

Journal #5837 from sdc 10.23.24

We Are here to.....

Museum of Mediterranean

From horse-Drawn to engine-powered, it's a tractor lover's paradise

'It's a feeling of spiritual renewal': Klamath Tribes react to dam removal

After historic California dam removal, first salmon swims all the way to Oregon

Climate change is happening too fast for migrating birds

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Early lessons drawn from the Klamath Dam removal effort

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Youth tobacco use drops to 25-year low, CDC survey concludes

Alaska Tribes Win Legal Fight Against Gold Mine

Protect the Rubies from Fossil Fuel Extraction

Quiz: What wolf pack do you belong in?

Medicaid will cover traditional healing practices for Native Americans in four states

The Crowley Lake Columns, in California's Eastern Sierra region result from ancient volcanic activity.

Have a few hours? [check out this site:](#)

Stunning discovery after examining farmland treated only with organic fertilizers for decades

Fighting climate change with CATTLE and TREES

Our Fourth [#EJ4Climate](#) grant cycle is officially open for applications

Town known for having nearly the entire population living in a single apartment building.

O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club for High School Students

[Re-visioning Native Histories](#)

Nature's engineers: milestone for beaver restoration

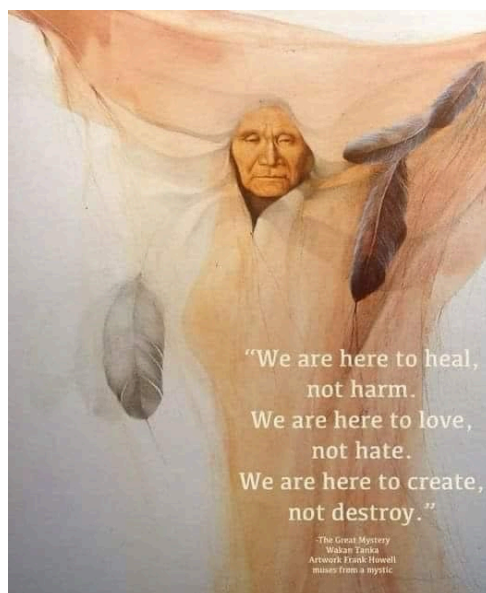
Forest thinning continues at Lake Tahoe

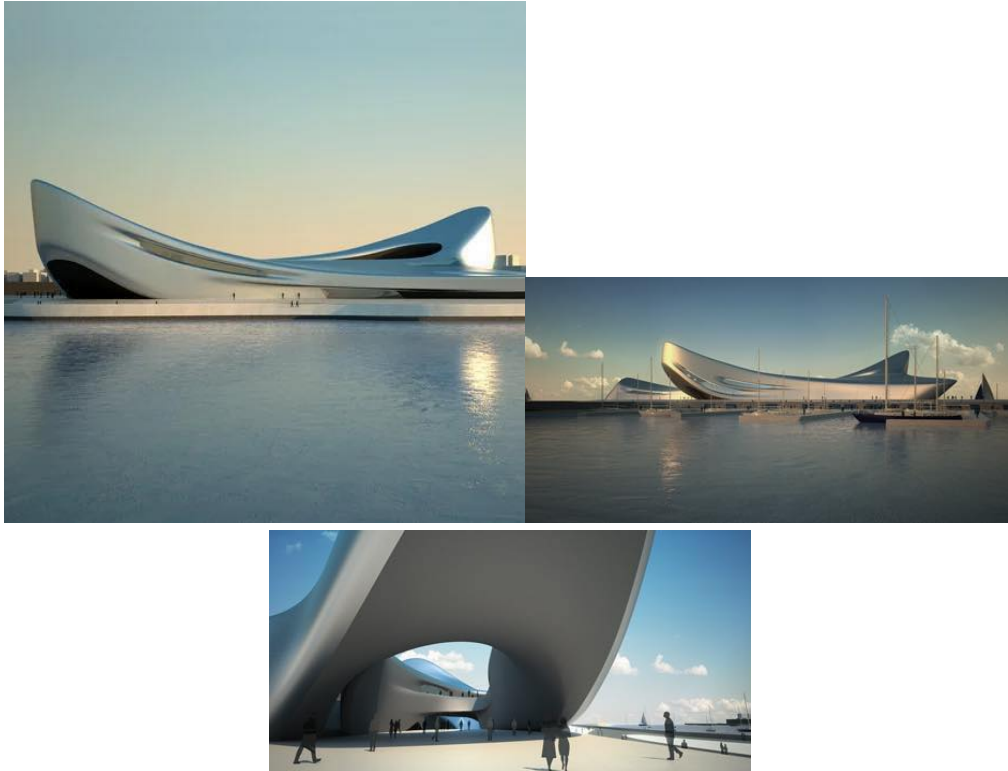
October marks the start of Water Year 2025, how is Lake Mead doing?

