

# TUWaterWays

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

October 26, 2016

## At Long Last: The [Water Infrastructure Playlist](#)

Thanks to everyone who wrote in with songs. As always, some suggestions were eliminated because they didn't fit this specific theme. For instance, "The 59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Song" doesn't seem to have anything to do with an actual bridge. Who knew? "Bridge Over Troubled Water" did get in, though. Other bridge songs were disqualified because they didn't seem to be specifically water-spanning bridges.

But enough about what this playlist isn't. Let's talk about what it is! There are plenty of songs about finding work and love on levees, but if old folk songs about the Erie Canal are your bag, then this is the playlist for you. Finally, as always, our fearless director plumbed the depths of YouTube and brought us [some things](#) that can't be found on Spotify and that can't be unheard. If these songs jar loose any ideas, let us know. These playlists aren't set in stone. In honor of this momentous unveiling, please enjoy this entirely infrastructure-oriented TUWaterWays!

## Two-Thirds of a Levee is No Levee At All

The parts of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes that lie on the Mississippi River's East Bank share a levee system. The system is administered by the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East. [You may have heard of them.](#) SLFPAE was created for [a reason that you also may have heard of.](#) Well, when the unified authority was created, a unified tax district was not. Since then, tax proposals to pay for operations and maintenance of the system haven't been brought up uniformly and some have failed. Under this set up, the system – paid for with billions of federal dollars – is unlikely to remain, well, a system. Now, however, authorities from SLFPAE and participating parishes are [calling for a unified tax district.](#) The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is reviewing the matter, and changes to state laws and the state constitution will be needed. Infrastructure – it's not just dirt and concrete. It's not just management. It's not just funding. It's all of the above. In perpetuity. Maybe that's why it gets ignored. Speaking of which...

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:

### [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:

### [Water Program Senior Research Associate](#)

The Pacific Institute

Oakland, CA

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## **Might the Next Administration Make its Mark on American Infrastructure? Sure, but Will it? [Meh](#). We Can Hope.**

The Next President of The United States of America will be one of two people (sorry, [Gary and Krist](#)). Either way, the next president will have a pledge to spend either [\\$275 billion on infrastructure](#) or [double that](#)! Some in DC are noticing that they're not the only ones excited to double down on building up. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) has [named infrastructure as a priority](#) should he become Majority Leader, too. Which is good, because apparently it takes more than one person to make the government work. But there are some cautioning that infrastructure without resilient is wasted money. The Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities [cites](#) New Orleans' work forwarding a comprehensive resilience strategy and urban water plan as an example for other cities, and even the nation, to follow!

Of course, even those who've got it right get it wrong from time to time, as it looks like the city's newest commercial corridor renovation, Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard (just call it "OC Haley" when you visit), has. The renovation is designed in manner that might not comport with our new passion for proper stormwater management. This [TheLensNOLA article](#) sheds some light, and, amazingly, the comments section provides clarification and/or confusion and not just ad hominem attacks.

## **Is a Sewer Utility Going to Keep Hampton Roads from Sinking into the Atlantic Ocean?**

The Hampton Roads Sanitation District is a sewer utility in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Their job is to take dirty water, remove [foulness I can't even imagine](#), and send clean water back out into the world. So why is it that a sewer utility is [taking the lead on trying to reduce subsidence](#) in the Atlantic coast's most vulnerable metropolitan area? It seems, in part, that the move is an answer to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's effort to combat depletion and subsidence by limiting groundwater withdrawal permits. But, using their mandate for sewage disposal as a tool to keep their customers above water is a stunning bit of forward thinking. The utility still has to receive permission from federal agencies to move forward with the project, but it's not as if anyone else is lining up to stop those in the region from lowering themselves to an even more vulnerable position.

## **What Better Way to Lead 21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Infrastructure? Start Your Journey to [Waterbending](#) with Free Technical Master Classes in New Orleans**

The Greater New Orleans Foundation and City of New Orleans in partnership with the Surdna Foundation present the [Urban Water Series: Technical Master Classes](#), a series of lectures and workshops which aim to deepen the technical knowledge of private and public sector professionals and improve their ability to design, install, and maintain green infrastructure. The first free public lecture will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm when Danish architect Flemming Rafn Thomsen, of THIRD NATURE ([Tredje Natur](#)), will discuss ways that humans and nature can thrive together—rather than apart—in hybrid urban/natural environments. The whole-day workshop on December 9<sup>th</sup> entitled "Manmade Natures: Urban Climate Change Solutions" discusses how other cities are implementing climate adaptation strategies in neighborhoods and large-scale urban renewal projects. This master class is intended for landscape, planning, design professionals, architects, and parish and city staff. The workshop costs \$75 which includes breakfast, lunch, and parking. For questions, contact [johanna@gnof.org](mailto:johanna@gnof.org).