



TAHOE WATER
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2020 Watershed Control Program Annual Report



2020 Watershed Control Program Annual Report
Prepared for Board Members of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA)
Published December 2020

Tahoe Water Suppliers Association Membership

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Edgewood Water Company (Edgewood)
Glenbrook Water Cooperative (Glenbrook)
Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)
Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID)
North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)
Round Hill General Improvement District (RHGID)
Skyland Water Company (Skyland; Douglas County)
Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD)
Zephyr Water Utility (Zephyr; Douglas County)
Lakeside Park Association (LPA)
South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD)

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**TWSA WATERSHED CONTROL PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT
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Appendix A – record of raw water data is attached only for California Members TCPUD, NTPUD and LPA, and their regulatory agents. Please contact the TWSA Executive Director for additional information.

INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of this document is to review and report on the progress of the Association Members' Watershed Control Program between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
- This report contains extensive reference and documentation to significant Tahoe Basin watershed activities, threats and controls relative to overall water quality for the reporting year.

Who We Are

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) consists of public water suppliers in the Lake Tahoe Basin whose source of drinking water is Lake Tahoe. The purpose of the TWSA is to protect the quality of the purveyors' drinking water from waterborne contaminants that are potentially harmful to human health. Source water protection is an effective tool in a multi-barrier approach to protecting drinking water. In accordance with federal and state guidelines, members of the association have established a Watershed Control Program (WCP) and report annually on their progress.

Mission Statement

- The TWSA mission statement was created and adopted in June 2008:

"The mission of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association is to develop, implement and maintain an effective watershed control program in order to satisfy recommendations in watershed sanitary surveys, advocate for the protection of Lake Tahoe as a viable source of drinking water, and to satisfy additional state and federal requirements."

Membership

For the past year, the Association included on the Nevada side: Cave Rock/Skyland Water Companies and Zephyr Water Utility District (Douglas County), Kingsbury General Improvement District, Round Hill General Improvement District, Incline Village General Improvement District, Edgewood Water Company and Glenbrook Water Cooperative.

The California members include: Tahoe City Public Utility District, North Tahoe Public Utility District and Lakeside Park Association. South Tahoe Public Utility District joining as a full member in March 2017. Previously, STPUD had been an associate level, non-voting member.

What is a Watershed Control Program (WCP) Annual Report?

The 1976 Safe Drinking Water Act regulates drinking water in the United States. Under the Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the authority to set standards for drinking water quality and oversee states, localities, and water suppliers. The 1986 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act included the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) affecting surface water systems and set specific and measurable treatment standards for surface water purveyors.

Federal and state regulations infer that protecting sources of drinking water by implementing watershed control programs can be an effective barrier in a multi-barrier potable water treatment process.

Surface water systems operating under an exemption to filtration (a.k.a. a non-filtration permit) must complete a Sanitary Survey and Watershed Control Plan (WCP) every 5 years with annual updates. The purpose of a WCP is to prevent contaminants potentially harmful to human health from entering sources of drinking water. The EPA considers an effective WCP to include, at a minimum, the following components:

- a) Description of the watershed;
- b) Identification and mechanisms to control potential contaminating sources; monitoring program to track existing and new detrimental activities;
- c) Program to gain ownership or control of the watershed;
- d) Annual reports (EPA 2003); and,
- e) Consideration of cryptosporidium in control requirements: Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, Long Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR/LT2).

The State of Nevada adopted the Safe Drinking Water Act and subsequent updates in NAC 445 A. The regulating authority is Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water. The previous sanitary surveys and Watershed Control Programs fulfilled the requirements of an effective watershed control program, and included: education and outreach, data management, water quality monitoring, mapping, and regional planning/regulation.

The recent requirements for compliance with the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 rule) have been addressed by all TWSA members. Details are provided in later chapters of this report.

History of TWSA

Nevada members of TWSA first started working together during the state adoption of the 1986 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the creation of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). Together, the Nevada purveyors were successful in including the following language in the Nevada state code, NAC445A.525 Filtration: Avoidance of requirements. (NRS445A.860): 1. A supplier of water may apply to the Division to operate without installing a system for filtration. For the Division to determine the adequacy of a watershed control program for a system located at Lake Tahoe, the supplier must demonstrate that a level of protection which minimized the potential for contamination by *Giardia lamblia* cysts, viruses and *Cryptosporidium* is provided by the location of the intake structure and a watershed control program.”

Thus began a partnership now in its third decade. The partnership adopted the essential elements of an integrated water management approach for high-quality source water not requiring filtration including: frequent monitoring, watershed controls, demonstrated history devoid of waterborne disease outbreaks, adequate storage in the event of higher turbidity excursions, and flexibility and redundancy in disinfection process (AWWA). The purveyors also completed the first of three sanitary surveys and control programs (1992) and pilot studies to determine trihalomethane formation potential and ozone disinfection design criteria. As a result, the Nevada State Board of Health granted five suppliers “filtration exemptions,” while one supplier (Round Hill) implemented filtration.

In 2002, the Nevada Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (NTWSA) was formed. The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA), formerly Nevada Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, changed its name in December 2005 with the addition of the first California water purveyor, North Tahoe Public Utility District. In 2020, TWSA celebrated its 18th year as an Association.

The 1992 plan, and subsequent updates, identified potential risks to source water quality including: sanitary sewer overflows, urban run-off, development, and hygiene practices of summer boaters and visitors. The idea of forming an agency to deal with source water protection issues was presented in 1992; but was not implemented until completion of the 2002 ten-year update plan.

In 2002, with encouragement from State Health officials, six purveyors from the original partnership formed an association under a multi-party agreement to address federal and state source water protection regulations, and fulfill recommendations of previous sanitary surveys. Appointed staff members from each agency form the TWSA board. The largest partner, IVGID, offered its Resource Conservationist as the association’s Executive Director. The agreement stipulates cost sharing of expenses incurred by IVGID on behalf of the association. Members pay an annual fee, in part proportional to the size of their service areas and in part, in equal amounts representing common administrative costs. The TWSA budget is between \$140,000 to \$150,000, annually, for staff and operating costs.

Annual Report Objectives and Goals

Eight areas have been identified as the focus of the WCP including: education, monitoring, data management, regulatory, mapping, administration, water conservation, and water rights.

Annual Report Purpose and Structure

The TWSA members all successfully met goals established during the reporting year and remained within Federal and State water quality standards.

- We are pleased to report that drinking water quality results remained well within state and federal guidelines during the reporting year. Tahoe’s tap water remains some of the purest in the world. The water systems have met all drinking water standards for the past 15+ years.

- Based on the quality of the water source and protection programs in place, the TWSA members anticipate the ability to continue to meet the drinking water standards in the future.

The report reflects EPA requirements of an effective Watershed Control Program and includes: an action plan, action plan highlights, description of the water supply, and potential sources of pollution, controls, monitoring and data management.

Information specific to the individual purveyors is highlighted in the Agency Annual Data chapter.

The TWSA Watershed Control Program Action Plan and Timeline (in the next section) is updated annually to address TWSA objectives and goals.

I. TWSA ACTION PLAN

TWSA members use the following 'Action Plan' to accomplish the goals of the Watershed Control Program.

PROGRAM	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND PARTNERS	TIMELINE
Education			
1.0	Continue to improve the TWSA education program by redefining the theme and message.	TWSA, TRPA, NTCD, HOAs, USFS	2006-ongoing
1.1	Provide current information, education materials and reports on TWSA websites (www.TahoeH2O.org and www.DrinkTahoeTap.org).	TWSA	Updated quarterly, 2004-ongoing
1.2	Create and distribute posters, flyers, brochures, inserts, web media, reminder stickers, booth materials, and print and radio media.	TWSA, NTEEC, NTCD, HOAs, USFS, Local and State officials/agencies and PIO's	2005-ongoing
1.3	Include source water protection information in current customer information mailings, CCRs, new customer mailings, BMP/Water Auditing.	TWSA, member agencies	2005-ongoing
1.4	Distribute information at community events for example: regional Earth Days, chamber mixers, community meetings, etc.	TWSA, HOA's, community partners and environmental groups	2006-ongoing
1.5	Participate in industry level source water protection efforts (American Water Works Association, WEFTEC, others). Provide local professional development opportunities for TWSA members.	TWSA	2006-ongoing 2007-ongoing
1.6	Track customer responses, outreach efforts, web visits, and summarize activities.	TWSA	2005-ongoing
1.7	Participate in 2nd Drinking Water Forum.	TWSA, EPA—Region 9, TRPA, NRWA, NTCD	tabled
1.8	Incorporate parameters of concern to TWSA partners into surface water monitoring programs in the Lake Tahoe Basin.	TWSA, UNR, LTEEC, NTCD, TRPA, NDEP Lahontan RWQCB	2005-ongoing
1.9	Incorporate Aquatic Invasive Species (Quagga Mussel/ NZ mudsnail/plants) information in TWSA outreach.	TWSA, TRCD, TRPA	2008-ongoing
Monitoring			
2.0	Improve current surface water monitoring programs by improving the sampling programs, refining analyses, and reporting success.	TWSA, UNR, LTEEC, NTCD, TRPA, NDEP, TCS	Fall 2005-ongoing

2.1	Incorporate potential parameters of concern into surface water monitoring programs in the Lake Tahoe Basin.	TWSA, UNR, NTEEC, NTCD, TRPA, NDEP, LRWQCB	Fall 2005-ongoing
2.2	Prepare a project proposal to study climatic affects on source water quality and potential sources of pollution.	TWSA, UNR, DRI, TSC, TERC	Microplastics grant 2019-21; Other research being conducted (DRI, TSC,TERC,UNR)
2.3	Research potential grant funding for monitoring programs.	TWSA, UNR,USACE	Ongoing
2.4	Define the elements of a surface water risk assessment. Provide information to local planning agencies.	TWSA, TERC, AWWA Source Water Protection, Black and Veatch	Phase 2 has been completed June 2014 with funding from NDEP and TWSA. Posted on website. Model and final report Phase 1 was issued Oct. 2008.
Data Management			
3.0	Improve reporting process for intake samples; annual submission of Watershed Control Plan.	TWSA board and staff	2003-ongoing
3.1	Gather, track, and report regularly on TWSA partners' operations, management, project, planning or other changes that may affect water quality.	Planning agencies, local water districts, environmental education programs, recreation facilities.	2003-ongoing
Regulatory			
4.0	Participate in regional planning efforts, including general and technical committees, TRPA Shorezone Ordinance Amendment process, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Amendment Process.	TWSA staff and board, partners, regulating authorities	2004-ongoing
4.1	Promote TWSA objectives and goals by attending stakeholder meetings and offering presentations or testimony.	Planning agencies, local water districts, environmental education programs, recreation facilities	2006-ongoing
4.2	Set trigger for water supplier notification during a plan review that includes activities that may affect drinking water quality.	TRPA, TWSA, NDEP, LRWQCB	2007-ongoing
4.4	Public comment and working group involvement in Aquatic Invasive Species management plans and projects.	Planning agencies, TWSA, other local water districts, TKPOA, HOAs, environmental education programs	2006-ongoing

Mapping			
5.0	Mapping of potential contaminating sources.	TRPA/Counties/ TWSA staff	2004-ongoing
Administration			
6.0	Develop a plan to incorporate new members into TWSA. Notes: New contract and financial system established July 2007. Bylaws revision finalized for March 2017.	TWSA	2005-ongoing
6.1	Review other agencies to improve the annual reporting process	TWSA	2006-ongoing
6.2	Submit Annual Report to NDEP –BSDW; CA DDW; members and other regulators. Post on website.	TWSA	Annual December
6.3	Review TWSA Association goals	TWSA	Annual March 2009-ongoing
Water Conservation			
7.0	Incorporate water conservation and source water protection information into packets and education programs	TWSA, NTCD, TRCD	2005-ongoing
7.1	Research current water use and water conservation programs in the Lake Tahoe Basin	TWSA	2005-ongoing
7.2	Develop collaborative water conservation program/plan	TWSA, NTCD, other partners	2005-ongoing
7.3	Research potential grant funding	TWSA, NTCD, other partners	2005-ongoing
Water Rights			
8.0	Review Tahoe annual diversions report prepared by the Nevada State Engineers office	TWSA, member agencies	ongoing

Acronyms

- AWWA: American Water Works Association
- BMP: Best Management Practices
- BSDW: Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (NV)
- CCR: Consumer Confidence Report
- DDW: Division of Drinking Water (CA)
- DRI: Desert Research Institute
- EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
- HOA: Home Owners' Association
- IWMP: Integrated Weeds Management Plan
- LRWQCB: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (CA)
- LT2ESWTR: Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule
- NRWA: Nevada Rural Water Association
- NDEP: Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- NTEEC: North Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition
- NTCD: Nevada Tahoe Conservation District
- PIO: Public Information Officer
- TCS: Tahoe Science Consortium
- TKPOA: Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association
- TRPA: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- TRCD: Tahoe Resource Conservation District
- TWSA: Tahoe Water Suppliers Association
- UNR: University of Nevada, Reno
- USEPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency
- USFS: United States Forest Service
- USACE: US Army Corps of Engineers

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) Annual Report compiles water quality data and water utility activities for the 11 members (with Tahoe intakes) of the Association. It also provides an annual compilation of regional watershed relevant activities such as research and pollution control programs. It has been continuously published since 2003 and can be referenced at:

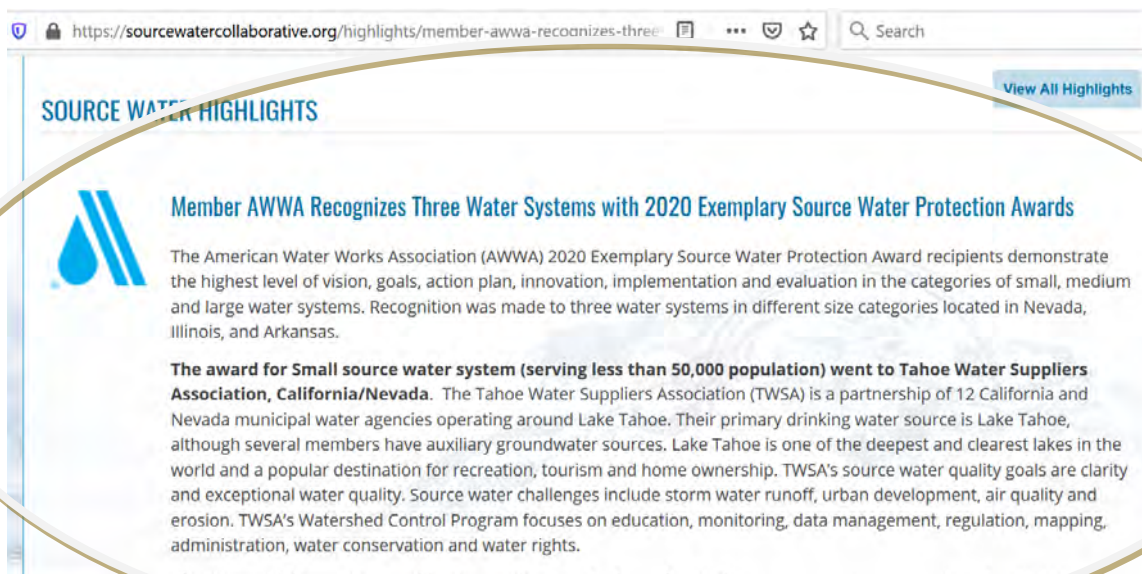
<https://www.yourtahoepace.com/public-works/water/source-water-protection/documents-links> .

This Executive Summary provides details on TWSA Programs and Projects. TWSA has provided a unified voice for source water protection and watershed protection, developed strong relationships with local research and regulatory agencies and offered professional development opportunities for member staff. Below is a sampling of these accomplishments in the past year.

The numbering references the TWSA Action Plan in the previous section.

TWSA received 2 national awards in 2020.

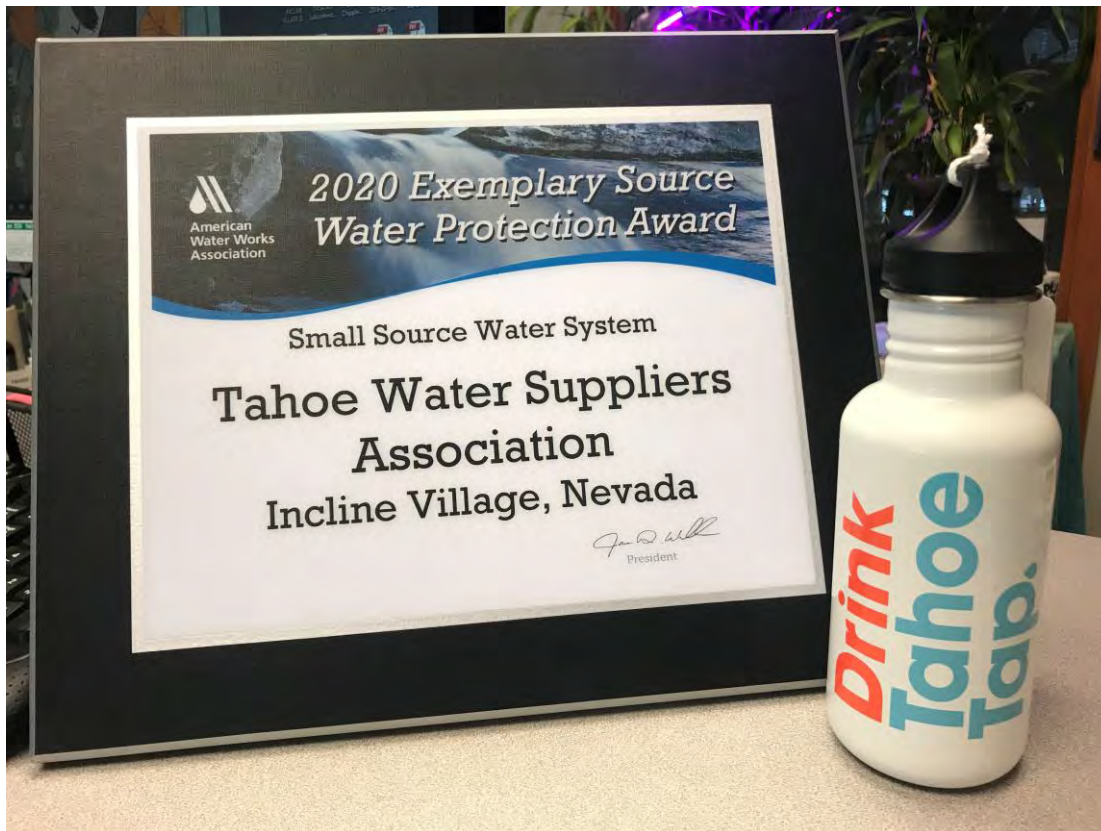
2020 Exemplary Source Water Protection Program Award - American Water Works Association



2020 Exemplary Source Water Protection Award

<https://sourcewatercollaborative.org/highlights/member-awwa-recognizes-three-water-systems-with-2020-exemplary-source-water-protection-awards/>.

TWSA's long-standing watershed protection outreach and activities were recognized with the 2020 national **Exemplary Source Water Protection Program Award** (for small systems) from the American Water Works Association. "The award for small source water system (serving less than 50,000 population) went to Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, California/Nevada. The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) is a partnership of 12 California and Nevada municipal water agencies operating around Lake Tahoe. Their primary drinking water source is Lake Tahoe, although several members have auxiliary groundwater sources. Lake Tahoe is one of the deepest and clearest lakes in the world and a popular destination for recreation, tourism and home ownership. TWSA's source water quality goals are clarity and exceptional water quality. Source water challenges include storm water runoff, urban development, air quality and erosion. TWSA's Watershed Control Program focuses on education, monitoring, data management, regulation, mapping, administration, water conservation and water rights.



2020 Spirit of TRPA Award - 50th Anniversary - Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

www.trpa.org

<http://southtahoenow.com/story/11/30/2020/trpa-awards-recognize-50-years-collaboration>

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association was selected by TRPA staff and board members as one of the 2020 Spirit of TRPA award recipients to represent the group of Public Utility Districts and General Improvement Districts who work so hard to protect Lake Tahoe. All recipients were acknowledged at the virtual TRPA Governing Board meeting on November 18, 2020. Honoring individuals by the decades – from the 1960s through present day was the line up at this 50-year celebration.

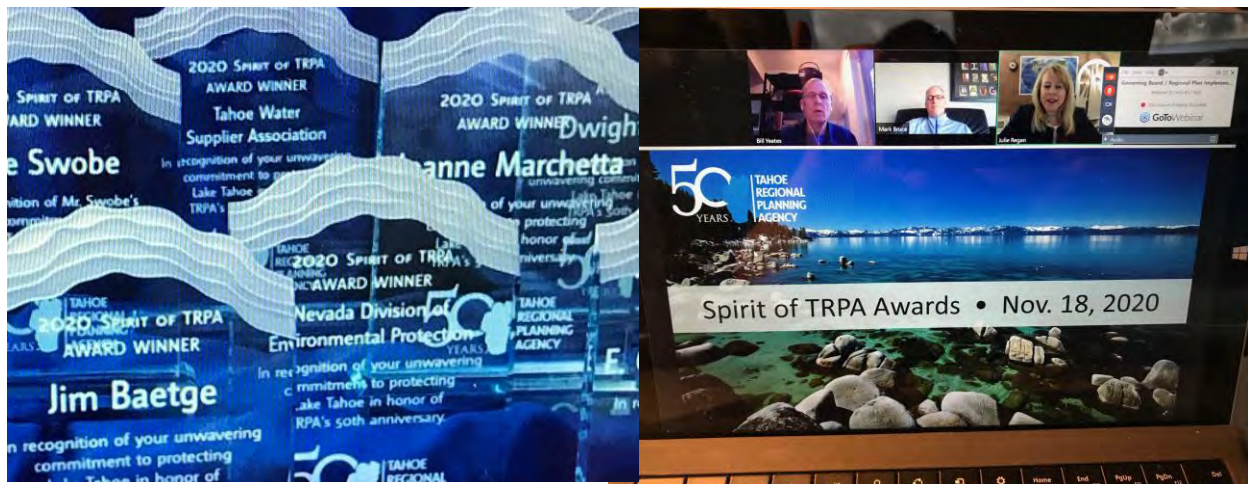
The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) today recognized individuals who, over the agency's 50-year history, worked tirelessly to protect the spectacular environment of the Lake Tahoe Region and to create more resilient communities.

During its online governing board meeting (Nov. 18, 2020), the agency bestowed "Spirit of TRPA" awards on scientists, agency representatives, organizations, and community and legislative leaders who embody the essence of collaboration in the basin. Reflecting on its half-century legacy, TRPA honored people who have made significant achievements through each decade, beginning in the 1960s with the work to create a first-of-its kind bi-state compact between Nevada and California.

"There is a spirit of collaboration and partnership that has resounded in the Tahoe Basin ever since these two states came together to protect one of the most pristine alpine lakes in the world," TRPA Executive Director Joanne S. Marchetta said. "Through brilliance, hard work, and cooperation, these awardees and many others have made these protections possible."

TWSA's award excerpt follows:

For the 1970s, the agency recognized Dr. Charles Goldman for his long-standing contributions to science-based decision-making; and the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association was recognized on behalf of all the regional water and wastewater utilities, which provide critical environmental services to our communities and protect our drinking water.



Community Education and Professional Development

1.0: Continue to improve the TWSA education program; theme and message.

The **TWSA mission statement** was adopted in June, 2008:

“The mission of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association is to develop, implement and maintain an effective watershed control program in order to satisfy recommendations in watershed sanitary surveys, advocate for the protection of Lake Tahoe as a viable source of drinking water, and to satisfy additional state and federal requirements.”

TWSA Membership:

There are 12 water system members in the Association, providing water as a municipal or community utility. Each member has one vote in Association business through its designated representative. The TWSA Board meets quarterly: March, June, Sept. and December. TWSA updated its bylaws in 2017, revising its organizational structure and purpose.

Association 2020 Membership:

**Cave Rock Water System
Edgewood Water Company
Glenbrook Water Cooperative
Incline Village General Improvement District
Kingsbury General Improvement District
North Tahoe Public Utility District**

**Round Hill General Improvement District
Skyland Water Company
Tahoe City Public Utility District
Zephyr Water Utility
Lakeside Park Association
South Tahoe Public Utility District**

1.5: Provide local professional development opportunities for TWSA members.

TWSA staff members maintain professional water industry certifications; all hold AWWA Water Efficiency Practitioner level 1 certifications. Regional training opportunities by AWWA, NvRWA, WEF and state agencies are shared with all members. TWSA staff are trained ‘Eyes on the Lake’ team members for identifying aquatic invasive species (AIS). Staff members also attended ongoing trainings such as Project WET and Project WILD curriculum training classes. In addition, staff self-learn constantly, on emerging topics through independent research.

Covid-19 Pandemic Modifications – Outreach 2020 restructured

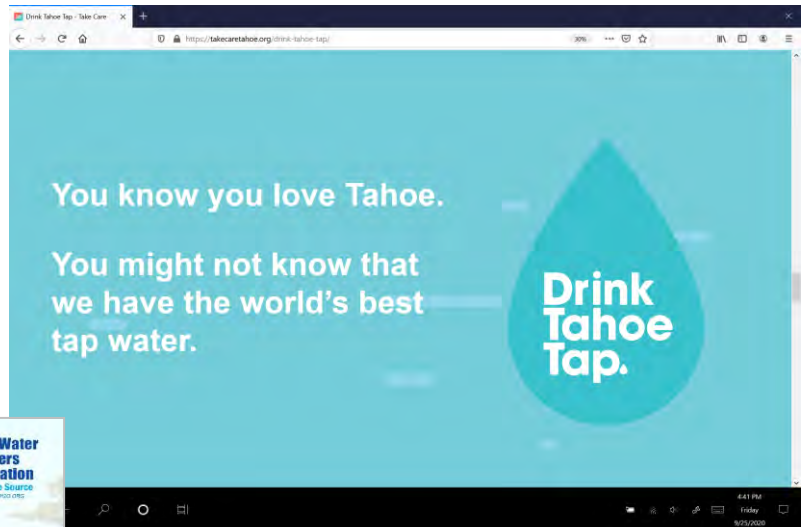
TWSA staff remained on duty through 2019-20. Prior to March 2020 and the resulting Covid-19 shutdown protocols, the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association staff members (TWSA) maintained an extensive outreach schedule of events and programs in order to provide community education and technical services in watershed protection and water conservation areas. This was modified to respond to the 2020 shutdown of physical outreach events. Staff pivoted quickly and began an increased offering of online, virtual and remote outreach sessions; partnering with multiple agencies as we moved through these environmental education challenges. Prior to March 2020, we estimated 200,000+ persons annually received the TWSA and IVGID Waste Not messages through various physical and online outreach methods.

1.1 to 1.9: Provide educational materials

TWSA's long-running outreach program focuses on educational messaging on watershed protection, water quality, sustainability choices, and the exceptional quality and value of local tap waters. New topics (such as micro-plastics) are integrated as they emerge. TWSA staff promotes multiple messages, including trademarked slogans, through wide-ranging event and presentation schedules (now online). TWSA also employs other communication methods such as video, web and print media.

TWSA's website = www.Tahoe H2O.org

Drink Tahoe Tap / Take Care website = www.DrinkTahoeTap.org



Tahoe In Depth

Publisher and contributors: The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency publishes Tahoe In Depth in partnership with various local, state, and federal agencies. Contributors include the California Tahoe Conservancy, U.S. EPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, Incline Village General Improvement District, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Liberty Utilities, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Division of State Parks, Tahoe City Public Utility District, South Tahoe Refuse, Tahoe Fund, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Tahoe Transportation District, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, University of California, Davis, University of Nevada, Reno, Desert Research Institute, and the Washoe Tribe.
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Educational and Research Support Projects

Focus Topic: Litter and Trash Impacts in the Watershed



Litter and trash issues at Lake Tahoe received increased regional, even national attention, for the high visitation influx in summer 2020 created extreme pressure on limited public lands and community resources. In response IVGID Waste Not's conservation team, who support TWSA efforts, increased clean-up activities by partnering with the League to save Lake Tahoe's Tahoe Blue Crew program (volunteers who commit to ongoing cleanups) and offering multiple, socially distant cleanup events for casual volunteers. September 2020 included a Trash Pickup Challenge all September long! Participants engaged on several levels: at in-person events, cleanup remotely or both, clean up any day, any time. Participants are also encouraged to report what you find while cleaning up using the Litter and Trash Report on the Citizen Science App (free to download at citizensciencetahoe.org) or by using a data card (provided in the cleanup kits or [downloading it here](#)) and either drop it off to the location you borrowed cleanup supplies from. Also, we encourage the use of the hashtags #TahoeBlueGooder #litterfreetahoe . This multi-day event was hosted by [Clean Tahoe](#), [Incline Village Waste Not](#), [Jamie Anderson Foundation](#) and the [League to Save Lake Tahoe](#). See also: <https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/news/events/tahoe-trash-pickup-challenge-2020>

The League to Save Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Desert Research Institute and other partners are maintaining databases on trash impacts in the watershed. Local communities, regulatory agencies, land managers and haulers are in dialog on solutions.

Micro-Plastics as an emerging contaminant

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-awards-nearly-100000-address-microplastic-pollution-lake-tahoe>

Plastic waste, and the resulting micro-plastic plastic fragments created from outdoor exposure, have emerged as a concerning contaminant in the ocean and freshwater environments. In California, the State Water Board has begun the regulatory process to define, monitor and potentially regulate a standard for drinking water systems. Due to the land and airborne loading nature of micro-plastics, drinking water systems reliant on surface water sources have the most potential to be impacted, rather than groundwater systems.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$97,000 in grants for projects to address microplastic pollution in Lake Tahoe. The projects include a study led by the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) to gather more data on the movement and types of plastics in Lake Tahoe as well as a public education-focused, source-reduction pilot project led by the Incline Village General Improvement District, in partnership with the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association and others. Both projects are managed by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) with the aim of reducing sources of plastic pollution. Today's announcement coincides with the 24th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit, which will include participation from EPA Region 9 experts.

"Lake Tahoe is an important natural resource for communities in California and Nevada," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator John Busterud. "EPA is pleased to support forward-looking projects which can reduce harmful microplastics in waters, thus protecting human health and the environment." "The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, together with our partners, looks forward to carrying out these novel projects to address the emerging issue of microplastics in Lake Tahoe," said Greg Lovato, Administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. "A better understanding of microplastic sources, impacts, and controls is critical to keeping Lake Tahoe clean and ensuring it remains a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. Efforts like this shine as a prime example of the benefits of collaboration in conservation."

Microplastics are small plastic debris that can escape into the environment. They have been detected in drinking water in multiple locations worldwide and can be ingested by wildlife. Unlike plastic waste in the ocean, microplastics do not enter Lake Tahoe through wastewater or from commercial shipping operations. Rather, improperly disposed of litter found on Lake Tahoe's beaches is believed to be the lake's primary source of plastic pollution.

2020 EPA funded projects to address micro plastics in Lake Tahoe include:

RESEARCH: A Snapshot Study on the Fate and Type of Plastics in Lake Tahoe, EPA Grant of \$35,000. This UC Davis project examines where micro plastics accumulate in Lake Tahoe and the potential for those plastics to be ingested by wildlife and humans. Samples will be collected from various depths throughout the lake, including from deep water sediments, to capture heavier plastics as they settle. To assess plastic pollution in drinking water sourced from the lake, samples are being collected from municipal water treatment facilities on the north and south shores of the lake. To examine the effects on wildlife, tissues will be collected from the Kokanee salmon and Asian clams, which are at a greater risk of ingesting microplastics as filter-feeding organisms.



The results from this study will direct future research and supply agencies and policymakers with important baseline information for strategies to reduce plastic pollution in Lake Tahoe. TWSA is a project partner on this project, offering \$5,000 for sampling equipment and in-kind support.

OUTREACH: Pilot Project to Reduce Source Water Plastic Pollution at Lake Tahoe, EPA Grant of \$62,000.

This 2 year, multi-agency collaborative project includes: education and public outreach to achieve a behavior change in the region, with the ambitious goals of 1) raising awareness of plastic pollution, 2) increasing public understanding of the different types of plastics and 3) the impacts of their consumer choices, 4) reducing the use of single-use plastic, and thereby 5) reducing the presence of plastic in Lake Tahoe's waters and beaches.

TWSA's "Drink Tahoe Tap[®]" Partnership with Take Care, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, and Sierra Watershed Education Partnership completed the first year of this 'emerging contaminant' education project. This project centers on education and public outreach to promote behavioral changes towards proper disposal of trash at Lake Tahoe.

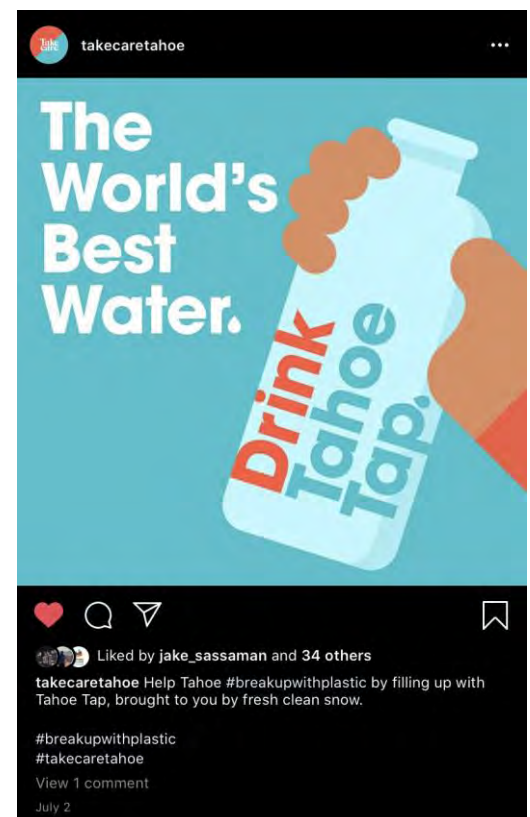
Running through 2021, it promotes the reduction of the use of single-use plastic through research, local business partnerships, student engagement, public education, and awareness of drinking water and watershed protection.

First Year Pilot Project highlights include:

1) Development of a complete suite of DRINK TAHOE TAP[®] / TAKE CARE outreach materials was commissioned and published regionally, in both web and print format. Messaging specifically focuses on reducing microplastics by reducing purchase of single use water bottles, and refilling instead.

2) A new website was created as part of the Take Care Tahoe campaign along with a new page within the main Take Care Tahoe campaign and an update to an existing page:

<http://www.drinktahoetap.org> (redirects to <https://takecaretahoe.org/drink-tahoe-tap/>) and <https://takecaretahoe.org/take-action/tahoe-tap>.



Since July 2020, the new microsite: drinktahoetap.org & microplastics take action page have reached more than 1,000 people. Social media messages have reached 10,000+ people.

The website features an interactive web storyboard, visually linking in a cartoon illustration style, eco-system impacts from single-use plastic waste, and litter in general. Information and graphics on the high quality of Tahoe Tap waters was also developed.

These graphics are used in regular rotation on social media postings, and a new storyboard website. Social content (hashtag, picture, caption) developed includes posting on billboards at I-80/Hwy 50, Instagram, Facebook and other outlets.

Matrix of DRINK TAHOE TAP® / TAKE CARE design graphics:



An Official Bottle and Retail Partnership with Raley's Supermarket

The team also worked with the concept of building a brand presence for the “Tahoe Tap” product; marketing it as ‘a luxury water offered free from the tap’. This concept brought forth the idea of an ‘official Tahoe Tap refillable bottle’. Design products included multiple bottle designs, end cap design for Raley’s grocery store, grocery store aisle blade, refill badge sign for businesses, signage at the water refill stations, and wayfinding blazes (store and shelf presence).



In July 2020, the DRINK TAHOE TAP[®] / TAKE CARE special design bottles put on sale at the Raley’s store in Incline Village, Nevada. Customer response was immediately positive. This was followed by expansion into seven regional stores in fall 2020. Raley’s has planned for future production needs; 11,000 custom bottles are on order, slated for sale in April 2021 at an even larger number of Raley’s stores (40 to 80 stores).

This project had extensive media coverage:

<https://www.kolotv.com/2020/07/02/raleys-working-with-tahoe-organizations-and-uc-davis-to-reduce-plastic-waste/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/environment/microplastic-cleanup-research-continues-at-lake-tahoe/>

<https://www.tahodailytribune.com/news/microplastic-clean-up-research-continues-at-lake-tahoe/?fbclid=IwAR0ZrNliqsQD21ULLd0GsJrFmsEffgh3r2lg8wG7EQQS01oMkzxNnuQQaTk>

<https://www.ktvn.com/story/42349550/incline-village-raleys-encourages-customers-not-to-buy-plastic-water-bottles-as-part-of-new-initiative>

For more information about EPA efforts related to Lake Tahoe: <https://www.epa.gov/lake-tahoe>



Tahoe Environmental Research Center – An Interactive Microplastics Exhibit is Built

The Tahoe Science Center developed a microplastics exhibit and nonpoint source and plastic pollution educational materials, informed by research. The exhibit was installed at the Tahoe Science Center in Incline Village, in summer 2020. The exhibit is still closed to the public due to Covid-19 restrictions.

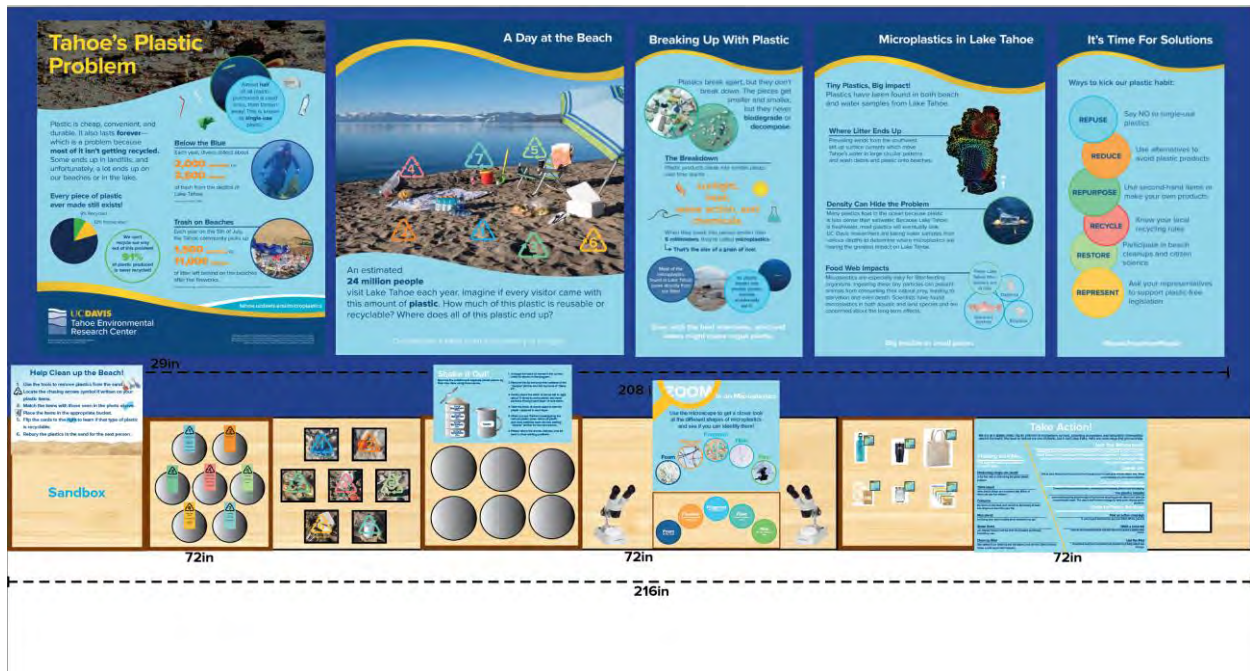
This exhibit and lesson topics include: ‘Sources of Plastic at Lake Tahoe, From Macro to Micro: How Plastics Break Down, Quantifying Microplastics, and Where Do Microplastics End Up Around the Lake?’