Gaps in laws and policies leave water and sanitation systems vulnerable to harmful climate impacts.

Supreme Court takes on EPA — again

Toxic lead is still contaminating our drinking water, but change is coming





Architectonic ·

Zaha Hadid Architects designed two buildings for the city of Reggio Calabria in Italy in 2009. One of the buildings will house a **museum of Mediterranean history**, including exhibition spaces, restoration and archive facilities, an aquarium and a library. The second will include the museum's administrative offices, a gym, craft workshops, shops, and a cinema, in addition to three separate halls that can be joined together. The shape of the museum is inspired by the organic shapes of starfish. The radial symmetry of this shape helps coordinate communication and circulation between the museum's various departments and other facilities. The Museum of Mediterranean History will include exhibition spaces, restoration facilities, an archive, an aquarium and a library. The multi-functional building is a composition of three separate elements surrounding a partially covered courtyard. The building will house the museum's administrative offices, a gym, local craft laboratories, shops and a cinema. There are also three different halls, which can be converted into one large space, in the multi-functional building.

<http://architectonic.me/>



Jonathan Edward Durham
@thisoneOverhere

All I've ever wanted is a modest little home, nothing fancy. A usable kitchen, a yard for the dog, a secret bookshelf door that hides a sprawling, candlelit Victorian library with rolling ladders on every wall and a cantankerous ghost librarian. I don't ask for much.

From horse-drawn to engine-powered, it's a tractor lover's paradise

<https://www.comstocksmag.com/article/california-agriculture-museum-curates-groundbreaking-history-farm-technology>

'It's a feeling of spiritual renewal': Klamath Tribes react to dam removal

"The largest dam removal project in the world has officially concluded finishing a project that local tribes have sought to do for decades. The project removed the J.C. Boyle, Irongate, and Copco No. 1 & 2 dams. It was done to restore the local watershed and replenish fish such as salmon that have been unable to swim upstream due to the dams. The project came from local tribes wanting to renew parts of their culture that were lost with the fish being unable to swim upstream in large numbers. "Those fish, as we see it in Indian country, in our tribe, is healing. Medicine," said Klamath Tribe chairman William Ray Jr. "To not only keep our subsistence going, but also a revival of our culture for fishing." ... " [Read more from Channel 12.](#)

After historic California dam removal, first salmon swims all the way to Oregon

"The massive dam-removal project on the Klamath River began to live up to its lofty goal of improving fish passage this week when at least one salmon was observed swimming upriver past the four former dam sites that previously blocked fish. Wildlife officials said Thursday that a chinook salmon was spotted a day earlier at Spencer Creek in Oregon, suggesting that salmon have begun their long-hoped for return to their historic waters above all of the demolished dams. For more than a century, the iconic fish have been unable to complete their migration from the ocean into hundreds of miles of waterways along the California-Oregon border. Lack of access to this cold, abundant water limited their spawning and has contributed to the steep decline of salmon on what was once the third-largest salmon-producing river in the West. ... " [Read more from the SF Chronicle.](#)



Climate change is happening too fast for migrating birds

“At a glance, the male western tanager looks like a little flame, its ruby head blending seamlessly into its bright lemon-colored body. Females are less showy, a dusty yellow. The birds spend their winters in southern Central America and can be found in a variety of habitats, from the cool cloud forests of central Costa Rica to the deserts of southeastern Sonora in western Mexico. In early March, they prepare to migrate thousands of miles to the conifer forests of the Mountain West, flying through grasslands, deserts and, occasionally, suburban yards. To fuel them on their lengthy journey, western tanagers fill up on insects and berries. Like most migrating birds, they eat constantly when they’re not in the air. But as global climate change causes spring to start earlier, birds like western tanagers are arriving at their destinations after green-up, when flowers begin blooming and insects emerge. According to a study published in early March in the journal *PNAS*, this kind of timing mismatch between migrants and their food sources, which is happening across North America, could have dire consequences for migratory birds’ survival. ...” [Read more from High Country News.](#)

