

# TUWaterWays

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

[September 12, 2019](#)

## Oh, Canada

While the United States allows people to rebuild in flood-damaged areas, Canada is trying a different approach: [forcing people to leave with mandatory buyouts](#). This has proven to be a fairly cost-effective and successful tactic, protecting vulnerable communities (by eliminating them?) and saving the government money they'd spend on repair. Some Canadian citizens have had their issues with the measure, while others have been supportive of it. Perhaps this could be an idea for the United States government.

But the laws are different in the U.S. than in Canada on issues like takings and eminent domain, and [decisions regarding these topics](#) have [sparked major controversy](#) in the past. Additionally, the majority of states to pass their own laws limiting the government's taking power. Controversy aside, there's the whole Fifth Amendment takings clause in the U.S. Constitution that the *Ke/o* case was brought under that could get in the way. And, do we really want [susceptible areas all over the country](#) to be bought and forced out by the government as flooding becomes [more frequent](#) and [dangerous](#)? After all, we've got [our own way](#) of dealing with hurricanes and flooding.

## Fatal Attraction

Talk about tropical depression! (And no, I don't mean the [potential tropical depression](#) developing southeast of the Gulf, although that is something to keep our eyes on over the next week or so). A recent LUMCON [study](#) revealed that crabs and shrimp are drawn to the polluted Deepwater Horizon rig off the coast of Louisiana because chemicals released from the site mimic crustacean mating hormones. But instead of hot dates, these deep-sea creatures are met with toxic contamination. And, they're essentially all alone down there; crabs and shrimp make up 92% of the animals at the site, unlike many deep-sea oil rigs which can serve as [artificial reefs](#), attracting a myriad of marine flora and fauna. And, unlike the creatures on artificial rig reefs, the shrimp and crabs gathering at the Deepwater Horizon site are certainly [not thriving](#), due to the remaining hazards. Marine biologist and LUMCON director Craig McClain lamented watching the wandering crabs die, [calling the ordeal](#), "probably the most depressing [dive] in the course of my career." But fear for your own shellfish intake not, these deep-sea Gulf crabs and shrimp are not harvested commercially, which means we probably are not eating contaminated seafood. That is, unless larger sea creatures that *are* commercially harvested eat them, which could potentially pass the poison up the [food chain](#) – but that's a problem for another [study](#).

Like [History](#) or [Social Media](#) or [Your Body](#), Water is a Weapon

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:

[State of the Coast Session Proposal Deadline](#):  
September 13, 2019

[Louisiana Watershed Initiative Regional Capacity Building Grant Program: Applicant Briefing](#)

September 16; Baton Rouge, LA

[Atchafalaya River Basin Project Public Meeting](#)  
September 17, 18, 23, & 26; St. Martinville, LA, Henderson, LA, Morgan City, LA, and Morganza, LA (respectively)

[National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration Session Proposal Deadline](#)  
September 20

[Healthy Community Services: The Green Block and Work & Learn Rain Garden Installation](#)  
September 22; New Orleans, LA

### Water jobs:

#### [Attorney](#)

California State Water Resources Control Board;  
Sacramento, CA

#### [Coastal Scientist](#)

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; New Orleans, LA

#### [Research Engineer](#)

ULL Watershed Flood Center; Lafayette, LA

#### [Staff Attorney](#)

Western Environmental Law Center; Helena, MT

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Back in August, Stockholm played host to the annual World Water Week. TUWW didn't say anything about it because we didn't want you to think we were too basic (did we use that right? Basic?) There, researchers spoke [about the link between water scarcity and armed conflict](#). The work is supported by [findings from the UN](#) about the poor hygiene conditions people in conflict areas have to endure. Furthering the researchers' argument almost in real time, India has exerted greater control over the up-until-now autonomous region of Kashmir. The move could strengthen Delhi's position not only within the country, but [in relation to Pakistan, as well](#). After all, the waters that Pakistan depends on, well, for life flow through Kashmir before they make it to Pakistan. And although a treaty exists between the two countries to determine use of these rivers, it's probably easier to avoid international outrage over breaking a river treaty than, say, nuclear weapons treaties. Pakistan's water situation is tenuous and it's edged towards disaster repeatedly in recent years; it might not be hard to push it over. Stay tuned.

### **Healthy Community Services and Greater Treme Consortium Events**

On Saturday, September 21 from 10am-11:30am at the Nora Navra Library, join Healthy Community Services for a Community Meeting and Preliminary Survey Results, the topic of which is "Reforestation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward: Understanding Health Outcomes and Social Behaviors Caused by The Heat Island Effect."

Later, from 3pm-5pm on Saturday, September 21, join the Greater Treme Consortium for Rain Barrel Build and Installation at 823 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans, LA.

Please contact Angela Chalk if you have questions about these events: [achalk.hcs@gmail.com](mailto:achalk.hcs@gmail.com).