Tahoe’s Plastic Problem

- A Day at the Beach (includes “Plastic Sorting” and “Resin Identification Code” details)
- Breaking up with Plastic
- Microplastics in Lake Tahoe (includes “Zoom in on Microplastics”)
- It’s Time for Solutions

The updated exhibit design was completed by UC Davis graphic designer Russ Thebaud from the Office of Strategic Communications. A mock-up of exhibit was created to pilot test for exhibit layout and design features.

This project will also produce similar traveling exhibits for use at events around the lake and locations including visitor centers, trailheads, and public beaches. The grant team is also collaborating with other regional partners to promote their plastics outreach efforts, such as California State Parks' 'Below the Blue' artwork displays made from underwater trash retrieved at their park locations.



Sierra Watershed Education Partnership

TERC and Sierra Watershed Education Partnership (SWEP) created a variety of online video lessons on plastic pollution and watershed impacts. In-person curriculum delivery remains on hold due to COVID-19. In the past year as part of this grant, SWEP created the "Beach Detectives" <https://www.4swep.org/post/beach-detective> virtual field program and associated [Microplastics-Beach Detective Data Sheet](#). UC Davis created this [video](#) lesson to help guide student investigations.

New micro-plastics snippets created and web posted, see <https://www.4swep.org/swep-snippets> for all the sessions, these are plastic specific:

- <https://www.4swep.org/post/what-is-plastic>
- <https://www.4swep.org/post/beach-detective>
- <https://www.4swep.org/post/how-long-until-gone>
- <https://www.4swep.org/post/upcycled-milk-jugs>
- <https://www.4swep.org/post/zero-waste-lunch>
- <https://www.4swep.org/post/litter-scavenger-hunt>
- <https://www.4swep.org/post/upcycled-t-shirt-bags>

Another student program component was to create partnerships between Eco-Action Teams and local businesses, which play a key role in products available to the community. The TERC staff and SWEP staff engaged Tahoe-Truckee students in the past year in a variety of ways. This program component was impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions; there was an inability to conduct in person interviews with

customers. Instead, the students helped develop the on-line survey on water purchase / use habits; provided feedback on the water bottle and Take Care design s and copy; and created several on-line educational videos. For 2020-21 school year, the Tahoe-Truckee High School's combined Envirolution Club (facilitated by SWEP staff advisors) has created an on-line, community participation portal via Instagram. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwFeMZfvPE0> .

There may be opportunity in 2020-21 to have the students work directly with Raley's management on their sustainability measures, providing a youth feedback perspective.

Clean Up the Lake's (CUTL) Underwater Cleanup Pilot

TWSA offered in-kind support to the NDEP funded 6 mile underwater cleanup of Tahoe East Shore locations by collaborating with the Clean Up the Lake non-profit, Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC and Desert Research Institute (DRI) on the trash sort operations. Support includes: use of a utility trailer for debris collected storage, use of Public Works site for sorting and inventory operations, disposal costs for collected materials after inventory. The TWSA Board approved a \$5,000 fundraiser match to be coordinated by CUTL/TWSA staff in 2021.

Media Coverage of Trash and Plastics Issue

A list of recent articles on the topic:

<https://www.sierrasun.com/opinion/columns/darcie-goodman-collins-tina-dvon-gallier-save-lake-tahoe-from-single-use-plastics/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/the-fate-of-plastics-in-lake-tahoe/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/environment/clean-up-the-lake-pulls-more-than-8200-pounds-of-trash-from-tahoe-donner/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/pack-it-in-pack-it-out-locals-protest-surge-of-litter-left-in-truckee-tahoe-area/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/power-of-the-people-how-truckee-tahoe-locals-are-taking-to-beaches-to-clean-up-litter-left-by-visitors/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/placer-county-temporarily-increases-trash-service-in-north-lake-tahoe/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/environment/trash-problem-piling-up-around-lake-tahoe/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/litter-mitigation-on-tap-at-truckee-town-council/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/mitigating-microplastics-what-types-of-plastics-are-getting-into-lake-tahoe-and-landing-on-beaches/>

<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/community/moop-the-lake-collects-over-200-pounds-of-trash/>

<https://takecaretahoe.org/success-stories/raleys-is-first-tahoe-area-grocery-store-to-encourage-customers-not-to-buy-single-use-water-bottles/>

<https://www.tahodailytribune.com/news/partnership-aims-to-get-more-people-drinking-tahoe-tap-water/>

TWSA's long-term Education Projects

"Drink Tahoe Tap"® & "I Drink Tahoe Tap!"® Stickers and Bottles

TWSA initiated and completed the trademark registration process for "Drink Tahoe Tap"® and "I Drink Tahoe Tap!"® in 2015. This trademark was executed in a license agreement for the recent Raley's collaboration. Tahoe Tap is well recognized regionally and supported by both locals and tourists alike. In 2020 an official brand and bottle were developed. These In 2015, based on the campaign popularity and brand recognition More than 100,000 "Drink Tahoe Tap"® stickers have been distributed since the campaign launched in 2008.



"Drink Tahoe Tap"® Taste Test

TWSA staff provides a 'blind taste test' at our outreach booth at local events. Staff provides the waters in 3 unmarked, dispensers using a 2 oz. compostable plastic cup. Each participant votes and the votes are recorded. The taste tests results are consistent; tap water is selected over bottled waters. This program is on hold-due to Covid-19 restrictions on public events.

TWSA Peer Agency Awards

<https://www.awwa.org/Membership-Volunteering/Awards/Exemplary-Source-Water-Protection-Award>

In 2020, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) recognized the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) with the coveted 2020 Exemplary Source Water Protection Award. TWSA demonstrated the highest level of protection and preservation of the Lake Tahoe watershed, the region's primary water source for residents. "The TWSA members and staff are so incredibly excited to receive this North American award," said Madonna Dunbar, resource conservationist for the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) and executive director for TWSA. "It's a testament to the collaborative work and long-term investments being done by so many agencies with the common goal of protecting Tahoe's watershed. Tahoe's high-quality tap water is directly supported by these efforts." The Exemplary Source Water Protection Award is based on the criteria set forth in the AWWA standard for source water protection. Source water protection is a highly site-specific process that reflects the inherent diversity of natural waters and the areas from which they are derived.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Spirit of TRPA Award

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association was selected by TRPA staff and board members as one of the 2020 Spirit of TRPA award recipients to represent the group of Public Utility Districts and General Improvement Districts who work so hard to protect our lake and provide services to our communities.

All recipients were acknowledged at the virtual TRPA Governing Board meeting on November 18, part of TRPA's 50-year celebration. www.trpa.org

Best Tasting Water Awards

In 2017, Cave Rock/Skyland won "Best Tasting Water in Nevada" at the Nevada Rural Water Conference. In January 2016, Kingsbury GID took home the "Gold Medal for Best Tasting Water" at the national Rural Water Rally, in Washington D.C., after receiving "Best Tasting Water in Nevada" in at the 2015 annual Nevada Rural Water Association Conference. IVGID received the "Best Tasting Water in Nevada" at the Water Association Conference; also in 2012 and 2011.

Distribution of Refillable Water Bottles

In 2020, TWSA and the Micro Plastics Reduction Project Partners worked together with Raley's Supermarkets to distribute the Tahoe Care / Drink Tahoe Tap official bottle, to raised consumer awareness of 1) reducing single use plastic purchases and 2) the excellent quality of local tap waters. 12,000 custom, co-branded, Klean Kanteen bottles will be available for purchase at more than 40 regional Raley's Supermarkets. . Prior to having retail bottle sales, between 3,000 to 6,000 customized, refillable containers were distributed annually at various events.

Since 2010, approximately 50,000 (glass or metal) bottles and pouches have been distributed. Folding, BPA free plastic 'water pouches' were offered for several years, but distribution of plastic water containers was a concern, and has ended. Our largest single distribution event is the annual Tahoe Summit where we provided up to 3,000 drinking water containers and supply water filling stations for the attendees. See microplastics grant information above, on development of a line of custom bottles.

Promoting Greater Access to Tahoe Tap

Drink Tahoe Tap® Water Bottle Refill Station Grant Program

In August 2019, TWSA and the Tahoe Fund initiated the Tahoe Tap Water Bottle Refill Station Grant Program. As of October 1, 2020, 9 stations have been installed, both indoor and outdoor, in the region. \$500/\$1000 rebates are available to Tahoe Basin businesses and non-profits who install a bottle filler/upgraded water fountain. \$20,000 in total funding is available through a generous Tahoe Fund match grant. Grant funding is available until June 30, 2021. Information posted at www.DrinkTahoeTap.org.



FIND A REFILL: Drink Tahoe Tap® Refill Network via the TAP APP

Local businesses who offer free water refills can register to place their location on a digital mapping source. This regional refill network utilizes the TAP APP.

The “Drink Tahoe Tap Refill Network” now has 46 Tahoe locations registered.

(www.findtap.org).

Free Tap Water Distribution at Public Events

Covid-19 response included cancellation of most public events, so the water stations were not deployed in summer 2020. In 2014, TWSA built its first custom, mobile, tap water fill stations to accommodate the need for water distribution at public events. As of 2020, 10 stations have been built for regional use at various events. The water fill station construction designs are available online as free resource information at www.TahoeH2O.org. These stations

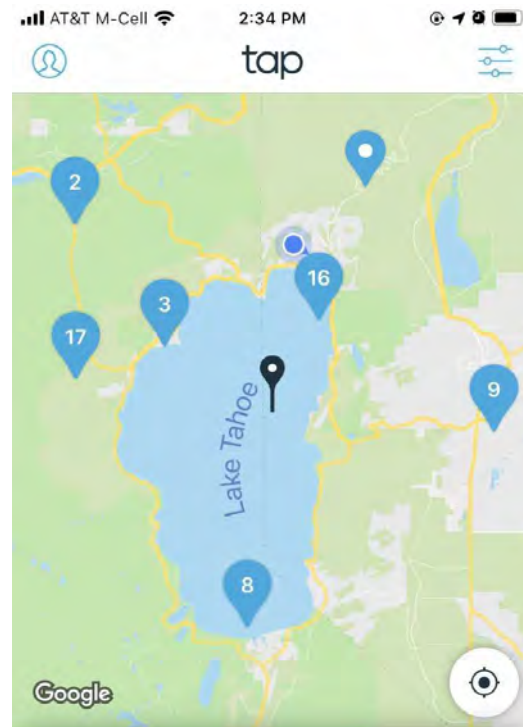
connect up to standard outdoor faucets served by approved water sources, have tap dispenser heads and a carbon filter system. They have proven to be extremely popular and have provided water at multiple large-scale community events. TWSA provides these stations or 5 gallon water dispensers to local events for smaller needs. This program has been instrumental in reducing the use of bottled water at area events; serving fresh water to crowds up to 5000 people.

Outreach / Watershed Education Events

Pre-Covid-19; staff conducted outreach with the TWSA “Drink Tahoe Tap®” education booth at more than 25 community events annually. The booth features an interactive water taste test along with water conservation, watershed protection and tap water awareness information. Some of the annual events include the North and South Lake Tahoe Earth Day Festivals, Snapshot Day, Rock Tahoe half-marathon, Harbor Shakespeare Festival, SnowFest Science Expo, 4th of July events, Children’s Environmental Science Day, the Tahoe Summit, regional music festivals, chamber mixers, ski area special events, education events and other events upon invitation or request.

Community Neighborhood, Stream and Beach Cleanups

2020 included a push to increase volunteer participation and develop Tahoe’s community stewardship culture. TWSA staff serves annually as the Tahoe East Shore/Nevada Coordinators for International Coastal Cleanup Day. We collaborate extensively on North Shore cleanup efforts coordinated by the League to Save Lake Tahoe and Keep Tahoe Clean for South Lake Tahoe. Annually, hundreds of volunteers collect more than a ton of trash from Tahoe’s beaches, streams and lakeside trails. IVGID Waste Not / TWSA in coordination with the League to Save Lake Tahoe, support Tahoe Blue Crews with the loan of collection equipment, waste disposal, donation of water bottles.



Sponsorships

2020 saw TWSA supporting a variety of conferences, online events and educational programs in the form of fiscal donations or water bottle donations. In the past year, the Association has supported the production of the *State of the Lake Report*, *Tahoe In Depth* publications, Music on the Beach, Concerts at Commons Beach, Nevada Rural Water events, Eyes on the Lake trainings, the Tahoe Summit, North and South Lake Tahoe Earth Day events, Tahoe Film Festival, various conferences and additional events.

TWSA Scholarship Fund

From 2012-2019, TWSA provided a scholarship fund for Tahoe high school students entering college with a focus on science, math, engineering or environmental studies. Four \$500 scholarships were offered annually; one for each Tahoe high school. Low participation resulted in the program closure.

School Programs

In addition to the micro-plastics project, TWSA staff normally provides school and civic group presentations on Tahoe Tap and source water protection, including water quality sampling lessons and streamside ecology activities in area schools. This was Covid-19 impacted, with a shift to virtual platforms for 2020. Since 2011, TWSA and TWSA members (TCPUD, NTPUD, IVGID) have partnered with the Sierra Watershed Education Partnership (SWEP) to offer water quality assemblies annually, to almost 2,000 North Tahoe elementary, middle and high school students. These assemblies feature a presentation by the Truckee High School Envirolution Club's *Trashion Show*, themed on appreciation of tap water, water conservation and watershed protection. At these shows, students receive custom refillable steel water bottles, shower timers and other water conservation education collateral.

Snapshot Day

<http://tahoetruckeesnapshotday.org>

In 2020, a reduced scale, 20th Anniversary Snapshot Day event was held. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it not open to the general public. Each year, TWSA staff leads Snapshot Day, a large-scale volunteer water quality monitoring event for the Tahoe region from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. At "Snapshot Day" (annually in May) 300+ volunteers spend the morning at 50+ locations within the watershed - collecting samples of turbidity, nutrients, dissolved oxygen and photographic documentation. Many sites have been repeated now for 15+ years, providing long-term watershed condition data. This event is a collaboration between multiple water quality focused agencies. This is one of the longest running watershed citizen monitoring events on the U.S. west coast.

Beach Water Quality Sampling

TWSA staff collects and analyzes raw water samples on a regular schedule from 6 Incline Village beach and stream zone locations. AIS inspections of shoreline conditions were added in 2015. Data from this sampling activity has been maintained in a centralized database since 2004.

Watershed Protection Outreach Campaigns

TWSA water conservation and water quality protection print publications are updated annually. Outreach materials include a leak detection information card with dye tabs, AWWA 'value of water' and water conservation brochures, TWSA source water protection information, a custom dog waste bag holder and bag refills, 'Drink Tahoe Tap ®' stickers and information on the issues of bottled water versus tap water. The regional *Take Care Tahoe* messaging was upgraded in 2020.

TWSA General Advertising Program

Social Media

TWSA is found on social media (Facebook/Instagram) as Drink Tahoe Tap. Starting in 2016, TWSA partnered with the regional *Take Care Tahoe* campaign, to develop Drink Tahoe Tap® messaging to encourage the use of refillable water containers. This was updated in 2020 (see details under Microplastics).

Informational articles and advertisements on source water protection, water quality and water conservation are published regularly in visitor magazines such as *Tahoe In Depth*, *Tahoe Visitor Guide* and *Tahoe.com Summer/Winter* supplements. Each publication reaches an estimated audience of 60,000+ persons each summer and winter season. Issues are provided in the rooms of area hotels and are also distributed at shopping centers, visitor centers and local businesses. Water bottles and “Drink Tahoe Tap”® stickers also serve as a major portion of the advertising campaign.

TWSA staff regularly tapes radio and television public service announcements. Tahoe Tap is featured on Lake Tahoe Television on multiple segments and TWSA runs “Drink Tahoe Tap”® ads.

To view the ad see: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=633vLUjWM8A&feature=youtu.be>

Tahoe Cigarette Disposal Bin Program

<https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/our-work/combating-pollution/cigdisposal> .

The aim of the Tahoe Cigarette Disposal Program is to reduce toxic chemicals from littered cigarette butts from leaching into the environment, to protect wildlife, and reduce litter on Lake Tahoe’s shoreline and vicinity, while also providing educational information. The bins were obtained through a Keep America Beautiful grant program (value, \$20,000). As of October 1, 2020, the League to Save Lake Tahoe and TWSA have installed 100+ canisters throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin, for free. The Tahoe Cigarette Disposal program is branded to fit in with the *Take Care Tahoe* campaign, and each canister designed to be highly visible and include education on how cigarette butts have harmful impacts to the environment and wildlife.



Dog Waste Awareness Campaign

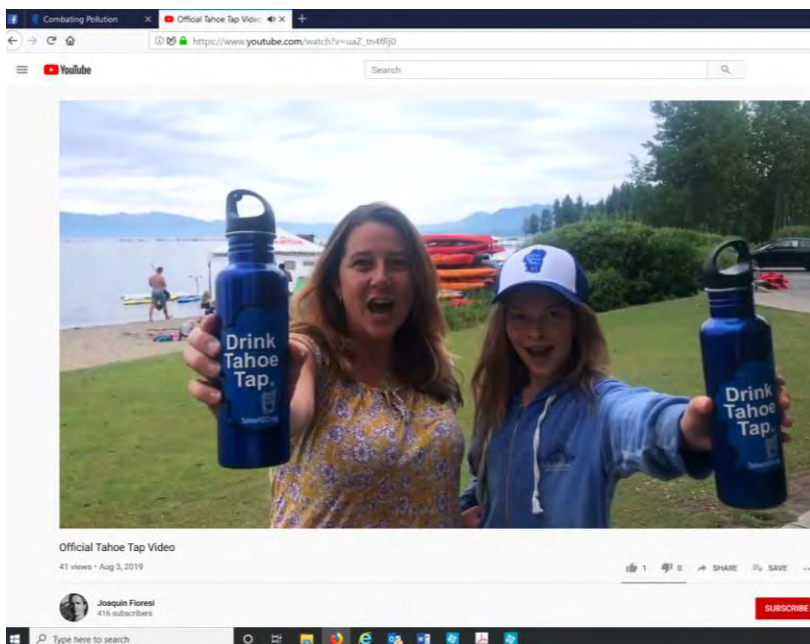
“Be #1 at Picking Up #2”
“They Drop It, You Drink It”

Dog Waste Pickup Station Sponsorship

Dog waste collection is an ongoing campaign. Bag dispensing stations, custom signage and collection receptacles are placed in high impact areas and monitored by volunteer or partner agency staff. Approximately 50,000 dog bags are provided by TWSA with an estimated 100,000 more bags being provided by our partners, annually. The graphics style *Take Care Tahoe* messaging on dog waste collection was incorporated into TWSA outreach materials in 2015. 90+ stations are in use around Lake Tahoe, including the new Sand Harbor-Incline bike path, the Johnson Meadows property, Van Sickle State Park, Bijou Park, Burke Creek/Kahle Drive, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Brockway Lookout, Tahoe City and Tahoe Vista Dog Parks, Incline Village community lands, and various Tahoe neighborhoods. Individual leash bag dispensers are also handed out at events.



Love Your Water - Tahoe Tap’s Music Video - The “Drink Tahoe Tap Song”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaZ_tn4fRj0.



Local musician, Joaquin Fioresi, wrote and produced this original song and music video, featuring regional music talent.

In 2020, it was featured on 10 regional broadcasts of the on-line summer music series for “Virtual Music on the Beach” and “Best of Commons Beach”.

4.0-4.1 - Participate in source water protection efforts

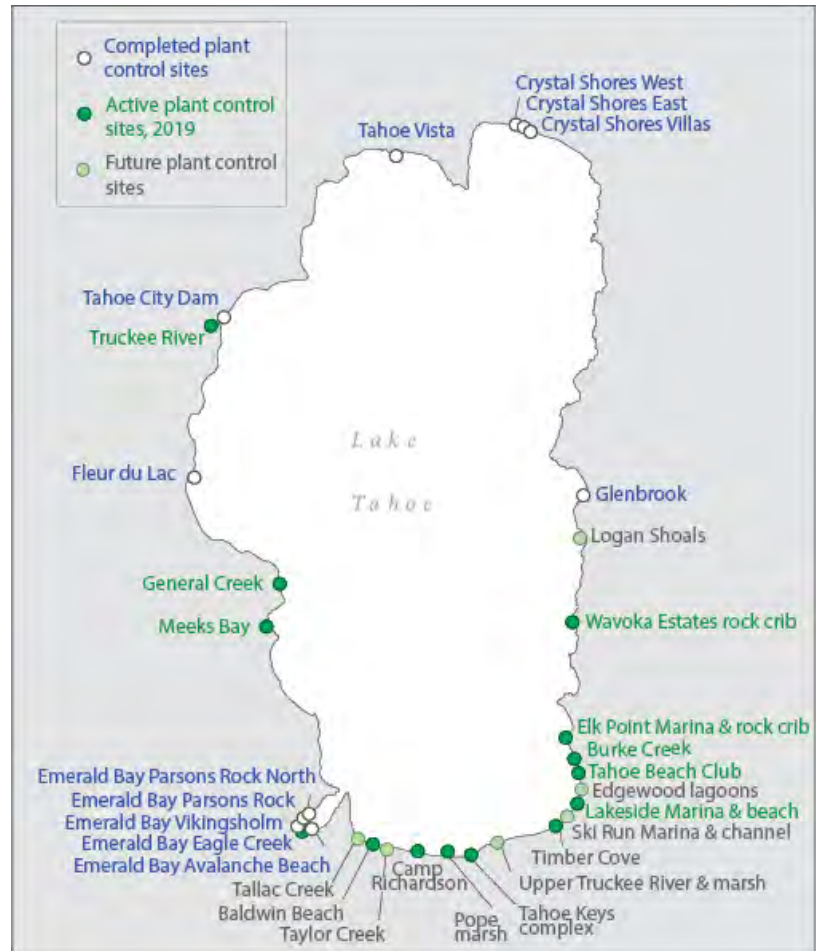
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Public Outreach and Engagement; Control Method Workgroups

2020 was a milestone year in aquatic invasive species projects at Lake Tahoe. TWSA staff was heavily engaged in environmental review documentation and research, and our involvement is anticipated over through the next decade, as this is one of Tahoe’s top environmental concerns from its potential, eco-system -wide impacts. Staff prepared comments on the following two projects under consideration:

Tahoe Resource Conservation District Lake-Wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plants Project – Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada

<https://tahoercd.org/tahoe-aquatic-invasive-species-resources/>

Tahoe RCD, on behalf of the Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (AISCC), and in coordination with the TRPA, is proposing to conduct (non-chemical) aquatic plant control and management throughout suitable habitat areas within the Lake Tahoe Region including the Lake itself, tributaries, and adjacent marshes of Lake Tahoe and the Upper Truckee River and Truckee River as they flow into and out of Lake Tahoe. The Project intends to continue aquatic invasive plant control efforts in locations where previous efforts have been successful, expand control efforts to include known infestation areas, expand available methods/techniques, and to allow for rapid response to detections of new aquatic invasive plant (AIP) infestations. No use of herbicides is proposed. Staff submitted comment with no major issues reported.



Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test Application / CEQA Process

<https://tahoekeysweeds.org>

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) submitted the *Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test Application*. Because the applicant’s preferred project includes limited use of selected herbicides (with mitigation) this triggered the need for an [Environmental Impact Report](#)

(EIR) required by the [California Environmental Quality Act](#) (CEQA) and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board), and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA).

The Control Methods Test application proposes the use of targeted herbicides as one weed control method to test (alongside and in combination with) other methods to reduce and control the abundant growth of invasive and nuisance aquatic weeds that are compromising water quality and degrading beneficial uses of the Tahoe Keys lagoons. The environmental analysis will determine if the use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) approved herbicides can meet the strict environmental standards of Lake Tahoe's classification as a [Tier Three, Outstanding National Resource Water](#). TWSA staff, and our consultant Water Quality Treatment and Solutions, each prepared extensive comments on this document.

TWSA staff and members remain highly involved in providing public comment AIS Management Plans. This issue has become a major component of our work. TWSA support the implementation of non-chemical, water quality enhancing, control methods. The emerging technologies of Ultraviolet Light (UYVC) and Laminar Flow aeration, are showing promising results. Diver assisted removal is slow, but effective.

TRPA, one of the lead agencies on this project, convened a core committee of stakeholders to select neutral facilitation services and an independent environmental consulting firm for the environmental analysis process. The selection team is composed of representatives from Lahontan Water Board, TKPOA, TRPA, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, and The League to Save Lake Tahoe. The core team unanimously selected Zephyr Collaboration to provide facilitation services for the project, and TRC Solutions, Inc. to provide environmental consulting services.

Since its inception, TWSA staff has participated in regional government, regulatory and scientific research working groups, to keep the dialog about source water protection inclusive of drinking water services. We regularly partner with local non-profits and environmental group on programs, trainings and educational activities. TWSA staff and the water purveyor managers have been active partners in the Asian Clam removal projects and ongoing AIS removal/monitoring projects by the Tahoe RCD, TRPA and UC Davis. TWSA staff provided on-site water quality monitoring support on the Asian Clam Removal Projects occurring summer 2011 in the Marla Bay, Lakeside and Emerald Bay areas.

TWSA continues to support AIS prevention efforts by other regional agencies including Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) as a member of the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG). TWSA staff and utility members are active participants in the LTAISWG, regularly attending meetings and participating in work plan development. TWSA's increased participation has helped resolve past problems related to a lack of communication during the clam removal pilot program with the applicable water agencies.

TWSA/Tahoe Fund AIS Bottom Barrier Challenge

In 2014, TWSA committed funding to Tahoe RCD, for the replacement of 20 rubber mats (\$5000) used by the AIS management team (bottom barrier, non-chemical treatment program) to smother weeds and asian clams. In 2018, The TWSA partnered with the Tahoe Fund to purchase additional bottom barriers

with a 1:1 grant match project. <http://www.tahoefund.org/our-projects/active-projects/aquatic-invasive-bottom-barrier-challenge/>

Aquatic invasive plants affect water quality around the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. Through a well-coordinated program, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District has been able to remove aquatic invasive weeds with the use of bottom barriers and diver-assisted hand pulling. The inventory of bottom barriers was 1.6 acres short of the maximum 5 acres of coverage permitted for Tahoe.

In 2018, the TWSA issued a successful matching challenge to raise a total of \$52,000 to purchase the remaining 175 barriers that would bring the inventory to the full 5 acres. With the full inventory of mats, more aquatic invasive weeds are removed from the lake and water quality is improved. Media coverage of the successful funding challenge is posted at:

<http://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Keeping-Lake-Tahoe-clean-with-bottom-barriers-490967561.html>

<http://www.ktvn.com/clip/14565568/tahoe-barriers-invasive-species>

<http://www.ktvn.com/story/38894280/crews-tackle-invasive-aquatic-plant-issue-at-lake-tahoe>

Several TWSA members have been working with Tahoe RCD on AIS controls using non-chemical methods on their properties. Lakeside Park Association has hosted both UV light and bottom barrier installation sites. North Tahoe PUD used bottom barriers at one site, to evaluate different non-herbicide weed controls.

TWSA staff members maintain training as Tahoe Keepers, Eyes on the Lake volunteers and AWWA Water Efficiency Practitioners (Level 1).

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education

TWSA outreach efforts include educating the public about Aquatic Invasive Species, covering the transportation risks, ecological implications and preventive measures. AIS information has been incorporated into the TWSA outreach program since the issue emerged at the lake in 2007. Concerns about the introduction of Quagga and Zebra mussels, and their potential effect on drinking water infrastructure and water quality are presented through customer signs installed at area boat ramps, and via website and brochures.

1.6

Track customer responses / summarize activities

Through direct outreach and media contacts, staff estimates 200,000+ people receive TWSA/IVGID Waste Not information annually. Source water protection, water conservation, TWSA annual reports and sanitary surveys are available for public review. TWSA maintains the websites:

www.TahoeH2O.org and www.DrinkTahoeTap.org.

2.4

Define the elements of a Surface Water Risk Assessment (SWRA). Provide information to local planning agencies.

In June 2012, the TWSA/USACE Lake Tahoe Source Water Risk Assessment (LTSWRA) was used to evaluate potential impacts to drinking water quality from proposed new beach access areas associated

with the Edgewood Lodge Project. The project engineer (RO Anderson) provided extensive case study comparisons and conducted multiple runs of the risk model to assuage concerns voiced by NDEP and TWSA water providers to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency during the project public comment period.

2014 Lake Tahoe Flow Modeling, Potential Pathogen Transport and Risk Modeling Report

S. Geoffrey Schladow, Andrea Hoyer, Francisco Rueda and Michael Anderson / June 2014

In spring 2013, NDEP initiated discussion with TWSA to fund Phase 2 of the Lake Tahoe Risk Assessment Model developed in 2008 (Black & Veatch, B&V Project No. 41717). Phase 2 was funded by NDEP and TWSA for \$95,000 in 2013-14.

There had been significant improvement in the data available on lake currents since 2008, so the upgrades provided better modeling with more refined area grids based on this new data. This project re-analyzed lake water current patterns in the southeastern corner of Lake Tahoe, in the area of the Edgewood and Kingsbury intakes. The analysis is related to public water systems at Lake Tahoe and the impact that local potential contaminating activities have on the source water. In addition to new data, new potential contaminating activities had been proposed near the public water system intakes.

Flow Modeling and Pathogens (PO # S004422)

Executive Summary

Swimming and other body-contact recreational activities have been identified by the USEPA, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the California Department of Health Services and other public health professionals as a potential source of microbiological contamination of recreational waters.

This study was undertaken to quantify the impacts of body contact recreation on microbial water quality at the Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID) and Edgewood Water Company intakes on Lake Tahoe.

This study builds upon the risk assessment conducted previously (Black and Veatch, 2008), and specifically incorporates 5 new features:

- (i) Findings of new 3-D hydrodynamic simulations for the nearshore southeastern portion of Lake Tahoe;
- (ii) Development of a finer-scale 50 m x 50 m finite-segment pathogen fate-consumer risk model;
- (iii) Additional recreational use associated with the proposed Beach Club and Edgewood Lodge/Resort developments;
- (iv) Risk assessment for the Edgewood Water Company intake; and
- (v) Treatment plant upgrades at KGID and Edgewood that included UV disinfection meeting the requirements of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment rule (LT2). As in the prior study, this risk assessment focused on *Cryptosporidium* because of its low infectious dose, environmental persistence and resistance to conventional disinfection.

Mean annual *Cryptosporidium* concentrations were predicted using a Monte Carlo-based pathogen fate-consumer risk model. Dose-response calculations applied to predicted concentrations following treatment provided estimates of health risks resulting from consumption of recreationally-impacted treated drinking water.

Model simulations demonstrate that the additional recreational use at Beach Club and Edgewood Resort beaches, in conjunction with improved understanding of transport, results in increased potential for *Cryptosporidium* to reach the KGID and Edgewood intakes.

The modeling results that underpinned these conclusions provide a number of additional insights to minimizing pathogen entrainment into drinking water intakes. Primarily, by using a technique developed under this project, it is now possible to determine the source area of pathogens (or any other contaminant) that arrives at a water intake. The results also provide insight into the complex interplay between the windfield, the strength of the lake's thermal stratification and the transport patterns of pathogens. Most notably, having an intake located below the maximum depth of the thermocline greatly reduces the frequency of pathogen arrival at the intake. This has other implications with respect to lake level and drought conditions.

With prolonged drought episodes (predicted to be more frequent under future climatic conditions), lake level will be lower and thereby reduce the depth of the water intakes. Under those conditions the period of time favorable for pathogen transport to the intakes is likely to increase significantly. Similarly, the time of water withdrawal can be used to minimize risk. Night time and early morning withdrawals seem to pose the greatest risk, as pathogens released the previous day have had little opportunity to be de-activated by solar radiation. This highlights the linkage between drinking water quality and maintenance of high water clarity, particularly in the nearshore region. Maximizing the penetration of UV radiation from solar radiation into the water column provides "free" water treatment.

The release of a surrogate for herbicide transport from the vicinity of Tahoe Keys was simulated, and showed that herbicide could be transported to the vicinity of the nearshore regions of south-east Lake Tahoe within a 24 hour period. Within that period, material did not actually arrive at any of the water intakes, but based on other results in this report, that would occur within less than 48 hours. It must be borne in mind that these results are a first estimate of the fate of herbicides. No account has been taken of the dilution that a real plume of herbicide would be subject to, and the possible breakdown into other chemicals. Likewise, the toxicity (if any) of the herbicide for the case of consumption or body contact recreation has not been considered as it was beyond the scope of the study. However, should the use of herbicides be permitted at Lake Tahoe, there is a strong case that a more complete study of the fate of these products on public health should be undertaken."

A TWSA sponsored workshop on this report and the current data was offered on Nov. 5 and 6, 2014, by Dr. Schladow at both north and south Tahoe locations.

Media coverage of the presentations is at:

<http://www.recordcourier.com/news/13714581-113/lake-tahoe-schladow-wind>

and

<http://www.laketahoenews.net/2014/11/scientists-studying-life-below-tahoess-surface/>

3.1 : Gather, track, and report regularly on TWSA partners’ operations, management, project, planning or other changes that may affect water quality:

TWSA members and staff continue to annually report on planning or other changes that may affect drinking water quality. Raw water data (Turbidity, Fecal Coliform and Cryptosporidium levels) is collected and tracked from each of the water purveyors’ intakes on a monthly basis. Long term data sets are maintained. This data, along with operational upgrades, capital improvement projects and Tahoe area environmental improvement projects are recorded in the TWSA Watershed Control Annual Report. The USEPA Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment rule (LT2) required redundancy on treatment for filtration avoidance permit facilities. All TWSA members have met this requirement. Detailed water quality data for members is included later in the report.

4.0-4.1: Participate in regional planning efforts, including general/technical committees, TRPA working group and Board activities, agency regulatory language and amendment/ordinance process. Promote TWSA objectives/goals by attending stakeholder meetings and offering presentations /testimony.

Public Drinking Water Protection Advocacy

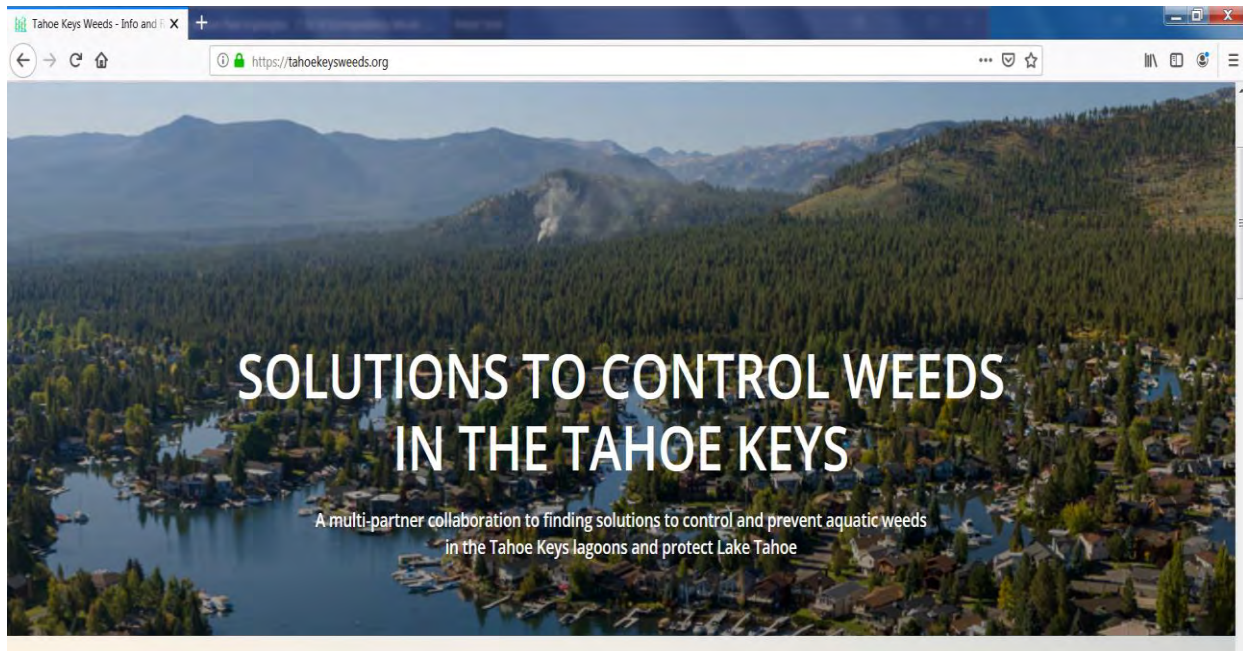
2010-20 have been major years for TWSA drinking water quality advocacy. Much of this work has focused on research on sourcewater protection and aquatic weeds management practices. The TWSA has been actively involved in dialog and discussion regarding the proposed aquatic weeds controls in the Tahoe Keys. The TWSA supports the use of non-chemical methods, citing herbicide use’s applicability in a Tier 3 water is only as a last resort in aquatic weeds management; after all other methods are exhausted.

TKPOA submitted the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test Application, triggering the need for an [Environmental Impact Report](#) (EIR) required by the [California Environmental Quality Act](#) (CEQA) and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board), and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA).

The Control Methods Test application proposes the use of targeted herbicides as one weed control method to test alongside and in combination with other methods to reduce and control the abundant growth of invasive and nuisance aquatic weeds that are compromising water quality and degrading beneficial uses of the Tahoe Keys lagoons, as well as threatening the future ecosystem and water quality of Lake Tahoe.

The environmental analysis will determine if the use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) approved herbicides can meet the strict environmental standards of Lake Tahoe’s classification as a Tier Three, Outstanding National Resource Water.

Since 2013, TWSA has maintained a presence on the Nearshore Aquatic Invasive Weeds Working Group (NAWWG) and the Tahoe Keys Integrated Weeds Management Stakeholder Circle (SC) WorkGroup. Over the past 2 years, the mediated workgroup was organized by the TRPA to bring together regulatory partners and stakeholders. Current information is posted at: <https://tahoekeysweeds.org/>. The goal of the collaborative, multi-stakeholder process is to ensure stakeholder concerns and perspectives are addressed during the environmental analysis, resulting in a plan for testing weed control methods that is science-based, broadly supported, and effective at controlling aquatic weeds in the Tahoe Keys lagoons. TRPA, one of the lead agencies on this project, convened a core committee of stakeholders to select neutral facilitation services and an independent environmental consulting firm for the environmental analysis process. The selection team is composed of representatives from Lahontan Water Board, TKPOA, TRPA, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, and The League to Save Lake Tahoe. The core team unanimously selected Zephyr Collaboration to provide facilitation services for the project, and TRC Solutions, Inc. to provide environmental consulting services. As a first step in designing a collaborative process, an assessment of stakeholder interests, concerns and questions was completed by Zephyr Collaboration in October 2018. The [Stakeholder Assessment Report](#) summarizes various stakeholder interests and perspectives, and includes recommendations for a collaborative, transparent, inclusive stakeholder process to inform the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Review (EIR/EIS) and [decision makers](#) in what has been described as one of the biggest environmental challenges facing Lake Tahoe.