Gaming the system: The Clean Water Act’s loophole problem

“In 1969, Ohio’s Cuyahoga River caught fire. After years of unchecked industrial dumping, the river had become so polluted with oil, chemicals, and waste that a stray ember from a passing train ignited its surface, sparking public outrage along with it. In response, Congress worked to pass the Clean Water Act (CWA), establishing a landmark law designed to regulate pollutants, set water quality standards, and enforce penalties against those responsible for pollution. Over the past 52 years, the CWA has done a lot to safeguard our nation’s waterways. However, today’s environmental landscape is far more complicated than it was in 1972. Emerging pollutants, like PFAS and microplastics, are adding unforeseen layers of ambiguity, while industrial stormwater pollution remains a persistent problem. Recent U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decisions have further restricted the Act’s scope, making it even more difficult to hold polluters accountable. As we approach the 52nd anniversary of the CWA, it is a good time to reflect on the Act’s successes, explore the challenges that still lie ahead, and highlight how organizations like ours are navigating these hurdles to continue fighting for the Act’s vision of safe, swimmable, and fishable waters for all. ...” [Read more from the LA Waterkeeper.](#)

Soil salinization: a rising threat to ecosystems and global food security

“Soil salinization refers to the excess accumulation of salt in soil to a level that affects crop production and ecosystem functioning. This poses serious threats to sustainable agriculture, soil fertility and health, food security, and socio-economic stability. A new article in *Reviews of Geophysics* explores the complex dynamics of soil salinization around the globe. We asked the authors to give an overview of soil salinization, its impacts, and what questions remain. Q: Are certain regions of the world particularly susceptible to soil salinization? Soil salinization is a global issue but especially prevalent in arid and semi-arid regions. According to a report by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), about one-third of the world’s irrigated land is affected by salt. ...” [Read more from EOS.](#)

Early lessons drawn from the Klamath Dam removal effort

Paul S. Weiland writes, “Dam removal on America’s rivers large and small is lauded in the conservation community as some of the most impactful of environment restoration projects, reversing efforts to tame nature by generations past. So, when the removal of four dams on the lower Klamath River in northern California and southern Oregon was [recently heralded by Governor Newsom](#) as “the largest river restoration project in American history,” the press promptly joined in with praise. While the jury is still out with respect to the effort’s success when measured in terms of increased salmonid abundance, there are lessons to be learned now regarding characterization of science pertaining to policy both by scientists in the decision-making process and by the press when reporting the costs and benefits of dam removal and other major water infrastructure projects. ...” [Read more from the Center for California Water Resources Policy and Management.](#)

Utah: Speaker Schultz calls for pause on major water bills in 2025

“House Speaker Mike Schultz hosted lawmakers for a water policy summit where he urged his colleagues to ensure efforts are taken to help the state deal with growth, protect the Great Salt Lake and ensure Utah gets its fair share of water from the Colorado River. “Every part of this state has different needs, different water issues,” Speaker Schultz, R-Hooper, told FOX 13 News on Thursday. “Collaboratively, we can come together as a state and work to move the state ahead and make sure we have enough water not just for us, but our kids and grandkids in the future.” The Speaker has called for a “pause” on major water bills in the upcoming session of the Utah State Legislature. He said he believes major policy shifts have happened with bills and spending on water conservation and rewriting more than a century of water rights law. ...” [Read more from the Salt Lake Tribune.](#)

Youth tobacco use drops to 25-year low, CDC survey concludes

The rate of youth tobacco use has dropped to its lowest levels in 25 years, new data from the 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey revealed. [Read more...](#)

Alaska Tribes Win Legal Fight Against Gold Mine

The massive Donlin Gold Mine, if built, would pose grave risks to Kuskokwim River communities.

