


Editor's Note

Caitlin Buchanan

American University Washington College of Law

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The use of land and water resources in the United States requires a massive system of infrastructure and administration by federal, state, and local governments in order to ensure the sustainable use, proper management, and conservation of our nation's resources. How we decide to utilize these resources for a range of purposes from development of coastal regions to agricultural generates significant impacts on the availability and sustainability of these resources. We saw these impacts and the need for water use management in the serious drought that has plagued California and other western states for the past five years. As western water resources come under threat, governments are forced to implement new strategies and management plans to deal with water shortages and a shifting outlook for long-term water use. Land use management practices have also faced re-evaluation. For instance, coastal management plans have been adjusted to reflect the realities of climate change impacts, including rising sea levels and severe weather events.

The mission of *Sustainable Development Law & Policy* is to approach sustainable development from a variety of perspectives to provide our readers with a balanced and informed view of our chosen topics. In this issue, we seek to provide our readers with insight into domestic land and water use with three varying approaches to this subject. Our first article, *You Probably Shouldn't Build There: Watershed-Based Land Use Strategies for Mitigating Global Climate Change in New Jersey's Freshwater Systems* by Matthew Knoblauch, focuses on land management and use in areas of New Jersey's impacted by freshwater systems. The author assesses New Jersey's legal framework for mitigating the hazards that result from an increase in precipitation and climate change combined with increased human development. Author Lisa Tomlinson explores local land use practices through zoning measures and their impact on new and developing forms of urban agriculture in her article, *Indoor Aquaponics in Abandoned Buildings: A Potential Solution to Food Deserts*. The final article of this issue, *Water, Water, Nowhere: Adapting Water Rights for a Changing Climate* by Caleb Hall, delves into the water crisis in California and discusses the effectiveness of three different spectrums of current western water law in response to climate change impacts.

This issue also includes three featured articles exploring other interesting topics in land and water use policy. Caitlin Cutchin addresses issues facing our nation's drinking water systems and advocates for the implementation of green infrastructure into these systems. Our second featured article

Features:

- 14 | INVESTING IN RESILIENCY: PRIORITIZING WATER SYSTEMS AND INVESTING IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
by Caitlin Cutchin, Esq.
- 23 | RIDDING PES SYSTEMS OF THE "PAY TO POLLUTE" PRINCIPLE: PES OPTIMIZATION STRATEGIES
by Kelly Carlson
- 34 | THE AFTERMATH OF *CARE V. COW PALACE* AND THE FUTURE OF RCRA IN CAFO CASES
by Lauren Tavar

by Kelly Carlson, explores the Payment for Environmental Services program as a climate change mitigation measure. Lauren Tavar examines the impacts of recent litigation regarding concentrated animal feeding operations and their polluting effects on water systems.

On behalf of the *Sustainable Development Law & Policy* staff, I would like to thank all of the authors who contributed their time, efforts, and scholarship to this issue. Your contributions have allowed for a meaningful and informed discussion of sustainable land and water use policy in the United States. I would also like to thank my staff for all of their hard work and dedication to not only this issue, but to our publication as a whole. Their efforts are the source of success for our publication. Lastly, I would like to thank our readers for your continuing interest and support of *SDLP*.



Caitlin Buchanan