Tahoe Water Suppliers Association Staff Summary



Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT) Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS)

Lead Agencies: Lahontan RWQCB & TRPA

Notice of Availability: June 17, 2019

Comment Period: July 6, 2020-September 3, 2020

Public Meetings: Aug. 11, 2020 & Aug 12, 2020

Full Document: https://tahoekeysweeds.org/environmental_analysis/

Executive Summary

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) is seeking approval for their exemption to the basin plan amendment on the prohibition of herbicide use in Lake Tahoe, as represented in the 2018 Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP), the goal of the project is to reduce aquatic weed biomass by 75% to improve water quality and recreation for beneficial use. The Lead Agency (Lahontan) is requiring full environmental review of the proposed project, due to the proposed discharge of aquatic herbicides into receiving waters of the Tahoe Keys Lagoons, a Tier III Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW Tier III) for ecological and recreational value. After designation of the Tahoe Keys Lagoons as the greatest threat to the environmental health of Lake Tahoe, the TRPA has secured federal funding through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (\$3M) to facilitate a solution to the aquatic weed problem at the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, the TKPOA has worked with regulators and stakeholders to produce a proposed project for herbicide use, and after an initial public scoping process, three additional project alternatives. The proposed project, and three alternatives underwent review by an independent third party consultants chosen by the lead agencies, and produced the DEIR/EIS. As required by the (CEQA) Process, the DEIR/EIS is not recommending a project action to the lead agencies; it is providing the necessary information for informed decision making, with the required designation of an Environmentally Superior Alternative. The DEIR/EIS has chosen a project alternative as the Environmentally Superior Alternative, Action Alternative 1 (Testing of Non-Herbicide Methods Only). The Proposed Project, Action Alternative 2 (Tahoe Keys Dredge and Replace Substrate), and the No-Action Alternative would have unavoidable impacts on recreational boating that would not occur under Action Alternative 1 (Testing of Non-Herbicide Methods Only). Additionally, the permitting process for the proposed project requires an Antidegradation Analysis, to be released in the fall of 2020, as part of the Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The DEIR/EIS has found that the proposed project and the alternative actions will have no significant impact to Environmental Health, Aquatic Biology, Utilities, and all reviewed objectives, that cannot be avoided with mitigation measures including early treatment, real time monitoring, pretreatment surveys, and containment. The non-action alternative has been found to have potentially significant unavoidable impact due to the increase infestation of aquatic weeds from the Tahoe Keys Lagoons throughout greater Lake Tahoe.

TWSA TKPOA CMT Staff Summary - 1

Project Details (Proposed Project)

The proposed project is a 2 phase, 3 year Control Methods Test (CMT) with a goal of 75% plant biomass reduction. Year 1 includes the testing of Group A Methods: two herbicides, in standalone test sites plus combination UV-C & Herbicide test sites. Additionally, the proposed project will include testing of UV-C Light, LFA, and no action. Years 2/3 will include testing of mechanical methods (Group B) with no herbicide use.

Year One – 2021

Group A West Lagoon- 21 Test Sites total. Triplicate use of methods (selection condition dependent).

- 6 herbicide-only (3 sites for 2 herbicides)
- 3 UV-C Light only
- 6 combination Herbicide and UV-C Light
- 3 LFA-only
- 3 Control
- 3 (herbicides only) Lake Tallac

Proposed Group A Treatment Site Details.

Table 2-3 Proposed Test Herbicide Application Treatment Site Details. Site Number/Treatments	Application Rate (ppm)	Plot Size (acres)	Actual Herbicide/ Zone Size (acres)
1 Herbicide (Endothall)	5	1.5	1.5
2 Herbicide (ProcellaCOR*)	0.003	1.5	1.5
3 Herbicide (ProcellaCOR*)	0.003	2.1	2.1
5 Herbicide (Endothall)	5	2.2	2.2
8 Herbicide (Endothall)	5	1.6	1.6
9 Herbicide (ProcellaCOR*)	0.003	1.5	1.5
10 Combo Herb/Ultraviolet (Endothall)	5	2.0	0.7
11 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (ProcellaCOR*)	0.003	1.6	0.5
12 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (ProcellaCOR*)	0.003	1.9	0.7
13 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (Endothall)	5	1.7	0.6
14 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (Endothall)	5	2.0	0.7
15 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (ProcellaCOR*)	0.003	1.2	0.4
16 Control	N/A	1.8	0.0
17 Control	N/A	2.2	0.0
18 Control	N/A	1.5	0.0
19 Herbicide (Endothall)	2 to 5	1.0	1.0
20 Herbicide (Endothall)	2 to 5	1.0	1.0
21 Herbicide (Endothall)	2 to 5	0.9	0.9

Notes: *Triclopyr at an application rate of 2.5 ppm would be substituted for ProcellaCOR if ProcellaCOR is not approved for use in California.



SOURCE: DigitalGlobe, 2016

Tahoe Keys Lagoons Restoration Program EIR/EIS D180990

TWSA TKPOA CMT Staff Summary - 2

Brief History:

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's (LRWQCB) Basin Plan Amendment, was adopted by the Regional Water Board on December 7, 2011 and the CA State Water Board on May 15, 2012. It became effective with US EPA approval granted September 10, 2015. The new regulations allow for LRWQCB review of proposed herbicide/pesticide application projects in Lake Tahoe for aquatic invasive species management. Prior regulations upheld a prohibition on chemical use. TWSA involvement did yield enhanced public notification language in the Basin Plan (any proposed chemical use project now requires notification and solicitation of comments from potentially affected water providers, regardless of the distance of the provider's service area from the proposed projects.). LRWQCB staff continues to work with TWSA, NDEP and CDPH on the regulatory language and review process.

TWSA maintains staff presence on the TRPA Interagency Shorezone Coordination Group. This group meets monthly to review Shorezone project applications each month.

TWSA staff has been receiving notification on buoy and dock permit applications being re-issued by Nevada State Lands. TWSA staff review these notifications and then forward any applications of concern to the appropriate water agency for further review.

TWSA staff maintains ongoing participation with the TRPA, NDEP, Lahontan Water Board, The Tahoe Fund, City of Reno Sustainability Workgroup, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Sustainable Tahoe and other working groups to maintain dialogue on source water protection.

Micro-Plastics – Pilot Project to Reduce Microplastic Pollution at Lake Tahoe

Micro-plastics have emerged as a potential contaminate of concern in freshwater surface waters, including Tahoe. Despite Tahoe's unique situation of a self-contained basin, with no major upstream influences such as industrial discharges or sewage, recent research has shown micro-plastics to be present in both shoreline sediment samples. Probable vectors of distribution include atmospheric deposition and trash/urban runoff. Two area research agencies, Desert Research Institute (DRI) and Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (TCES-UC Davis) are conducting sampling efforts in both freshwater and storm-drains. Details presented earlier in this section.

Emergency Preparedness

TWSA members are participants in the NvWARN and CalWARN emergency inter-local agreements. The WARN groups of water and wastewater utilities offer a web-driven, statewide mutual assistance program. Managed through the websites (<http://www.calwarn.org>) (<http://www.nvwarn.org>), CalWARN and NvWARN agreements provide a system for immediate assistance for member utilities during an emergency. Water and wastewater utilities can request equipment and personnel to assist during natural or man-made events that impact water and wastewater systems.

Mutual Aid

In 2014, a TWSA subcommittee began the revision of a Tahoe specific mutual aid agreement, this update was completed in 2017.

An ArkStorm @ Tahoe Preparedness Workshop was held on September 12, 2013, as part of the quarterly TWSA Board meeting. The TWSA members and other agency representatives spent 3 hours discussing the operations of water and sewer supply systems during a potential long-term storm event. The

exercise was designed to address potential social and ecological impacts of extreme winter storm events in the Lake Tahoe region, such as those experienced this past winter.

Fire Flow Water Supply Enhancements

TWSA members and South Tahoe Public Utility District have been working collaboratively on federal funding requests for infrastructure upgrades and inter-tie projects in order to address the need for adequate fire flows in the event of urban wildfire. The Lake Tahoe Community Fire Protection Partnership has worked to secure federal funding which, when matched dollar-for-dollar with local agency funding, allows construction of critical water infrastructure projects with a nexus to fire protection within the Lake Tahoe Basin. More than \$32,000,000 in federal funds have been 50% matched by Partnership members. (Source: USFS Funding/Lake Tahoe Fire Prevention Partnership). The Fire Flow Partnership is formalized, with both TWSA and non-TWSA members. More information can be obtained by contacting Lynn Nolan, at South Tahoe PUD.

Intensive efforts are being focused on Tahoe “Wildfire Adapted Communities” – a multi-agency, multi-state, multi-decade effort of education and forest fuels reduction projects designed to reduce and mitigate risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Tahoe Basin.

Wildfire in the Urban-Wildlands Interface of the Tahoe Basin is universally identified as a high-level risk to source water protection, holding potential catastrophic damage to water quality, water infrastructure, water treatment and distribution. Wastewater infrastructure is also highly vulnerable and is a critical service to maintain and protect.

Nineteen agencies currently form the Tahoe Basin Fuels Partnership* working group. The membership includes a mix of community owned and private water suppliers, and the regional wastewater agencies. Eleven of the TWSA members are active in this Partnership. Each of the Partnership members operates and maintains infrastructure for water/wastewater services, serving local and visitor populations. Serving a year round population under 100,000 – infrastructure investments to protect our source water have been a major commitment of our communities. Tahoe’s unique draw as an international tourist destination is currently estimated at 24 million annual visitations. This is 3x the visitation to the top 3 US National Parks, combined.

Fuels Reduction Planning and Implementation funding currently secured:

The Partnership recently secured funding for a 2 phase project (executing 2020-2023):

- 1) \$250,000 from the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) to conduct a bi-state (CA and NV) risk analysis/treatment prioritization for fuels reduction near vulnerable Tahoe Basin water and wastewater infrastructure. This is unique with California funding being available for planning/treatment to Nevada Tahoe Basin water/wastewater agencies. (Year 1). It is anticipated that approximately 400 acres will be identified for treatment.
- 2) \$500,000 in Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) has been secured by the US Forest Service for implementation to treat 200 acres, one-half of the anticipated high risk treatment areas from the assessment (years 2-3). This funding is restricted to requiring direct water quality influence (nexus) on an adjacent federal lands property. It is likely that this restriction makes one-half (200 acres) of the high-risk acreage ineligible for funding from this source.

Identified Need:

There is a \$500,000 estimated funding gap for implementation of fuels removal on the remaining estimated 200 acres (one-half) of forest lands surrounding water/wastewater infrastructure properties that are ineligible for LTRA funding.

4.2: Set trigger for water supplier notification during a plan review that includes activities that may affect drinking water quality

Regulatory language in the LRWQCB Basin Plan Amendment requires water provider notification and solicitation of comments of potential chemical use projects.

TWSA has supported drinking water source protection through discussion of the zone of protection around drinking water intakes and wells. Current TRPA language includes a 600 ft. buffer zone to trigger project review near lake source intakes. TWSA formally requested the TRPA standard change to a 1,320 ft. (1/4 mile) buffer zone of protection around drinking water intakes. The TRPA Shoreline Plan review process initiates a water provider notification triggers for any new proposed piers or permanent structures within 1,320 ft. of an intake. For buoy fields, the notification process is also triggered in the Project Review process. The planning review process now includes a check mechanism for notification to a purveyor of any project within 600 ft. of groundwater or 1320 ft. for lake intakes. TRPA maps are flagged for drinking water sources. However, intake locations are not published for security reasons.

TWSA staff receives notification and hard copies of applications of a variety of use permits (piers, buoys) and potential projects as submitted by applicants to Nevada State Lands. These are forwarded to the applicable water providers so they can include comment and mitigation requirements such as turbidity and bacterial sampling for potential impact projects.

6.0: Develop a plan to incorporate new members into TWSA

TWSA has a defined cost sharing plan and formal membership agreement. STPUD became a full member in 2017. Also in 2017, the TWSA Board completed a bylaws review process with updates.

6.1-6.2: Annual Reporting

The *TWSA Watershed Control Program Annual Report* is submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and the California Division of Drinking Water Programs (Northern California Field Operations Branch) annually, each December. Reports are posted online at www.TahoeH2O.org. Hard copies of the report are distributed to personnel of area agencies upon request. *TWSA Watershed Control Program Annual Reports* have been published annually since 2003.

6.3: TWSA Future Goals

The TWSA Board conducts annual goal setting and review. The Board Goals are as follows (reviewed 6/2020):

1. ***“Continue and increase emphasis on extensive education and outreach on focus topics of: source water protection, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threats, treatment methods used for AIS and the value of municipal tap water.”***

As detailed in Action Plan Highlights 1.0 through 1.9 – a variety of actions happen towards this goal.

2. ***“Continue outreach and advocacy efforts for federal infrastructure funding, especially for fire flow capacity.”***

STPUD and IVGID conduct federal lobbying efforts on behalf of drinking water concerns for the Association. STPUD has conducted collective grant funding management for the TWSA group on fire flow enhancement infrastructure such as additional tanks, hydrants, pipe replacement and upgrades.

3. ***“Continue a strong communication relationship with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) and other regulatory agencies on source water protection.”***

The most significant recent development includes participation on the Stakeholder Committee of the Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test working group. This is a mediated team coordinated by TRPA for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association “Application for Exemption” resubmitted to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board in July 2018. Past participation has ongoing project review and mitigation suggestions provided regarding pesticide and herbicide use (land and water use) to Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB). Agency involvement by Nevada Dept. of Environmental Protection and California Dept. of Public Health was prompted by water provider concerns. Initial public comment prompted the LRWQCB Board to direct staff to form a working group to address the water provider concerns and produce appropriate intake protection/mitigation language. This language was incorporated into the existing regulations. TWSA staff has been heavily involved in the Nearshore Aquatic Invasive Weeds Working Group (NAIWWG) in the past 5 years. Public comment is offered. Research is conducted and shared with the group.

TWSA’s Executive Director and Chairman are in regular contact with agency staff regarding drinking water provider concerns. Staff has maintained presence on TRPA led planning and workgroup committees for shore zone projects and AIS projects.

TWSA is a sponsor for, and TWSA staff submits articles to TRPA’s *Tahoe in Depth* publication. This magazine is Tahoe’s environmental news print (also online) platform. Print copies are distributed quarterly via US Mail to all property owners in the Basin, and are offered at visitor locations.

4. ***“Maintain and improve project review / involvement process with TRPA, NV State Lands, Lahontan Water Board and other planning/regulatory agencies.”***

Current active projects include:

- *Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Programs (threats/prevention programs, treatment methods, Integrated Weeds Management Plan)*
- *Groundwater Contamination at the “Y” / PCE Plume Project*
- *Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Shoreline Plan and Project Reviews*
- *Nevada State Lands notifications on occupancy of lake bottom*
- *Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) Ongoing regulatory updates*

- *Ongoing federal and state regulatory updates*

TWSA members worked with TRPA on establishing a standardized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for routine water utility work, reducing the need to obtain individual permits for standard small scale construction and infrastructure upgrades. As outlined above in Action Plan highlights 4.0-4.1; TWSA staff and member agencies are actively involved in the planning and review of projects, activities and regulations related to source water protection at Lake Tahoe.

5. *“Utilize regional studies/projects to determine how they protect source water quality. Continue to work with LTWIP as appropriate.”*

Review of published reports and studies is conducted on an ongoing basis by TWSA staff and member agencies. Intensive staff resources have been directed to research and develop TWSA public comment on the potential use of aquatic herbicides for aquatic weeds control, driven by planning efforts in the Tahoe Keys area. Many of the reports and studies released in the past year are referenced in this annual report.

7.0-7.3: Water Use Efficiency (Conservation) in California

2019-20 precipitation was average. The record setting winter precipitation for 2018-19, alleviated the previous years’ regional drought restrictions. California TWSA members responded to the 2014-2015 California emergency water conservation mandates with extensive education, outreach and enforcement measures. In 2016, emergency restrictions were eased, however all CA members maintained agency focus on conservation. A May 2016 Resolution adopted by the State of California required districts to self-certify their conservation standards.

Common conservation measures implemented include: tiered rates, irrigation restrictions, probation on water use on hardscaping, requirements for water efficient indoor fixtures, online water waste reporting forms and more.

In addition to conservation efforts, the following CA state restrictions are permanently in place:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways, and hardscapes (except for pavement resurfacing or sealing, construction services, and/or public health and safety per TCPUD Ordinance 288);
- Washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle;
- Using non-recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature; and
- Watering in a manner that causes runoff, or within 48 hours after measurable precipitation.

North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) <http://ntpud.org/conservation>

The North Tahoe Public Utility District has set conservation restrictions; details are on the website. 2018: In May 2018, the NTPUD Board of Directors passed a plan to help the District move toward compliance with the 20% by 2020 Mandate. 2016: Through the self-certification process, NTPUD determined a supply excess with a zero conservation goal. The determination is awaiting Water Board approval. However, the 20% by 2020 Mandate remains. 2015: NTPUD’s Drought Mandated Reduction was set at 28%. Overall reduction summer 2015 was 29.5%.

North Tahoe PUD Conservation Programs

(<http://ntpud.org/howtoconserve>)

- High Efficiency/Energy Star Toilet, Dishwasher, Clothes Washer Rebates
- Low Flow Faucets & Showerhead rebate
- Weather Based "Smart" irrigation controller rebate

South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD)

(<http://stpud.us/waterconsv>)

STPUD has a dedicated Water Conservation Specialist on staff. The South Tahoe Public Utility District has set conservation restrictions. Information is detailed on their website.

South Tahoe PUD Conservation Programs (<https://stpud.us/waterconsv/>)

- Toilet Rebate
- High-Efficiency clothes washer rebate
- Turf By Back Program
- Irrigation Equipment upgrade to High Water Efficiency system
- Water Wise House call

Lakeside Park Association

(<http://lakesideparkassociation.org>)

In 2015, LPA issued letters to customers on watering restrictions and enforcement. Additional measures were required of commercial customers.

Tahoe City PUD

(<http://www.tahoecitypud.com>)

The Tahoe City Public Utility District has set conservation restrictions and information is posted on their website. 2016: Through the self-certification process TCPUD, the District certified a water supply surplus; setting the conservation goal at zero. TCPUD is offering rebate programs for WaterSense and Energy Star appliances specifically, dishwashers, clothes washing machines, and Smart Irrigation sensors and devices.

TCPUD has been acquiring and upgrading several older water systems on Tahoe's north and west shores. TCPUD is also in the planning stages to upgrade the McKinney Quail Intake to accommodate a regional filtration plant for the west shore.

Tahoe City PUD Conservation Programs

(<http://www.tahoecitypud.com/utility-services/water/water-conservation>)

- High Efficiency/Energy Star Toilet, Dishwasher, Clothes Washer Rebates
- Smart Irrigation Sensors and Devices
- State of CA Turf Removal Rebate (SaveOurWaterRebates.com)

Water Efficiency (Conservation) in Nevada

The State of Nevada did not declare a drought emergency; however, water providers enacted conservation education and voluntary water reductions.

Incline Village GID's Water Conservation Plan, was updated in 2020, and can be viewed here:

<http://water.nv.gov/programs/planning/plans/InclineVillageGID.pdf>

- IVGID launched a Water Sense appliance rebate for residential customers in 2019. \$100 rebates are offered for ultra-low flow toilet or high efficiency clothes washer appliances. The program awarded 80% of allocated rebates in its first year. <https://www.yourtahoeplace.com/news/ivgid-public-works-launches-water-efficient-appliance-rebate-program>

The Douglas County Water Conservation Plan is available at:

<http://www.douglascountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1137>.

Round Hill GID's Water Conservation Plan is being updated, viewed here:

http://water.nv.gov/programs/planning/plans/Round_Hill_GID.pdf

Kingsbury GID's Water Conservation Plan can be viewed here:

RULE 23 - Conservation Plan was updated.

<http://water.nv.gov/programs/planning/plans/KingsburyGID.pdf>

Edgewood updated their water conservation and Integrated Resource Plans in 2018. They are working with key customers on submetering and water efficiency measures.

Governor Sandoval established the Nevada Drought Forum

http://drought.nv.gov/About/Executive_Order

On April 8, 2015, Governor Sandoval convened the Nevada Drought Forum – bringing together interested stakeholders to assess the drought in Nevada, identify best conservation practices and policy needs, and make recommendations regarding next steps.

Miscellaneous Water Conservation Measures

All member agencies maintain leak detection programs to reduce system water losses. Many members offer customer leak detection tools, services, and investigate water loss.

Member agencies' rate structures vary, either using flat rates or increasing tier rate structures.

No members use decreasing block rates.

TWSA Staff maintain AWWA Water Efficiency Practitioner Certification (level 1) and have been trained in irrigation auditing. Water conservation information is featured on the TWSA website and in outreach materials offered at regional events. IVGID, TCPUD, NTPUD and STPUD offer water conservation fixture rebates and water conservation tools to residents.

IVGID and Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) offer free landscape design and outdoor water use audits to the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe Resource Conservation District offers similar services on the California side.

8.0: Review Tahoe annual diversions reports

TWSA members did not exceed allocated water rights in the past year. Since December 2018, TROA Staff have provided the TWSA Board with a presentation on the topic. These are scheduled now for every 2 years.

Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake is a complex and highly managed, bi-state, watershed. The Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) <http://www.troa.net/> was signed on Sept. 6, 2008. This agreement among 16 parties (including Federal, California, Nevada, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, water agencies/irrigation districts and Truckee Meadows Water Authority) was designed to improve the operational flexibility of Truckee River reservoirs, and had been in negotiation for more than 18 years. It is designed to formalize, regulate and monitor water rights and water use within the Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Watershed and the final outflow areas of Pyramid Lake and the Carson River. Under TROA, Tahoe Basin water rights for water extractions (surface and groundwater) are capped at 34,000 acre feet total, annually. Allocations are 11,000 acre feet per year (afy) for Nevada use and 23,000 (afy) for California use. Implementation began December 2014.



III. MONITORING AND DATA MANAGEMENT

TWSA OPERATORS UNDER FILTRATION EXEMPTION *

Ozone plus Ultraviolet disinfection; chlorine residual for delivery:

- Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)
- Glenbrook Water Cooperative (Glenbrook)
- Zephyr Water Utility District (ZWUD)
- Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID)
- Edgewood Water Company (Edgewood)

Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection and chlorine residual for delivery:

- North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)

TWSA OPERATORS USING FILTRATION TREATMENT

Filtration and chlorine residual for delivery:

- Skyland Water Company (Skyland)
- Cave Rock Water System (Cave Rock)
- Round Hill General Improvement District (RHGID)
- Lakeside Park Association (LPA)
- Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), the McKinney Quail System

*Treatment Requirements for Filtration Avoidance		
Water Quality Parameter	Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR)	SWTR + LT2ESWTR
Giardia	3-log removal/inactivation	3-log removal/inactivation
Virus	4-log removal/inactivation	4-log removal/inactivation
Cryptosporidium		2-log removal/inactivation
Turbidity	<5 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)	<5 NTU
Total coliform	<100/100 mL	<100/100 mL
Fecal coliform	<20/100 mL	<20/100 mL

Source: USACE Risk Assessment Report 2008

* Note: All TWSA filtration exempt water purveyors met LT2 upgrade requirements by using a combination of ozone and ultraviolet (UV) treatment, or UV alone. All purveyors use chlorine residual for distribution system disinfection. System upgrades are described in Chapter V.

The EPA defines water quality monitoring as a method to identify new, potentially contaminating activities and control existing activities. Water suppliers are required to monitor raw water that may affect human health for constituents. In 2002, the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) established a central drinking water quality database to improve accessibility, evaluate long-term health of their water supply, distinguish water quality trends and identify potential treatment methods. Between 2003 and 2004, TWSA staff also combined existing climatic databases in the Basin for future causal studies. TWSA staff continues to monitor weather in relation to turbidity and total coliform monitoring spikes. The TWSA has also worked with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, the University of California-Davis, the University of California-Riverside, and Black & Veatch Consulting, to complete and update a risk assessment study of the drinking water intakes. TWSA also monitors shorezone development and aquatic invasive species issues

throughout the watershed. These are initial steps in expanding the source water quality monitoring program.

Raw Water Monitoring

Under the Surface Water Treatment Rule, TWSA non-filtering water suppliers are required to complete turbidity (NTU) and total coliform or fecal coliform analyses on raw drinking water, 40 CFR §141.71(a). Samples are taken from the first pump station from the drinking water intake pipe prior to treatment. Sample frequency is dependent on the flow of raw water relative to community demand. For example, TCPUD's McKinney Quail System helps serve an increase in the seasonal community and often does not pump or sample raw water daily during the winter months. The non-filtering water suppliers currently test raw water for total coliform and E. coli coliform. State standards are met based on total coliform results. The filtering water suppliers are not required to test for total coliform and E. coli coliform on raw water but do monitor turbidity. LPA and TCPUD also monitor for coliform, even though they are a filtration system. All purveyor results are included in the following report section (see Chapter IV).

All water suppliers are required to submit the maximum and mean of the regulated impurities to the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water Programs, on a monthly basis. Any violations of monitoring or water quality parameter levels must be reported immediately. Violations may require additional monitoring, reporting, customer alerts including boil orders, or ongoing treatment, dependent on the violation type and duration.

To help suppliers identify potential problems and future treatment processes, TWSA developed a combined database which includes:

- maximum turbidity
- mean turbidity
- median turbidity
- maximum total coliform and E. coli coliform
- mean total coliform and E. coli coliform
- median total coliform and E. coli coliform
- total coliform and E. coli coliform colony counts and percentage of positive samples per year
- 90th percentile of constituent readings

The Annual Report summarizes, for each of the purveyors, raw water data for the July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020 reporting year, and yearly data ranging between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2020. TWSA maintains a database with many purveyors' data, archived from 1997. The graphic data analysis includes the following:

- monthly mean and maximum turbidity
- annual mean and maximum turbidity
- monthly mean and maximum total coliform
- annual mean and maximum total coliform

The goal of the analysis is to identify trends and to develop methods of maintaining and improving the supply and treatment processes. Following is a brief overview of the purveyors' combined raw water sample results during the 2019-2020 reporting year and between 2009 and the 2020 reporting years. Individual reports are located in the agency sections within Chapter IV of this document.

Turbidity

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, the maximum turbidity readings for the purveyors ranged between 0.33 NTU and 4.59 NTU (Table 5.0 and Figure 1.0). The purveyors' maximum turbidity readings occurred at different times of the year but tended to occur during fall storm events that produce winds from the south (Tables 5.0, 5.1). The maximum turbidity reading, 4.59 NTU, occurred on April 28, 2020, at Lakeside Park Association (LPA). Winds from the west likely influenced the high turbidity reading (Table 5.3). LPA is a filtration water purveyor, and the maximum turbidity value of 4.59 NTU is below the requirement for filtration avoidance. Of the purveyors with filtration avoidance, Glenbrook had the highest maximum annual turbidity value of 1.13 NTU, taken during a wind event on December 19, 2019, that produced 0.8-6.0 mph winds with gust up to 7.0 mph from the Southwest. All results from Glenbrook were below the 5 NTU requirement for filtration exemption, and only two results were greater than 1.00 NTU. With no result greater than 5 NTU, the surface waters of Lake Tahoe provided all TWSA members with raw water that met filtration avoidance criteria for turbidity.

Daily Maximum turbidity readings were abundant throughout the reporting year with three purveyors reporting multiple maximum readings; Edgewood's annual maximum, 0.44 NTU was recorded twice, RHGID's annual maximum of 0.33 NTU occurred three times, and TCPUD's annual maximum of 0.50 NTU occurred five times. The reporting year shows a trend between annual maximums below 0.50 NTU, and increased frequency, where as readings greater than 0.50 NTU are less frequent, as seen in the 2019-2020 data set (Table 5.0).

Following historical trends, maximum turbidity readings have been correlated to wind events producing a wave mixing effect. Of the ten TWSA water purveyors, three had maximum turbidity readings in the summer; Cave Rock/Skyland July, Edgewood August, and TCPUD September (Table 5.1). Fall 2019 had four maximum turbidity results KGID November, Edgewood November, and TCPUD October. The winter season of 2020 had three maximum turbidity readings at; Glenbrook December, ZWUD January and NTPUD March. Annual spring runoff likely influenced the maximum turbidity reading at IVGID May, RHGID May, and LPA in April 2020.

The highest monthly mean turbidity calculations ranged between 0.20 NTU and 0.57 NTU and occurred primarily during October 2019 with results at TCPUD, Caverock/Skyland, and LPA (Table 5.0). The highest annual mean turbidity reading for the TWSA purveyors was 0.30 NTU and was from ZWUD's intake, a system that is operated with filtration exemption (Table 5.0).

For the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2020, maximum turbidity for each of the purveyors has varied. For the 10-year period, the highest maximum turbidity reading was recorded at LPA, 20.20 NTU, during the 2016-2017 reporting year, and the lowest maximum turbidity reading, 0.22 NTU, was recorded in 2010 at Glenbrook (Table 5.2 and Figure 1.1). Although no trends visually appear, many of the maximum turbidity values remained below 5 NTU except NTPUD in 2013, Glenbrook 2014, LPA 2016, and LPA 2018 (Figure 1.1, Table 5.2). Annual maximum turbidity was the lowest in 2012 for the 10-year reporting period with values 0.26 NTU-1.00 NTU (Table 5.2). For the 2019-2020 reporting year (noted as 2019 in tables and figures), annual maximum turbidity values have been lower across six of ten purveyors, increased for three, and equal for one, in comparison to the previous reporting year. Linear trendline data for the 10-year period shows that five of the purveyors have a decreasing annual maximum turbidity trend, and five show an increasing trend in annual maximum turbidity.

Historical annual mean turbidity is relatively consistent for each of the purveyors (Table 5.3). The annual range throughout the 10-year reporting years and all purveyors is 0.08 NTU to 0.76 NTU (Table 5.3). The range for the 2019-2020 reporting year annual mean turbidity values is 0.17 NTU to 0.30 NTU (Figure 1.0, Table 5.0). Annual mean turbidity decreased for three purveyors, and increased for seven between this reporting year and the previous (Table 5.3). Although no inclusive trends visually appear, over the 10-year reporting period linear trendline data for annual mean turbidity show three purveyors with decreasing trends, and seven with increasing trends (Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.0: Comparison of Annual Mean and Maximum Turbidity Results for TWSA Purveyors for the 2019-2020 Reporting Year.

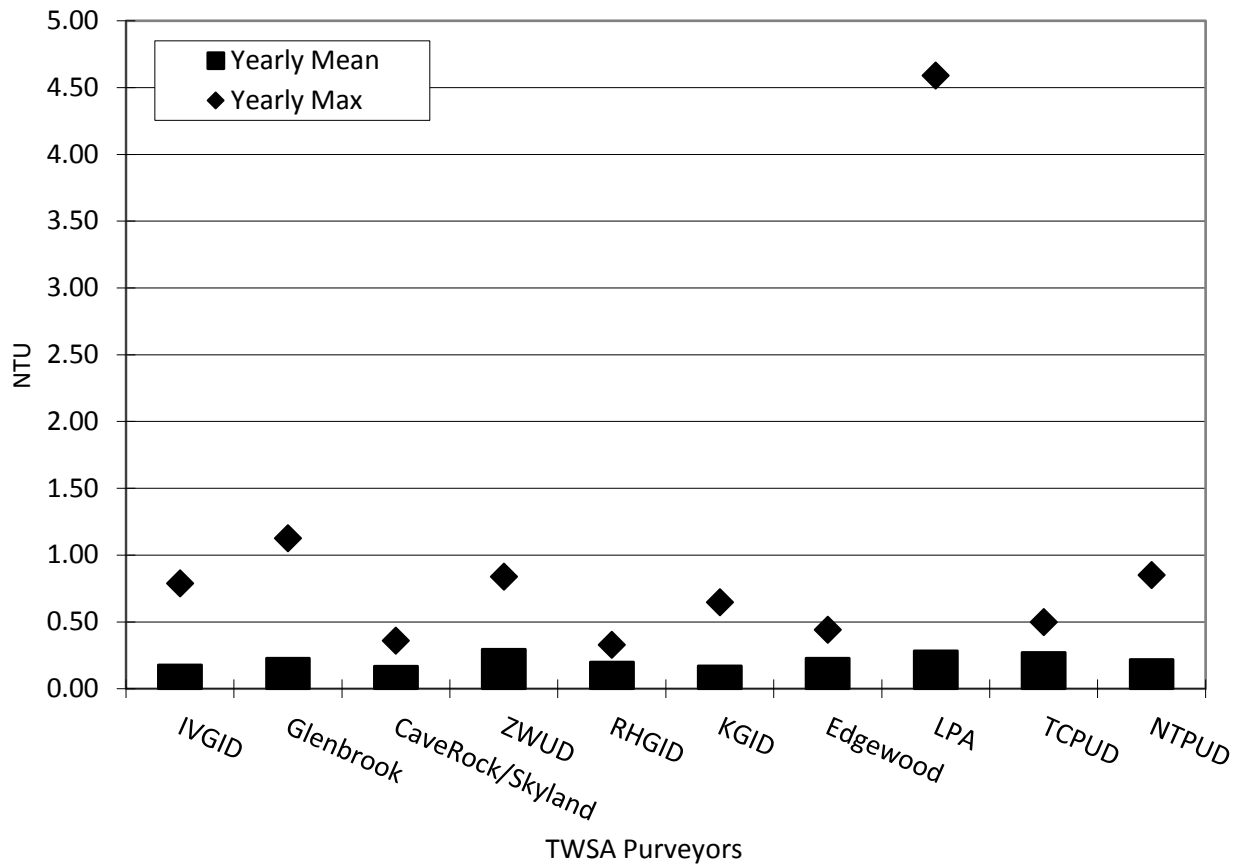


Table 5.0: Summary of TWSA raw water turbidity between July 1st, 2019 and June 30th, 2020.

2019-2020 (NTU)	IVGID	Glenbrook	Cave Rock/Skyland	ZWUD	RHGID	KGID	Edgewood	LPA	TCPUD	NTPUD
Mean	0.18	0.23	0.17	0.30	0.20	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.27	0.22
Maximum	0.79	1.13	0.36	0.84	0.33	0.65	0.44	4.59	0.50	0.85
Date Maximum	30-May	19-Dec	11-Jul	15-Jan	Oct. 27 Oct. 28 May 24	Nov. 26	Aug. 5 Nov. 19	28-Apr	Sep. 5 Sep. 12 Oct. 2 Oct. 3 Oct. 16	3-Sep
Highest Monthly Mean	0.25	0.37	0.20	0.42	0.26	0.24	0.34	0.57	0.29	0.32
Date Mean	July	Nov.	Oct.	May	Aug.	Aug.	Nov.	Oct.	Sep. Oct.	July

Historic information available upon request.

Table 5.1: Summary TWSA raw water turbidity data for the 2019-2020 reporting year in relation to weather.

2019-2020 (NTU)	IVGID	Glenbrook	Cave Rock/ Skyland	ZWUD	RHGID	KGID	Edgewood	LPA	TCPUD	NTPUD
Maximum	0.79	1.13	0.36	0.84	0.33	0.65	0.44	4.59	0.50	0.85
Date Maximum	30-May	19-Dec	11-Jul	15-Jan	Oct. 27 Oct. 28 May 24	Nov. 26	Aug. 5 Nov. 19	28-Apr	Sep. 5 Sep. 12 Oct. 2 Oct. 3 Oct. 16	1-Mar
Sustained Wind Speed Average/Max	0.9 6.9	0.8 6.0	0.7 4.0	0.5 11.2		0.8 7.0	0.2 2.9 8.0	0.1 4.0		1.5 8.2
Wind Gust Max Speed	10	7	12	24.8	Table 5.3(a)	7	3.4 8	4.00	Table 5.3(a)	0
Wind Direction	WSW	SW	SSE	East		SW	North NE	ESE		WNW
Weather Event/ Precipitation (in)	0.00 inches	0.00 inches	0.00 inches	0.04 Rain		0.00 inches	0.00 inches 0.01 inch	0.00		0.00 inches

Table 5.1 (a): Summary RHGID and TCPUD raw water turbidity data for the 2019-2020 reporting year in relation to weather.

2019-2020 (NTU)	RHGID				TCPUD			
Maximum	0.33				0.50			
Date Maximum	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	24-May	Sep. 5	Sep. 12	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 16
Sustained Wind Speed Average/Max	1.4 21.3	1.1 20.1	1.1 10.5	0 1.7	1.1 10.9	0.8 6.3	1.5 12.0	0.8 6.3
Wind Gust Max Speed	24	20	12	1.7	86	68.9	11.9	68.9
Wind Direction	SSE	East	ESE	SW	West	SW	SSW	SW
Weather Event/ Precipitation (in)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02 inch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 5.2: Comparison of TWSA purveyors annual maximum turbidity results for the July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 reporting years.

(units NTU)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
IVGID	0.40	0.50	0.41	0.53	0.38	0.78	0.63	0.79	0.76	0.80	0.79
Glenbrook	0.90	0.22	0.35	0.35	1.00	7.21	1.37	0.59	0.77	0.81	1.13
Cave Rock/ Skyland	1.21	2.11	3.55	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.26	0.46	0.39	0.30	0.36
ZWUD	0.75	0.77	0.67	0.94	0.81	0.91	0.57	0.48	0.83	0.90	0.84
RHGID	0.66	0.30	0.30	0.26	0.23	0.29	0.27	0.35	0.29	0.38	0.33
KGID	2.15	1.78	0.95	0.61	0.61	0.66	0.60	4.28	0.81	1.38	0.65
Edgewood	0.80	1.00	0.80	0.75	0.45	0.75	0.70	0.70	0.92	0.66	0.44
LPA	2.00	1.40	1.40	1.00	1.00	1.00	5.60	20.20	1.67	17.00	4.59
TCPUD	0.26	0.43	0.51	0.42	0.42	0.31	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.50	0.50
NTPUD	2.01	0.99	1.30	0.85	5.01	0.99	0.92	1.03	0.65	0.50	0.85

Table 5.3: Comparison of TWSA purveyors annual mean turbidity results for the July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 reporting years.

(units NTU)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
IVGID	0.13	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.14	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.18
Glenbrook	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.12	0.23	0.19	0.17	0.22	0.19	0.23
Cave Rock/ Skyland	0.17	0.14	0.14	0.39	0.23	0.22	0.12	0.21	0.23	0.16	0.17
ZWUD	0.24	0.21	0.18	0.16	0.18	0.17	0.30	0.16	0.24	0.26	0.30
RHGID	0.17	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.20
KGID	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.19	0.17	0.18	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.19	0.17
Edgewood	0.15	0.21	0.18	0.19	0.14	0.18	0.14	0.16	0.21	0.24	0.23
LPA	0.76	0.65	0.60	0.33	0.30	0.31	0.26	0.62	0.23	0.26	0.28
TCPUD	0.18	0.26	0.31	0.22	0.19	0.22	0.17	0.21	0.60	0.22	0.27
NTPUD	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.27	0.43	0.24	0.20	0.23	0.27	0.21	0.22

Figure 1.1: Comparison of TWSA Purveyors Annual Maximum Turbidity Results from 2009 to 2020.