[Six tribes in Southwest Alaska have won a major victory against the Donlin Gold Mine project, which threatens the Kuskokwim River — a critical watershed that Alaska Native people in the region have depended on for years.](#)

[READ MORE >>](#)

<https://earthjustice.org/article/donlin-gold-mine-alaska-tribes?sourceid=1047160&safelist=y&emci=d3210273-e28e-ef11-8474-000d3a98fa6b&emdi=680aa679-e28e-ef11-8474-000d3a98fa6b&ceid=221145>

A mountain range with alpine lakes, 10,000-foot peaks, and roaming herds of mule deer, mountain goats and bighorn sheep -- does that sound like the kind of place we should allow a field of oil wells?¹

The Ruby Mountains, nicknamed Nevada's "Swiss Alps," have faced numerous threats of being opened up to oil and gas leasing.

We're inviting people across the country to raise their voices to protect this critical wildlife habitat and unique mountain landscape from oil and gas extraction. [Will you add yours?](#)

With their hanging valleys and snow-capped peaks, the Ruby Mountains are more than just a beautiful landscape. They also provide critical habitat for wildlife, including one of the largest mule deer herds in Nevada and threatened species like the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.²

Yet in 2019, the US Forest Service considered a proposal to open the Rubies to oil and gas leasing.³ The project was ultimately denied -- but if a proposal like this were to go through, it could permanently scar one of our nation's most precious wildlife habitats and unique mountain landscapes.

This isn't the first time the Rubies have come under threat. And it won't be the last.

[We're calling on Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, who oversees the Forest Service, to protect the Ruby Mountains for good. Will you send a message today urging him to keep oil and gas out of Nevada's "Swiss Alps"?](#)

The last time the U.S. Forest Service denied oil and gas leasing in the Rubies, they cited the "thousands of comments from the local area, the state of Nevada, and from across the nation" who were outraged at the idea of sacrificing this wildlife habitat for the sake of fossil fuels.⁴

[Take action: Protect Ruby Mountain wildlife from fossil fuel extraction.](#)

Thank you for taking action to protect the Rubies,

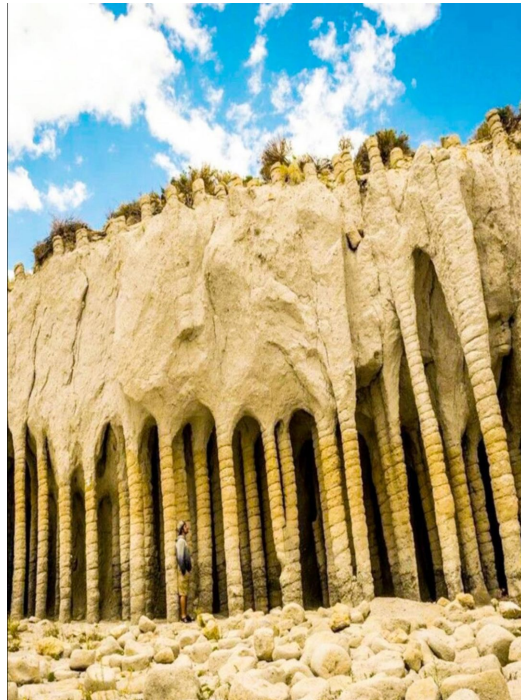
The Environmental Action team: environmental-action.org action@environmental-action.org

1. *"Ruby Mountains Wilderness," US Forest Service, Accessed October 1, 2024.*
2. *"Ruby Mountains Wilderness," US Forest Service, Accessed October 1, 2024.*
3. *Jennifer Solis, "Forest Service won't allow oil & gas leasing in Ruby Mountains," Nevada Current, March 14, 2019.*
4. *Jennifer Solis, "Forest Service won't allow oil & gas leasing in Ruby Mountains," Nevada Current, March 14, 2019.*

Quiz: What wolf pack do you belong in?

America is home to many different wolf packs, and they all need our help. Learn about these magnificent creatures by taking this quiz. <https://environmental-action.org/articles/quiz-what-wolf-pack-do-you-belong-in/>

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**Medicaid will cover traditional healing practices for Native Americans in four states**  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/10/19/nx-s1-5157931/medicaid-traditional-healing-native-american-tribes>



The Crowley Lake Columns, located in California's Eastern Sierra region, are a stunning geological formation resulting from ancient volcanic activity. Towering up to 20 feet, these hexagonal or pentagonal columns formed through molten lava cooling and contracting. They offer a captivating glimpse into Earth's geological history and natural forces at work. More details/photos: <https://bit.ly/4dAw6Md>

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Have a few hours? check out this site: <https://www.facebook.com/dw.environment>
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**Researchers make stunning discovery after examining farmland treated only with organic fertilizers for decades: '[Will] help us to move forward'**

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/tech/researchers-stunning-discovery-examining-farmland-104525693.html>

**EOM-Ethical Omnivore Movement** ·

The Chihuahua desert once had tall grasses and they are coming back.

