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# ***Clear as Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans*, by Robert B. Olshansky and Laurie A. Johnson.**

*Clear as Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans*, by Robert B. Olshansky and Laurie A. Johnson. Chicago and Washington, DC: American Planning Association, Planners Press, 2010, 290 pp., \$72.95 paperback

[Jane S. Brooks](#) ✉, [Robert W. Becker](#)

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In the immediate aftermath of a biblical disaster such as the flooding of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, numerous individuals, organizations, communities, and governments begin not only to respond to the disaster but to plan for the recovery of the devastated area. Often these efforts, born in the chaos and dysfunction of the situation, are not documented or cataloged, leaving future investigators and commentators with little in the way of factual information other than institutional memory of the participants. *Clear as Mud* is the attempt of Olshansky and Johnson to address this problem by faithfully and exhaustively documenting the efforts to organize the planning for New Orleans's recovery.

The authors participated in various stages of the planning effort, Olshansky as a frequent visitor...

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