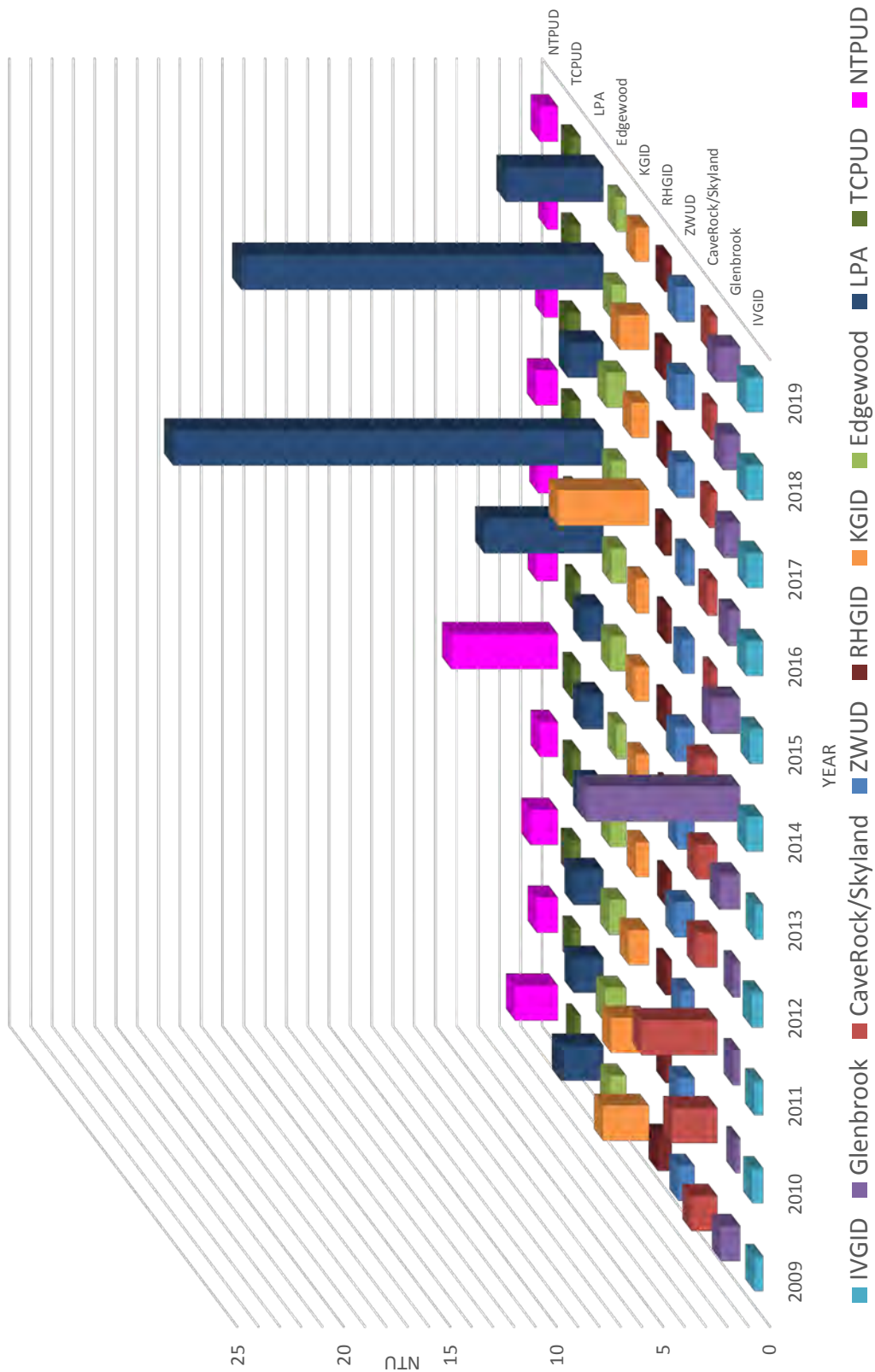
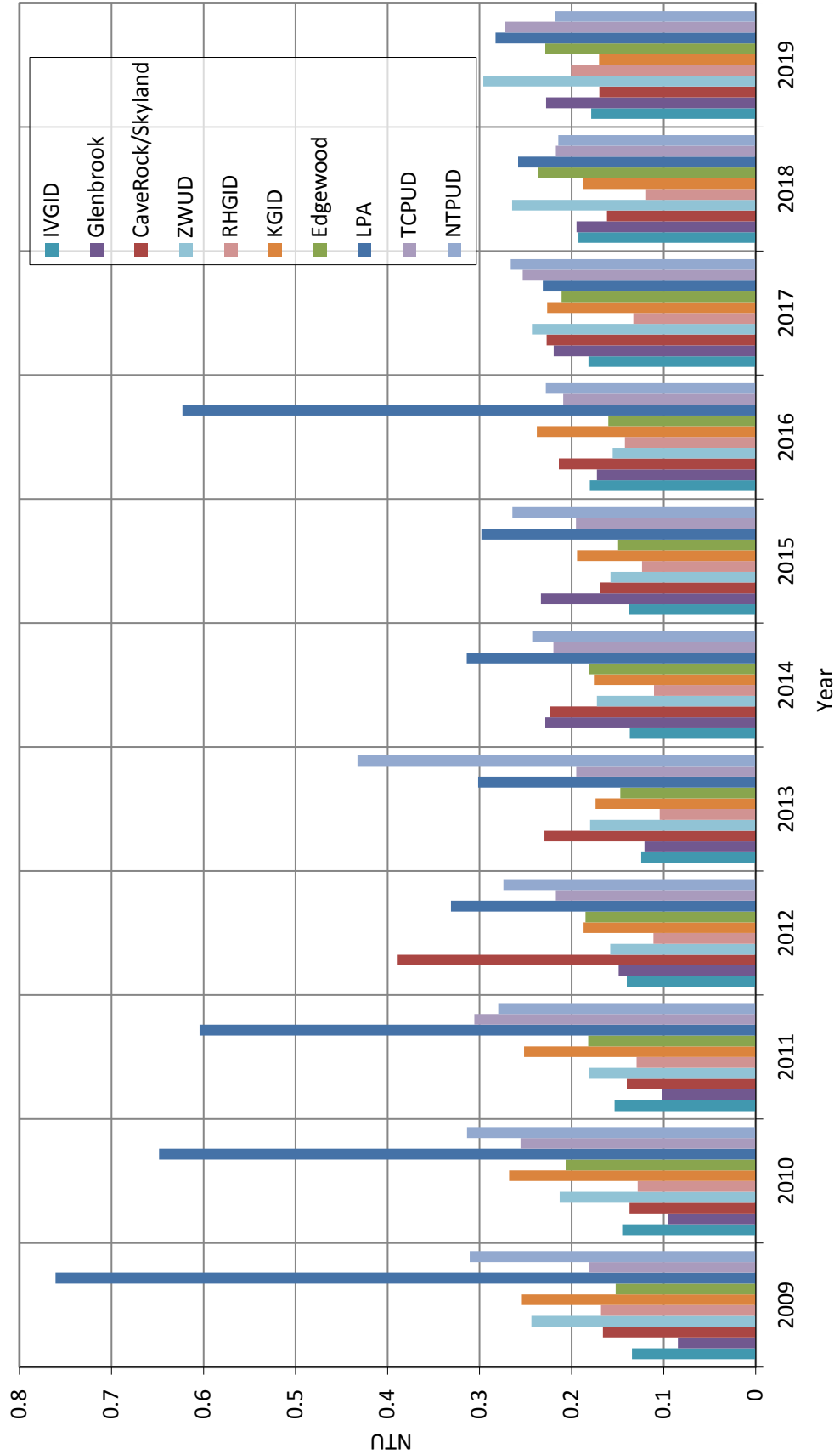


Figure 1.2: Comparison of TWSA Purveyors Annual Mean Turbidity from 2009 to 2020.



Coliform

Maximum total coliform is the highest number of colony-forming units per 100 mL (CFU/100 mL) or most probable number of colony-forming units per 100 mL (MPN) counted from a single raw water sample during a reporting month or year. The mean total coliform count is the average number of colonies counted per individual sample during the reporting month or year.

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, the maximum total coliform readings for the purveyors were between 1.0 and 200.5 CFU/100 mL (Table 5.3, Figure 1.3). The annual mean total coliform results for the purveyors were between 0.01 and 9.78 CFU/100 mL (Table 5.3). The highest annual total coliform reading, 200.5 CFU/100 mL, was taken twice at Glenbrook, on consecutive days August 26, 2019 and August 27, 2020 (Table 5.3). The high readings were taken during a wind event from the East. On August 26, 2019, the weather included sustained winds of 0.8-6 mph with gusts up to 14 mph paired with a maximum temperature of 84.4°F during a weekly mean temperature of 67.7°F. On August 27, 2019 sustained winds of 1.3-8.0 mph with gusts up to 16 mph, were paired with a maximum temperature of 84.4°F during a weekly mean temperature of 67.7°F (Table 5.4). The increase in temperature, paired with mixing caused by wind, may have contributed to the high total coliform results. The maximum total coliform readings of 200.5 CFU/100 mL were greater than the 100 CFU/100 mL regulatory requirement for filtration exemption, but well below the 10% of total results requirement, with two out of the 76 readings above 100 CFU/100 mL equaling 2.63% of total samples. The annual maximum reading of 200.5 CFU/100 mL at Glenbrook is equal to the maximum total coliform results for the 2002 reporting year, and similar to maximum total coliform results at KGID in 2016 and 2012-2014 (Table 5.6).

Figure 1.3: Comparison of Annual Mean and Maximum Total Coliform for TWSA Purveyors for the 2019-2020 Reporting Year.

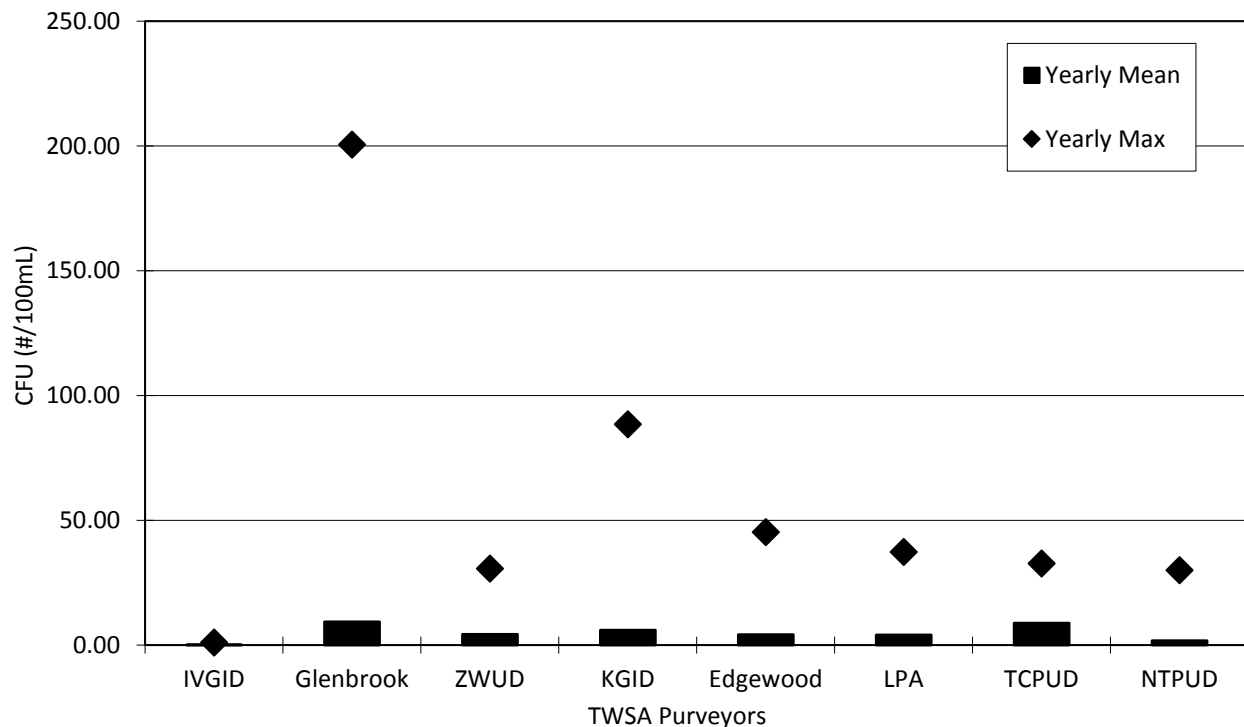


Table 5.4: For the 2019-2020 reporting year, a comparison of annual maximum total coliform (CFU or MPN/100 mL) and annual mean total coliform (CFU or MPN/100mL) by date for TWSA water suppliers.

Annual Total Coliform CFU (#/100mL)	IVGID	Glenbrook	ZWUD	KGID	Edgewood	LPA	TCPUD	NTPUD
Maximum	1.00	200.50	30.60	88.50	45.20	37.30	32.70	30.00
Date Maximum	2-Jan 28-April	26-Aug 27-Aug	13-Aug	21-Aug	20-Nov	11-Jun	6-Aug	12-Sep
Mean	0.01	9.34	4.30	5.98	4.23	4.03	8.86	1.82

Table 5.5: For the 2019-2020 reporting year, a comparison of annual maximum total coliform (CFU or MPN/100 mL) and weather data by date for TWSA water suppliers.

Annual Total Coliform CFU (#/100 mL)	IVGID		Glenbrook		ZWUD	KGID	Edgewood	LPA	TCPUD	NTPUD
Maximum	1.0	1.0	200.5	200.5	30.6	88.5	45.2	37.3	32.7	30.0
Date Maximum	2-Jan	28-Apr	26-Aug	27-Aug	13-Aug	21-Aug	20-Nov	11-Jun	6-Aug	12-Sep
Sustained Wind Speed Average/Max	0.8 4.9	0.6 4.9	0.8 6.0	1.3 8.0	1.4 7.0	0.9 12.8	0.9 8.0	0.5 8.0	0.8 6.3	1.4 8.2
Wind Gust Speed	6.00	7.0	14.0	16.0	10.0	13.0	8.0	8.0	6.3	0.0
Daily Max Temp (°F)	42.8	73.0	84.4	84.4	82.0	81.1	34.7	76.8	68.9	70.4
1 Week Mean Temperature (°F)	35.9	51.3	67.7	67.7	67.7	66.1	38.0	52.5	43.6	57.2

For the 10-year reporting period, maximum total coliform for each of the purveyors has varied. Although no trends visually appear, maximum total coliform results were below 100 CFU/100 mL for all purveyors during the 2015-2016 reporting year. Additionally, the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2020 had the highest annual maximum total coliform results in 2017, the filtration exempt water purveyor 10-year maximum of 500 CFU/100 mL, was recorded at NTPUD, and the filtering purveyor 10-year maximum of 613 CFU/100 mL was recorded at LPA (Figure 1.5 and Table 5.6).

For the 2019-2020 reporting year (noted as 2019 in tables and figures), maximum total coliform values were lower across two of eight purveyors in comparison to the previous reporting year. Linear trendline data for the ten-year period shows that seven of the purveyors have increasing maximum total coliform results; and one has a decreasing trend (Figure 1.4). It should be noted that, during the 2016-2017 reporting year, NTPUD had a statistical anomaly that resulted in the removal of three “Too Numerous to Count” results from the data set. See the 2017 Watershed Control Annual Program Report for full details.

Historical annual mean total coliform results are relatively consistent for each of the purveyors. The annual range throughout all the reporting years and purveyors is 0.00 CFU/100 mL to 69.36 CFU/100 mL (Table 5.7). The range for the 2019-2020 reporting year annual mean total coliform values is 0.01 CFU/100 mL to 9.34 CFU/100 mL (Figure 1.3). In comparison to the previous reporting year three purveyors had decreased annual mean results, four had increasing and one remained the same (Figure 1.5). Linear trendline data for the 10-year reporting period for annual mean total coliform results shows increasing trends for all purveyors, likely influenced by the increase in total coliform seen in the 2017-2018 reporting year (Figure 1.5). See the 2018 TWSA Watershed Control Annual Report for discussion on factors influencing the watershed.

Table 5.6: Comparison of TWSA purveyors annual maximum total coliform results for the July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 reporting years.

(units CFU/100 ml)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
IVGID	1	24	20	20	69	43	37	16	76	1.00	1
Glenbrook	7.5	9.9	28.8	40.6	30.6	40.6	62.4	16.4	28.8	28.80	200.5
ZWUD	8.7	56	11.1	50.4	30.6	19.2	32.4	38.4	29	22.20	30.6
KGID	56	30.6	22.2	200.5	200.5	200.5	83.1	200.5	144	118.40	88.5
Edgewood	130	28	20	27.5	26.2	16.1	60.9	20.3	35.5	36.40	45.2
LPA	57	33	32.8	160.7	52	12.1	7.5	10.9	613	29.50	37.3
TCPUD	47.8	53	16.4	2	3.1	13.7	3.1	5.1	67.7	55.40	32.7
NTPUD	50	130	220	50	50	110	50	70	500	23.00	30

Table 5.7: Comparison of TWSA purveyors annual mean total coliform results for the July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 reporting years.

(units CFU/100 mL)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
IVGID	0.03	0.30	0.21	0.24	0.56	0.46	0.35	0.24	1.95	0.01	0.01
Glenbrook	0.84	1.32	1.34	4.00	1.98	3.14	4.01	2.48	3.45	2.82	9.34
ZWUD	0.84	1.95	1.25	3.20	1.79	3.19	2.51	3.54	3.07	3.06	4.30
KGID	2.46	2.67	1.66	2.90	3.25	5.82	2.70	9.78	6.30	5.42	5.98
Edgewood	2.31	1.54	1.52	2.10	1.64	1.20	1.71	2.95	7.33	4.44	4.23
LPA	6.06	9.01	5.51	11.80	6.82	2.32	1.12	1.84	69.36	4.92	4.03
TCPUD	19.20	2.00	3.20	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.02	3.73	18.22	15.13	8.86
NTPUD	1.89	2.93	4.32	2.25	3.07	4.42	2.97	2.52	11.21	1.85	1.82

Figure 1.4: Comparison of TWSA Purveyors Maximum Total Coliform from 2009 to 2020.

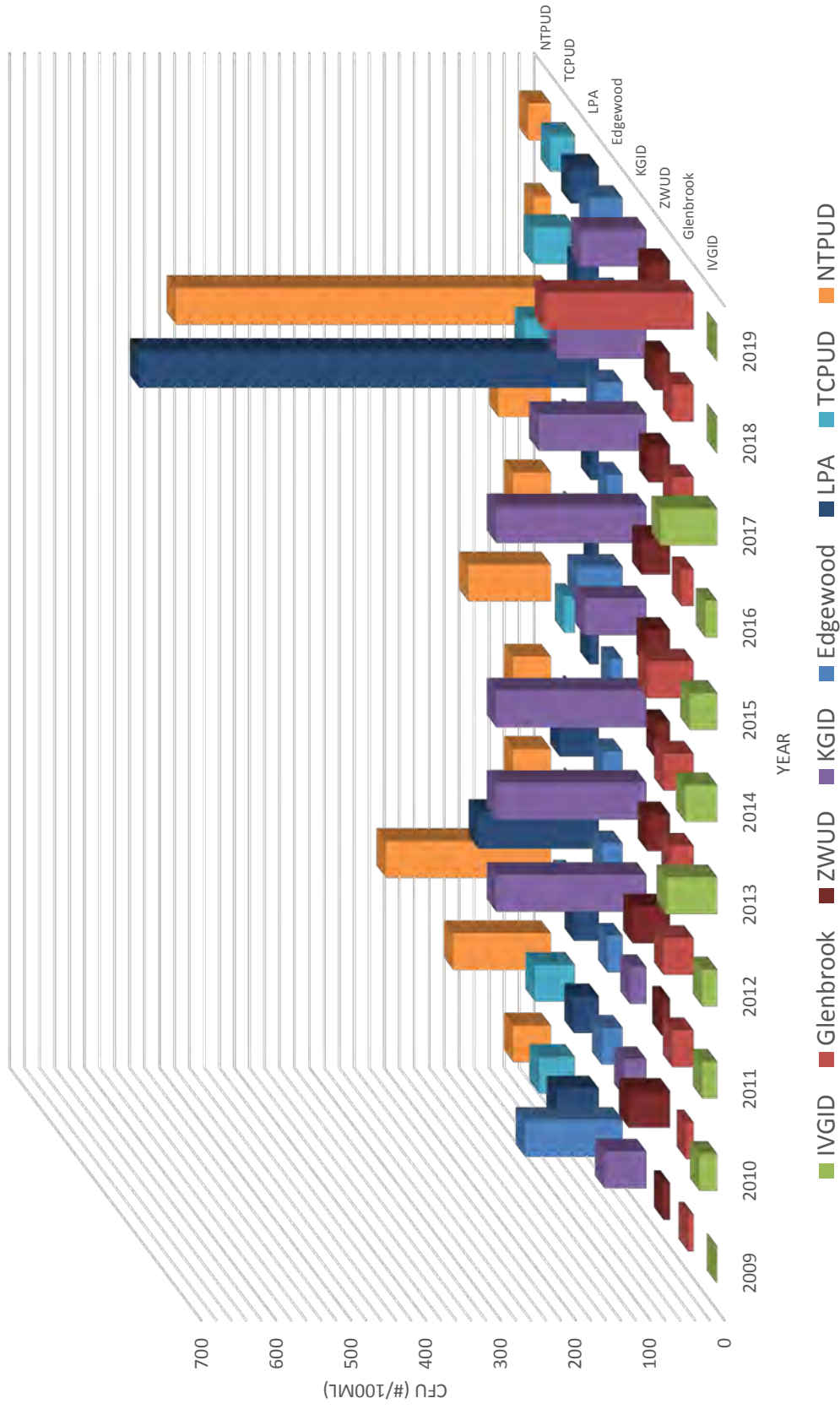
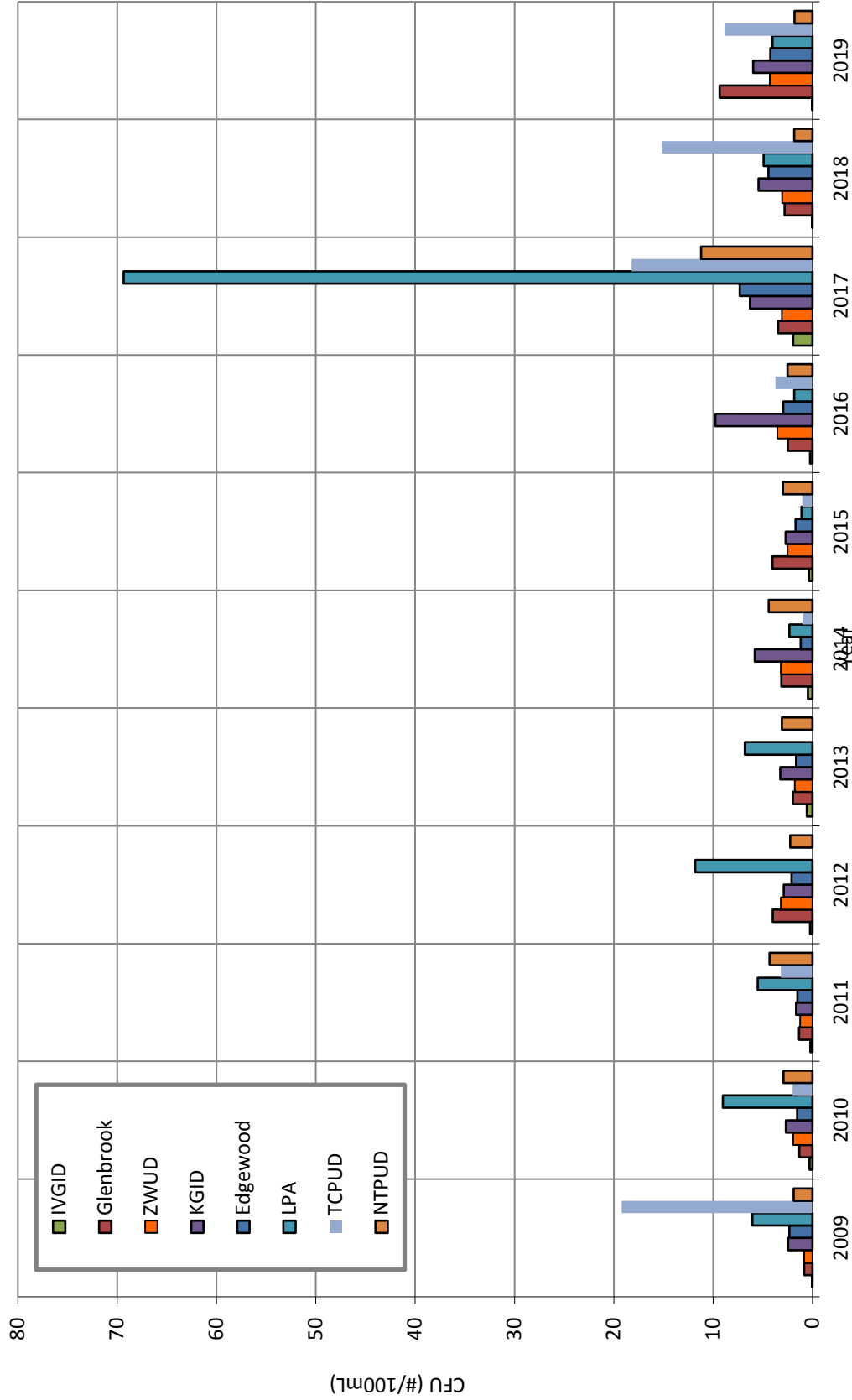


Figure 1.5: Comparison of TWSA Purveyors Mean Total Coliform Results for 2009 to 2020 Reporting years.



Surface Water Monitoring

In the past (1999 to 2010), IVGID partnered with the NDEP to provide a volunteer surface water monitoring program on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. The Incline Village Clean Water Team was a volunteer water monitoring program in the Incline Village/Crystal Bay area, focused on surface water monitoring at eleven locations on a monthly or bi-monthly basis [Plate 11]. At each site, volunteers monitored dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, gauge height, pH, and stream flow and collected two grab samples. The grab samples were analyzed in the lab for total coliform, fecal coliform, and turbidity. Results from surface water samples led IVGID staff to broken water pipes and identified social recreation areas (dog walking areas). This information was valuable in providing advice on the future location of a new dog park that would combine areas of high dog use into a managed site. Due to a lack of volunteer support, the Clean Water Team is not currently in operation.

In 2003, IVGID added a beach monitoring program. Once a week throughout the summer season, and biweekly in the winter, staff collects samples from four beach sites and the mouths of two streams [Plate 10]. The samples are analyzed in the lab for turbidity, total coliform, and E. coli coliform. The results of the tests are used to determine if additional studies are needed to assess the effect of recreational activity on source water quality. Initial results indicate an increasing trend in the total coliform at beach and creek sites during the summer months. The goal is to identify and remove or reduce potential contaminating sources. IVGID staff continues to operate their stream and beach monitoring program.

Climatic Database

In 2004, IVGID staff started analyzing climatic databases to provide accessible weather data for causal correlation analyses. The weather data analyzed includes wind speed (sustained and gusts), wind direction, precipitation, humidity, temperature (maximum, minimum, and weekly average) and snow depth. The web-based weather data provided from Weather Underground, www.wunderground.com, is used extensively in analysis.

Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)

The EPA maintains the Safe Drinking Water Information System to track and inform people if a water purveyor has been in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act. These violations can relate to health, reporting or monitoring requirements that were not met. TWSA purveyors had no violations during the reporting year, the violations represented below are from the 2019-2020 reporting year that were not publicized at the time of publication.

Table 5.8: Violations by TWSA Purveyors of the Health, Reporting, or Monitoring Requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWIS 2019-2020) Including violations for the previous reporting year not published at time of publication.

No Violations were reported by TWSA Purveyors during the reporting year.

The following section provides detailed water quality reports for each of the TWSA water purveyors.

IV. Agency Annual Data

Incline Village General Improvement District Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) remained in compliance with Federal and State water quality requirements. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation of the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9). Additional regulatory information for IVGID is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, IVGID met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within the regulatory limits. The monthly mean and maximum turbidity measurements did not exceed 1.00 NTU (Figure 5.0).

The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 0.79 NTU, coinciding with a wind event on May 30, 2020. Sustained winds from the west/southwest of 0.3-6.9 mph with gusts up to 10 mph, likely affected the turbidity results (Table 5.1). The highest monthly mean turbidity, 0.25 NTU, occurred in July 2019 (Table 6.0, Figure 2.0). The annual mean turbidity for IVGID was 0.23 NTU and 90% of results were below 0.26 NTU.

Table 6.0: IVGID source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the IVGID intake.

Month	Monthly max (NTU)	Date monthly max	Monthly mean (NTU)	Monthly median (NTU)	90 th percentile
Jul-19	0.63	29	0.25	0.24	0.28
Aug-19	0.43	7	0.23	0.22	0.28
Sep-19	0.74	26	0.21	0.19	0.23
Oct-19	0.20	2	0.14	0.13	0.17
Nov-19	0.34	23	0.15	0.135	0.19
Dec-19	0.59	11	0.20	0.16	0.33
Jan-20	0.66	16	0.19	0.16	0.20
Feb-20	0.45	3, 27	0.16	0.11	0.27
Mar-20	0.46	27	0.12	0.09	0.16
Apr-20	0.67	3	0.16	0.12	0.19
May-20	0.79	30	0.17	0.14	0.24
Jun-20	0.75	8	0.16	0.14	0.17

IVGID's turbidity readings have not reached or exceeded 1.0 NTU since 2002. From 1997-2002, maximum IVGID turbidity readings ranged from 1.0 to 1.9 NTU. The yearly maximum, mean, and median turbidity for the 2019-2020 reporting year were lower than the previous reporting year (Figure 2.1). Linear trendline data shows an increase in annual maximum and mean turbidity for the IVGID drinking water intake from July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2020, with all results less than 1.0 NTU (Figure 2.1).

Coliform

IVGID met Federal and State guidelines for total coliform and E. coli coliform. The maximum total coliform count was 1 CFU/100 mL, equal to the previous years' maximum, and less than the 2017-2018 reporting 10-year maximum of 76 CFU/100 mL (Table 6.1). The 2019-2020 maximum total coliform result occurred twice in the reporting year January 2, 2020 and April 28, 2020. The detections of total coliform at the IVGID intake were likely due to wind-wave action causing a mixing effect paired with daily maximum temperatures increased by 6.9°F and 21.7°F respectfully, above the weekly average temperature. A full description of weather paired with maximum total coliform readings is available (Table 5.5).

Total coliform was detected in 1% of the 157 samples analyzed, equal to the previous reporting year, and lower than the 14% detection rate of 2017-2018 (Table 6.1, Figure 2.3). Annual total coliform maximums show an increasing trend over the 10-year reporting period from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2020 (Figure 2.3). The annual mean total coliform count was 0.01 CFU/100 mL, equal to the 2018-2019 annual mean result, and 90% of samples were below 0.00 CFU/100 mL (Table 5.7, Table 6.1, Figure 2.3). The annual mean total coliform results show a slightly increasing linear trend from 2009-2020 (Figure 2.3).

IVGID also completed tests for E. coli coliform on the 157 source water samples. E. coli coliform was detected in zero samples during the 2019-2020 reporting year. E. coli coliform was detected in 0% of samples taken by IVGID, and the annual mean E. coli coliform result was 0.00 CFU/100 mL (Table 6.1 and 6.2).

Table 6.1: IVGID annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the IVGID intake.

	Total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	E. coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Mean	0.01	0.00
Median	0.00	0.00
Max	1.00	0.00
90th Percentile	0.00	0.00
Colony-Forming Samples	2.00	0.00
Total Number of Samples	157.00	157.00

Table 6.2: IVGID monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data result from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the IVGID intake.

	Monthly maximum total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly maximum E.coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean E.coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Jul-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aug-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sep-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oct-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nov-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dec-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jan-20	1.00	0.07	0.00	0.00
Feb-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mar-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Apr-20	1.00	0.08	0.00	0.00
May-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jun-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Figure 2.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

