

# TUWaterWays

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

September 14, 2016

## [The Stress of Distress](#)

The Indian Supreme Court has held that one state in southern India, Karnataka, must divert 15,000 cusecs (more than 9 billion gallons) of water per day to its neighboring state, Tamil Nadu. This interim ruling is only the latest development in a [decades-old conflict](#) over water from the [Cauvery River](#), which flows through Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. The case came in front of the Indian Supreme Court after multiple orders by the [Cauvery River Tribunal](#) failed to provide a solution and both states continued to expand their agricultural production levels, requiring more H<sub>2</sub>O. Despite the possibility of facing drinking water shortages, Karnataka plans to begin releasing water today in compliance with the Court's ruling. This has led to large scale protests and rioting, complete with school closures, burning vehicles, deaths, and cross-state requests to control the violent response. Even if the two states were comfortable with the distribution, in a country with already scarce water resources and a heavy dependence on agriculture, [the day-to-day impact of climate change](#) could lead to even more uncertainty in years to come.

## [The Best Friend Thirst Ever Had](#)

It's a fine time to be from the world of Coke. USDA and Coca-Cola North America [announced this week](#) that Coke has contributed over \$2 million to the National Forest Foundation in an effort to restore watersheds in ten national forests, improving water quality for nearby metropolitan centers. Touted as an example of the benefits of public-private partnerships, the [partnership](#) is relying on the expertise of local community groups, as well as the governmental and private sector partner, to rehabilitate watershed ecosystems by 2018. This comes on the heels of [Coke's announcement](#) that it has reached its goal of replenishing 100% of the water used in its final products 5 years ahead of schedule. How are they doing that when they're still clearly taking water out of these watersheds? According to one [report](#), they're hitting their goals by improving irrigation, decreasing runoff, and implementing conservation projects on behalf of other landowners – essentially paying for others to use less water.

## [Drinkin' Muddy Water](#)

Dirty water is proving to be pretty expensive. As we know, pervasive contamination in the [drinking water in Flint](#),

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:

[CRCL Coastal Issues Forum: 2016 Senate Race](#)

Baton Rouge, LA

October 6, 2016

[Anba Dlo Halloween Festival Water Symposium](#)

New Orleans, LA

October 15, 2016

[CPEX 2016 Louisiana Smart Growth Summit](#)

Baton Rouge, LA

November 1-2, 2016

[The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Litigating Takings Challenges to Land Use and Environmental Regulations](#)

New Orleans, LA

November 4, 2016

[RAE/The Coastal Society Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration](#)

New Orleans, LA

December 10-15, 2016

## Water jobs:

[Executive Director](#)

Galveston Baykeeper

Houston, TX

[Energy and Climate Program Director](#)

Coastal Conservation League

Charleston or Columbia, SC

[Supervisory Attorney Advisor \(General\)](#)

US Army Corps of Engineers

Saint Paul, MN

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[Michigan](#) has raised eyebrows across the country and brought to light issues with other public water systems. Now, the Senate has voted to do something about that, authorizing the use of federal dollars to repair and replace the drinking water system in Flint through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which moved through Senate today. This [\\$9 million bill](#) includes a significant allocation to remedy the issue, part of which will fund an analysis of what went wrong and how the response could have been better. The bill also authorizes funds for testing for lead in the water at schools and authorizes for grants to replace lead piping in other places, as well.

This Senate action is only a step on the journey to fixing Flint. It still has to be reconciled with the WRDA bill passed earlier by the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee (but which is still pending final passage). And then actual dollars have to be appropriated to fulfill the actions authorized in whatever final bill passes Congress.

It isn't just repairing infrastructure that is costly. A [new study](#) from researchers at Tufts University is quantifying the impact of low-quality drinking water on healthcare costs by looking specifically to instances of water-borne disease in Medicare recipients over a 15 year period. The study found that the cost of disease caused by opportunistic premise plumbing pathogens increased from \$600 million per year in 1991 to roughly \$2 billion per year in 2006. Making matters worse is pathogen's growing resistance to antibiotics, which makes treating these infections just that much more expensive (a big reason the Federal Drug Administration recently [reined in the marketing of antibacterial soaps](#)).

### **Decision 2016—Whose Finger is on the Tap?**

After months and months of charges and counter charges the U.S. Presidential race has finally revealed one indisputable fact: Presidential candidates need water. Case in point, candidate Hilary Clinton's recent swoon on September 11 has been attributed by some sources as being caused in large part by [dehydration](#). Which just goes to show that there is just no getting around the need for drinkable water—and actually drinking it. So drink up, friends, and tell the candidates of your choice you expect them to as well.

### **Calling All [Slackers](#)**

The [Louisiana Water Economy Network](#) welcomes us to a new information sharing platform, Slack, where chatrooms on different water-related topics are connecting stakeholders across the state. [Join the discussion today](#).