

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
April 12, 2017

## China's Pearl River Delta –Blowin' and Goin'

Looking for the China that works? The part that embodies the can do, will do spirit that has made China a world economic engine? Then look no farther, friends, than China's Pearl River Delta. Home to Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou, the region has been called China's [jewel in the crown](#) as the standard for economic and population growth that the rest of China could learn from.

On the other hand, if you are looking for an example of betting on [the come](#) and ignoring fundamental challenges to sustainable growth you might want check out, you guessed it, China's Pearl River Delta. It turns out that building giant cities on sinking soils in times of rising seas [creates problems and compounds others](#), something that we in New Orleans know something about (but there are several tens of millions fewer people living here). Ever get an uncomfortable feeling that there are limits to people's willingness to learn?

## Don't Make Me [Turn this Car Around](#): Congress Threatens to Reign in Clean Water Act Frivolity

According to [Merriam Webster](#), "frivolous" refers to "things or people that are unserious or ungrounded in fact." If HR 1179 is any indication, the US House of Representatives dictionary expands that to include "citizen suits brought and certain mitigation obligations under the Clean Water Act as well as the Army's current power to prevent waste disposal sites from being permitted in areas it has determined would impose unacceptable risks to municipal water supplies, shellbeds, fishing and recreation areas." Who knew? Yet all of those things are within the sweep of the [Discouraging Frivolous Law Suits Acts](#).

Let's be clear here; we are firmly against frivolous lawsuits and were of the impression that under the Federal Code of Civil Procedure (e.g. [Rule 12.b.6](#)), Courts could—and should—reject them. That said, the connection between frivolity and citizen suits that sets them apart from suits filed against the Corps under other auspices is anything but clear. Ditto the changes to the current waste disposal siting and mitigation parts of the law. We don't lay odds on bills so we won't try to handicap this one beyond noting that changes to the Clean Water Act have historically been hard to make. Especially when it is not clear what problem the change is supposed to solve.

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:

[Urban Water Series: Technical Master Class](#)

April 26<sup>th</sup>

New Orleans, LA

## Water jobs:

[Project Specialist \(Enviro. Initiatives \(Temp\)\)](#)

World Economic Forum

Geneva, Switzerland

[Assoc. VP for Water and Sustainability](#)

Fresno State University

Fresno, CA

[Advocacy Director](#)

Neponset River Watershed Association

Canton, MA

[Program Director \(Climate Resilience\)](#)

Sonoran Institute

Phoenix, AZ

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### **Gee Whiz Department: Water Flavored M&Ms? Will Halloween Ever be the Same?**

Well not exactly, but if the folks at Skipping Ropes Labs get their way, who knows? It seems they have developed a way to containerize water without bottles opting instead for giant gel cap like things called [OOHOs](#). Really intriguing, the idea of waste-free bottled water. Does it work? Is it safe? Will your house be [TP'd](#) if you hand them out to trick or treaters? We have no idea but in keeping with our policy being fascinated by new ideas we bring it to your attention. [CAVEAT](#): In the linked video, the Skipping Ropes folks ask you to invest in them. Do not, we repeat *do not*, invest in them based on this. We have laws in this country that regulate investment solicitations and it takes more than a video to comply with them. Be interested - but be smart.

### **What Better Way to Lead 21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Infrastructure? Free Public Lectures AND Technical Master Classes in New Orleans!**

The Greater New Orleans Foundation and City of New Orleans in partnership with the Surdna Foundation present the [Urban Water Series: Technical Master Classes](#), a series of lectures and workshops which aim to deepen the technical knowledge of private and public sector professionals and improve their ability to design, install, and maintain green infrastructure. The second part of series will happen on April 26 and 27 at the Center for Philanthropy. The free public lecture will be held on April 26, 5:30-7pm when a team of experts from Wisconsin: architect Vince Micha, site planner/landscape architect Tom Mortensen, and civil engineer Paul McIlheran will present an idea-rich discussion on an approach to more effective and environmentally responsible design for stormwater management. Based on the philosophy that Nature Ignores Designs That Ignore Nature, the team will explain how their collaborative approach contributes to better building, site, and landscape designs and projects. The technical master class entitled "Collaborative Design Techniques for Stormwater Integration" will happen on April 27, 8:30am-1pm. During the master class, the speakers will discuss how they have improved the collaborative process with Pattern Writing, a design technique that creates a deeper understanding of how a building and site can work together. This master class is intended for landscape architects, civil engineers, architects, and parish government staff. The master class costs \$45 which includes breakfast, lunch, and parking. It will be \$30 for ASCE, ASLA, and AIA members. For questions, contact [johanna@gnof.org](mailto:johanna@gnof.org)