

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
November 15, 2018

“Forget it Veolia, it’s Baltimore”

Baltimore voters said [you CAN stop the beat](#) for water utility privatization by [supporting a ban by a large margin](#). Baltimore water users were going to have to pay for major upgrades to their utility either way, but were apparently convinced that they would have more control over the system and have to pay less by keeping the system in public hands. Private companies who manage water systems around the world like Veolia and Suez will have to do without the [Charm City](#) in their portfolios. Privatization of water utilities is somewhat of a heated battle around the world with groups like the [World Bank](#) supporting it and the [Food & Water Watch](#) opposing it (they played a major role in the campaign for the Baltimore vote). It has come up most often in the United States in the context of post-industrial cities with decreased populations struggling to keep up funding for old systems, cities like Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and, oh-I-don’t-know, New Orleans.

Speaking of New Orleans! How’s that Sewerage and Water Board? Everything sorted out?

Nope. A new [report](#) from the state’s Legislative Auditor’s office found [rampant issues](#) with the utility’s contracting practices as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars in undocumented charges to users. As the Times Picayune editorial board said, “[not much was done the right way](#).” That’s too bad, because S&WBNO has to shift funds from its water and sewerage departments to fund its [drainage department](#), which is now broke. New leaders at the utility, who were brought in well after the beginning of the study, seem to be mostly [on board](#) with the issues that need changing, but when Mayor Landrieu changed the oversight of the utility a few years ago, well, it seemed like everyone was on board with change and improvement then, too.

New Orleanians will have to content themselves with this tangible piece of good news – one of the two [water towers](#) that should make boil water advisories much less likely is now online! [Open your mouths in the shower](#) with a decreased amount of trepidation, friends!

Now that hurricane season is winding down, maybe listening to our storms playlist won’t cause too much anxiety

Given that when we aren’t discussing water here at Chateau d’eau, we’re discussing music, we’ve developed a little [tradition](#) of putting together different water-themed playlists. Well, all those months ago when Hurricane Florence was approaching the Atlantic Coast, we put out a call for songs for a “Storms and Hurricanes” playlist. Since absolutely nothing newsworthy whatsoever has

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:

[Coastal Law CLE](#)

March 14 & 15, 2019

New Orleans, LA

Tulane Environmental Law Summit

March 22 & 23, 2019

New Orleans, LA

Water jobs:

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World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Geneva, Switzerland

[Public Interest Environmental Law Fellow](#)

Environmental Law Institute

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happened in the ensuing eight weeks or so, this topic has surely been at the front of everyone's minds. So, we meet your fervent anticipation with this here [playlist](#). Some light internet searching proved that a playlist of this theme was not a novel idea, but what was novel seems to be actually making sure the songs were about storms and not just mentioning them to convey to a loved one just how strong their emotions are for them. Nonetheless, we hope you enjoy our playlist. Feel free to still suggest songs to add even with the playlist live, and feel free to suggest future playlist themes.