



# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy  
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## Tomorrow is Valentine's Day, and What Better Gift to Give than Clean Water?

Even better than a viewing of [the 2010 classic](#) would be getting clean water and functional infrastructure this weekend. It's true around the world, even where the once-powerful greeting card and chocolates lobby hasn't taken over.

The African Union is having its [2026 Summit](#) in Addis Ababa this weekend, and [water is the theme](#) the continent's leaders are focusing on. African countries are dealing with international tensions over the Nile River and other shared resources. Water stressed areas are vulnerable to extremist incursions. [Global water bankruptcy](#) has been declared by the United Nations, and [South Africa](#) is one of the countries already dealing with that new reality (and it's taken [center stage in national politics](#)). Given how [it all intersects](#) (and not just in Africa), this weekend's gathering addressing what can be done to ease tensions when water's too much, not enough, too dirty, or otherwise unavailable could determine [the continent's future](#).

Friends in Florida planning [grand romantic gestures](#) this weekend should avoid installing a [floating garden](#) or some relationship [naumachia](#). The state's water management districts have issued [water shortage warnings](#) in response to the state's [ongoing drought](#).

But of course, Florida is hardly the only part of the United States that's dealing with a lack of water. The seven states that are parties to the Colorado River Compact have been at the negotiating table for what seems like forever. It surely feels even longer to them. But [their latest deadline](#) to come to an agreement is this Valentine's Day. A symbolic gesture towards the universally accepted maxim, "love conquers all?" Or an indication that negotiations have gone on so long that no negotiators have any semblance of a personal life anymore? [Southern California's Metropolitan Water District has concerns](#) about its water supply making it down the River (don't they always?). Those concerns are well-founded, since [concerns](#) about the lack of water making it through the Glen Canyon Dam are forever growing as is [the risk of catastrophic dam failure from too little OR too much water](#). All of the Lower Basin States' concerns are pretty well founded, as the opportunities to make up for a drying out river are drying up themselves. A [new tool in Nevada](#) is exposing how strained groundwater resources are there. Meanwhile, the [USGS is finding](#) elevated drinking contaminants in groundwater across the whole country. So, what to get your beloved this Valentine's Day? Maybe [a land easement](#)? It's probably better than a [wastewater facility tour](#).

## No post-Mardi Gras Plans? Tulane's Environmental Law Students Have Got You Covered

March 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> marks the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Tulane Environmental Law and Policy Summit! Each year, a new batch of amazing students takes on the challenge of putting this summit together, and this year's team has put together a doozy! They're bringing together nearly 60 leading voices in environmental science, policy, and law. This includes keynote speakers Franziska Trautmann, co-founder and CEO of [Glass Half Full](#), whose New Orleans based innovation has diverted more than 12 million pounds of glass from landfills and advanced coastal restoration through National Science

Foundation backed research (and landed her a spot as Carnival royalty) and Dr. Virginia Burkett, chief scientist emeritus of the U.S. Geological Survey, a nationally recognized leader in climate and wetlands research with more than five decades of public service and scholarship, including being a named author of the IPCC Paris Climate Agreement.

Panels will span carbon capture and sequestration, endangered species litigation, coastal systems, and energy stewardship in the age of artificial intelligence. CLE credit is available in most states.

View the schedule: <https://eels.eco/#schedule>

Register: <https://lu.ma/eels>

Learn more: <https://eels.eco/>

## Join Our Team!

The Institute is looking to hire a new Senior Research Fellow! It's a pretty sweet gig with a history of producing some pretty incredible lawyers and policy makers.

If you or someone you know is a recent (within 2 years) JD or LLM who has a strong interest in the legal and policy dimensions of water management and stewardship, this may be the job for you! The position is slated to begin in August 2026 for two years in the fantastic location of New Orleans, Louisiana. [Apply Now!](#) We will begin interviewing candidates after Mardi Gras!

### Coming Up:

[Environmental Law & Policy Summit](#)

Tulane University Law School; New Orleans, LA; March 5-7, 2026

[73rd Mineral Law Institute](#)

LSU Law Center; Baton Rouge, LA; March 19-20, 2026

[Coastal Law CLE](#)

May 7 & 8, 2026; New Orleans, LA

### Water jobs:

[Senior Research Fellow; Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy; New Orleans, LA](#)

[Senior Attorney, Louisiana Clean Affordable Power; Environmental Defense Fund](#)

[Deputy Director of Water Resources; City of San José, CA](#)

[Restoration Coordinator; Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana; Louisiana](#)



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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