

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
August 25, 2016

## Oh, Louisiana.

Where to begin? Well, let's start with the floods. The most recent floods, that is, not the [other two](#) from the past 13 months. Twenty parishes have been [designated](#) as part of this disaster, an [area stretching over 200 miles](#) across southern Louisiana. [13 people died](#). Many, many more were rescued by both the emergency responders and the [Cajun Navy](#). More than [53,000 residences in East Baton Rouge](#) Parish alone were flooded, and many places [around Baton Rouge](#) and [Southwest Louisiana](#) are still waiting for waters to recede. Some are already trying to figure out what's next and what can be learned from this tragedy. The Institute is looking into [South Carolina's](#) similar experience from last year, while [others are playing politics](#), trying to [resurrect old public works](#) projects, [wondering about climate change's role](#), and the [future of flooding](#) in Louisiana.

How about out on the coast? Those areas not hit by this month's huge rains? South of New Orleans, a [big ol' pipeline](#) is delivering sediment from the Mississippi River to bring back a land bridge across the Barataria Basin. Though it delivers much less sediment than the planned [river reintroduction](#) projects, it's an important start to rebuilding the wetlands that protect infrastructure across the coast. Speaking of the state's infrastructure (that [has nationwide importance](#)), much of it is [under the gun](#), having cost itself protection from [wetlands damaged](#) by a century or two of development.

Previous efforts at protection (of the non-wetland kind) aren't all [coming up Milhouse](#), though; floodwall panels in St. Bernard Parish are [leaning, sinking, and separating](#). The rest of the [Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East](#) (Jefferson and Orleans Parishes) surely are wishing [Da Parish](#) would pass [that millage](#) right about now!

Funding for future efforts are coming online, but not all of them just yet, as the US 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals [says](#) the time isn't right for a ruling on whether or not the federal government needs to pay 100% of the cost of restoring wetlands damaged by the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet ("MR-GO"). So, there will continue to be nothing done there. Various funds (from offshore oil and gas production and the Deepwater Horizon spill) are beginning to move money to the state and coastal parishes, but it's going to take sustained effort on the parts of governments and watch dogs to [make sure those funds are used well](#).

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:

[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:

[CLEE Water Fellow](#)

UC Berkeley School of Law  
Berkeley, CA

[Executive Director](#)

Galveston Baykeeper  
Houston, TX

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**Oh, [Texas](#), [Mississippi](#), [Alabama](#), and [Florida](#), too!**

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (“RESTORE Council”) released a [draft update to its Comprehensive Plan](#) (refresher: this is the plan to be funded by Clean Water Act penalties against the responsible parties from the Deepwater Horizon spill to “Pot 2” of the RESTORE Act). This time around, the plan is dealing with many fewer unknowns, given that when the initial plan came out the case was still in court and the Council had no idea whatsoever how much funding it would have or when it would have it. This plan determines how more than \$1.6 billion will be spent across the Gulf Coast Region. RESTORE Council will be taking public comments through October 7<sup>th</sup>, so we have a couple of months to make it even better.

**It’s Time for Another Playlist, Don’t You Think?**

We really enjoy putting together [water-themed playlists](#) around here, and y’all seem to enjoy them too. So let’s do another one! This time, let’s focus on something that comes up in countless items in TUWaterWays and is a major factor in how people today interact with water. That’s water infrastructure. So, bring us your best songs about dams and reservoirs, canals and levees, pumps and pipes, and even bridges (that happen to be over water, [troubled](#) or [otherwise](#)). As always, you can email your suggestions to [cdalbom@tulane.edu](mailto:cdalbom@tulane.edu) or just reply to this newsletter. We’re looking forward to this one!