



TUWaterWays

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

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Nice Work if You Can Get It

The annual ritual of soon to be graduating students asking, “What on Earth am I going to do?” is in full swing. The obvious best choice again is law school, but there are other contenders. Finance is a perennial favorite as is medical school, though we can’t really speak to that. [Plastics](#) was once the cool new thing, but that mantle has to go to Artificial Intelligence these days. Though AI may replace more jobs than it creates. Of course, the evergreen option of just [getting a job, any job](#), is always there but let us just say one word—water. We know, water jobs conjure images of people reading meters and wielding wrenches (still important tasks) but as water gets scarcer and its uses get more varied, new job vistas are opening up. Just ask [John Hamby, who went from being an undergraduate 4 years ago to representing the Imperial Water District](#), the California agricultural water behemoth, in its never-ending struggles with other California water uses (think cities and towns) and other states that rely on the overburdened Colorado River. If that kind of gig is too confrontational for your taste, there is a bright future in purifying water by developing and implementing treatment techniques, the way [Tampa, Florida aims to do by creating the first Suspended Ion Exchange system in the U.S. \(and the largest in the world\) to remove PFAS chemicals from their water supply](#). With [roughly half of the tap water in the U.S. testing positive for “forever” chemicals](#), the demand for solutions seems pretty obvious. Even more obvious is the need for a new generation of water professionals to help bring aging water systems like those in [Houston TX](#), [Jackson MS](#) and [here in New Orleans](#) into the mid-21st Century (we’ll even take mid-20th). Polish up those resumes, kids. [The future awaits](#).

It's Out of this World!

We apologize. We don’t mean to be negative Norberts, but it’s just so easy to report on how little useable water there is and how we’re all going to hell in a watery handbasket. Truth be told, there is lots of water to be had, more than we ever knew, and it’s just there for the taking—and we’re not talking about lassoing icebergs or desalinating the seas—that’s for [pikers](#). Thanks to science, [we can report that there is more water than even our own planet Earth can offer](#) and the only rub is that the largest reservoir of water ever detected is located near a quasar some 30 billion trillion miles from Earth. “Is located” may be too strong a way of saying where it is since—again [according to science-- this space water \(vapor apparently\) is 12 billion light years away](#). Who’s to say what the state of affairs is today or what the system of water laws govern it? We sure would feel sheepish if we got ready to tap that water only to find that the waters have evaporated or are now claimed by Klingons, who would only resolve the conflict by war or [dance off](#).

And so, It Ends

[Dorothy Parker may or may not have said that eternity is two people and a ham](#), but many of us have figured that a better measure would be the duration of the tussle between Georgia, Alabama, and Florida over the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers. There is way too much history to explain that struggle here but [you can look it up](#). In an everchanging world, it was a comfort to know that nothing would change in that fight. Until now that is. Unless it is revealed to be a hoax or a renegade AI post, [it seems that a settlement has been struck between](#)

[GA and AL that \(with the aid of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers\) will ensure minimum flow levels produce a win-win for both states](#). Does this mean a rip in space-time is opening? Maybe, but until things are worked out with Florida, you can still count on the sun rising tomorrow. Even then we can count on the '[Bama/LSU rivalry](#)' to keep the earth spinning on its axis. Whew.

For maximum enjoyment, [click here before you read this piece](#)

Countless songs, hundreds of participants, 1 winner. This winter, you have the chance to participate in the most competitive contest of the year: Top Water Songs of 2023! Join us for the opportunity of a lifetime, getting your nominations in our exclusive playlist, and maybe, just maybe, get a [certificate](#). The competition is open until the last week of December, but don't wait too long, as you may get one of [these](#)! You can submit your songs [here](#), we'll be waiting.

Coming Up:

Tulane Environmental Law Summit; New Orleans, LA; February 23 & 24, 2024 (save the date!)

Water jobs:

[Administrative Assistant](#), Atchafalaya Basin Keeper, Plaquemine, LA

[Associate, Programs](#); Restore America's Estuaries; Remote (US)

[Research Fellow and Policy Engagement Leader](#); Resources for the Future; Washington, DC

[Water Policy and Science Communications Graduate Student Research Fellowship](#); University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Milwaukee, WI



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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