

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
August 10, 2012

Department of Transportation and Development Releases Water Use in Louisiana, 2010

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Public Works and Water Resources Division and the U.S. Department of Interior recently released the report, *Water Use in Louisiana, 2010*, which presents 2010 data of water withdrawals in Louisiana. It includes groundwater and surface-water withdrawals for multiple uses, including public supply, industry, and irrigation, highlighting trends in Louisiana water withdrawals. <http://la.water.usgs.gov/publications/pdfs/WaterUse2010.pdf>

Plaquemines Parish Declares State of Emergency

Mississippi River levels and flow rates are at record lows, causing saltwater to move upstream threatening intake systems and drinking water supplies. Increased salinization has caused Plaquemines Parish President, Bill Nungesser, to declare a state of emergency this past Tuesday morning. <http://www.fox8live.com/story/19221745/saltwater-intrusion-threatens-drinking-water>

Three Ohio River States Sign Historic Credit-Trading Plan to Boost Water Quality

Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio state officials will launch a pilot program aimed at reducing water pollution in the Ohio River with a cap-and-trade system. Pollution credits from farmers that reduced their fertilizer and manure-laden runoff are then purchased by industrial facilities to offset their emissions. It is herald as the largest and most ambitious attempt at using a market-based approach to improve water quality. Advocates hope this will spur programs in other watersheds, such as the Chesapeake Bay or the Mississippi River Basin's now infamous, "dead zone." <http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/ky-and-oh-sign-largest-credit-trading-program-water-pollution>

Chutz Takes the Reins at DNR as Secretary Angelle Leaves to Become Candidate Angelle

On August 8, Scott Angelle resigned his from his longtime position as Secretary of Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Secretary amid speculation that he would seek a seat on the Louisiana Public Service Commission. Those rumors were confirmed a day later when Angelle announced his candidacy for the District 2 seat on the Commission. Stephen Chutz who had been the Assistant Secretary of DNR has been named by Governor Bobby Jindal as Interim Secretary of the agency. Angelle had served as DNR Secretary for eight years, having been first appointed by former Governor Kathleen Blanco.

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:

[September 19, 2012](#)

Louisiana Water Resources Commission and Advisory Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m.
House Committee Room 1, State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA

[September 25-27, 2012](#)

America's Great Watershed Initiative Summit
St. Louis, MO

[October 2012 \(date TBD\)](#)

America's Wetland Foundation
"Big River Thrives"
Memphis, TN

[October 20-25, 2012](#)

Restore America's Estuaries Conference
Tampa, FL

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EPA Awards \$100K to La. to Study Ways to Shrink Gulf of Mexico “Dead Zone”

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority recently received a \$100,000 grant to study ways of reducing the Gulf of Mexico’s “dead zone.” The term “dead zone” refers to low-oxygen conditions that form annually in the gulf during hot summer months, producing a massive algae bloom that is fueled by fertilizer nutrients and treated sewage. Garret Graves, the agency’s chairman, said the grant will be used to see the efficacy of diverting the Mississippi river across wetlands to minimize the dead zone. Three freshwater diversions are currently in place with eight more in the near future.

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/08/epa_gives_la_grant_to_help_fig.html

Recent Study Highlights Groundwater Worries in Agricultural Regions Including the Mississippi River Basin

Groundwater in agricultural regions is globally over-exploited. Scientists recently mapped the “groundwater footprint” of 15 major agricultural regions to show how water extraction rates compare to existing groundwater supplies. Of particular interest is the inclusion of the High Plains region in the U.S heartland in the reports findings. Similar to a carbon footprint, a groundwater footprint is an individual areas extraction rate of groundwater. The depletion of groundwater can lead to greater competition for surface water.

<http://www.nature.com/news/demand-for-water-outstrips-supply-1.11143>

What the Dr. Ordered--Beverage Companies Invest Millions to Conserve Water

The Dr. Pepper Snapple Group is investing in a grassy field outside of Houston, TX. By preserving the prairie’s ability to soak up water, the corporation hopes to improve the area’s water quality and quantity. Other beverage companies that are citing water risk as a factor include Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo Inc. and MolsonCoors Brewing Co. Companies have begun cutting water use and wastewater discharge to combat the water shortage. Dr. Pepper hopes to reduce its contribution by 10 percent for each gallon of finished product by 2015. The Coca-Cola Co. has committed to improving water efficiency by 20 percent by the end of this year and becoming water neutral—returning any water used back to the environment.

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2012/08/beverage_companies_pay_million.html

California Releases its Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Study for Water Sector

Climate change may be off the political radar in much of the United States but it is very much on the minds of water managers and planners who are already coping with dwindling water supplies and growing demand for water. The California Energy Commission’s California Climate Change Center recently released its *Legal Analysis of Barriers to Adaptation to California’s Water Sector*. Focusing on the state’s water rights allocation legal system and institutional framework, the study focuses on improvements to the system that would allow the state to better adapt to climate change.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2012publications/CEC-500-2012-019/CEC-500-2012-019.pdf>

Opponents of Proposed \$15 Billion Pipeline to Las Vegas Warn of “New Dust Bowl”

The latest development on the recently approved plan to pipe billions of gallons of water a year (at a project cost of \$15 billion) from central Nevada to the Las Vegas metropolitan area, (some 300 miles away) is that opponents are warning that the project could dry up wetlands and springs, damaging thousands of acres of wildlife habitat and potentially creating a “dust bowl” scenario.

<http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2012/08/06/3>