

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
August 16, 2016

## Didn't It Rain?

And rain and rain. When a stubborn low pressure system finally lifted out of Louisiana and Mississippi, more than 20,000 people were flooded from their homes and at least 8 people had died as more than 20 inches of rain fell in communities across south Louisiana from Abbeville and Baton Rouge to Zachary. Many of these communities are well out of the hurricane prone coastal regions that can (and do) flood during hurricanes and had never experienced flooding before. Unfortunately, that likely means that many people did not have flood insurance. So was this bad luck, climate change or something else at work? Who's to say, but it is best to remember that, for the most part, there are two kinds of communities: Those that have flooded and those that are going to. So the smart money calls for planning for that eventuality, starting with smart land and water management and buying flood insurance if you can afford. Because this unnamed storm won't be the last reminder and the next community could be yours. If you are wondering how you might help out, [click here](#).

## **Water: An Atlas**

Everybody loves maps. So what's better than a good map? How about a bunch of maps that, taken together, tell great stories or build even better maps in something like an atlas. And what if that atlas is about water? Then, my friend, you just might have something great, which is why we were excited to hear of the [Water: An Atlas](#) project. Guerilla Cartography is looking for ideas, maps and collaborators for the project with a 2017 release in mind. Click the preceding link for details.

## **Take it Away Folks**

Whether you just plain folks or just plain meerkats, when someone takes your stuff you want someone to pay for it, and if that someone is the government then federal or state law can require them to compensate you. But when and how much, and just what constitutes a "taking" these days? Well if these are your questions you are in luck, because on November 4th Vermont Law School and this Institute invite you to join them at Tulane in New Orleans for the [19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Litigating Challenges to Land Use and Environmental Regulations](#) (or19ACLCLUER for short). If you work with governments, environmental law, or local land use

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:

[Junior Researcher/Advisor Groundwater](#)

Deltares

Utrecht, Netherlands

Closes August 19

[Delta Science Fellowships](#)

California Sea Grant/Delta Stewardship Council

Closes August 17, 2016

[Associate Attorney](#)

Northwest Office of Earthjustice

Seattle, WA

[CLEE Water Fellow](#)

UC Berkeley School of Law

Berkeley, CA

[Executive Director](#)

Galveston Baykeeper

Houston, TX

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this could be just what you have been looking for. And it is in New Orleans to boot. We hope to see you there.

### **What a Concept, Measuring What You Manage**

Ever try coaching a football team without knowing how many players you have? Planting a garden without knowing how many seeds or acres you have? If so then you know what it is like to be a water manager in California, where managing water is vitally important, but measuring water use isn't. It is not because managers don't know how important water measurement is. They do. It is more a matter of it not being a fit with the state's complex and sometimes chaotic water laws and politics. What should be done? Well, the Public Policy Institute of California has some ideas that are mapped out in a [report](#) it issued back in July. Whether the recommendations would be enough to bring the state's water house into order, short of brining in the [water cops](#), we can't say. But it is useful reading, especially for other states that might not be has far down the rabbit hole as California. We are looking at you, Louisiana.