

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
January 14, 2013

Red River Fight Between Texas and Oklahoma Heads to U.S. Supreme Court

The longer simmering feud over the just what rights Oklahoma has to keep its waters from being sold to communities in Texas is heading to center stage with the U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear the case. While the case poses a number of issues (some of which could be dispositive) the big issue is the degree to which the Red River Compact grants Oklahoma the power to restrict water exports in ways that might otherwise violate the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. The case is of interest beyond the two states since the Compact also counts Louisiana and Arkansas as members and the provision in question could bear on the interpretation of other compacts.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/07/supreme-court-to-decide-on-texans-bid-for-oklahomas-water/>

Devil in the Details? Hurricane Sandy Relief Bill Could Bring Big Changes Even Beyond the Northeast

The failure of Congress to pass a major supplemental funding bill to deal with the impacts of Hurricane Sandy got lots of attention in the closing days of 2012. But the delay is allowing some to read the Senate bill more closely and some are troubled by aspects of the bill that would authorize water projects that have not been fully vetted or studied in parts of the country that saw no impacts from Hurricane Sandy or any other storms. One of those is Rob Young a professor of geology at Western Carolina University who posted an analysis on Yale University's Environment 360 website. Among other things he calls for a more "scientific and unbiased" approach to picking projects, citing Louisiana's 2012 Coastal Master Plan as a model.

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/hurricane_sandy_relief_bill_fails_to_face_coastal_realities/2606/

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:

[January 17, 2013](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Provides"
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

[February 22-23, 2013](#)

18th Annual Tulane Environmental Summit

[February 27-28, 2013](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Moves"
Chicago, IL

Job Opportunities:

University of Wisconsin-Madison Freshwater Institute, Center for Water Policy

- [Assistant/Associate Professor](#)
- [Assistant Director for Center Coordination](#)
- [Research Manager](#)

National Wildlife Federation, Mississippi River Delta Restoration

- [Senior Policy Specialist](#)

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Corps of Engineers Declares \$10.3 Billion Morganza Levee to be Cost Effective; Sen. Vitter Seeks Cheaper Design Options

The long sought and disputed levee protection system for the Houma, Louisiana area was revived when the Army Corps of Engineers announced that it would be cost effective to build the 98 mile levee system at a cost of \$10.3 billion dollars. The high cost of that system and the cost to local cost-share partners has prompted U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-LA) to develop a less “gold-plated” option.

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/01/corps_says_revised_103_billion.html

Study Warns that Colorado River Levels to Drop (Further) by 2040

If things were not hard enough for water managers in the Colorado River Basin, a new study warns that water levels could drop by 1.5 million acre feet per year (or 10% of the Rivers base flow) by 2040. One of key findings of the report from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University is that evaporation due to warmer temperatures will outpace precipitation, even if precipitation is projected to increase.

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/news-events/smaller-colorado-river-projected-coming-decades-study-says>

New Orleans Needs a New Approach to Water Management

Years of subsidence, population loss, and deferred maintenance have left New Orleans with a water system it canno longer afford and that poorly serves its residents. A more integrated approach that emphasizes the amenity value of water and its role in combatting subsidence is being investigated by a team of independent water experts (including TU Water Resources Institute director Mark Davis) and local water utility and the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board. That effort and the need for a better way were the topics of recent public forum sponsored by the Bureau of Governmental Research in New Orleans.

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/01/new_orleans_needs_new_approach.html#incart_river_default

Stanford Researches Say It Is Time for Ground Water Policy to Mesh with Rivers.

Researchers at Stanford University’s Water in the West program are calling for groundwater management river management to more closely linked. Legally and culturally those two vital sources of fresh water are frequently treated separately even though the use of one often impacts the other.

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2012/12/26/in-search-of-a-groundwater-policy-on-behalf-of-rivers/>