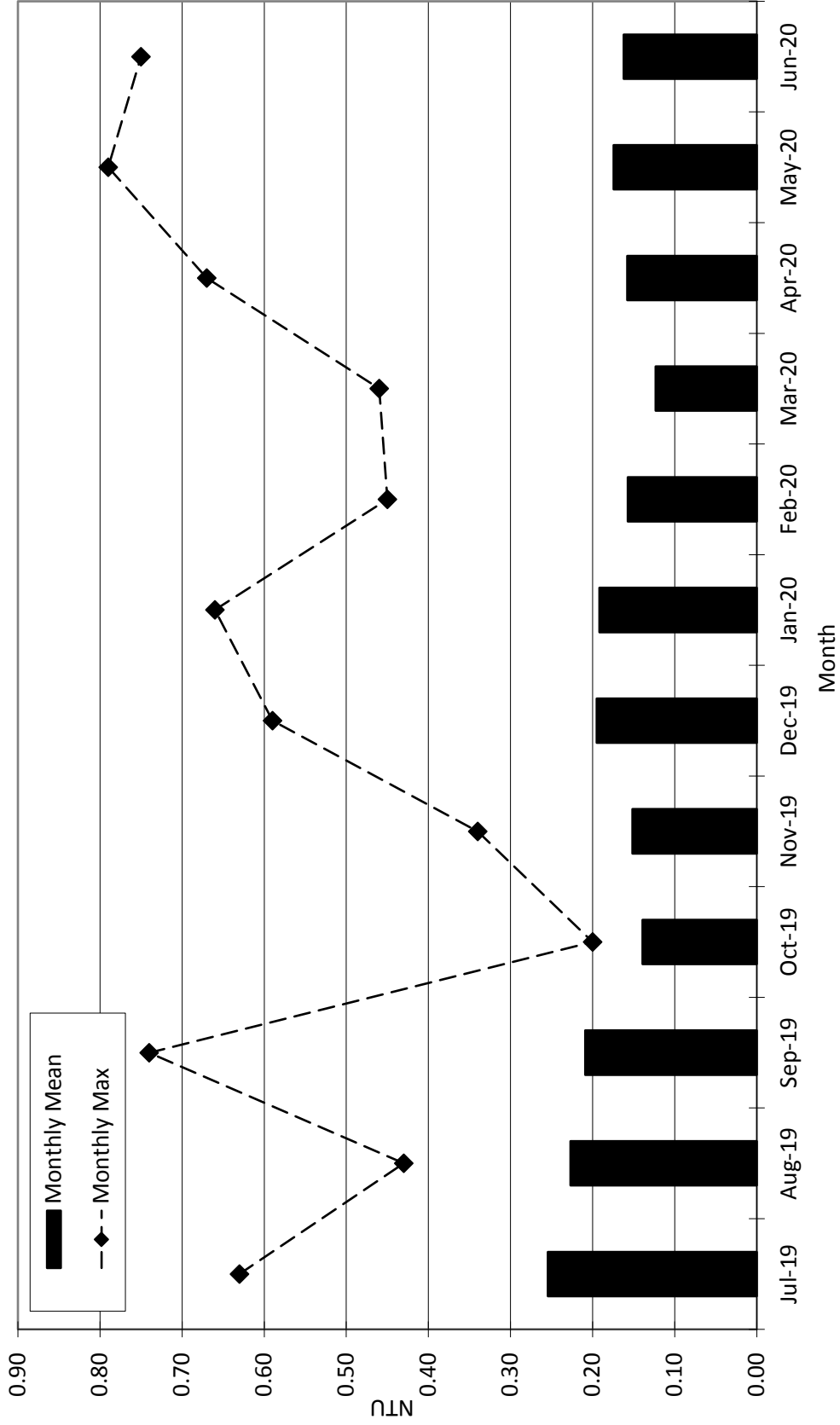


Figure 2.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

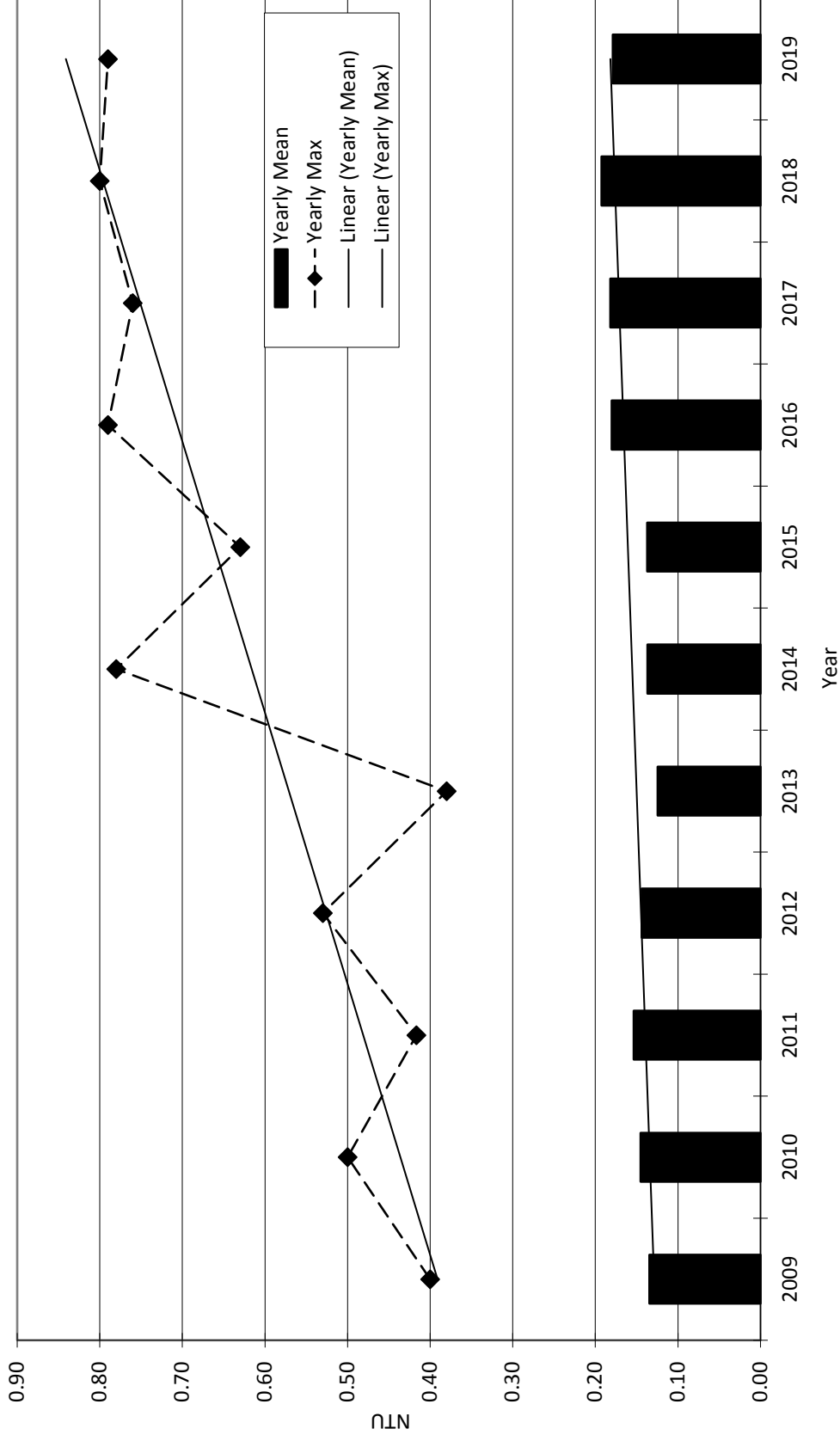


Figure 2.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

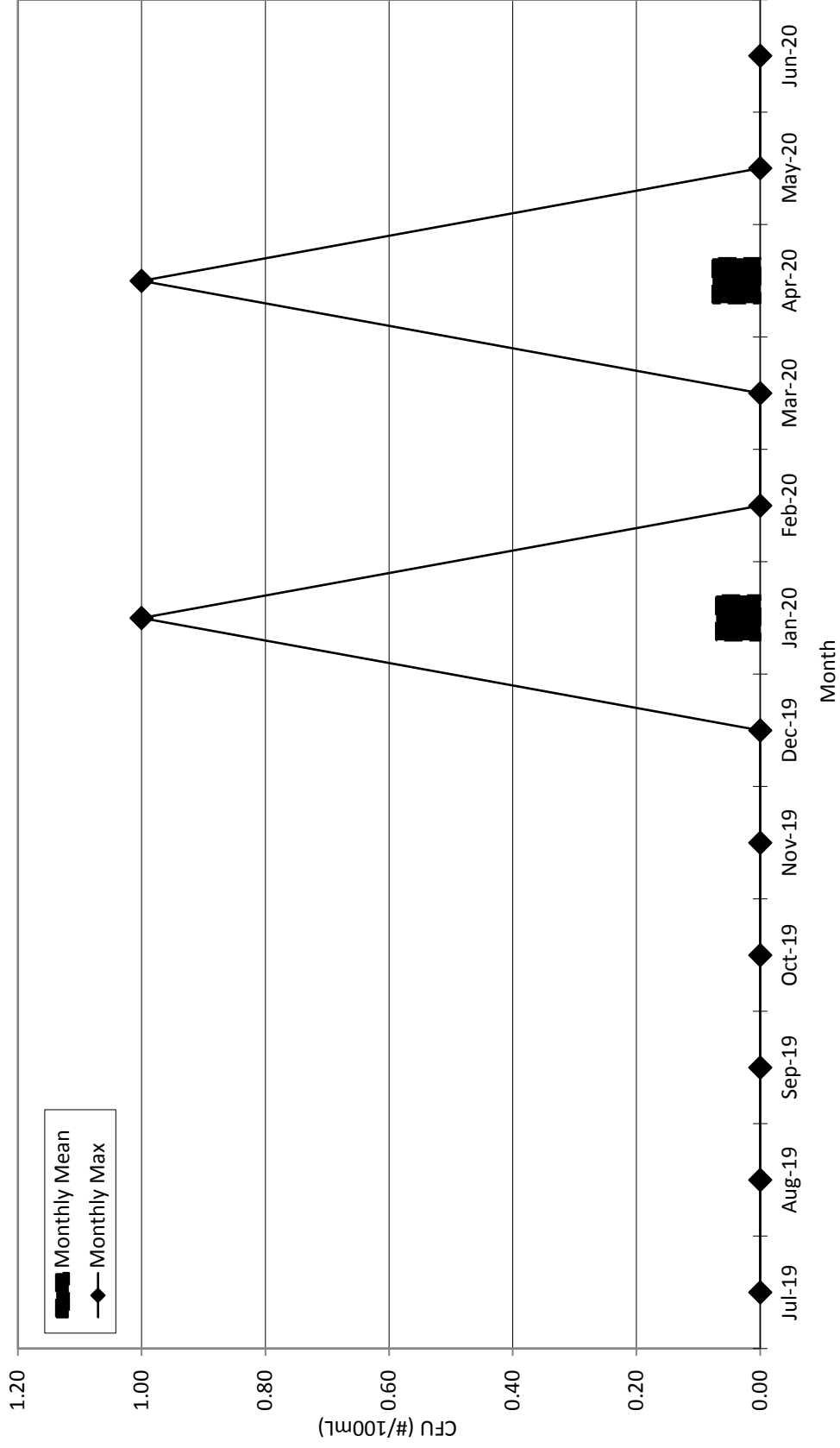
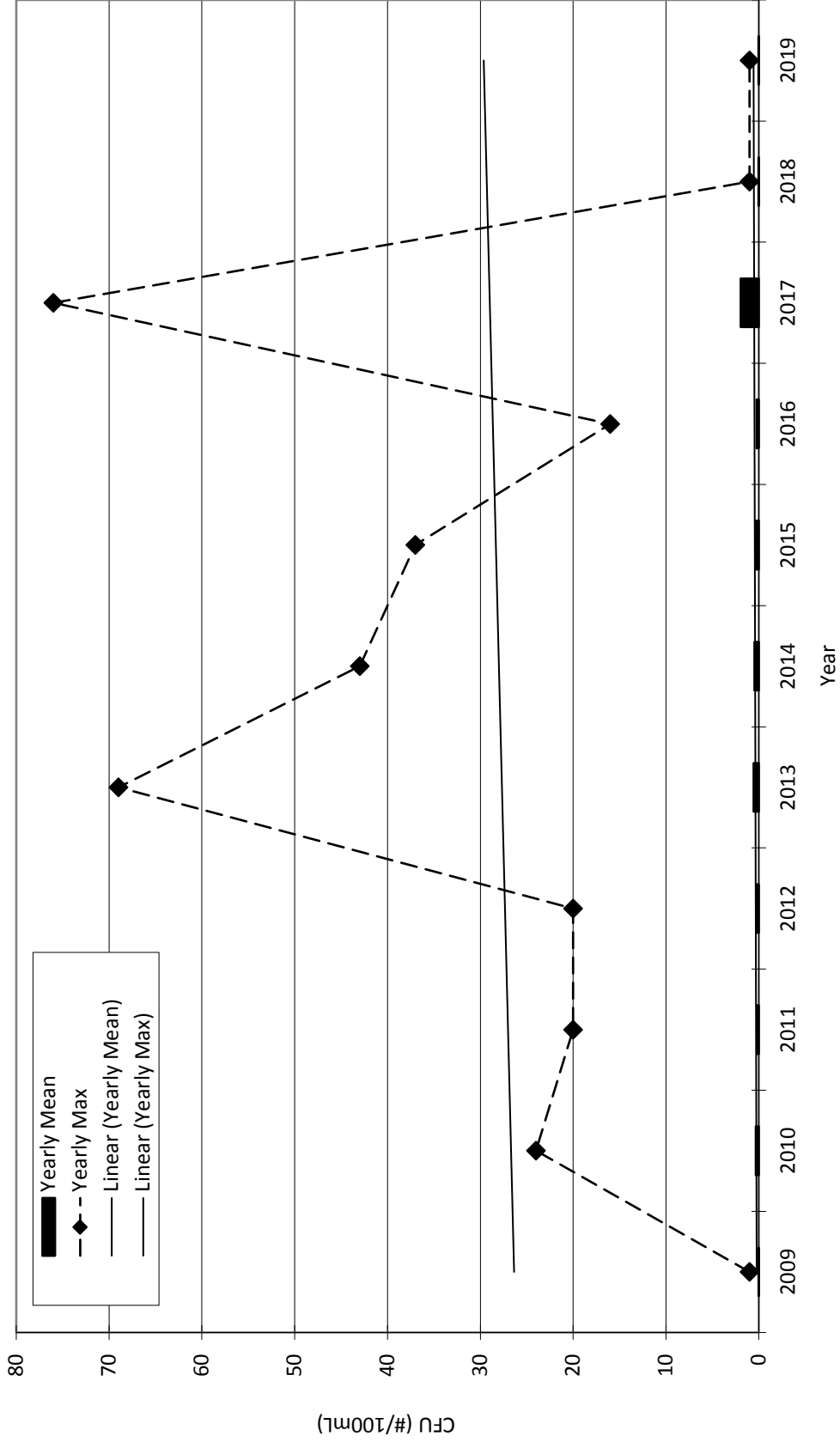


Figure 2.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





Consumer Confidence Report



WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2020 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

1220 SWEETWATER ROAD, INCLINE VILLAGE NV 89451 . OFFICE HOURS M-F 8AM TO 4:30PM
P: (775)832-1203 . F: (775)832-1260 . PW@IVGID.ORG . WWW.IVGIDPUBLICWORKS.ORG



This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Nevada state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are continually being made to improve their water systems.

For more information please contact:
Keith Rudd at (775) 832-1290.

SOURCE NAME	SOURCE WATER TYPE
Lake Tahoe Intake at Burnt Cedar Water Disinfection Plant	Surface Water

We add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of our source water. For the source water assessment results, please contact us.

MESSAGE FROM THE EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visit www.epa.gov/safewater.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or visiting the EPA website at www.epa.gov/safewater.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER BEFORE TREATMENT INCLUDE:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as stormwater run-off, agriculture, landscaping and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to the EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide protection for public health. Our water system tested a minimum of 15 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.



WATER QUALITY DATA - INCLINE VILLAGE GID

Public Water System (PWS) #NV0000158

The water provided to you is safe and high quality. Our tap water exceeds all national standards.

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1 - December 31, 2019. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Violations: IVGID is required to include an explanation of any violations. We are pleased to report there were no violations in 2019.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No violations occurred calendar year 2019			



TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

mg/L: milligrams per liter

No Detected Results (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pH: pH is a measure of the acidity or basicity of an aqueous solution. Pure water is said to be neutral, with a pH close to 7.0 at 25 °C (77 °F). Solutions with a pH less than 7 are said to be acidic and solutions with a pH greater than 7 are basic or alkaline.

TDS: Total Dissolved Solids is a measure of the combined content of all inorganic and organic substances contained in a liquid.

THM: Total Trihalomethanes (bromoform, chloroform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane)

RAA: running annual average.

Soft/Hard Water: Because it is the precise mixture of minerals dissolved in the water, together with the water's pH and temperature, that determines the behavior of the hardness, a single-number scale does not adequately describe hardness. However, the United States Geological Survey uses the following classification into hard and soft water: Classification by hardness in mg/L: Soft = 0 to 60; moderately hard = 61-120; hard = 121-180; very hard >180.



Consumer Confidence Report

TEST RESULTS: 2019 WATER QUALITY DATA

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COLIFORM (TCR)	0 = No Detected results in Calendar Year 2019	0	0	Naturally present in environment

Regulated Contaminants	Unit	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
2,3,7,8-TCDD	ppb	07/05/2018	0.00001	0-0.00001	0.00003	0	Emissions from waste incineration, and other combustion, discharge from chemical factories
TETRACHLOROETHYLENE	ppb	09/11/2019	0.56	0-0.56	5	0	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
BROMATE	ppb	04/03/2019	3	0-3	10	1	By-product of drinking water ozonation and chlorination
FLUORIDE Naturally occurring; Fluoride is NOT ADDED to IVGID tap water	ppm	04/05/2017	ND = No detected results	ND	2	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factory
RADIONUCLIDES Gross Alpha, including Radon & U	pCi/L	08/03/2016	0.8	0.8	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection By-Products	Unit	Sample Year	Running Annual Average	Range	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAAS)	ppb	2019	6	3.9-7	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	ppb	2019	18	10.9 - 25	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

LEAD and COPPER	Unit	Sample Year	90th Percentile		AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
			Level Detected	Range			
COPPER, FREE	ppm	2017-19	0.009	0-0.014	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD	ppb	2017-19	2.6	0-2.7	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Secondary Contaminants	Unit	Sample Date	Highest Level Detected	Range	SMCL	MCLG	Noticeable Effects
CALCIUM	mg/L	10/05/2015	9.2	9.2			
CHLORIDE	mg/L	02/07/2019	4.2	4.2	400		Salty taste at higher levels
COLOR	CU	02/07/2019	5	5	15		Visible tint
HARDNESS, Total (as CaCO ₃)	mg/L	10/05/2015	34	34			34 = soft water
IRON	mg/L	04/05/2017	0.068	0.068	0.6		Rusty color; sediment
MAGNESIUM	mg/L	02/07/2019	2.4	2.4	150		
PH	pH	02/07/2019	8.17	8.17	8.5		8.17 = slightly alkaline water
SODIUM	mg/L	02/07/2019	9.3	9.3	200	20	
SULFATE	mg/L	02/07/2019	2.4	2.4	500		Salty taste at higher levels
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS	mg/L	02/07/2019	67	67	1000		Hardness; deposits; cloudy water
TEMPERATURE	°C	04/05/2017	22.3	22.3			

The EPA website has a helpful guide on drinking water regulations. It is available on their website: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulation-table



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where does my drinking water come from?

The source of your drinking water is Lake Tahoe. Pumped directly out of the lake, your drinking water is first disinfected, then distributed through 90 miles of pipelines, stored in one of 13 water storage tanks and finally delivered to your property. Due to the high quality of our drinking water source, IVGID is not required to perform filtration. Our treatment system meets stringent national water quality standards through rigorous watershed management practices, extensive water quality monitoring and state-of-the-art ozone and ultraviolet disinfection with a chlorine residual.

How healthy is our drinking water?

Our drinking water is healthy and pleasant to drink. The water tests well below the maximum contaminant level for both health and aesthetic contaminants. In 2012, 2013 and 2016, IVGID won the "Best Tasting Water in Nevada Award" from the Nevada Rural Water Association. IVGID is a member of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA). This group provides a unified voice for source water protection in the Tahoe Basin. In 2020, the local water providers were awarded the "American Water Works Association Exemplary Source Water Protection Program Award". As purveyors of some of the finest drinking water in the United States, we encourage you to fill up a glass and DRINK TAHOE TAP®.

To learn more about how you can protect the source of your drinking water, visit the TWSA website: www.TahoeH2O.org, the IVGID Public Works website: www.ivgidpublicworks.org, or call (775) 832-1284.

Does IVGID add fluoride to the drinking water?

No, fluoride is not added to IVGID's drinking water.



Should I be concerned about lead?

Your water meets State and federal requirements for lead. If present at elevated levels, this contaminant can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. IVGID's water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Should I filter the water?

IVGID tap water is safe and pleasant to drink from the tap. If you have concerns about the tap water, a simple carbon block filter (pitcher or tap mount) will remove final traces of metals (from your plumbing), chlorine (a disinfectant required in municipal water distribution) and resolve any taste or odor issues.

What agencies set testing standards for drinking water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes many regulations and testing requirements that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. In general, the EPA standards for tap water are much more stringent than the FDA standards for bottled water.

How can I get involved?

The IVGID Board of Trustees meeting dates and times are posted on the Meeting & Agendas page of our website: www.yourtahoeplace.com/ivgid/board-of-trustees/meetings-and-agendas. To be emailed agendas for meetings send an email to: info@ivgid.org with the subject "Agenda."

ABOUT IVGID

The Incline Village General Improvement District, commonly referred to as IVGID, is a quasi-public agency established under Nevada Revised Statute, Chapter 318 and chartered to provide water, sewer, trash and recreation services for the unincorporated communities of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, Nevada. It is governed by an elected Board of Trustees which, acting on behalf of the electorate, sets policy and determines strategies to accomplish its charter. Both Incline Village and Crystal Bay, Nevada are located within Washoe County, the entity that had the authority to create IVGID.

¡ATENCIÓN!

Este folleto contiene información sobre la calidad de su agua potable y está disponible en español. Por favor llame a (775)832-1203 para obtener una versión traducida.

Glenbrook Water Cooperative
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, Glenbrook Water Cooperative (Glenbrook) remained in compliance with Federal and State water quality requirements. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation of the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9). Additional regulatory information for Glenbrook is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, Glenbrook met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits. The monthly mean and maximum turbidity measurements did not exceed 5.0 NTU (Figure 3.0). The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 1.13 NTU, this result was one of two readings above 1.0 NTU for the 364 daily maximum raw water turbidity readings. The maximum turbidity reading was taken on December 19, 2020, a mixing effect was likely produced by wind from the southwest of 0.8-6.0 MPH paired with gust up to 7 mph (Table 5.1). Glenbrook had an annual mean turbidity value of 0.23 NTU for the 2019-2020 reporting year. The largest monthly mean turbidity, 0.37 NTU, occurred in November 2019 (Table 7.0).

Table 7.0: Glenbrook Water Cooperative source water turbidity data summary July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Glenbrook intake.

	Monthly Max (NTU)	Date Monthly Max	Monthly Mean (NTU)	Monthly Median (NTU)	Monthly 90% (NTU)
Jul-19	0.29	7	0.23	0.24	0.26
Aug-19	0.65	5	0.20	0.19	0.24
Sep-19	0.24	4	0.19	0.19	0.22
Oct-19	0.24	25	0.19	0.18	0.20
Nov-19	1.04	26	0.37	0.29	0.67
Dec-19	1.13	19	0.24	0.23	0.28
Jan-20	0.23	8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18	0.20	0.19	0.23
Feb-20	0.60	29	0.14	0.22	0.40
Mar-20	0.25	29	0.21	0.22	0.23
Apr-20	0.29	14	0.24	0.24	0.26
May-20	0.30	11	0.24	0.24	0.27
Jun-20	0.26	4	0.20	0.21	0.23

Historically, Glenbrook has maintained low turbidity measurements. The highest readings in the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020, include 7.1 NTU in 2014, 1.37 NTU in 2015, and 1.00 NTU in 2013. Within the same 10-year period, turbidity values also include the lowest, 0.22 in 2010 and 0.35 NTU in 2011 and 2012. The maximum turbidity for the 2019-2020 reporting year of 1.13 NTU is greater than the previous year's maximum reading of 0.81 NTU. Turbidity values continue to show an increasing linear trend in annual mean and maximum turbidity (Figure 3.1).

Glenbrook has historically maintained mean turbidity values below 0.25 NTU, including 0.23 NTU for 2019-2020. Annual mean turbidity shows an increasing linear trend over the 10-year reporting period (Figure 3.1).

Coliform

Glenbrook met Federal and State guidelines for total coliform during the 2019-2020 reporting year. The 2019-2020 maximum total coliform count was 200.50 CFU/100 mL, an increase from 28.8 CFU/100 mL in the 2018-2019 reporting year (Figure 3.3). The maximum total coliform result occurred on consecutive days, August 26, 2019 and August 27, 2019 (Table 5.3). The high readings were taken during wind events from the east. On August 26, 2019, the weather included sustained winds of 0.8-6 mph with gusts up to 14 mph paired with a maximum temperature of 84.4°F, during a weekly mean temperature of 67.7°F. On August 27, 2019 sustained winds of 1.3-8.0 mph with gusts up to 16 mph, were paired with a maximum temperature of 84.4°F during a weekly mean temperature of 67.7°F (Table 5.5). The increase in temperature, paired with mixing caused by wind, may have contributed to the high total coliform results. The maximum total coliform readings of 200.5 CFU/100 mL were greater than the 100 CFU/100 mL regulatory requirement for filtration exemption, but well below the 10% of total results requirement, with two out of the 76 readings above 100 CFU/100 mL equaling 2.63% of total samples.

The 2019-2020 annual mean total coliform count is 9.34 CFU/100 mL, higher than the previous reporting years' mean of 2.82 CFU/100 mL (Tables 7.1, 5.7, Figure 3.3). The highest monthly mean total coliform was 51.31 CFU/100 mL, recorded in August 2019 (Table 7.2). Total coliform was detected in 39% of the 76 samples analyzed, a decrease from 64% the previous year. In the 2019-2020 reporting year, the total coliform results decreased throughout the cooler months and increased during the warm summer months (Figure 3.2). The yearly maximum and mean total coliform results show an increasing linear trend over the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 (Figure 3.3).

Glenbrook also performed tests for E. coli coliform during the 2019-2020 reporting year. E. coli coliform was detected in two samples representing 2.63% of the samples analyzed, an increase from 0.0% in the previous reporting year. For the 2019-2020 reporting year, the maximum E. coli coliform value was 2.0 CFU/100 mL, with an annual mean of 0.03 CFU/100 mL (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1: Glenbrook Water Cooperative annual source water total coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected from raw water at the Glenbrook intake.

	Total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	E. coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Mean	9.34	0.03
Median	0.00	0.00
Max	200.50	1.00
90th Percentile	14.45	0.00
Colony- Forming Samples	30.00	2.00
Total Number of Samples	76.00	76.00

Table 7.2: Glenbrook Water Cooperative monthly source water Total Coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected from raw water at the Glenbrook Water Company intake.

	Monthly Maximum Total Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Monthly Mean Total Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Monthly Maximum E.coli (# colonies/100ml)	Monthly Mean E.coli (# colonies/100ml)
Jul-19	17.80	2.95	0.00	0.00
Aug-19	200.50	51.31	0.00	0.00
Sep-19	83.10	28.09	1.00	0.13
Oct-19	22.20	6.85	0.00	0.00
Nov-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dec-19	4.20	0.84	0.00	0.00
Jan-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Feb-20	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
Mar-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Apr-20	1.00	0.13	1.00	0.13
May-20	1.00	0.13	0.00	0.00
Jun-20	2.00	0.70	0.00	0.00

Figure 3.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Glenbrook Water Cooperative between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

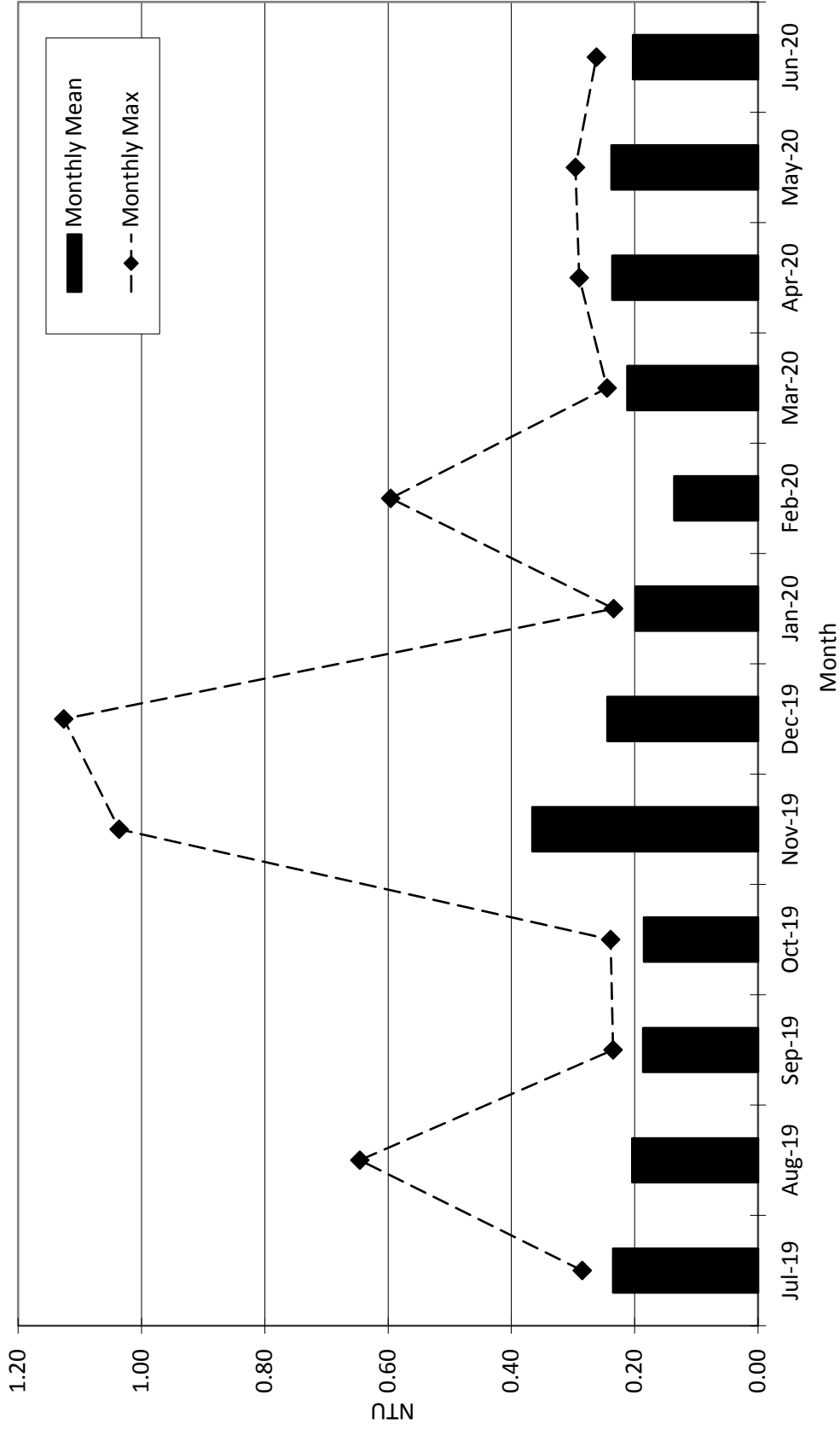


Figure 3.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Glenbrook Water Cooperative between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

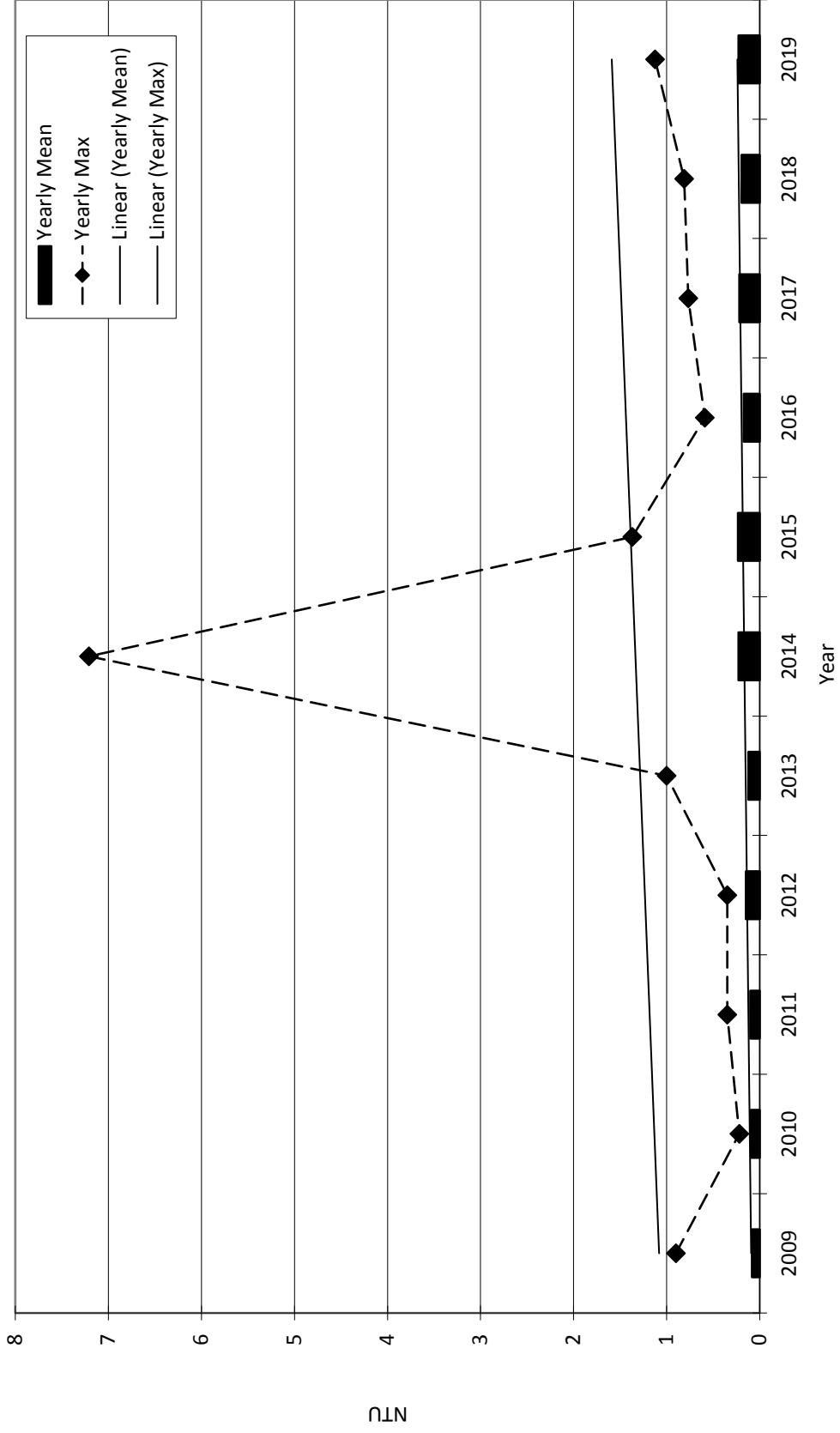


Figure 3.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Glenbrook Water Cooperative between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

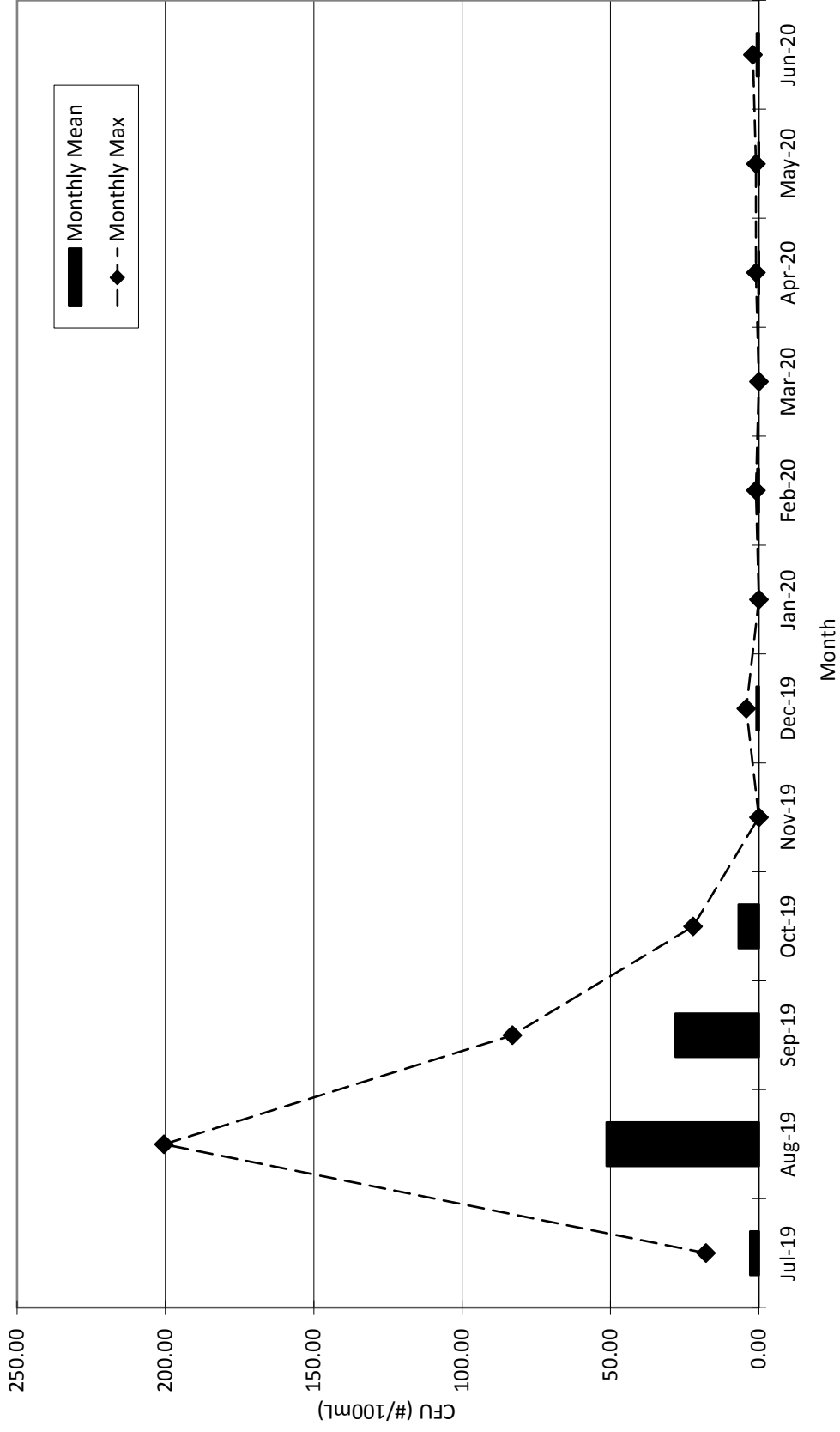
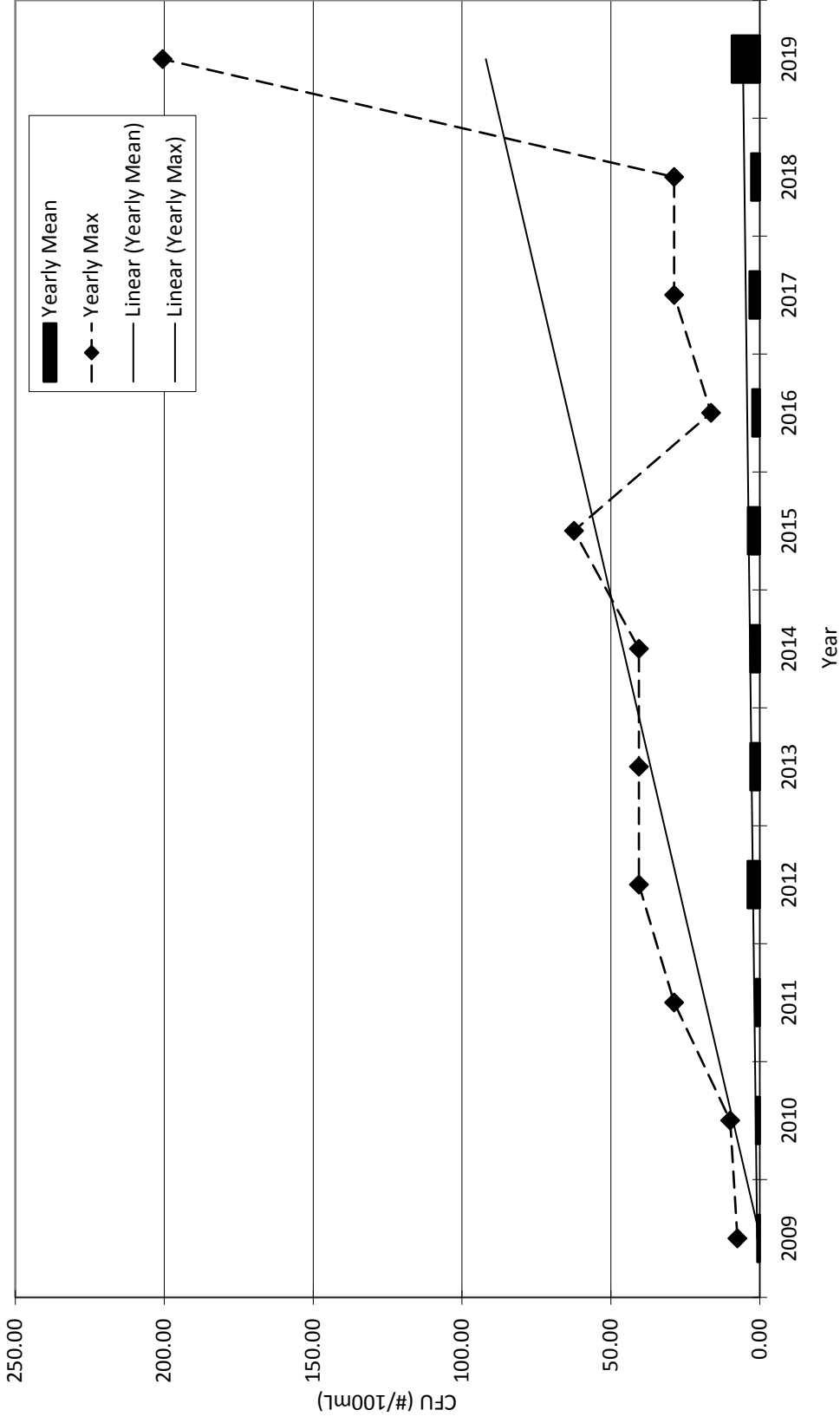


Figure 3.3: Yearly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Glenbrook Water Cooperative between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The Glenbrook water comes from Lake Tahoe.

Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment is available upon request.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water)



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include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Preventing contaminants from running into the Lake benefits all.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank



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and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting



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- one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Glenbrook Water Coop is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of



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drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Bromate (ppb)	0	10	2	1	2	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	2.08	.42	2.08	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	5	2	5	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1	NA	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.12	NA	NA	2019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppm)	NA		.011	NA	NA	2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	.922	NA	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	0	4	1.89	NA	NA	2019	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1.66	NA	NA	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								



Consumer Confidence Report

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.19	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	.008	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Additional Contaminants

In an effort to insure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your water.

Contaminants	State MCL	Your Water	Violation	Explanation and Comment
chloride	400 mg/l	2.3 mg/l	No	

Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level	Range	
		Low	High
HAA6Br (ug/L)	.4075		.64
HAA9 (ug/L)	1.525	.42	2.68
manganese (ug/L)	2.1		2.1

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)



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Unit Descriptions	
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
mrem/yr	mrem/yr: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Cameron McKay
 Address:
 Phone: 775-790-0711

Cave Rock/Skyland Water Utility District
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

Cave Rock/Skyland Water Utility District (Cave Rock/Skyland) is a filtration supplier and is only required to report source water turbidity. During the reporting year, Cave Rock/Skyland remained in compliance with Federal and State water quality requirements for a filtering water supplier. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation of the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9). Additional regulatory information for Cave Rock/Skyland is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, Cave Rock/Skyland met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits. The monthly maximum turbidity measurements did not exceed 1.0 NTU. The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 0.36 NTU recorded on July 11, 2019 (Table 5.1). Winds from the south/southeast of 0.7-4.0 mph with gusts up to 12 mph, likely created a mixing effect. The annual mean turbidity for Cave Rock/Skyland was 0.17 NTU (Figure 4.1). The 2019-2020 annual mean turbidity of 0.17 NTU is greater than the previous reporting year, and equal to the 2009 result. The highest monthly mean turbidity was 0.20 NTU in October 2019 (Table 8.0).

Table 8.0: Cave Rock/Skyland source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Cave Rock/Skyland intakes.

	Monthly max (NTU)	Date monthly max	Monthly mean (NTU)	Monthly median (NTU)	90 th Percentile
Jul-19	0.36	11	0.19	0.18	0.27
Aug-19	0.21	28	0.15	0.15	0.18
Sep-19	0.22	30	0.18	0.18	0.21
Oct-19	0.25	28	0.20	0.20	0.22
Nov-19	0.25	25	0.16	0.15	0.21
Dec-19	0.29	4	0.17	0.16	0.21
Jan-20	0.22	14	0.16	0.15	0.20
Feb-20	0.24	3	0.15	0.14	0.17
Mar-20	0.27	24	0.17	0.16	0.21
Apr-20	0.29	7	0.18	0.18	0.23
May-20	0.29	27	0.17	0.17	0.21
Jun-20	0.23	15	0.15	0.15	0.17

Historically, Cave Rock/Skyland has maintained turbidity measurements below the 5.0 NTU regulatory requirement for filtration exemption (Figure 6.1). The record maximum turbidity reading of 3.55 NTU occurred during the 2011-2012 reporting year. The annual maximum turbidity reading 0.36 NTU for the 2019-2020 reporting period is higher than the previous reporting year, and similar to the 2017 maximum of 0.39 NTU (Figure 4.1). Linear trendline statistics show a decrease in maximum turbidity from July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020, though the mean turbidity measurements are showing an increasing trend.