Meet the superhero Alejandro Carrillo, **fighting climate change with CATTLE and TREES!**

This used to be a dry, barren, crusty desert at Las Damas Ranch in the Chihuahuan Desert. Now, without applying fertilizer, irrigation, or chemicals on his livestock, he's transformed the land.

By changing his grazing patterns to mimic wild herds and studying plants to ensure they're at the right stage for grazing, the land has become fire-resistant and drought-resistant. He only gets 6-8 inches of rain a year, yet he watches rainclouds form over his ranch on radar and in plain sight.

The new tall, rich grasses and trees protect the soil from drying out, capture all the rain instead of letting it run off, and are grazed down before they dry out. **GRAZING RETURNS NUTRIENTS BACK TO THE SOIL.** Grazing is another word for **NUTRIENT CYCLING.**

When you don't graze wisely and let the grasses dry out, they oxidize, and all the nutrients held in the grass dissipate into the hot air instead of cycling back into the earth.

Adding trees to grazing systems, known as Silvopasture, further enhances ecosystem health. Trees help process greenhouse gases, including methane, improving air quality and contributing to climate mitigation.

The old 100,000-member bison herds used to come in stomping, pooping, peeing, munching, and completely crunching out the area—perfect for rejuvenation—then wait to return until the grass had recovered to a yummy stage.

**LIVESTOCK AND TREES ARE KEY TO MANAGING CLIMATE.** Without them, grasslands desertify. When you focus only on the methane livestock produce, you miss the big picture. Wisely managed livestock and integrated trees create an ecosystem that cycles methane and CO2 out of the air.





**Our fourth #EJ4Climate grant cycle is officially open for applications!** We're giving up to C\$175,000 per grant recipient for community-led education programs to increase [#EnvironmentalJustice](#) and climate adaptation knowledge.

Apply by Thursday 14 November!



Apply: <http://www.cec.org/grant-programs/ej4climate/>

Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
Environmental Service

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The town of Whittier, Alaska, is known for having nearly the entire population living in a single apartment building.

The building is called Begich Towers, a 14-story apartment complex that houses about 90% of the town's residents (total: 272). This has earned Whittier the nickname of a "town under one roof".

The building, originally constructed as an army barracks, now serves as a cozy condominium featuring a post office, general store, police station, laundromat, health clinic, mayor's office, and a heated indoor pool.

Whittier, Alaska is accessible only by air or through a single-lane tunnel that stretches over two miles through neighboring Maynard Mountain. The town's weather conditions can be harsh during winter, making the Begich Towers a convenient and practical living solution for the residents.

In addition to the Begich Towers, there is a second condo building in the town where the remaining residents live. The town's school and gym are located in a separate structure but are connected to the Begich Towers by a tunnel, allowing for easy access during the winter months.



Toxic lead is still contaminating our drinking water, but change is coming

For generations, we've been plagued by lead-contaminated drinking water in the U.S. — but that's about to change. Thanks to tireless legal and grassroots advocacy, the EPA has announced that almost all lead service lines must be replaced in the next ten years.

[READ MORE >>](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | DAY ONE

6:30–8:30 pm EDT

[Re-visioning Native Histories](#)

The New School, Wollman Hall 65 West 11th Street, 5th Floor New York City

In an expansive conversation introduced and moderated by VLC Borderlands Curatorial Fellow **Larissa Nez** (Diné), Cree artist **Kent Monkman** joins **Nathan Young**, a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, revisit some of the foundational narratives of the so-called United States of America, centering Indigenous figures, events, and narratives that have been erased or denied as part of the settler-colonial project. This program launches the VLC Forum 2024 and includes a festive reception.

https://www.veralistcenter.org/events/vlc-forum-2024-correct-history?utm_id=6653162674980

