

# TUWaterWays

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

[July 23, 2021](#)

## [Muffy, Do Tell Us About that Dreadful Dead Zone](#)

Ever been at a social event or job interview and found yourself in the awkward position of being asked what Louisiana could do to reduce nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River and [not knowing what to say? Who hasn't?](#) But now, there is help. Thanks to [a new précis](#) posted by our shop you will be able to nod knowingly while offering useful input. Mind you this [will not make you an expert](#), but it will give you a very helpful frame of reference. If you want to take a deeper dive, a more detailed paper is forthcoming.

## [If You Build It, Will it Come?](#)

If you are talking about [baseball fields and ghosts](#), maybe. If you are talking about houses and water, maybe not. That is the reality facing more towns in the Southwest, where the “demand” for new housing is running smack dab into the lack of available water. Drought, baking heat, and strained aquifers are putting the brakes on new development in some of the fastest growing parts of the West. Development moratoria began popping up a few years ago in places like Heffner, UT and are being imposed or considered elsewhere (e.g. [Oakley, UT](#) and [Marin County, CA](#)) with more likely to come. Moratoria on building permits and water hook ups sound dire but they tend to suggest that, in the absence of new development, there is a [status quo](#) that can hold. But they mask a more fundamental shift that is underway. In western states, agriculture not only is a big water user, it often has the most senior water rights. In the face of extreme drought and heat, the viability of that activity is increasingly up for grabs. Hope, of course, springs eternal that rains and snows will return to “normal” but as [Needles CA, which is down to one well](#), knows, [time is running out](#).

## [The Envelope Please...](#)

And the new administrator of Nevada’s water resources and policy (technically the State Engineer in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) is ... [La La Land](#), no wait [it is Adam Sullivan](#). Previously the acting administrator, Mr. Sullivan now has the job in both name and fact. We wish him the best. He will be busy.

## [Capital Area Audit](#)

We may know who is calling the water shots in Nevada, but how about here in Louisiana? Mostly nobody yet, but for the Baton Rouge area, it is Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission—a fact that even they did not seem to get until recently. Up until 2019, the agency did not actively manage

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.

### Coming up:

CRCL Oyster Shell Recycling Program: Volunteer Opportunity; [July 23](#) and [July 24](#); Buras, LA

[EPA Small Drinking Water Systems: Drinking Water Microbes 201](#); July 27

[LEAN Save Our Water Solutions Summit](#); July 29

### Water jobs:

[Associate Attorney](#); The Wilderness Society; Denver, CO and Washington, D.C, and other locations

[Economic Development Manager](#) or [Program Director](#); Louisiana Bucket Brigade; River Parishes, LA and New Orleans, LA

[Assistant or Associate Scientist in Hydrogeology](#); The Jones Center at Ichauway; Newton, GA

[Senior Attorney, Fossil Fuels Program](#); Earthjustice; New Orleans or Texas

[Water Policy Manager](#); Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Naples, FL

[Water Policy Advisor](#); Tuvli; Washington, DC

[Water Resources Software Developer](#); RTI, Inc., Durham, NC

[Senior Manager, Environmental Policy \(EMEA\)](#); Amazon; Brussels, Belgium

[Program Officer – Plastics Initiative](#); The Ocean Foundation; Washington, DC

[Associate or Staff Attorney](#); Sierra Club; multiple locations

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groundwater usage in its designated areas. That changed following a review done by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor in [May of 2019](#) , which concluded, among other things, that the Commission failed to sufficiently regulate the Southern Hills Aquifer System. Since then, the tenor of things has changed up according to an [updated report](#) from the Auditor that was just released. Supported by [legislation enacted this spring](#), the Commission is actually getting about the business of updating its well registrations and requiring metering of water use. We know that using actual data to guide management decisions is a newfangled notion, but sometimes you have to [live on the edge](#).