obligations to provide water for irrigation to the site. Those water deliveries are at the center of the dispute.

A lawsuit led by Yanai, along with several homeowner associations, [argues that Maui Land & Pineapple has contributed to the region's water shortages due to its failure to maintain](#) the Honokōhau Stream and Ditch System, which delivers water to the Kapalua area, causing "widespread harm" to those that rely on it, from residents to farmers to businesses. Water users have been restricted to no water for irrigation in 136 of the 154 days leading up to the filing. They want to compel Maui Land & Pineapple to undertake all reasonable steps to maintain the ditch system in an adequate condition to provide for reliable water delivery. On the other hand, defendants say they are following guidance from the state's [Commission on Water Resource Management](#) to prioritize streamflow and traditional uses, as [West](#)

[Maui is experiencing a historic drought](#). Water rights [issues were tragically evident during the deadly Lahaina fire](#) in 2023, which hindered responders' ability to control the blaze. West Maui is designated as a special water management area, meaning it's subject to heightened standards and regulatory oversight. So, it seems like lawns and fairways are fair game for restrictions. It puts an interesting twist on things, with the claim that infrastructure neglect is to blame as much as drought. Is the argument on par or out of touch with the realities of water management?

With serious water shortages on the horizon from [England](#) to [Afghanistan](#) to right here at home [along the Colorado River](#), there are going to be many more disputes that implicate entire regions, even countries. A [new study from Northeastern University](#) estimated that [nearly one billion people](#) could be affected by water scarcity at the turn of the century. There is a plethora of [priorities to sort out](#) in the meantime.

Girls Just Wanna Have (Federal) Funds

A quick follow up from [last week's story](#) on federal funding for the Army Corps' annual inspection of New Orleans levee system. Luckily, there's good news! Funding for [this year's inspection has been secured](#). Not from Washington D.C., but from the Army Corps' St. Louis District, which had some money to spare. Thanks, upriver friends! The inspection is expected to be completed by the [end of September](#). Just in time for the [Mayoral Forum on Water & Coast](#) (shameless plug).

Coming Up:

[Women of the Storm](#): A Screening and Panel Discussion; New Orleans, LA; August 27, 2025

[Mayoral Forum on Water & Coast](#); New Orleans, LA; September 30, 2025

[CRCL Coastal Stewardship Awards](#); Baton Rouge, LA; November 13, 2025

Water jobs:

[Attorney IV](#); California Water Resources Control Board; Sacramento, CA

[Editorial Director, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk](#); Columbia, MO



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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