Figure 4.0: Monthly Max Turbidity Results for Cave Rock and Skyland Water District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

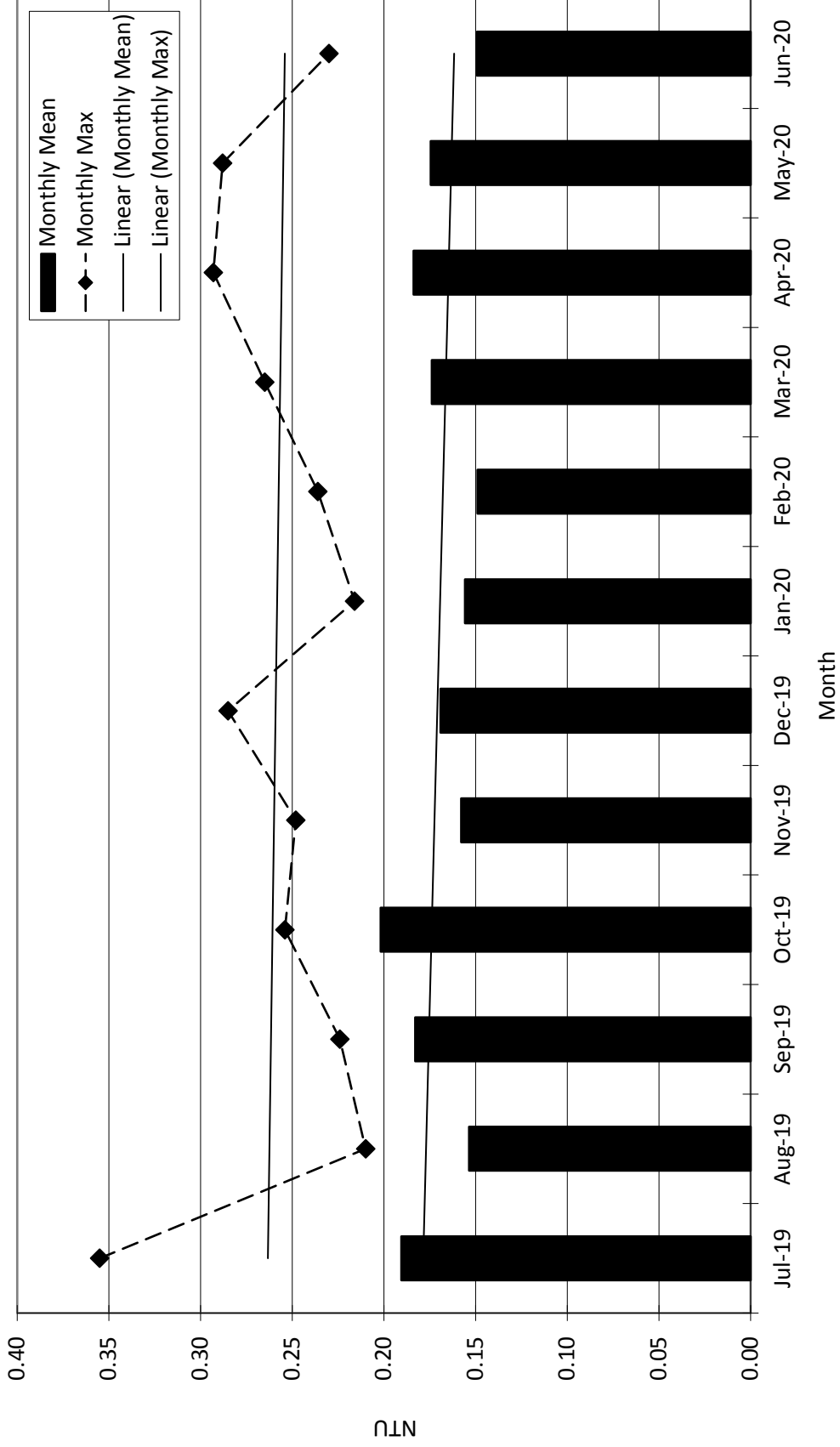
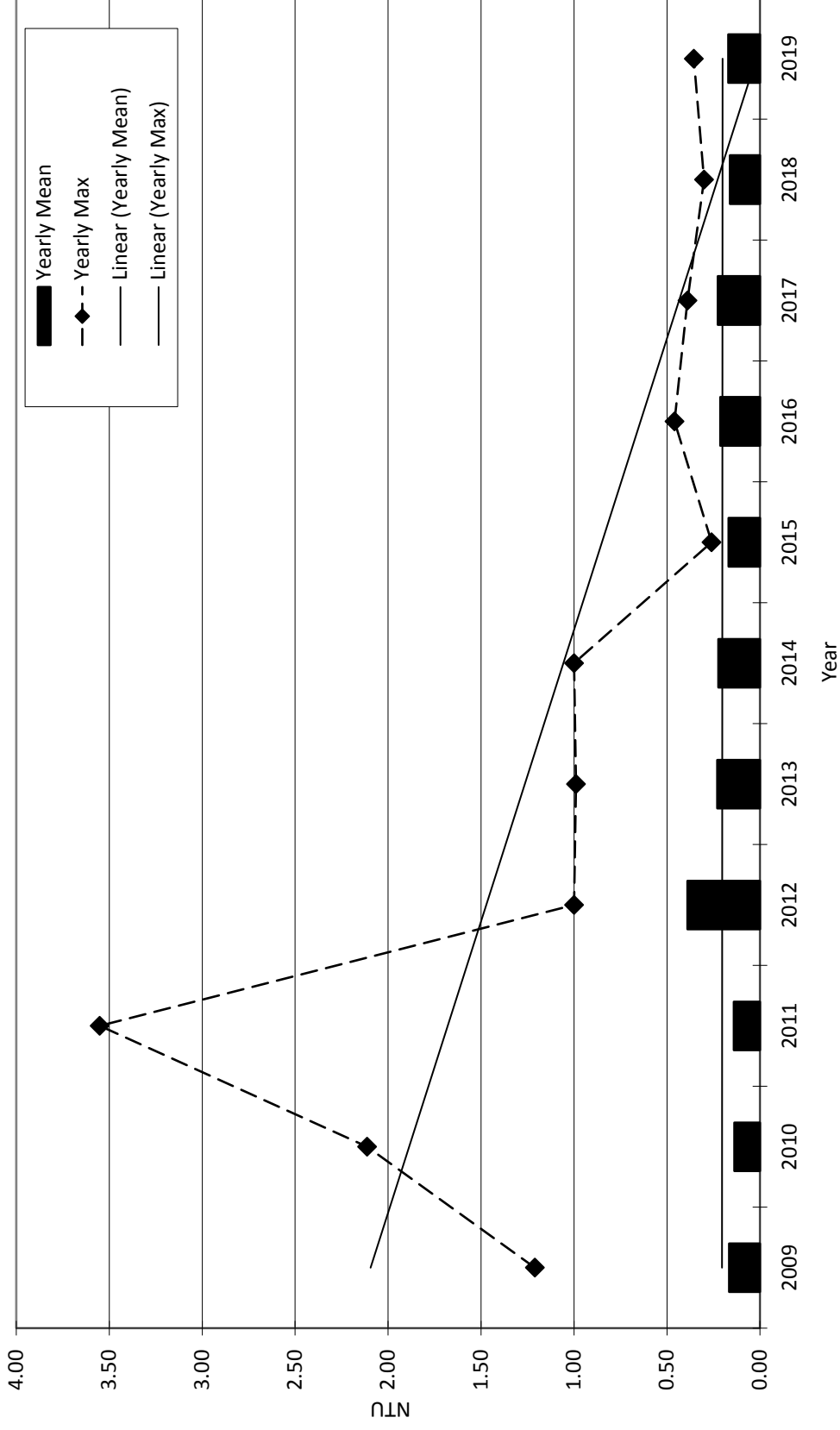


Figure 4.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Cave Rock and Skyland Water District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





CAVE ROCK SKYLAND Consumer Confidence Report – 2020 Covering Calendar Year – 2019

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are continually being made to improve their water systems. To learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings. For more information please contact Greg Melandow at 775-782-9989.

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
LAKE TAHOE INTAKE	Surface Water

We treat your water to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of our source water. For results of the source water assessment, please contact us.

Message from EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system tested a minimum of 2 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presences in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

Water Quality Data

The tables following below list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1- December 31, 2019. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**



Consumer Confidence Report

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the “Maximum Allowed” MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Non-Detects (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Testing Results for CAVE ROCK SKYLAND

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were found in the Calendar Year of 2019				

Disinfection By-Products	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAAS)	2019	3.62	1.5 - 9	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	2019	6.75	0.5 – 8	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Date	90 TH Percentile	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source	
COPPER	2019	0.084	0.011 - 0.36	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD	2019	2	1.1 - 7.3	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	2019	2	1-3	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
BARIUM	2019	0.011	0.011	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.



Consumer Confidence Report

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	10/19/2016	0.595	0.595	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	10/19/2016	0.166	0.166	pCi/L	15	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	10/19/2016	1.24	1.24	pCi/L	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL	MCLG
ALKALINITY, BICARBONATE	10/19/2016	42	42	mg/L		
ALKALINITY, TOTAL	10/19/2016	42	42	mg/L		
CALCIUM	10/19/2016	8.5	8.5	mg/L		
CHLORIDE	2019	2.8	2.2-2.8	mg/L	400	
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO ₃)	10/19/2016	31	31	mg/L		
MAGNESIUM	2018	2.4	2.4	mg/L	150	
PH	2019	7.95	7.86-8.09	PH	8.5	
SODIUM	2019	4	7.1	mg/L	200	20
SULFATE	2019	2	1.6-2.0	mg/L	500	
TDS	2019	24	24-60	mg/L	1000	

Health Information About Water Quality

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

While your water meets the EPA's standard for Lead, *if present at elevated levels* this contaminant can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Violations

During the 2019 calendar year, CAVE ROCK SKYLAND is required to include an explanation of the violation(s) in the table below and the steps taken to resolve the violation(s) with this report.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2019			

Zephyr Water Utility District
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, Zephyr Water Utility District (ZWUD), remained in compliance with Federal and State water quality requirements. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation to the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9). Additional regulatory information for ZWUD is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, ZWUD met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits. The monthly maximum turbidity measurements did not exceed 1.0 NTU (Figure 5.1). The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 0.84 NTU and occurred on January 15, 2020 (Table 9.0). Winds from the east of 0.5-11.0 mph with gusts up to 24.8 mph, likely created a mixing effect (Table 5.3). Monthly maximum turbidity readings were higher during this reporting year than the previous 2018-2019 reporting year. The 2019-2020 annual mean turbidity of 0.30 NTU is the highest result for the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020. Previously, the highest annual mean was 0.26 NTU for the 2018-2019 reporting year (Figure 5.1).

Table 9.0: Zephyr Water Utility District source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Zephyr Water Utility District water supply intake.

Month	Monthly max (NTU)	Date monthly max	Monthly Mean (NTU)	Monthly median (NTU)	Monthly 90%
Jul-19	0.37	25	0.22	0.21	0.27
Aug-19	0.42	22	0.20	0.19	0.24
Sep-19	0.34	11	0.23	0.22	0.29
Oct-19	0.81	30	0.26	0.22	0.38
Nov-19	0.40	13	0.27	0.26	0.33
Dec-19	0.49	18	0.26	0.21	0.43
Jan-20	0.84	15	0.38	0.37	0.49
Feb-20	0.55	21, 28	0.31	0.30	0.42
Mar-20	0.57	5	0.32	0.31	0.45
Apr-20	0.59	1	0.29	0.26	0.45
May-20	0.61	24	0.42	0.43	0.55
Jun-20	0.60	28	0.39	0.38	0.51

Historically, ZWUD has maintained low turbidity measurements. The highest reading reported since 1997, 1.35 NTU, occurred in 1998. Annual maximum turbidity for the 10-year reporting period includes the lowest result of 0.48 NTU in 2016, and the highest reading of 0.94 NTU in 2012. Annual mean turbidity remained below 0.20 NTU from 2011-2016 and increased steadily until this reporting years’ highest annual mean of 0.30 NTU. Linear trend line analysis of the 10-year reporting period shows increasing linear trend in both annual mean and maximum (Figure 5.1).

Coliform

ZWUD met Federal and State guidelines for total coliform and E. coli coliform bacteria. The maximum total coliform count was 30.6 coliform-forming units per 100 mL (CFU/100 mL), a increase from the previous year's max of 22.2 CFU/100 mL (Table 9.1, Figure 5.3). The maximum total coliform reading of 30.6 CFU/100 mL occurred on August 13, 2019. The maximum temperature reached 82.0° F while the weekly mean temperature was 67.7° F. The increase in temperature paired with the strong sustained wind of 1.4-7.0 mph with 10 mph gusts reported likely influenced total coliform growth (Table 5.5). Total coliform values were the highest during summer 2019 with unseasonal maximums in February and April 2020 (Figure 5.2).

Total coliform was detected in 66 of the 105 samples analyzed, equaling 63%. The annual mean total coliform count was 4.30 CFU/100 mL, a higher value from the 2018-2019 mean of 3.06 CFU/100 mL (Table 9.1, Figure 5.3).

Historically the annual mean total coliform results have remained consistent and well below 10 CFU/100 mL. While the maximum total coliform results show greater variability than annual mean, all results reported are well below regulatory limits for total coliform. The linear trend line over the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009- June 30, 2020 shows an increasing trend for both annual mean and maximum results (Figure 5.3).

ZWUD also completed tests for E. coli coliform on all samples tested for total coliform; one detect was reported for the 2019-2020 reporting year. The maximum E. coli coliform reading was 1 CFU/20 mL; this result was taken on June 9, 2020. The annual mean E. coli coliform result was 0.01 CFU/20 mL, and 90% of the samples for 2019-2020 were below zero (Table 9.1).

Table 9.1: Zephyr Water Utility District annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the ZWUD intake.

	Total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	E. coli coliform (# colonies/20mL)
Mean	4.30	0.01
Median	1.00	0.00
Max	30.60	1.00
90th Percentile	13.18	0.00
Colony-Forming Samples	66	1
Total Number of Samples	105	105

Table 9.2: Zephyr Water Utility District monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the ZWUD intake.

	Monthly maximum total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly maximum E. coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean E. coli coliform (# colonies/20mL)
Jul-19	15.00	3.62	0.00	0.00
Aug-19	30.60	13.78	0.00	0.00
Sep-19	27.10	9.99	0.00	0.00
Oct-19	23.80	12.41	0.00	0.00
Nov-19	8.70	2.93	0.00	0.00
Dec-19	4.20	1.64	0.00	0.00
Jan-20	2.00	0.38	0.00	0.00
Feb-20	13.70	1.96	0.00	0.00
Mar-20	6.40	2.07	0.00	0.00
Apr-20	8.70	1.64	0.00	0.00
May-20	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
Jun-20	2.00	0.56	1.00	0.11

Figure 5.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

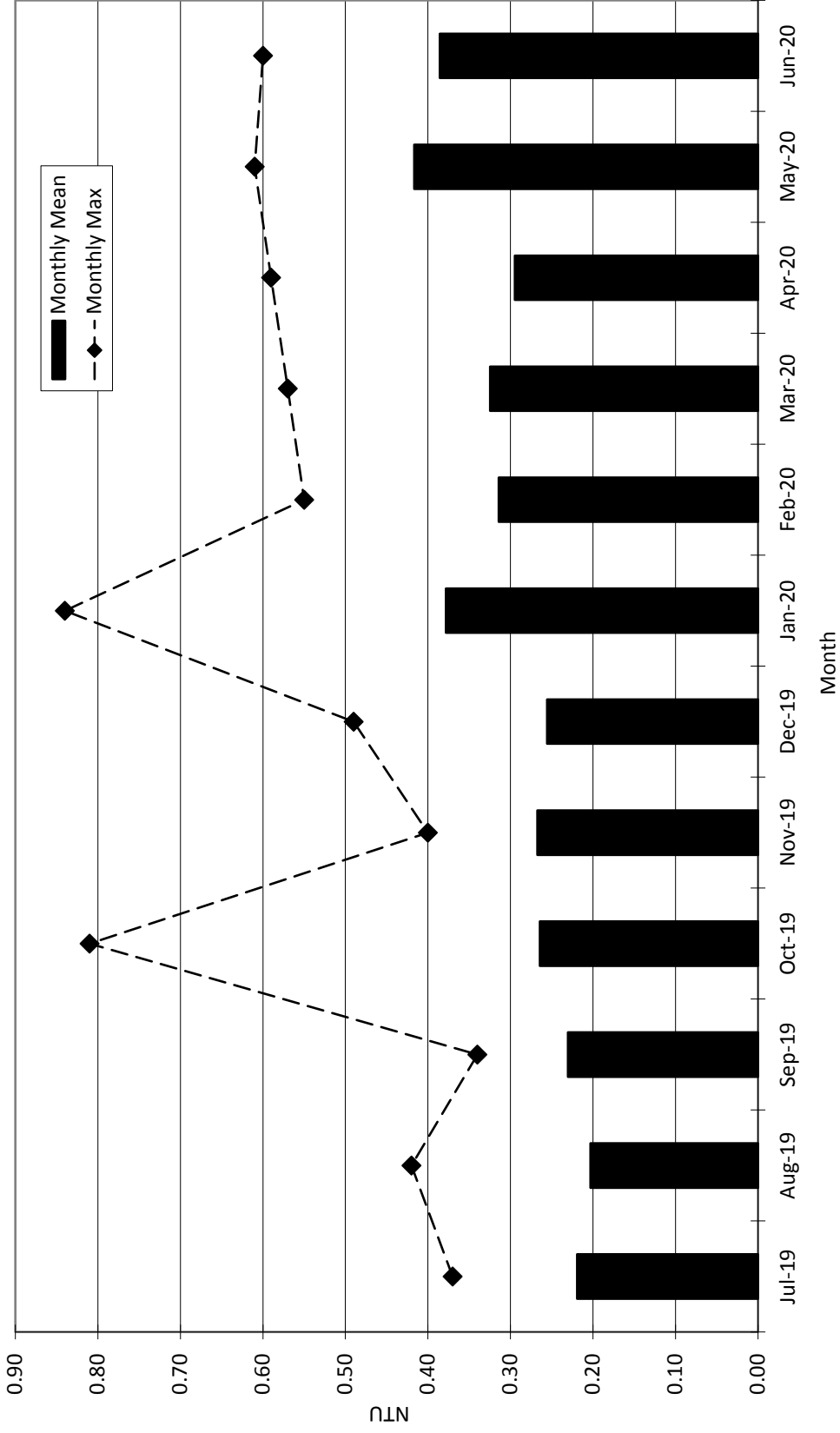


Figure 5.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

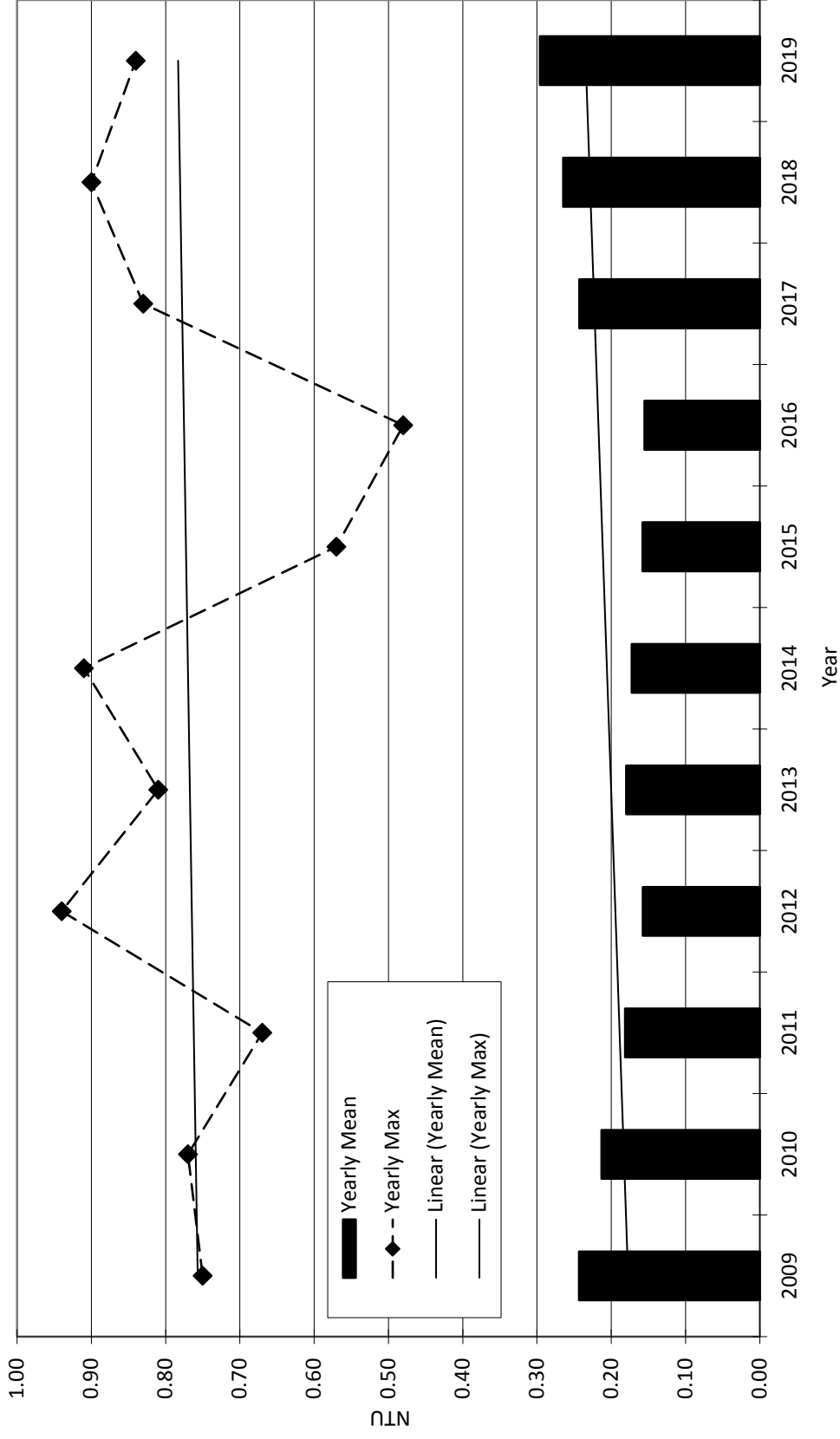


Figure 5.2: Monthly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

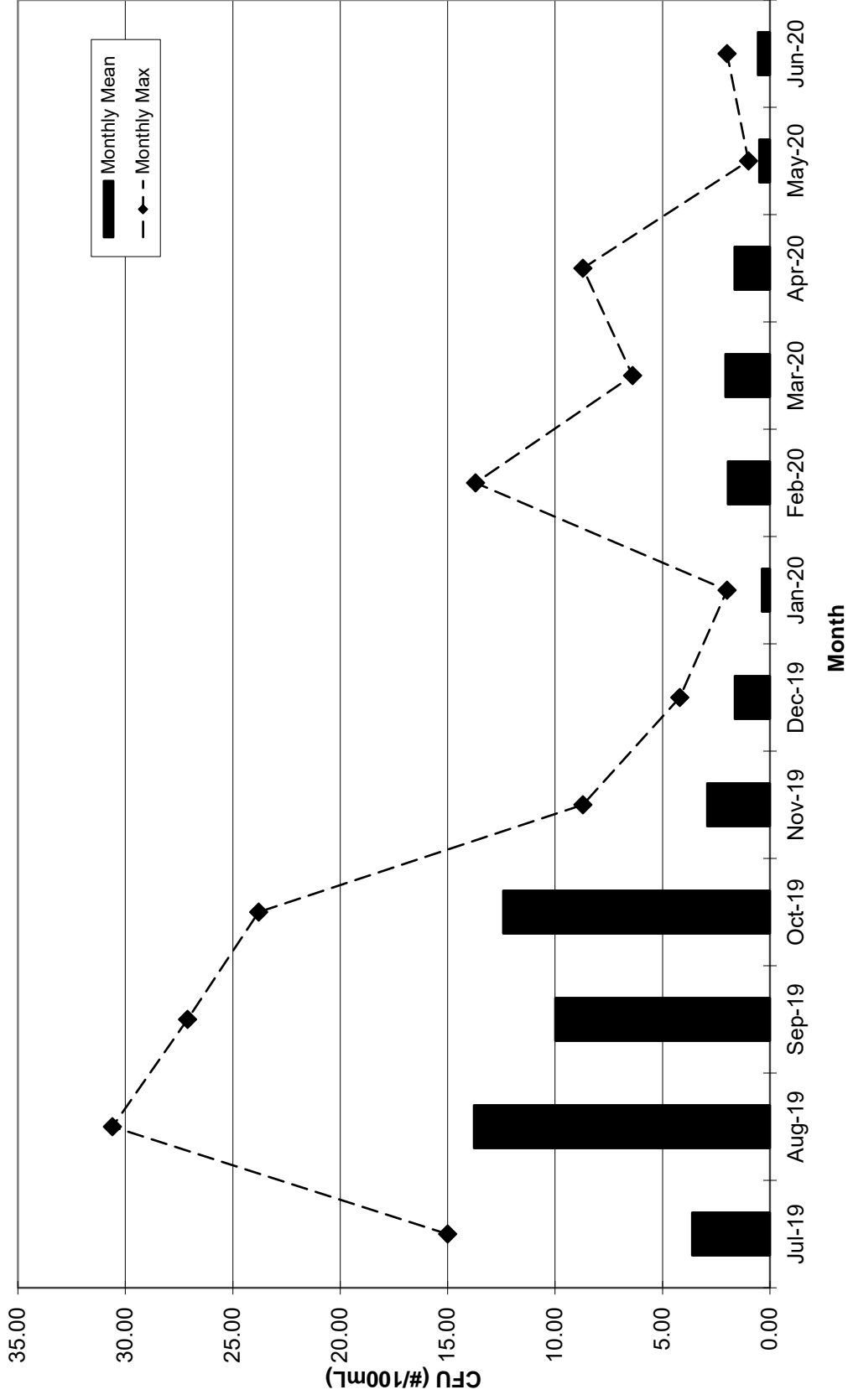
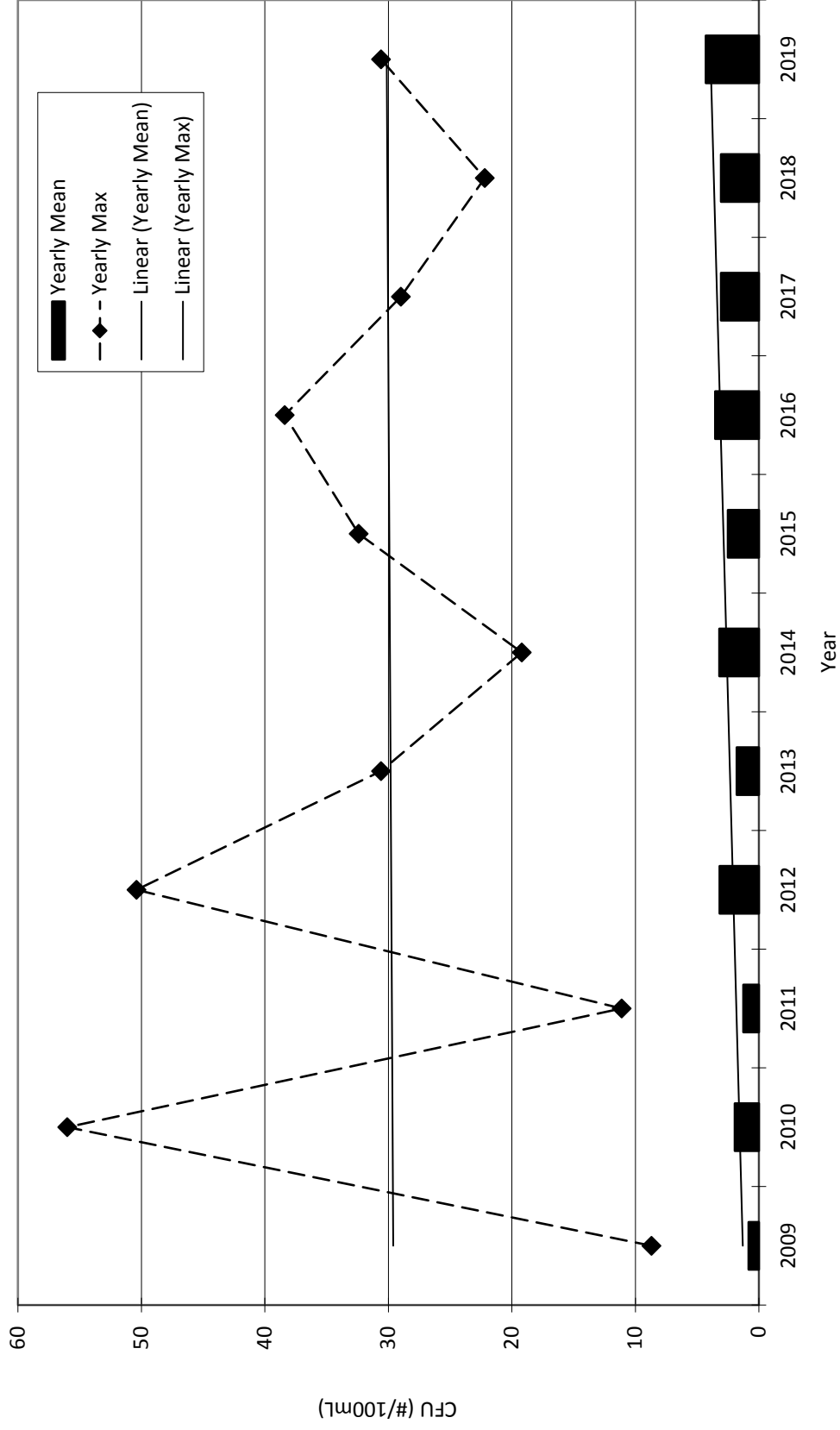


Figure 5.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





ZEPHYR COVE WATER UTILITY DISTRICT Consumer Confidence Report – 2020 Covering Calendar Year – 2019

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are continually being made to improve their water systems. To learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings. For more information please contact Greg Melandow at 775-782-9989.

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
LAKE TAHOE INTAKE	Surface Water

We treat your water to remove several contaminants and we add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of our source water. For results of the source water assessment, please contact us.

Message from EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system tested a minimum of 2 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presences in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

Water Quality Data

The tables following below list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1- December 31, 2019. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**



Consumer Confidence Report

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the “Maximum Allowed” MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG’s do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Non-Detects (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Testing Results for ZEPHYR COVE WATER UTILITY DISTR

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2019				

Disinfection By-Products	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2019	1.47	1.0 – 14	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	2019	6.57	1.91 – 9.5	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Date	90 TH Percentile		Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER	2019	0.07	0.018 - 0.12	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD	2019	1	1	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants:	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
BARIUM	2019	0.012	0.01	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
ARSENIC	2019	0.002	0.01	ppm	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BROMATE	2019	1.3	0-1.3	ppb	10	1	By-product of drinking water Chlorination



Consumer Confidence Report

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	6/8/2016	0.635	0.635	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	6/8/2016	0.768	0.768	pCi/L	15	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	6/8/2016	2.61	2.61	pCi/L	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL	MCLG
ALKALINITY, BICARBONATE	6/8/2016	35	35	mg/L		
ALKALINITY, TOTAL	6/8/2016	35	35	mg/L		
BROMATE	2019	1.3	1.1 - 4.9	ppb	10	1
CALCIUM	6/8/2016	8	8	mg/L		
CHLORIDE	2019	3	2.3-3	mg/L	400	
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO ₃)	6/8/2016	28	28	mg/L		
IRON	2019	0.05	0.05-0.12	mg/L	0.6	
MAGNESIUM	2018	2	2	mg/L	150	
PH	2019	7.92	7.92	PH	8.5	
SODIUM	2019	5.1	5.1-15	mg/L	200	20
SULFATE	2019	2.3	1.6-2.3	mg/L	500	
TDS	2019	54	54-78	mg/L	1000	
ZINC	2019	0.01	0.01-0.04	mg/L	5	

Health Information About Water Quality

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

While your water meets the EPA's standard for Lead, *if present at elevated levels* this contaminant can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Violations

During the 2019 calendar year, ZEPHYR COVE WATER UTILITY DISTRICT is required to include an explanation of the violation(s) in the table below and the steps taken to resolve the violation(s) with this report.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2019			

Round Hill General Improvement District
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

Round Hill General Improvement District (RHGID) is a filtering water supplier that is only required to report source water turbidity. During the 2019-2020 reporting year, RHGID remained under Federal and State water quality requirements of a filtering water supplier. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) noted no violation to the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9). Additional regulatory information for RHGID is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, RHGID met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining below regulatory limits. The monthly mean and maximum turbidity measurements for the 2019-2020 reporting year did not exceed 0.50 NTU (Figure 6.0). The maximum turbidity reading for the reporting year was 0.33 NTU, lower than the previous reporting years' maximum of 0.38 NTU (Figure 6.1). The annual maximum was recorded on consecutive days in October 27-28, 2019 and May 24, 2020. The weather on all maximum turbidity days included wind events with gusts greater than 10 MPH from an easterly direction; a full description of the weather is available (Table 5.1(a)). The annual mean turbidity for 2019-2020 was 0.20 NTU, higher than the previous reporting years result of 0.12 NTU (Figure 6.1). The largest monthly mean turbidity result was 0.26 NTU occurring in August 2019 (Table 10.0).

Table 10.0: RHGID source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the RHGID intake.

Month	Monthly max (NTU)	Date monthly max	Monthly mean (NTU)	Monthly median (NTU)	90 th percentile
Jul-19	0.30	9, 29	0.25	0.25	0.29
Aug-19	0.31	2	0.26	0.26	0.29
Sep-19	0.28	9, 29	0.24	0.23	0.27
Oct-19	0.33	27, 28	0.23	0.22	0.26
Nov-19	0.28	27	0.21	0.20	0.26
Dec-19	0.28	20	0.20	0.19	0.26
Jan-20	0.22	6, 8	0.15	0.15	0.21
Feb-20	0.17	1	0.12	0.13	0.16
Mar-20	0.20	14	0.15	0.14	0.18
Apr-20	0.23	24	0.17	0.16	0.20
May-20	0.33	24	0.24	0.24	0.27
Jun-20	0.29	28	0.20	0.20	0.23

Historically, RHGID has maintained low turbidity measurements. In 2006, turbidity readings reached 4.89 NTU during a rain and snow event. Due to this high reading the intake was relocated and extended an additional 1,500 feet into deeper water at a total distance of 2,500 feet from shore. The next highest reading was reported in January 1997, 2.19 NTU, and occurred

during a 100-year storm event. The highest maximum turbidity reading in the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 is 0.66 NTU, recorded in 2009. Annual maximum results fell below 0.40 NTU from 2010-2019. Annual mean turbidity has remained below 0.25 NTU for the 10-year reporting period. Linear trend line analysis shows a decreasing trend in annual maximum, and an increasing trend for annual mean from July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Round Hill General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

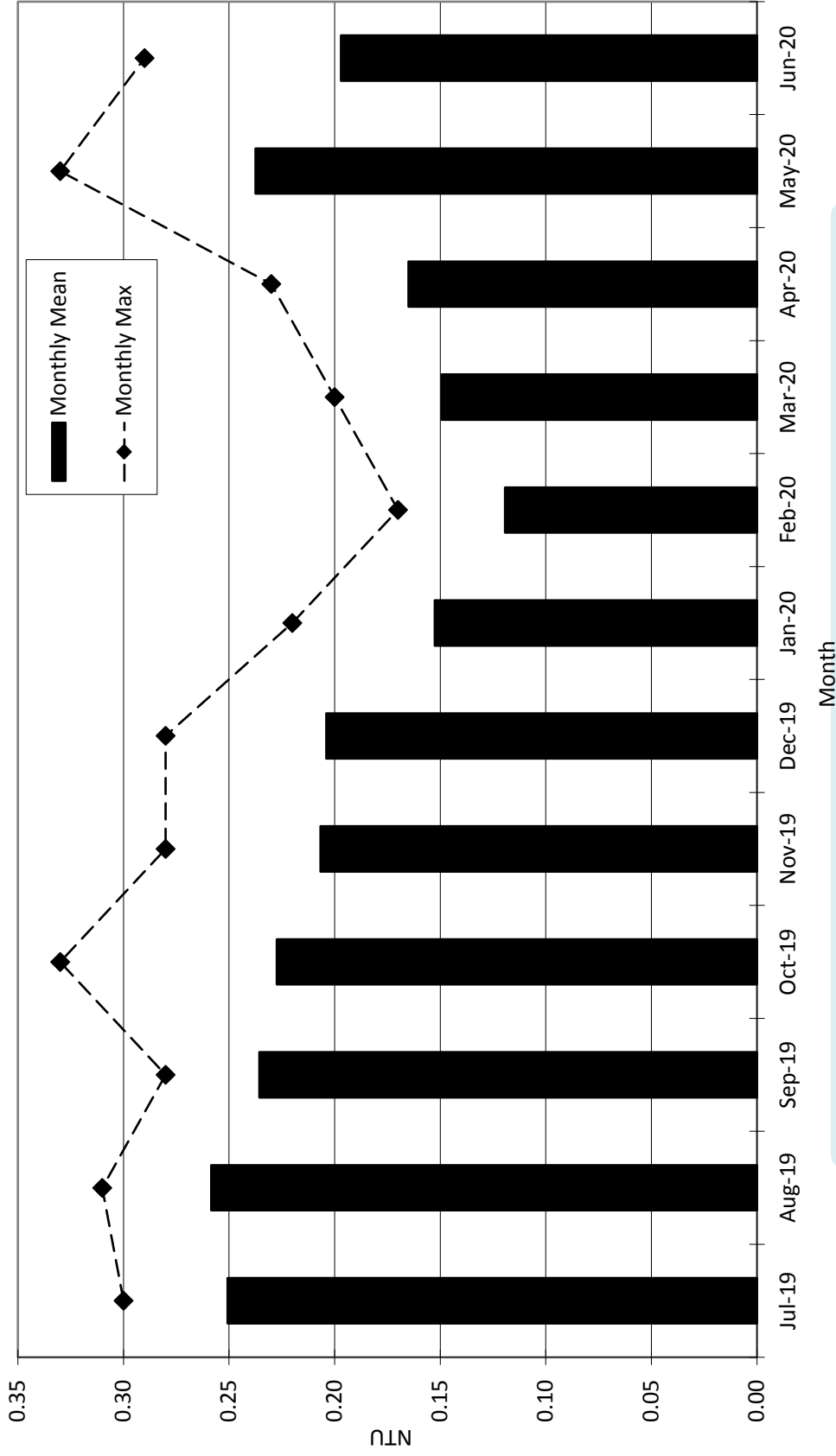
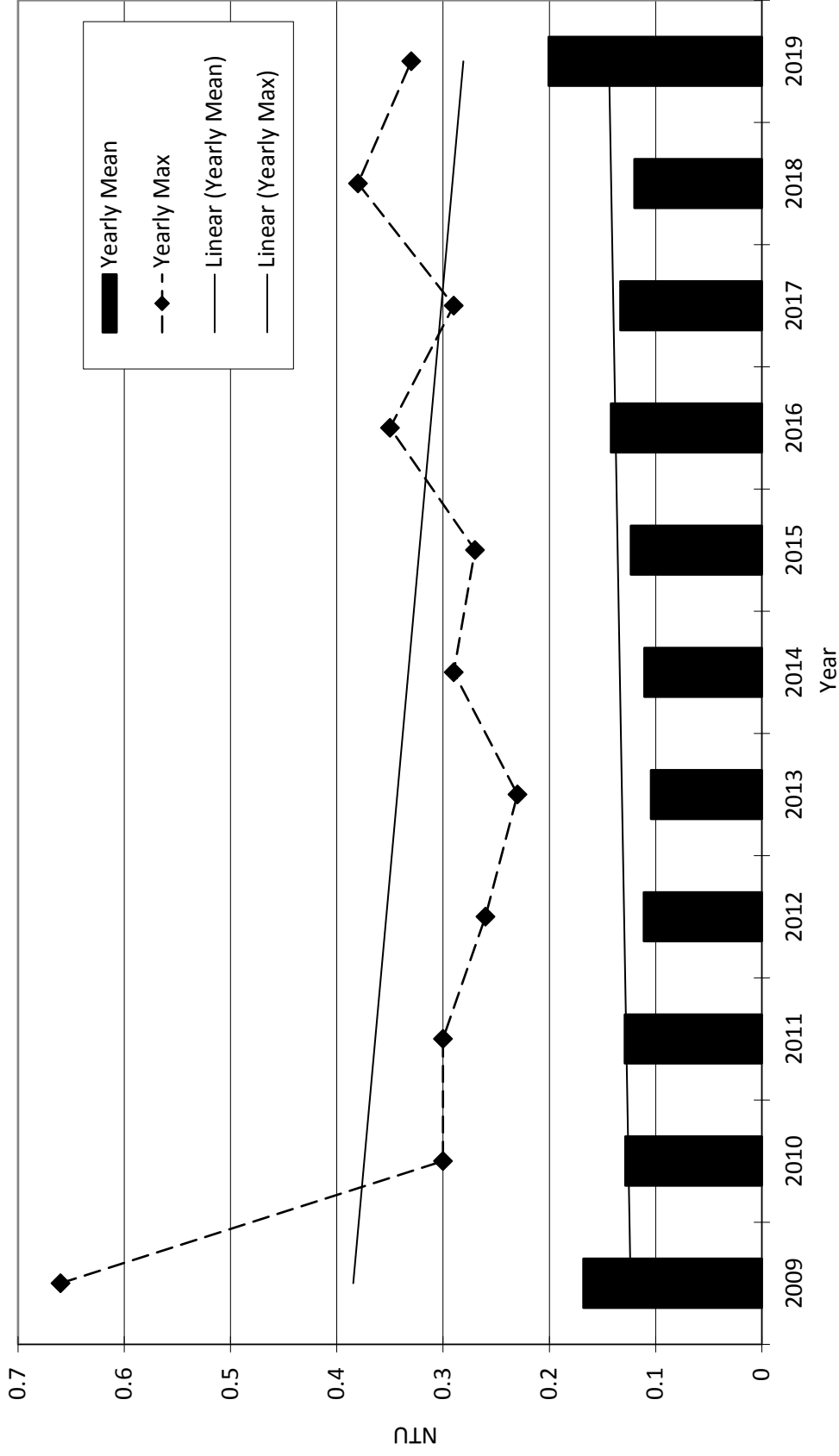


Figure 6.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Round Hill General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





ROUND HILL GID
Consumer Confidence Report – 2019
Covering Calendar Year 2018

Your Water Meets All Drinking Water Standards. Absolutely. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Round Hill GID vigilantly safeguards its water supply and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant or other water quality standard.

