

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy  
February 8, 2019

## Grow Crops, Safe Water, Win Big Prizes

You don't need a degree in plant science (sorry, LSU Ag Center) to know that three keys to raising healthy, happy plants are [soil, sun, and water](#). Despite that, most of us have way too much [plant blood](#) on our hands because we forget that that water piece. Fortunately there is a corps of good people—we call them farmers—who tend to remember to water their plants, and, thanks to them, we have food (and [allies against zombies](#)). But, with water getting scarcer and more people wanting food, the need to get more food from less water is becoming more important all the time. So, what is a farmer to do? If he/she is in Arkansas he/she can go for the gold in the University of Arkansas "[Crop by the Drop](#)" irrigation reduction competition. The idea is to reward folks who can get the greatest crop yield per acre-inch of water. [Congrats to this year's winners Jason Bennett, Mikey Taylor, Matt Morris and Richard Morris](#). [Well done indeed](#).

## Climate, Property Values and the Whole Ugly Mess

In life, if we are lucky, we get to do some very important things that can be [very good for us but that are not all that pleasant](#). Getting a mortgage is one of those. Banks are happy to lend you money but not at all interested in losing money, which is why they size both you and mortgaged property up to see how much risk they are running. In the future, their loan review offices may need to include a climatologist or two if a recent [CNBC report](#) is any indication.

According to that story, mortgage lenders are behind the curve on assessing the risks that climate change and extreme weather events may pose to real estate markets. In short, historically atypical floods, mud slides, and droughts may becoming more typical which could result in an increase in loan defaults and foreclosures. A single news story may seem a bit too anecdotal to grab your attention but in this case it is reinforced by a new [report from the Urban Land Institute](#) that is more compelling. The traditional way to hedge investment bets against floods and such is through insurance. That makes loads of sense, and usually works. However, insurance guards against casualty losses but not losses from the reduced value of an investment or collateral. In other words, if a community becomes a less desirable place to live and work, the value of real estate can fall across that community without the cushioning provided by insurance. That is exactly what growing climate-driven risk might spawn according to the study team. Compounding the problem, there are expected to be limits on just how much risk the insurance sector can assess and take on. The ULI report makes a case for getting ahead of that curve. How? By [doing whatever you can](#) to address climate-driven risk as soon as you can.

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:

### [Coastal Law CLE](#)

March 14-15, 2019  
New Orleans, LA

### [Tulane Environmental Law Summit](#)

March 22 & 23, 2019  
New Orleans, LA

## Water jobs:

### [Associate Attorney](#)

Earthjustice  
Washington, DC

### [Environmental Justice Staff Attorney](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Annapolis, MD

### [Instream Flow and Water Policy Specialist](#)

Trout Unlimited  
Bozeman, MT

### [Gulf Program Manager](#)

SouthWings  
New Orleans, LA

**Tulane Institute**  
on Water Resources Law & Policy

6325 Freret Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
504-865-5982

[tulanewater.org](http://tulanewater.org)

TWITTER: [@TulaneWaterLaw](https://twitter.com/TulaneWaterLaw)

## **It's the Time of the Season for Loving...and for Louisiana's Annual Coastal Plan**

Louisiana's effort to cope with its collapsing coast is very much in the vein of things that the Urban Land Institute report discussed above suggests. The state's periodically updated Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation Plan is an evolving game plan for shoring up the coast where that is possible and adapting to rising waters where it is not. The measure of any plan is in its execution, so it is worth checking out the State's annual plan for implementing its Master Plan. As fate would have it, the current draft Annual Plan is now on the street for perusal and comment. [Check it out!](#)