[Sandra Day O'Connor Institute For American Democracy](#)

The O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club is a free, online program for 9th-12th graders. Students will interact with guest speakers who have served at the highest levels of government as well as discuss topics of the day via civil discourse. College scholarships for seniors are also available! Join today: www.oconnorinstitute.org/ambassadors/

[#civicsforlife](#) [#ambassadors](#)



Get involved!
Learn more about the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute
Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club for 9th-12th grade
Students: OConnorInstitute.org/ambassadors

oconnorinstitute.org

[High School Students!](#)

[O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club Connect with fellow high school students from across the country! The O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club is a free online program for 9th-12th graders. The Club offers you a one-of-a-kind civil discourse experience and civics e...](#)

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### **Nature's engineers: milestone for beaver restoration** will improve California's watersheds

“California’s waterways are about to get a helping hand from an unexpected ally: the North American beaver. With the recent passing of Assembly Bill (AB) 2196, authored by Assemblymember Damon Connolly and supported by CalTrout, a comprehensive program for beaver restoration throughout California’s watersheds is set to begin. This innovative approach leverages nature-based solutions to promote fish and freshwater resilience, offering a beacon of hope for our aquatic ecosystems. While beavers are admired for their sweet and adorable charm, they are powerful ecosystem engineers whose work is vital for maintaining healthy watersheds. Their dam-building activities create complex aquatic habitats, improve water quality, and increase biodiversity. By reintroducing beavers to their native historical range, we’re not just

bringing back a lovable species – we’re deploying nature’s own environmental restoration experts. ...” [Read more from Cal Trout.](#)

### **Forest thinning continues at Lake Tahoe**

“Forest health is a top priority of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), a landscape-scale collaboration and partnership between nearly 80 public and private organizations to achieve the environmental goals of the region. To date, partners have treated nearly 95,000 acres in Lake Tahoe Basin forests to reduce hazardous fuels. After decades of fire suppression, Tahoe Basin’s forests are overstocked and highly vulnerable to insects, disease, and catastrophic wildfire. Forest thinning projects are a vital forest management tool used by land managers to help protect communities by removing fuels on public lands that can feed unwanted wildfires. These projects complement defensible space and home hardening efforts on private property in neighborhoods and communities. ...” [Read more from the Tahoe Daily Tribune.](#)

### **October marks the start of Water Year 2025, how is Lake Mead doing?**

“It may seem early, but October marks the start of the 2025 Water Year for the Colorado River System. That’s because the snow season typically starts this time of year, and Rocky Mountain snow pack is ultimately what drives our local water supply. For now, Lake Mead levels remain steady as we push into the next cycle. “We’ve certainly seen Lake Mead’s water levels fluctuate,” Bronson Mack, Southern Nevada Water Authority Spokesperson, told Channel 13. ...” [Read more from Channel 13.](#)

### **Gaps in laws and policies leave water and sanitation systems vulnerable to harmful climate impacts in frontline communities across the us, new report finds**

“New research released today by the Pacific Institute and the Center for Water Security and Cooperation (CWSC) reveals existing laws and policies fail to protect water and sanitation systems from climate change impacts in frontline communities across the United States. The report, “Law and Policies that Address Equitable, Climate-Resilient Water and Sanitation,” examines federal, Tribal, state, and local laws and policies governing centralized drinking water and wastewater systems, as well as decentralized onsite drinking water and sanitation systems. The research demonstrates that most existing US water laws and policies were developed assuming historical climate trends that determine water availability would be constant and that communities’ vulnerability to climate events would be the same over time. ...” [Continue reading from the Pacific Institute.](#)

### **Supreme Court takes on EPA — again**

“In the last few years, the Supreme Court has struck down significant EPA air and water protections and eliminated one of the agency’s most powerful tools of legal defense. On Monday, the justices took up another set of cases that could undercut the nation’s top environmental regulator by opening the door to industry groups and Republican-led states seeking to challenge certain EPA rules in more favorable courts. “I suspect so many cases are granted involving the EPA because that agency in particular likes to push the boundaries,” said Trent McCotter, a partner at the law firm Boyden Gray representing GOP lawmakers who urged the high court to move some EPA lawsuits out of Washington and into the nation’s regional federal appeals courts. ...”