The water that you use in Round Hill comes from Lake Tahoe. Your water is treated with filtration, then it is chlorinated and delivered through a seven mile distribution system to your home. **The water from your tap meets all requirements set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.**

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are continually being made to improve their water systems. To learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings. For more information please contact Andrew Hickman at 775-588-2571.

We treat your water to remove several contaminants and we add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed SWAs for all community water systems that use groundwater, but not surface water systems (such as Round Hill GID).

Message from EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.



Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users. *Radioactive contaminants*, can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system tested a minimum of 2 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presences in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

Water Quality Data

The tables following below list all of the drinking water contaminants, which were detected during the 2018 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1 - December 31, 2018. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.



WATER QUALITY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): the secondary standards of "Maximum Allowed" MCL allowed in drinking water.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Non-Detects (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm): or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb): or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.



Consumer Confidence Report

WATER QUALITY TABLE

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were found in the Calendar Year of 2018				

Disinfection By-Products	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TTHM	2018	6	5.69	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Date	90th Percentile	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source	
COPPER, FREE	2014-2016	0.038	0.0032-0.042	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
BARIUM	9/14/2017	0.011	0.011	µg/L	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were found in the Calendar Year of 2018							

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL	MCLG
CARBON, TOTAL	12/6/2018	5.1	5.1	ppm	4	
CHLORIDE	9/20/2018	2.8	2.8	mg/L	400	
COLOR	9/20/2018	2.5	2.5	CU	15	
MAGNESIUM	9/20/2018	2.5	2.5	mg/L	150	
ODOR	8/17/2016	6	6	TON	3	
SODIUM	9/20/2018	6.9	6.9	mg/L	200	20
SULFATE	9/20/2018	1.8	1.8	mg/L	500	
TDS	9/20/2018	46	46	mg/L	1000	

Health Information About Water Quality

While your water meets the EPA's standards for Lead, *if present at elevated levels* this contaminant can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can mini-


mize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Violations

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2018. There are no additional required health effects violation notices.			



Source Water Protection Tips



Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides — they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to Lake" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

RADON in Douglas County



RADON is the primary cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers. The naturally occurring radioactive gas can seep into homes from the ground, increasing your risk for lung cancer. **One in three homes** tested in Douglas County has an elevated level of Radon, while in **Stateline and Zephyr Cove, two in three homes** tested have elevated levels.

KNOW YOUR LEVEL. GET YOUR TEST KIT TODAY

FREE RADON TEST KITS TO DOUGLAS COUNTY RESIDENTS

DOUGLAS COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
1325 Waterloo, Gardnerville
(M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

GARDNERVILLE RANCHOS GID
931 Mitch Dr., Gardnerville
(M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
128 Market St., Stateline
(M, W, Th, F 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.,
and 1 to 4 p.m.)

GENOA TOWN OFFICE
2289 Main St., Genoa
(M-Th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
F, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

ALL HOMES NEED TO BE TESTED



For more information
call the Radon Hotline 888-RADON10
(888-723-6610)
or visit www.RadonNV.com



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

Follow @NVRadonProgram

Visit @NevadaRadonEducation

Nevada Radon Education Program

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.

- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Kingsbury General Improvement District
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID) remained within Federal and State water quality requirements. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation of the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9). Additional regulatory information for KGID is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, KGID met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits. The yearly maximum was 0.65 NTU, taken during a wind event on November 26, 2019. Winds were from the southwest 0.8-7.0 mph (Tables 5.1, 11.0). The annual mean turbidity result was 0.17 NTU, and 90% of the samples were below 0.23 NTU (Table 11.0). The largest monthly mean turbidity, 0.24 NTU, occurred in August (Table 11.0, Figure 7.0).

Table 11.0: KGID source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the KGID intake.

	Monthly max (NTU)	Date monthly max	Monthly mean (NTU)	Monthly median (NTU)	90 th percentile
Jul-19	0.26	2	0.21	0.22	0.23
Aug-19	0.32	2	0.24	0.23	0.28
Sep-19	0.26	10	0.19	0.19	0.23
Oct-19	0.43	23	0.18	0.17	0.20
Nov-19	0.65	26	0.22	0.19	0.22
Dec-19	0.17	11, 12	0.13	0.14	0.17
Jan-20	0.20	8	0.14	0.14	0.17
Feb-20	0.14	29	0.10	0.10	0.12
Mar-20	0.17	23	0.10	0.10	0.12
Apr-20	0.21	25	0.15	0.15	0.18
May-20	0.21	26, 28	0.18	0.18	0.20
Jun-20	0.31	12	0.21	0.21	0.25

Historically (1997-2003), KGID maintained annual mean source water turbidities less than 1.0 NTU. The maximum annual turbidity ranged from 2.59 NTU to 3.0 NTU between 2004 and 2006, returned to below 1.0 NTU in 2007, increased above 1.0 NTU again in 2008-2010, and dropped below 1.0 NTU in 2011 through 2016. Annual maximum turbidity reached 4 NTU during the 2016-2017 reporting year, and fell below 1.0 NTU for 2017-2018. The 2018-2019 annual maximum turbidity was above 1.0 NTU, the addition of this reporting years annual maximum of 0.65 NTU provides a decreasing linear trend over the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 (Figure 7.1, Table 5.3). The annual mean turbidity, 0.17 NTU, for the 2019-2020 reporting year was slightly higher than the previous year, and annual mean turbidity is showing a decreasing linear trend over the 10-year reporting period (Figure 7.1).

Coliform

KGID met Federal and State guidelines for total coliform during the 2019-2020 reporting year, with zero Total Coliform results above 100 coliform-forming units per 100 mL (CFU/100 mL). The maximum total coliform count was 88.5 CFU/100 mL, below the 2018-2019 reporting year's annual maximum of 118.4 CFU/100 mL. The maximum total coliform reading occurred on August 21, 2019; the temperature reached a daily maximum of 81.1°F, 15° above the weekly average temperature of 66.1°F. High temperatures paired with strong winds of 0.9-12.8 mph with gusts of 13.0 mph produced a mixing effect that likely influenced the maximum reading (Table 5.5). Total coliform was detected in 64% of the 156 samples analyzed, an increase from 63% in the previous reporting year. The annual mean total coliform count was 5.98 CFU/100 mL, the median number was 1 CFU/100 mL, and 90% of the samples were below 14.35 CFU/100 mL (Table 11.1). The monthly mean total coliform results ranged between 0.08 CFU/100 mL and 29.39 CFU/100 mL (Table 11.2). The highest monthly mean total coliform result occurred in August 2019. Linear trend line data shows an increase in annual mean and maximum total coliform from 2009-2020 (Figure 7.3).

KGID also completed tests for E. coli coliform on 156 source water samples. During the 2019-2020 reporting year, 4 samples detected E. coli coliform with a maximum reading of 1.0 CFU/100 mL present, giving KGID an E. coli coliform detect rate of 2.56%. Consequently, the yearly mean for E. coli coliform was 0.03 CFU/100 mL, and the annual median E. coli coliform reading was 0.00 CFU/100 mL (Table 11.1).

Table 11.1: KGID annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the KGID intake.

	Total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	E. coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Mean	5.98	0.03
Median	1.00	0.00
Max	88.50	1.00
90th Percentile	14.35	0.00
Colony Forming Samples	100.00	4.00
Total Number of Samples	156.00	156.00

Table 11.2: KGID monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the KGID intake.

	Monthly maximum total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly maximum E.coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean E.coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Jul-19	32.40	10.20	1.00	0.08
Aug-19	88.50	29.39	1.00	0.08
Sep-19	48.70	17.48	1.00	0.08
Oct-19	34.40	7.41	0.00	0.00
Nov-19	7.50	3.48	1.00	0.08
Dec-19	4.20	0.95	0.00	0.00
Jan-20	1.00	0.17	0.00	0.00
Feb-20	7.50	1.13	0.00	0.00
Mar-20	2.00	0.43	0.00	0.00
Apr-20	1.00	0.08	0.00	0.00
May-20	5.30	1.20	0.00	0.00
Jun-20	9.90	2.26	0.00	0.00

Figure 7.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

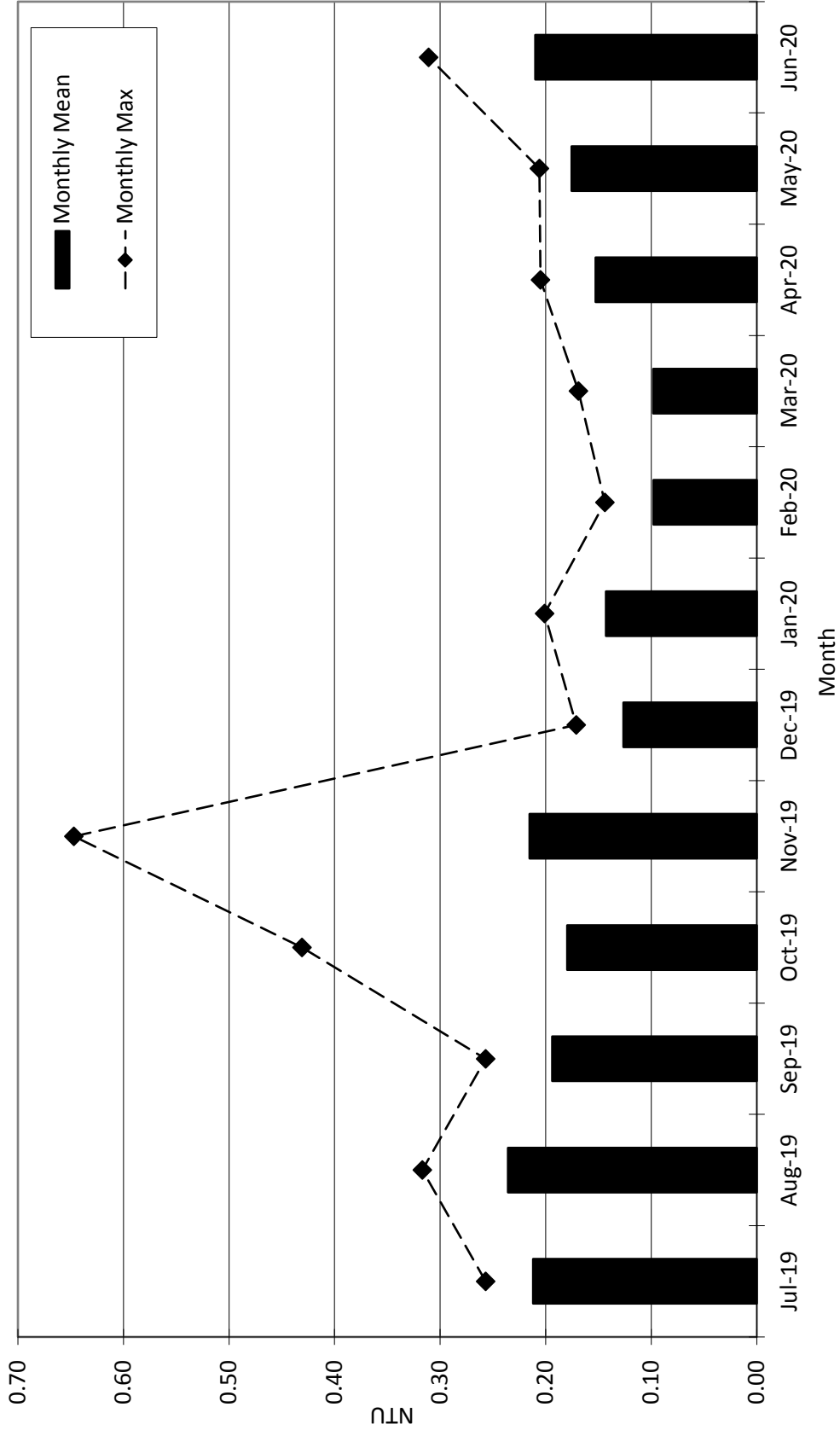


Figure 7.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

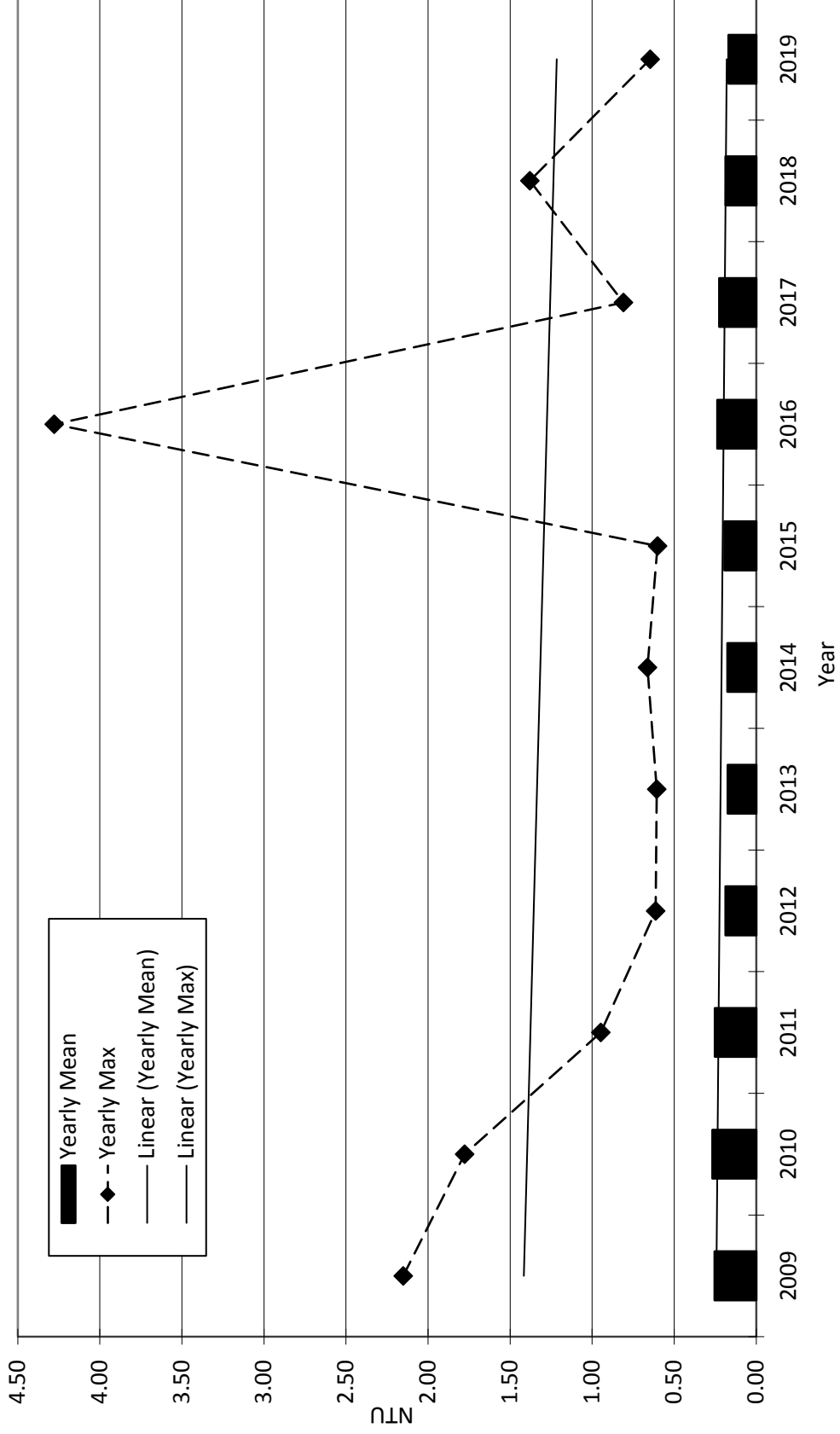


Figure 7.2: Monthly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

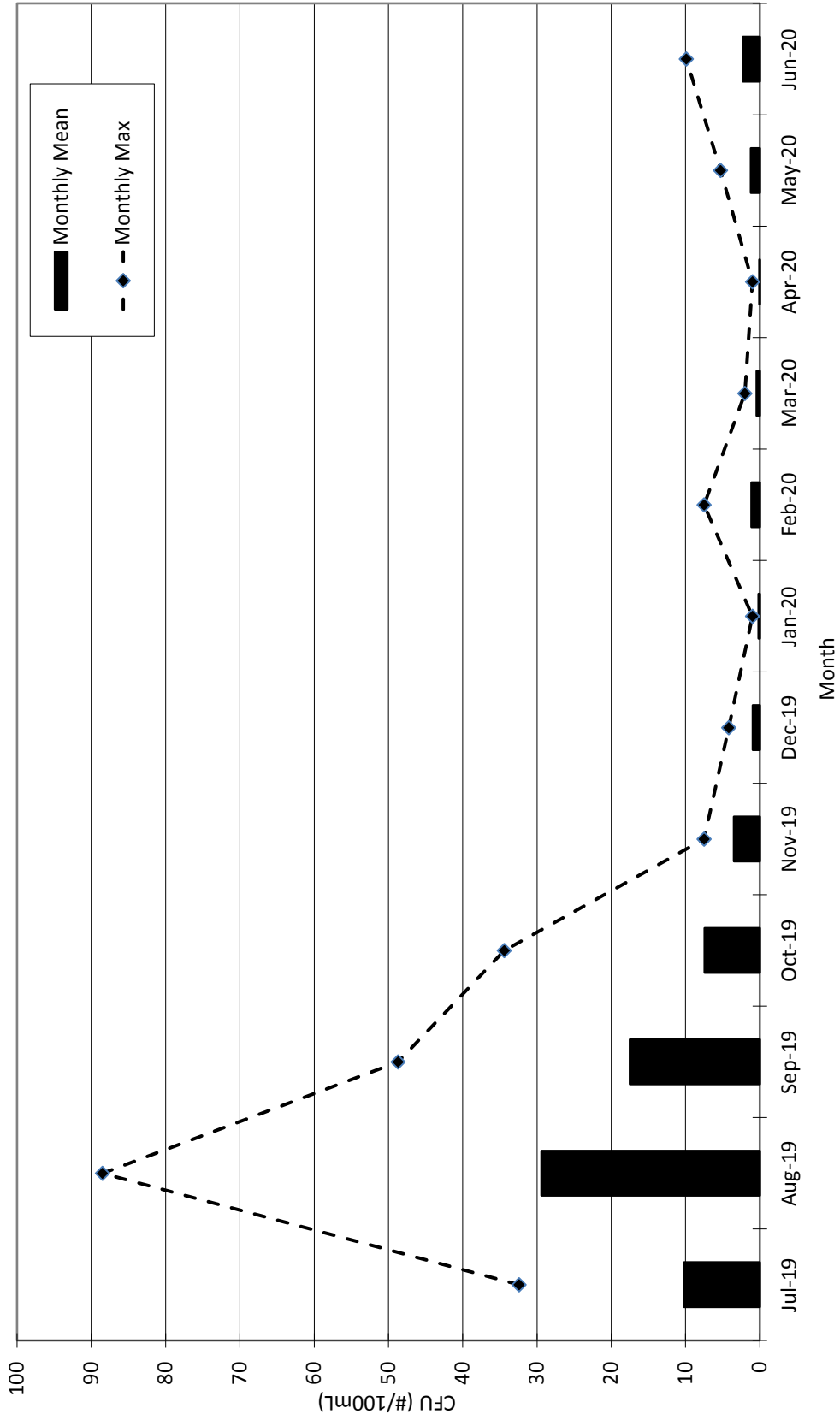
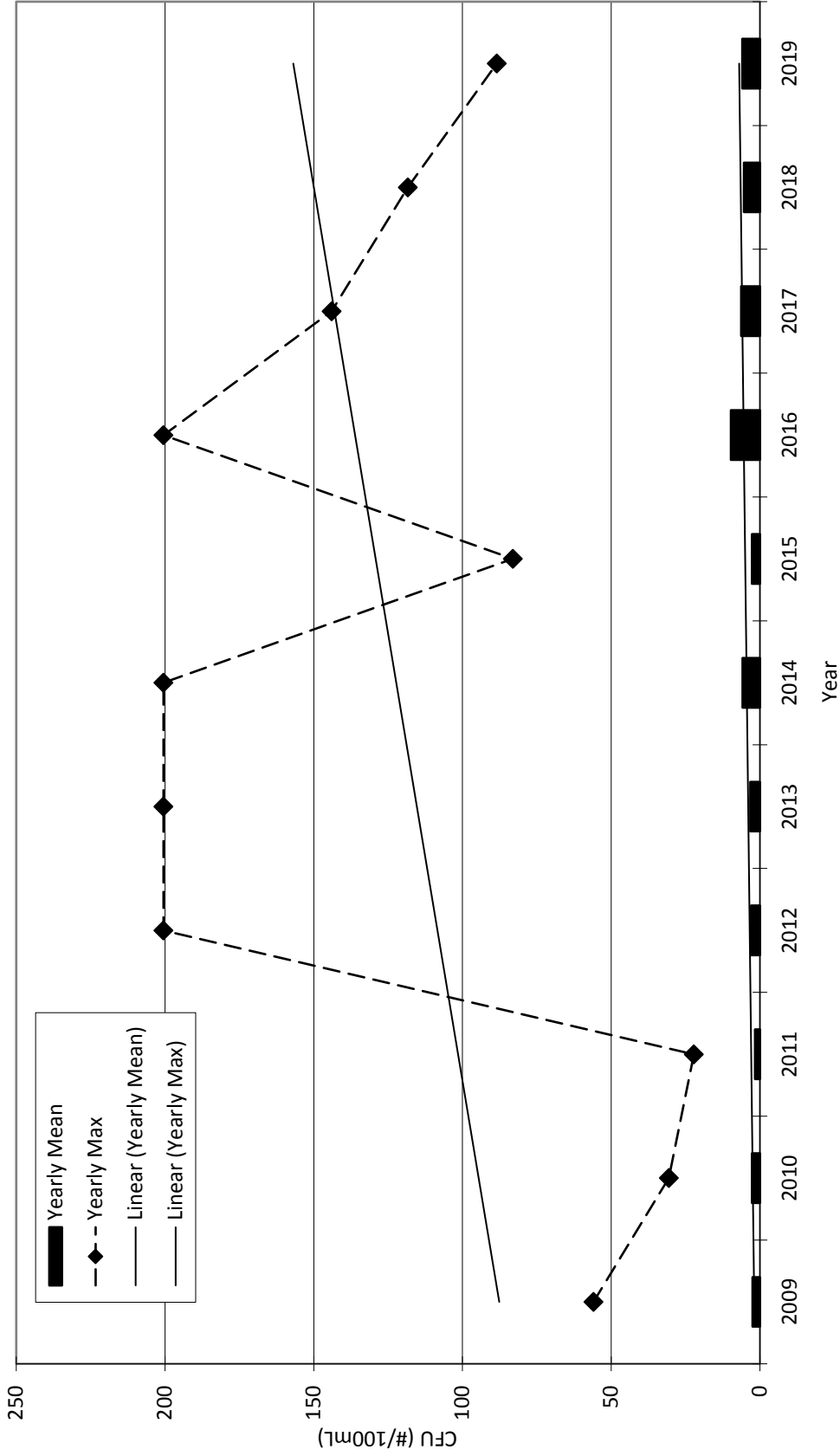


Figure 7.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2019.





Consumer Confidence Report



KINGSBURY GID Consumer Confidence Report – 2020 Covering Calendar Year - 2019

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are continually being made to improve their water systems. To learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings. For more information please contact Branden Garden at 775-588-3548.

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
LAKE TAHOE INTAKE STATION 1 RAW	Surface Water

We treat your water to remove several contaminants and we add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of our source water. For results of the source water assessment, please contact us.

Message from EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's

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The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system tested a minimum of 8 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presences in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.



Consumer Confidence Report

Water Quality Data

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year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. *The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.*

Terms & Abbreviations

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Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Non-Detects (ND): laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Testing Results for KINGSBURY GHI

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL COLIFORM	0	0	N/A	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

Disinfection By-Products	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2019	7.2	2.2 - 11	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	2019	11.9	2.3 - 20	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination



Consumer Confidence Report

Lead and Copper	Year	99 th Percentile	Unit	AL	Stres Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER	2017 - 2019	0.19	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD	2017 - 2019	Non Detect	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ANTIMONY	8/27/2019	2	2	ppb	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
BARIUM	8/27/2019	0.006	0.006	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
BROMATE	7/22/2019	7.8	1.9 - 7.8	ppb	10	1	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2019							

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL	MCLG
CHLORIDE	8/27/2019	4.9	4.9	mg/L	400	
MAGNESIUM	8/27/2019	2.4	2.4	mg/L	150	
PH	8/27/2019	7.96	7.96	PH	8.5	
SODIUM	8/27/2019	8.5	8.5	mg/L	200	20
SULFATE	8/27/2019	2.3	2.3	mg/L	500	
TDS	8/27/2019	82	82	mg/L	1000	
TEMPERATURE (CENTIGRADE)	8/27/2019	20.9	20.9	C		
ZINC	8/27/2019	0.02	0.02	mg/L	5	

Health Information About Water Quality

While your water meets the EPA's standard for Lead, *if present at elevated levels* this contaminant can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/infowater/lead>.

Violations

During the 2018 calendar year, KINGSBURY GID is required to include an explanation of the violation(s) in the table below and the steps taken to resolve the violation(s) with this report.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2019			

Edgewood Water Company
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

During the reporting year, Edgewood Water Company remained within Federal and State water quality requirements. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation of the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9).

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, Edgewood Water Company met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits. The monthly maximum and mean turbidity measurements did not exceed 1.00 NTU (Figure 8.0). The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 0.44 NTU and occurred twice during the reporting year, first on August 5, 2019 and then again on November 20, 2019. The annual maximum for this reporting year was less than the 2018-2019 reporting year maximum of 0.66 NTU. This maximum reading continues similar trends seen at Edgewood (Figure 8.1).

The weather on August 5, 2019, included sustained winds from the north of 0.2-2.9 mph with gusts of 3.4 mph (Table 5.1). On November 19, 2019 the weather included sustained winds from the northeast of 0.4-8.0 mph with gust of 8.0 mph (Table 5.1). The highest monthly mean turbidity reading, 0.34 NTU, occurred in November 2019. The highest monthly 90th percentile turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year, 0.39 NTU, also occurred in November and September 2019 (Table 12.0).

Table 12.0: Edgewood Water Company Turbidity Data Summary, July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Turbidity measurements are completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Edgewood intake.

	Monthly max (NTU)	Date monthly max	Monthly mean (NTU)	Monthly median (NTU)	Monthly 90% (NTU)
Jul-19	0.37	9	0.25	0.23	0.32
Aug-19	0.44	5	0.27	0.32	0.35
Sep-19	0.42	7, 26	0.32	0.31	0.39
Oct-19	0.40	13	0.30	0.28	0.37
Nov-19	0.44	19	0.34	0.34	0.39
Dec-19	0.32	1	0.22	0.22	0.29
Jan-20	0.40	18	0.17	0.17	0.22
Feb-20	0.28	5	0.17	0.16	0.23
Mar-20	0.42	7	0.17	0.16	0.22
Apr-20	0.20	1, 21	0.17	0.18	0.18
May-20	0.23	24	0.18	0.18	0.21
Jun-20	0.32	22	0.19	0.19	0.23

Historically, Edgewood has maintained low turbidity measurements. The highest historical reading, 3.5 NTU, occurred in January of 1997 during a 100-year storm event. The maximum turbidity measurement,

0.44 NTU, for the 2019-2020 reporting year was less than the previous reporting years' 0.66 NTU continuing the decreasing trend of maximum turbidity results over the 10-year period. The annual mean turbidity measurement for the 2019-2020 reporting year was slightly lower than the previous reporting year, 0.229 NTU, and 0.236 NTU respectively (Figure 8.1). The yearly mean turbidity data from 2009-2020 shows a slightly increasing trend.

Coliform

Edgewood Water Company met Federal and State guidelines for total coliform. The maximum total coliform count was 45.2 coliform-forming units per 100 mL (CFU/100 mL), which occurred on November 20, 2019. The temperature on that day reached a high of 34.7⁰ F, with a weekly mean temperature of 38.0⁰ F, with temperatures above freezing, paired with sustained winds of 0.9- 8 mph with 8mph gusts reported, wave action likely influenced the total coliform result (Table 12.1, Table 5.5). The highest monthly mean of total coliform, 18.03 CFU/100 mL, also occurred in November 2019 (Table 12.2).

Total coliform was detected in 63% of the 158 samples analyzed, lower than the previous years' 65%. The annual mean total coliform count was 4.2 CFU/100 mL, lower than the previous years' 4.4 CFU/100 mL. The annual median remained at 2 CFU for 2019-2020, and 90% of the samples were below 12 CFU (Table 12.1). The total coliform counts throughout the 2019-2020 reporting year were more abundant than the previous year, with a maximum reading of 45 CFU/100 mL as compared to 36.4 CFU/100 mL (Table 12.2, Figure 8.2, 8.3). Total coliform results over the past ten years show a decreasing linear trend in maximum readings and an increasing linear trend in annual mean (Figure 8.3).

Table 12.1: Edgewood Water Company annual source water total and E.coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Edgewood Water Company intake.

	Total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	E.coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Mean	4.23	0.02
Median	2.00	0.00
Max	45.20	1.00
90th Percentile	11.49	0.00
Colony Forming Samples	100.00	3.00
Total Number of Samples	158.00	158.00

Edgewood Water Company also completed tests for E. coli coliform on all samples tested for total coliform. E. coli coliform was detected in three samples during the 2019-2020 reporting year. The maximum E. coli coliform reading was 1.0 CFU/100 mL; this result was taken in November 2019 and March 2020. The annual mean E. coli coliform result was 0.02 CFU/100 mL, and 90% of the samples were below zero (Table 12.1).

Table 12.2: Edgewood Water Company monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected from raw water at the Edgewood Water Company intake.

	Monthly maximum total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly maximum E.coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Monthly mean E.coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Jul-19	23.80	3.62	0.00	0.00
Aug-19	6.40	2.25	0.00	0.00
Sep-19	13.50	2.06	0.00	0.00
Oct-19	12.40	3.89	0.00	0.00
Nov-19	45.20	18.03	1.00	0.17
Dec-19	28.80	9.21	0.00	0.00
Jan-20	7.50	3.78	0.00	0.00
Feb-20	4.20	1.21	0.00	0.00
Mar-20	6.40	1.41	1.00	0.07
Apr-20	2.00	0.31	0.00	0.00
May-20	5.30	1.31	0.00	0.00
Jun-20	9.90	3.74	0.00	0.00

