

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources
Law and Policy August 3, 2012

Historic Drought Grips Much of the Nation and Threatens

Commerce on the Mississippi. One of the hottest summers on record is also shaping up to be one of the driest as heat and drought bake crops and have reduced water levels in the Mississippi River to the point that navigation is threatened. Low water levels have left ports like Lake Providence, LA land locked and in critical need of dredging.

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20120731/BUSINESS/120731002?nclinkcheck=1>

<http://business.time.com/2012/07/30/the-not-so-mighty-mississippi-how-the-rivers-low-water-levels-are-impacting-the-economy/?iid=biz-main-mostpop1>

Corps Chief Signs Off on MRGO Mitigation But Hurdles

Remain. The head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has recommended a \$2.9 billion package of projects to counter the environmental damage to the ecosystem southeast of New Orleans from the now closed Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. The recommendation is not expected to lead to any action soon due to a dispute with the State of Louisiana over whether the State is required to provide a 35% cost share. Long-term action may also be in doubt due to the possible effects of sea level rise that could force a rethinking of what is possible or practical.

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/07/mr-go_restoration_plan_put_on.html

The Climate/Coastal Connection: Times Picayune Outdoors

Editor Calls for Carbon Emission Cuts to Save the Coast. In a follow up to Lt. General Thomas Bostick's MRGO mitigation recommendations (see item above) Bob Marshall the Outdoors Editor for the New Orleans Times Picayune published an op-ed in the paper calling for a reduction in carbon emissions that have been linked to global warming and sea level rise. The connections between climate change, sea level rise and the fate of the coast are hardly new but have proven to be tricky political territory that may get trickier as the question of whether to fund coastal restoration moves to the front burner.

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/08/cant_save_louisiana_coast_with.html

All Quiet(er) on the Western Front: BLM Signs-off on 300

Mile Pipeline to Las Vegas. Planning for a drier climate is already a fact of life for much of the American West and no place has more at stake than Las Vegas, Nevada. Nevada has always gotten the smallest share of Colorado River water and as increased demand and lower precipitation have lowered the water levels of the reservoirs that serve southern Nevada water, managers have been forced to seek new sources of supply. After seven years of study the federal Bureau of Reclamation has approved a 300 mile pipeline that will bring up to 84,000 acre-feet of ground water to the Las Vegas Valley per year. This will not meet all of the region's needs but it is being hailed by Southern Nevada Water Authority head, Patricia Mulroy, as a safety net "if the Colorado River really goes south". <http://www.lvrj.com/news/blm-signs-off-on-water-pipeline-but-spare-snake-valley-164833556.html>

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:

[September 25-27, 2012](#)

America's Great Watershed Initiative Summit, St. Louis MO

[October 2012 \(date TBD\)](#)

America's Wetland Foundation "Big River Thrives" convening, Memphis TN

[October 20-25, 2012](#)

Restore America's Estuaries Conference, Tampa FL

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