Figure 8.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

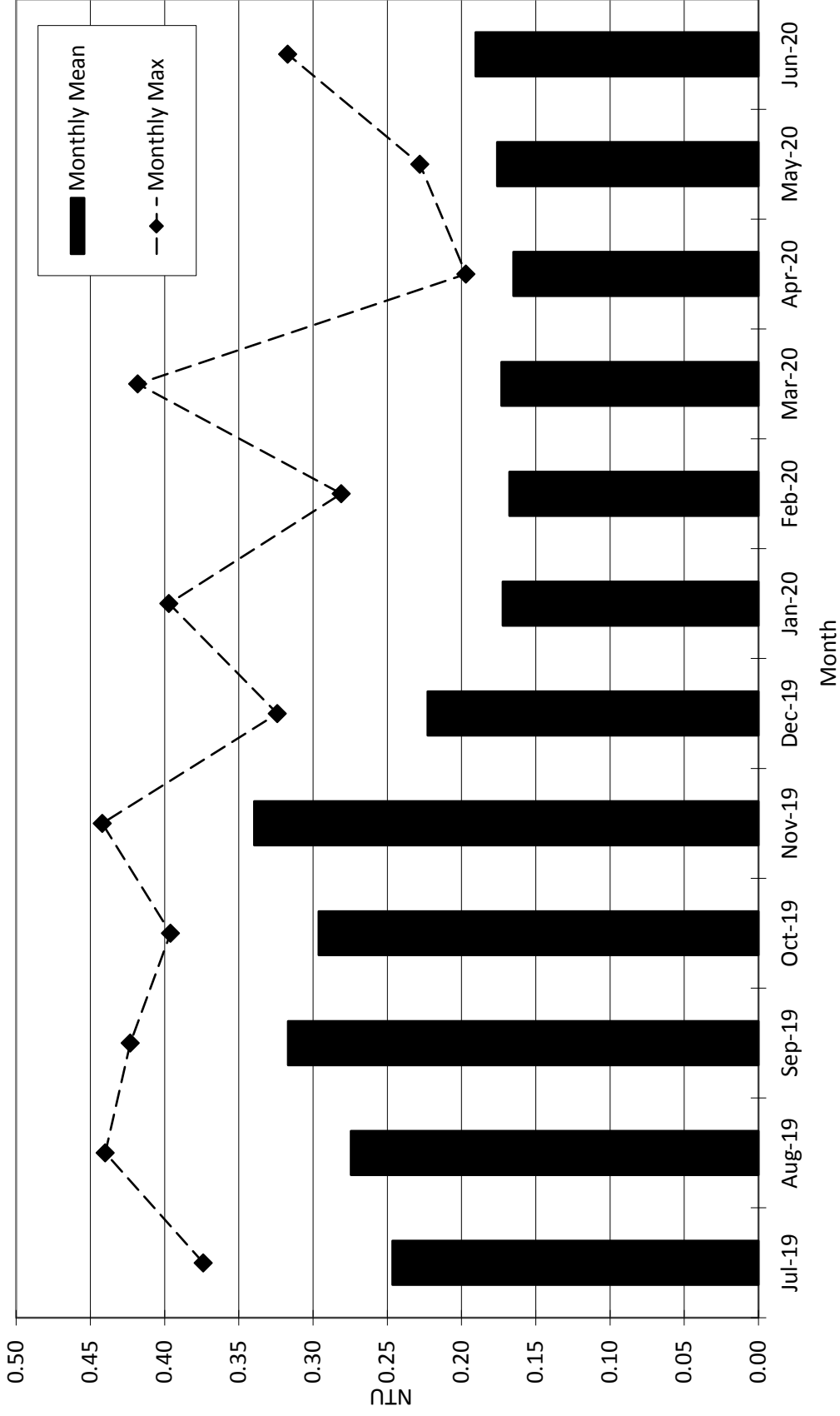


Figure 8.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020

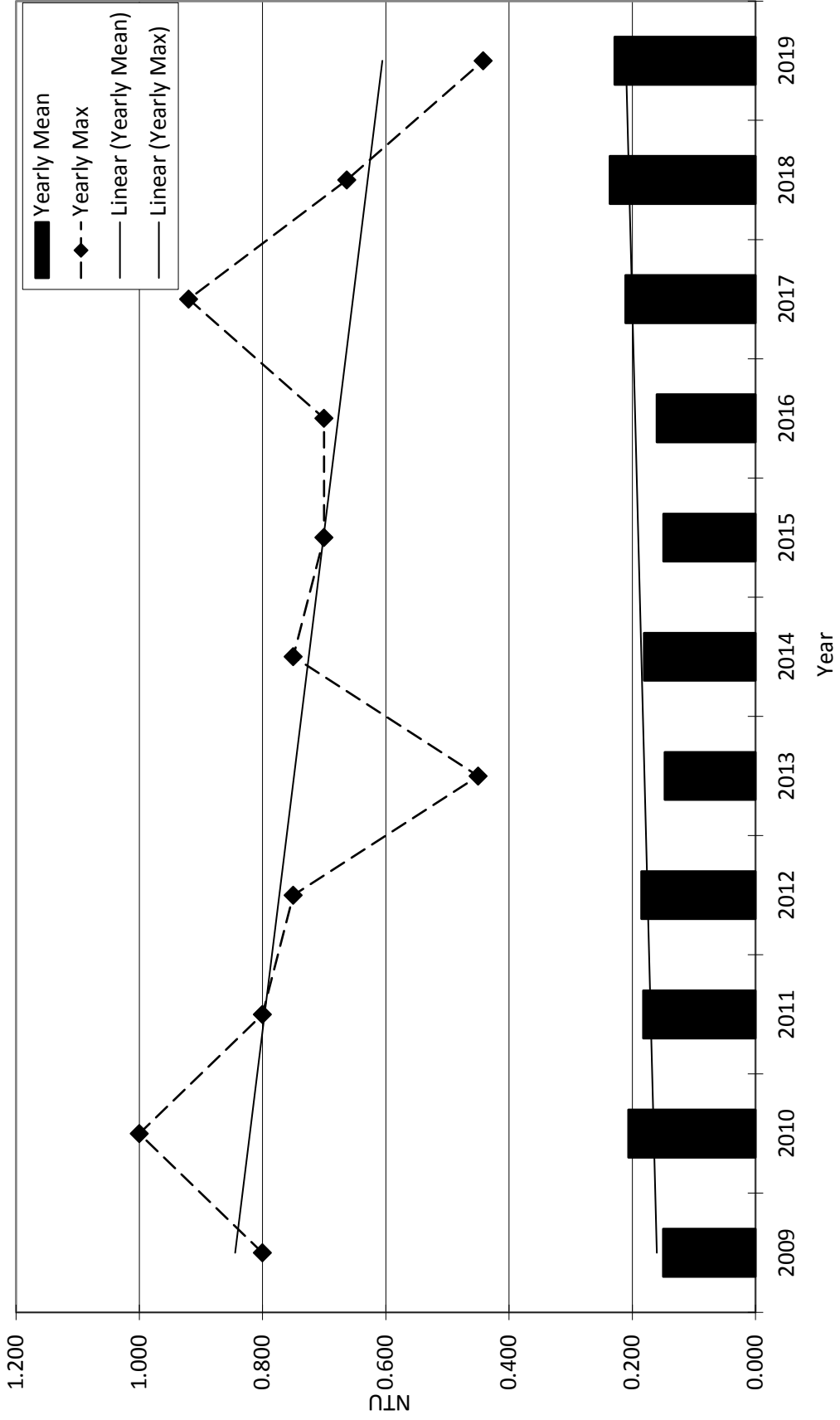


Figure 8.2: Monthly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

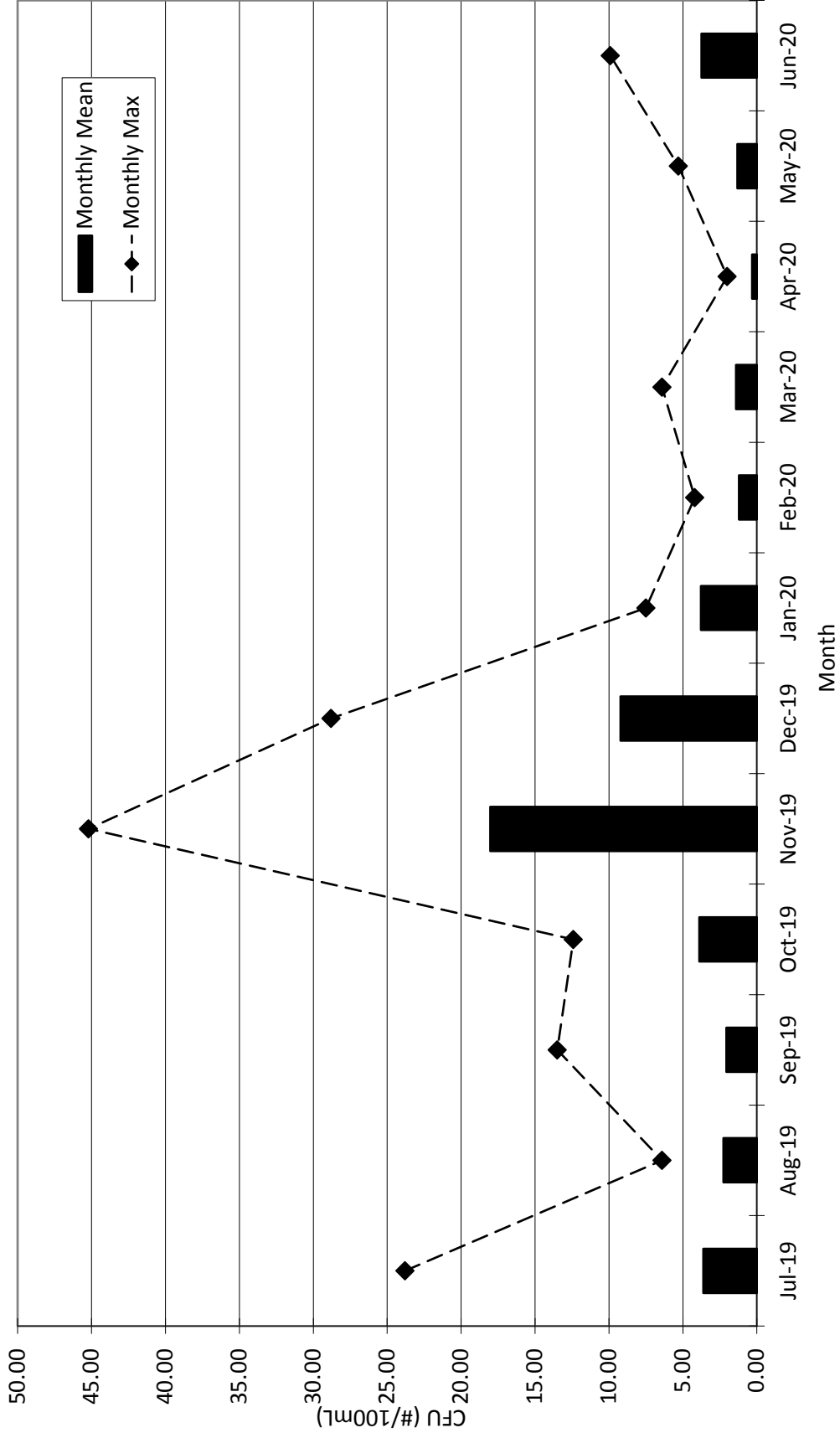
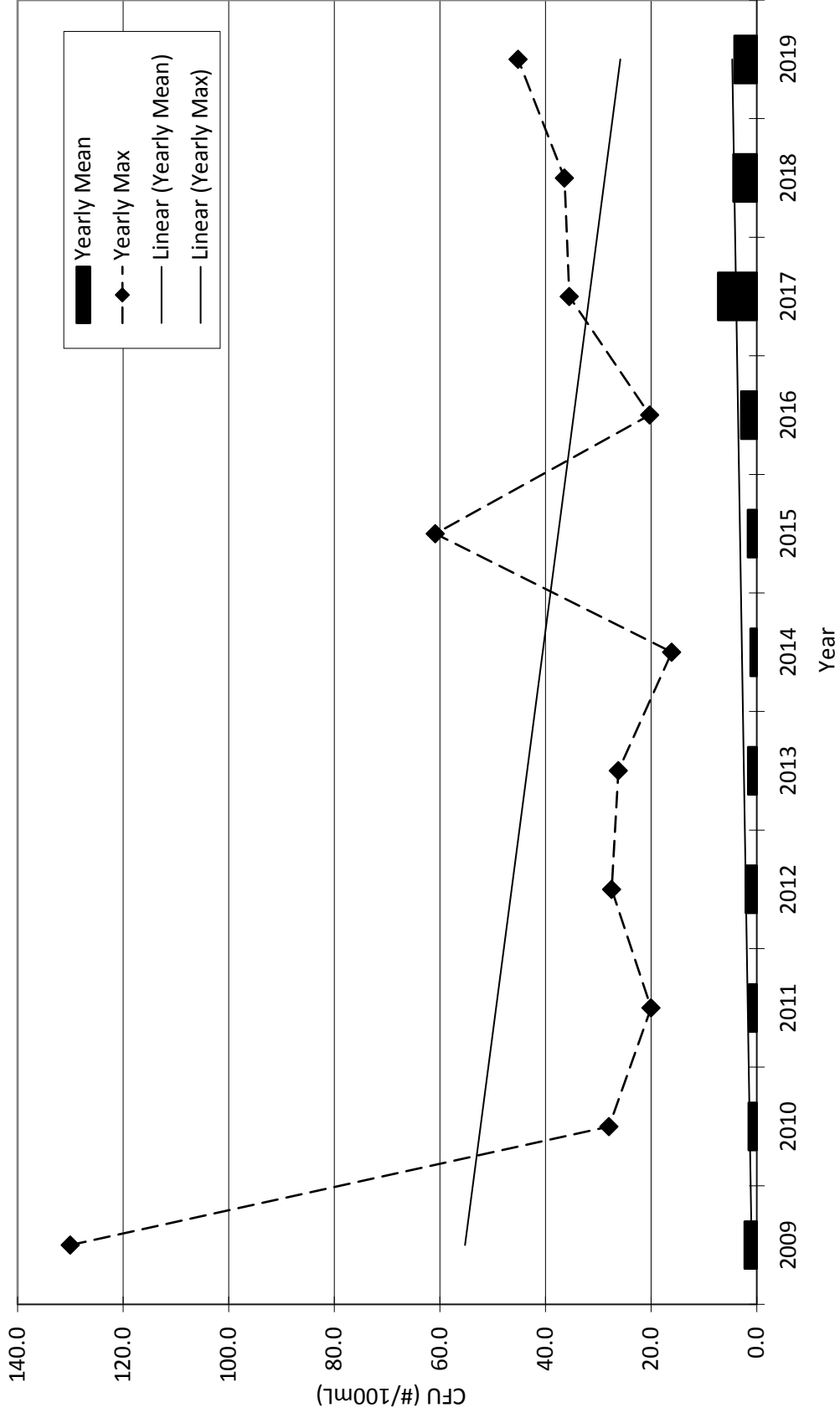


Figure 8.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





Consumer Confidence Report

The Edgewood Water Company

Is Not Required

To Produce a Consumer Confidence Report

Lakeside Park Association
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, Lakeside Park Association (LPA) remained in compliance with Federal and State water quality requirements. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation to the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.9). Additional regulatory information for LPA is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, LPA met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits for a filtering water system. The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 4.59 NTU and occurred on April 28, 2020, the winds on this day were 0.1-4.0 mph from the east-southeast with gusts of 4.0 mph reported (Table 5.1). The annual mean turbidity for LPA was 0.28 NTU. The monthly mean turbidity result was highest in October at 0.57 NTU, lower than the 2018-2019 highest monthly mean turbidity of 0.77 NTU (Table 13.0).

Table 13.0: LPA source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the LPA intake.

Month	Monthly Max (NTU)	Date Monthly Max	Monthly Mean (NTU)	Monthly Median (NTU)	90th Percentile
Jul-19	0.30	28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aug-19	0.32	29	0.21	0.19	0.29
Sep-19	0.29	21	0.21	0.21	0.25
Oct-19	2.35	25	0.57	0.29	1.13
Nov-19	0.33	8	0.22	0.22	0.26
Dec-19	0.35	12	0.21	0.22	0.31
Jan-20	0.36	14	0.23	0.23	0.34
Feb-20	1.78	16	0.24	0.13	0.17
Mar-20	0.60	13	0.20	0.15	0.31
Apr-20	4.59	28	0.51	0.26	0.80
May-20	1.67	19	0.35	0.28	0.55
Jun-20	0.69	15	0.23	0.17	0.45

Historically, LPA has maintained maximum turbidity measurements lower than the regulatory standards of 5 NTU for non-filtering purveyors, and filters the water to well below 1 NTU before distribution (Figure 9.1). The highest annual mean for turbidity reported at LPA in the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020, is 0.76 NTU reported in 2009, followed by 0.72 NTU recorded in 2008. The annual mean turbidity for the 2019-2020 reporting year, 0.28 NTU, was similar to the previous years' annual mean of 0.26 NTU (figure 9.1). The 10-year reporting period shows a decreasing linear trend for

annual mean turbidity (Figure 9.1). The 2019-2020 maximum turbidity reading of 4.59 NTU, is lower than the previous reporting years' maximum of 17 NTU, and similar to the 2015 maximum of 5.60 NTU. The highest annual maximum result for the 10-year reporting period of 20.20 NTU was recorded in 2016. Annual maximum turbidity at LPA shows increasing linear trend (Figure 9.1)

Coliform

LPA met Federal and State guidelines for total and E. coli coliform for filtering systems. The maximum total coliform count was 37.30 coliform-forming units per 100mL (CFU/100mL), an increase from the previous year's 29.5 CFU/100mL. The maximum total coliform reading was taken on June 11, 2020, temperatures rose to 76.8°F, from the weekly mean temperature of 52.5°F, with sustained winds of 0.5-8.0 mph reported (Table 5.5). The highest monthly mean total coliform result, 21.8 CFU/100 mL also occurred in June 2020 (Table 13.2, Figure 9.2). The 2019-2020 maximum total coliform result is higher than the previous reporting years' 29.50 CFU/100mL and similar to the 2010 and 2011 results. Annual maximum total coliform has an increasing linear trend line for the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 (Figure 9.3).

Total coliform was detected in 10 of the 24 samples analyzed equaling 42% (Table 13.1). The yearly mean total coliform count was 4.03 CFU/100mL, a decrease from the 2018-2019 mean of 4.9 CFU/100mL, and similar to results throughout the 10-year reporting period (Table 13.1, Figure 9.3).

LPA also completed tests for E. coli coliform on all samples tested for total coliform. Of the 24 samples analyzed for E. coli coliform, zero samples detected E. coli coliform (Table 13.1).

Table 13.1: LPA annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the LPA intake.

	Total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	E coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Mean	4.0	0
Median	0	0
Max	37.3	0
90th Percentile	0	0
Colony Forming Samples	10	0
Total Number of Samples	24	24

Table 13.2: Lakeside Park Association monthly source water Total and E.coli Coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Lakeside Park Association intake.

	Maximum Total Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Mean Total Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Maximum E.coli Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Mean E.coli Coliform (# colonies/100ml)
Jul-19	13.2	8.15	0	0
Aug-19	6.3	6.3	0	0
Sep-19	9.8	8.05	0	0
Oct-19	4.1	2.05	0	0
Nov-19	0	0	0	0
Dec-19	0	0	0	0
Jan-20	0	0	0	0
Feb-20	4.1	2.05	0	0
Mar-20	0	0	0	0
Apr-20	0	0	0	0
May-20	0	0	0	0
Jun-20	37.3	21.8	0	0

Figure 9.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

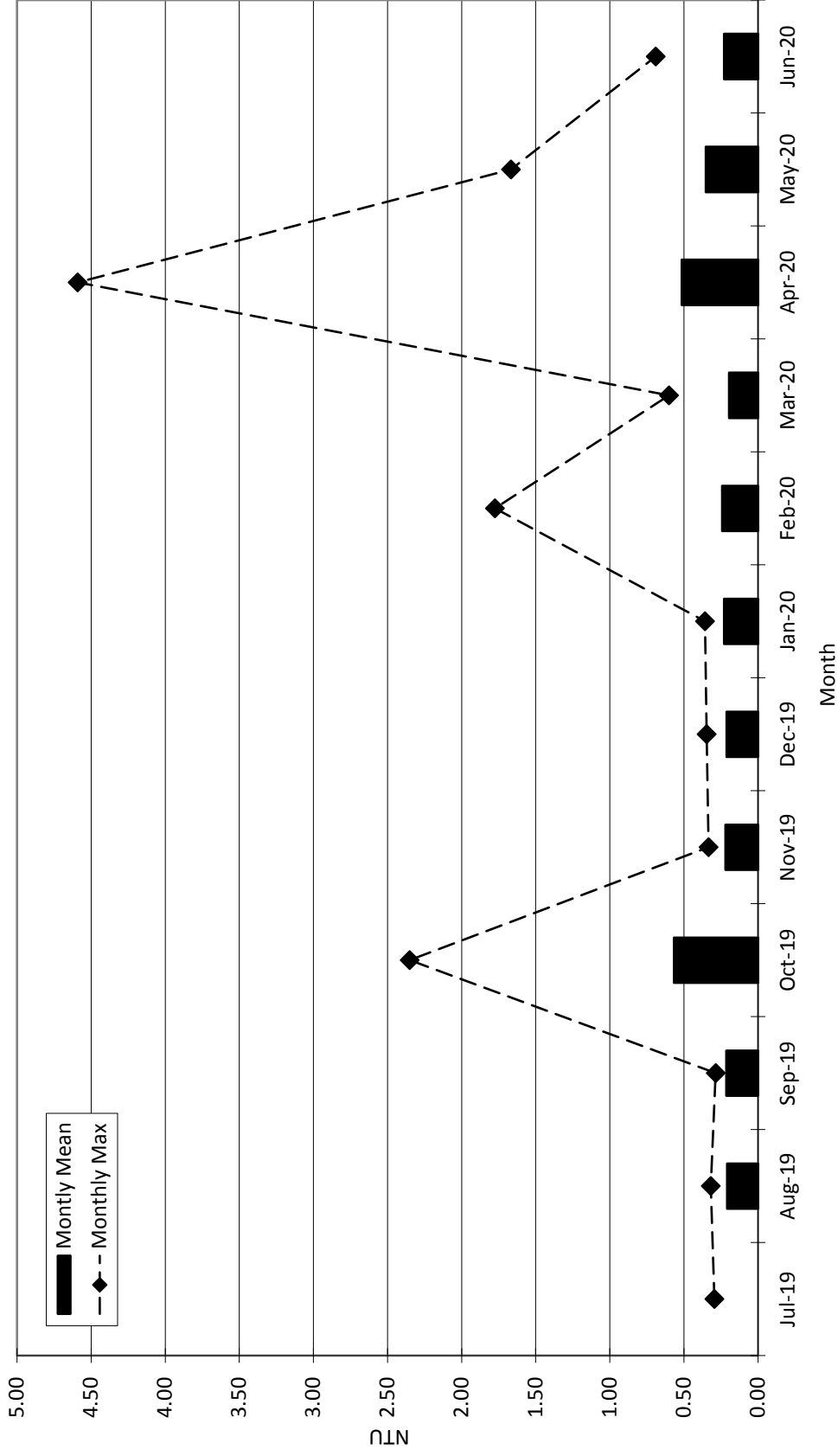


Figure 9.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

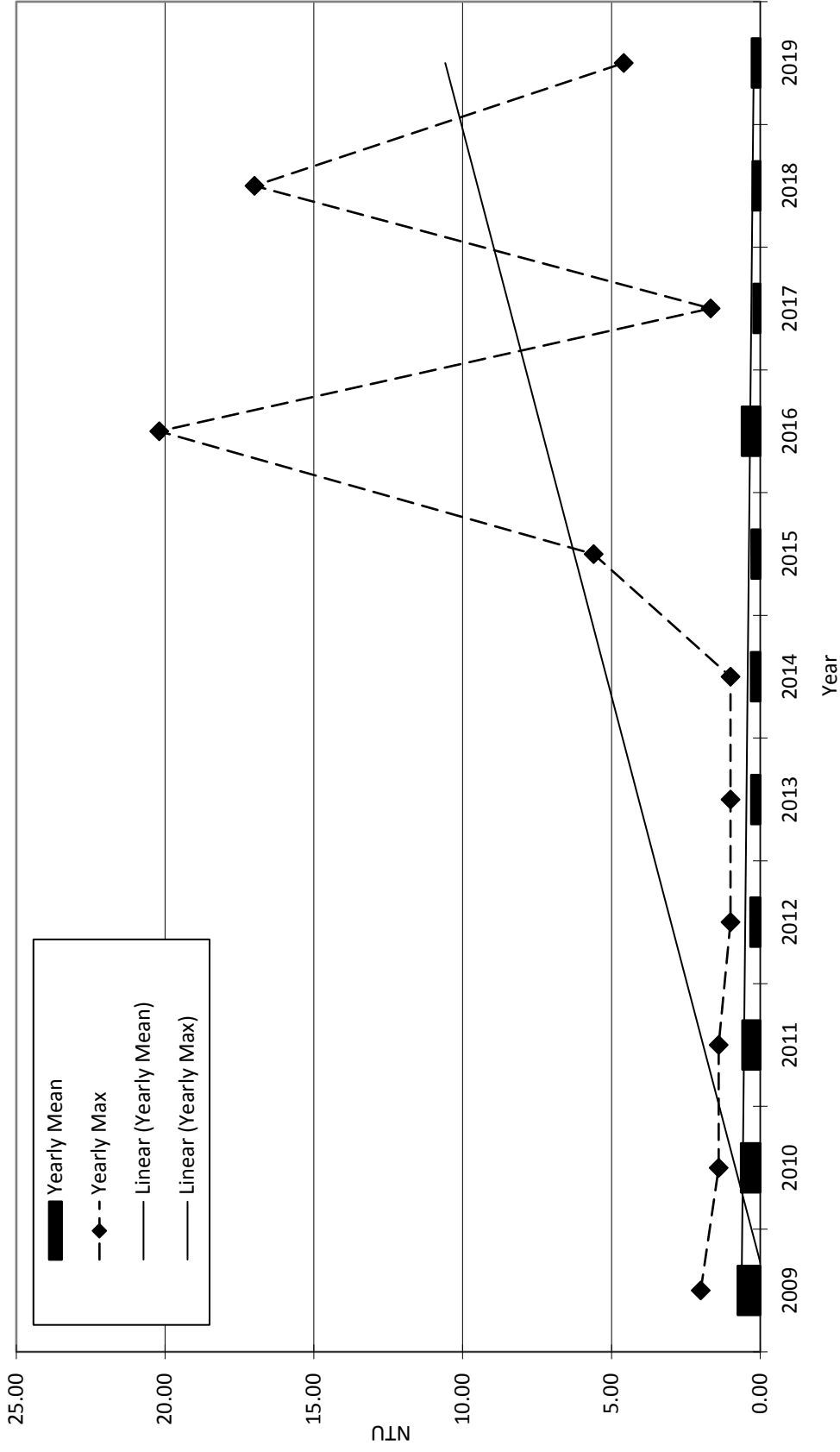


Figure 9.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

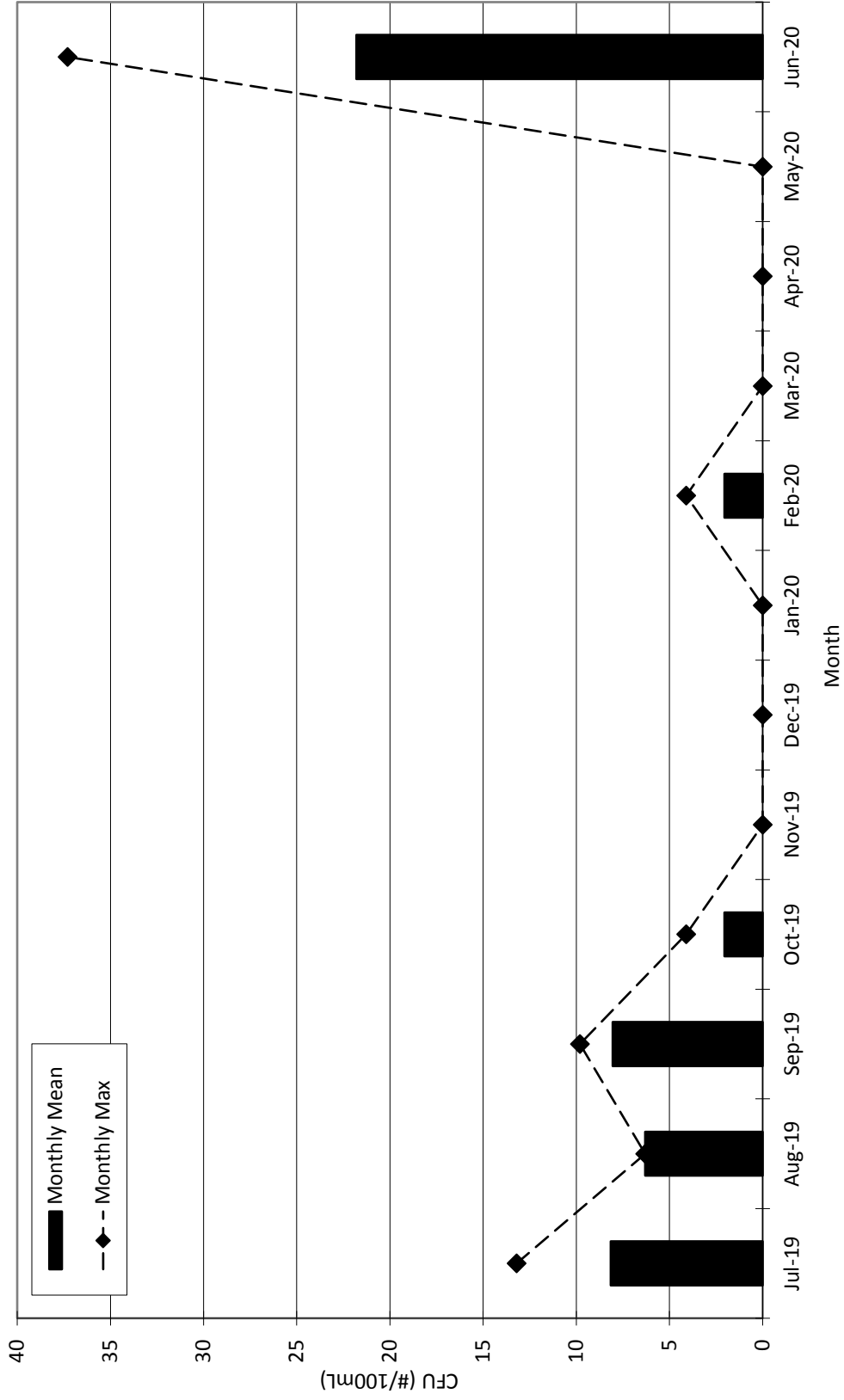
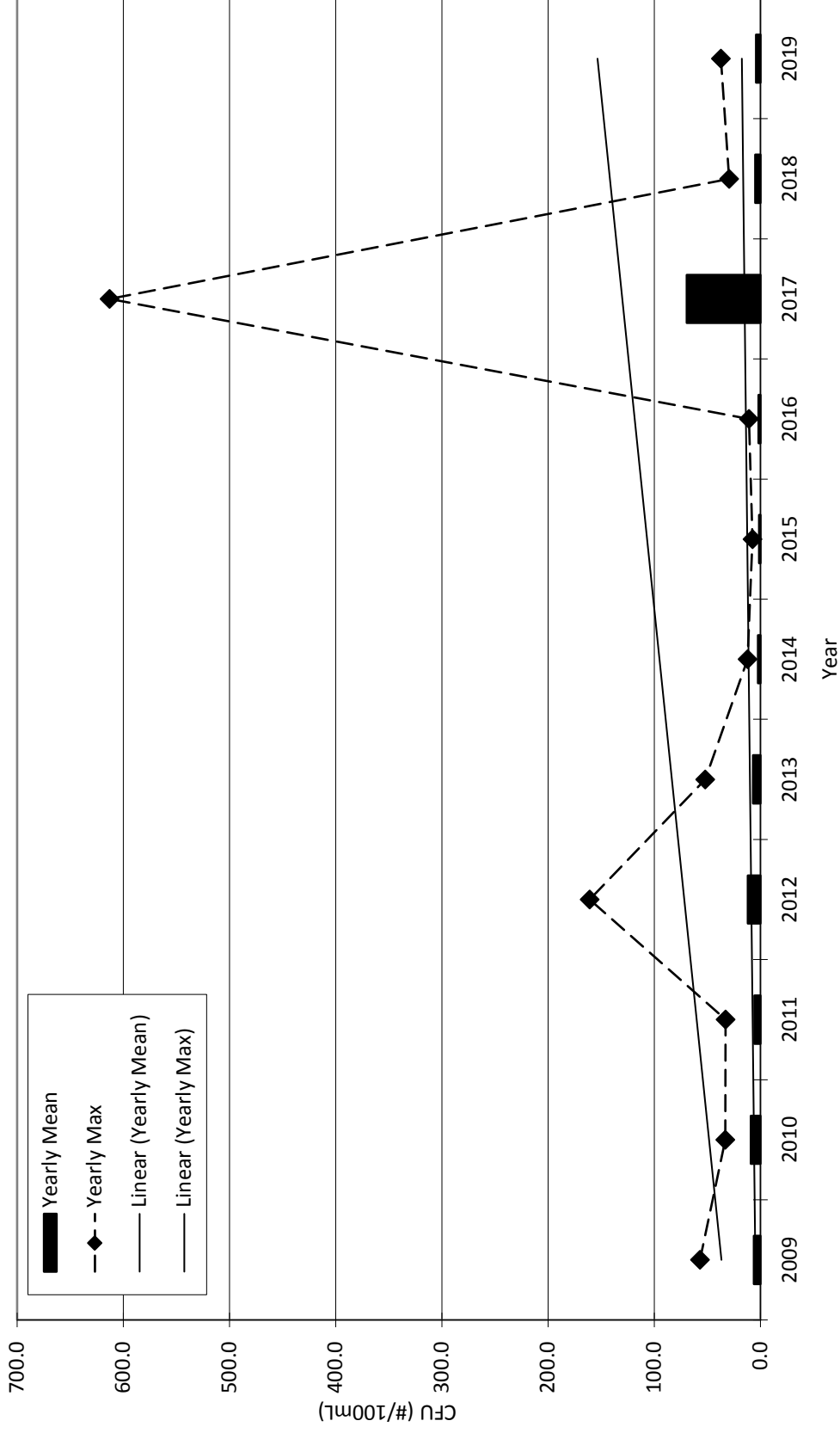


Figure 9.3: Yearly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





Consumer Confidence Report



2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Lakeside Park Mutual Water District (LPA) Report Date: June 30, 2020

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019 and may include earlier monitoring data.

- **Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Lakeside Park Mutual Water Company a 4077 Pine Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 para asistirlo en español.**

Type of water source(s) in use: LPA's primary source is from Lake Tahoe, supplemented during peak time by our well.

Name & general location of source(s): 4077 Pine Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. Primary Source: Lake Tahoe
Secondary Source: a well located within the District boundaries.

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: Lake Tahoe is a water body susceptible to recreational activities and some geological erosion. A watershed sanitary survey was completed in 2008 in conjunction with the Tahoe water Systems Association. Watershed Control Program Reports are updated annually. Copies of these reports are available for viewing at the LPA office upon request.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: 3rd Friday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.
LPA Office, 4077 Pine Blvd, SLT, CA.

For more information, contact: Nakia Foskett, Water Systems Manager Phone: (530) 542-2314

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)



Consumer Confidence Report

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER								
Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	8/26/17	10	ND	0	15	0.2	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	8/26/17	10	71	0	1300	300	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

* Any violation of an MCL or AL is asterisked " * ". Additional information regarding the violation is provided below. (There are no violations.)

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections:	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	7/22/2019	6.0		None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	7/24/18	31	0 ppm - 31 ppm	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring



Consumer Confidence Report

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	8/5/19	0.07	-	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	7/24/18	1.9	-	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	7/24/18	0.012	-	1	2	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	0.45	0.33 – 0.45	4.0 (as Cl ₂)	4.0 (as Cl ₂)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	2017	12.6 pCi/L	12.6 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	0	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 (Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids) ppb	10/23/19	2.7	0 – 2.7	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2017	<1.0	<1.0	10	0.02	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen, N) ppm	8/5/19	0.017	0 – 0.033	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) ppb	10/23/19	5.3	3.8 – 5.3	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	7/26/18	0.025NTU	-	TT	N/A	Soil runoff
Uranium (ppm)	2017	0.004 ppm	0.004 ppm	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits
DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Calcium (ppm)	2016	8.5	-	-	-	Naturally occurring organic materials
Chloride (ppm)	7/24/18	1.9	-	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2017	39	0 – 39	300	-	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Magnesium (ppb)	2017	2.2	0 – 2.2	-	-	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Manganese (ppb)	2014	3	0 – 20	50	-	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	7/24/18	1.7	-	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2017	100	93-100	1000	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits



Additional General Information on Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Lakeside Park Mutual Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

For Systems Providing Surface Water as a Source of Drinking Water

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER	
Treatment Technique ^(a) (Type of approved filtration technology used)	Contact Clarification / Filtration
Turbidity Performance Standards ^(b) (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1 - Be less than or equal to 0.2 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 - Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 - Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.09 NTU
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

(a) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

(b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

Tahoe City Public Utility District McKinney/Quail
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

The Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) operates numerous small water supply facilities for the northwest shore of Lake Tahoe, from Dollar Hill to the Rubicon area. The following TCPUD water quality data relates to the McKinney/Quail filtering surface water intake. The TCPUD reactivated the McKinney/Quail intake in August 2004 when groundwater supplies could not meet water supply demands. The TCPUD McKinney/Quail intake operates during the summer months only under a temporary permit issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water Programs.

Filtering water suppliers are only required to report source water turbidity; coliform data has also been provided for comparison to other systems. During the 2019-2020 reporting year, TCPUD McKinney/Quail remained in compliance with Federal and State water quality requirements of a filtering water supplier. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation of the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.8). Additional regulatory information for TCPUD is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, TCPUD McKinney/Quail met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits. The surface water intake was online for the summer season of 2019 from July 3, 2019, to October 17, 2019 and production for summer 2020 began on June 24, 2020, providing five months of data for this reporting year. The monthly maximum and mean turbidity measurements did not exceed 1.00 NTU (Figure 10.0). The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 0.50 NTU. The maximum turbidity reading of 0.50 NTU occurred on 5 days during the reporting year: September 5th and 12th, October 2nd-3rd and 16th, 2019. Full weather details are available (Table 5.1 (a)). All maximum turbidity readings included wind events from a westerly direction or included precipitation (Table 5.1(a)). The annual mean turbidity result was 0.27 NTU, for the 2019-2020 reporting year, higher than the previous reporting years mean result of 0.22 NTU. The highest monthly mean turbidity was 0.29 NTU, occurring twice in the reporting year, September and October 2019 (Table 14.0).

Table 14.0: Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) McKinney/Quail source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the McKinney/Quail intake.

	Monthly Max (NTU)	Date Monthly Max	Monthly Mean (NTU)	Monthly Median (NTU)	Monthly 90%
Jul-19	0.35	5, 6	0.26	0.26	0.32
Aug-19	0.44	7	0.26	0.26	0.31
Sep-19	0.50	5, 12	0.29	0.29	0.39
Oct-19	0.50	2, 3, 16	0.29	0.27	0.50
Intake Offline					
Jun-20	0.27	28.00	0.25	0.26	0.26

Historically TCPUD had annual maximum turbidity readings below 1.0 NTU, with the highest result in the 10-year reporting period reaching 0.60 NTU in 2017. Annual maximum turbidity was equal to the 2019-2020 reading of 0.50 NTU in 2018, 2016, and 2011, with results less than 0.45 NTU in 2009,2010,2012-2015 (Figure 10.1). Linear trendline data for the 10-year period of July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2020, shows an increasing trend in annual maximum turbidity (Figure 14.1). Annual mean turbidity has been fluctuating around 0.20 NTU within the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020, with the maximum annual mean recorded in 2011, 0.31 NTU, and the lowest annual mean, 0.18 NTU, in 2009. TCPUD annual mean turbidity data from 2009-2020 shows an increasing linear trend (Figure 10.1).

Coliform

TCPUD met Federal and State guidelines for total coliform during the 2019-2020 reporting year. The maximum total coliform count was 32.7 coliform-forming units/100 mL (CFU/100 mL), below the 55.4 CFU/100 mL of the previous year (Figure 10.3). The maximum total coliform reading occurred during a wind event on August 6, 2020, with sustained winds of 0.8-6.3 mph and gusts of 6.3 mph creating wave action. The wind event was paired with a daily maximum temperature of 68.9°F, an increase of 25° from the weekly mean temperature of 43.6°F (Table 5.5). The combination of wave action and warm temperatures likely provided an optimal environment for the presence of total coliform at the TCPUD McKinney/Quail intake.

Total coliform was detected in 80% of the five samples analyzed, more than the previous reporting year. The mean total coliform count was 8.86 CFU/100 mL, and the median number was 3.1 CFU/100 mL (Table 14.1). The 2019-2020 mean total coliform reading of 8.86 CFU/100 mL is less than the previous reporting year (Figure 10.3). Linear trend line data for the ten-year reporting period of July 1, 2009- June 30, 2020, shows an increasing trend in annual mean and maximum total coliform (Figure 10.3).

TCPUD also completed tests for E. coli coliform on five source water samples. During the 2019-2020 reporting year, one E.coli coliform reading was recorded (Table 14.1). The E. coli coliform result was 2 CFU/100 mL, and was detected in September 2019, and E. coli coliform was detected in 1.2% of the five samples analyzed.

Table 14.1: TCPUD McKinney/Quail source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the McKinney/Quail intake.

	Total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	E. coli coliform (# colonies/100mL)
Mean	8.86	0.40
Median	3.10	0
Max	32.7	2
90th Percentile	22.62	1
Colony-Forming Samples	4	1
Total Number of Samples	5	5

Table 14.2: Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) McKinney/Quail monthly source water total and E.coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the McKinney/Quail intake.

	Maximum Total Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Mean Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Maximum E.coli Coliform (# colonies/100ml)	Mean E.coli Coliform (# colonies/100ml)
Jul-19	0	0	0.00	0.00
Aug-19	32.70	32.70	0.00	0.00
Sep-19	7.50	7.50	2.00	2.00
Oct-19	3.10	3.10	0.00	0.00
Jun-20	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

Figure 10.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Tahoe City Public Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

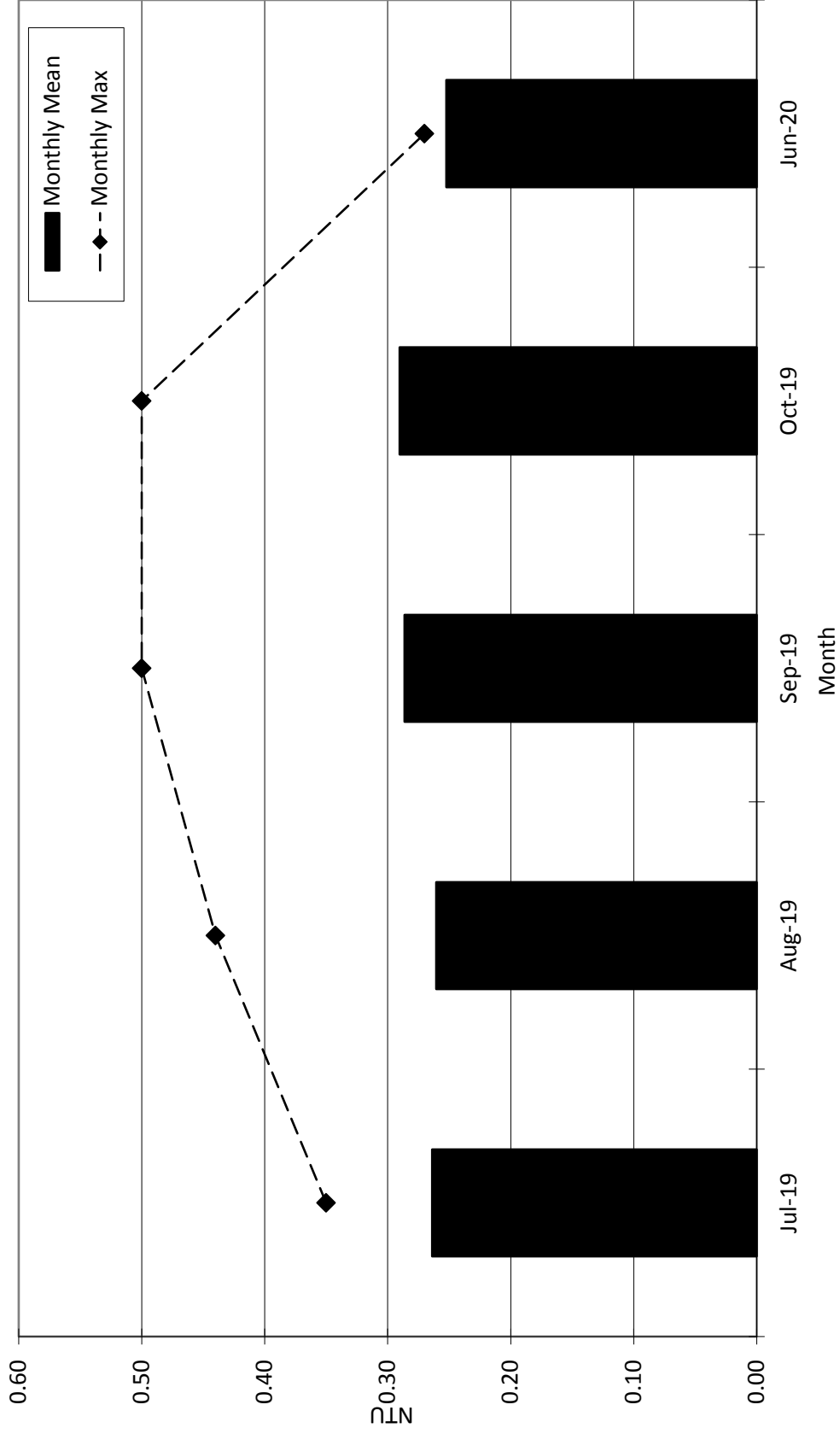


Figure 10.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Tahoe City Public Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

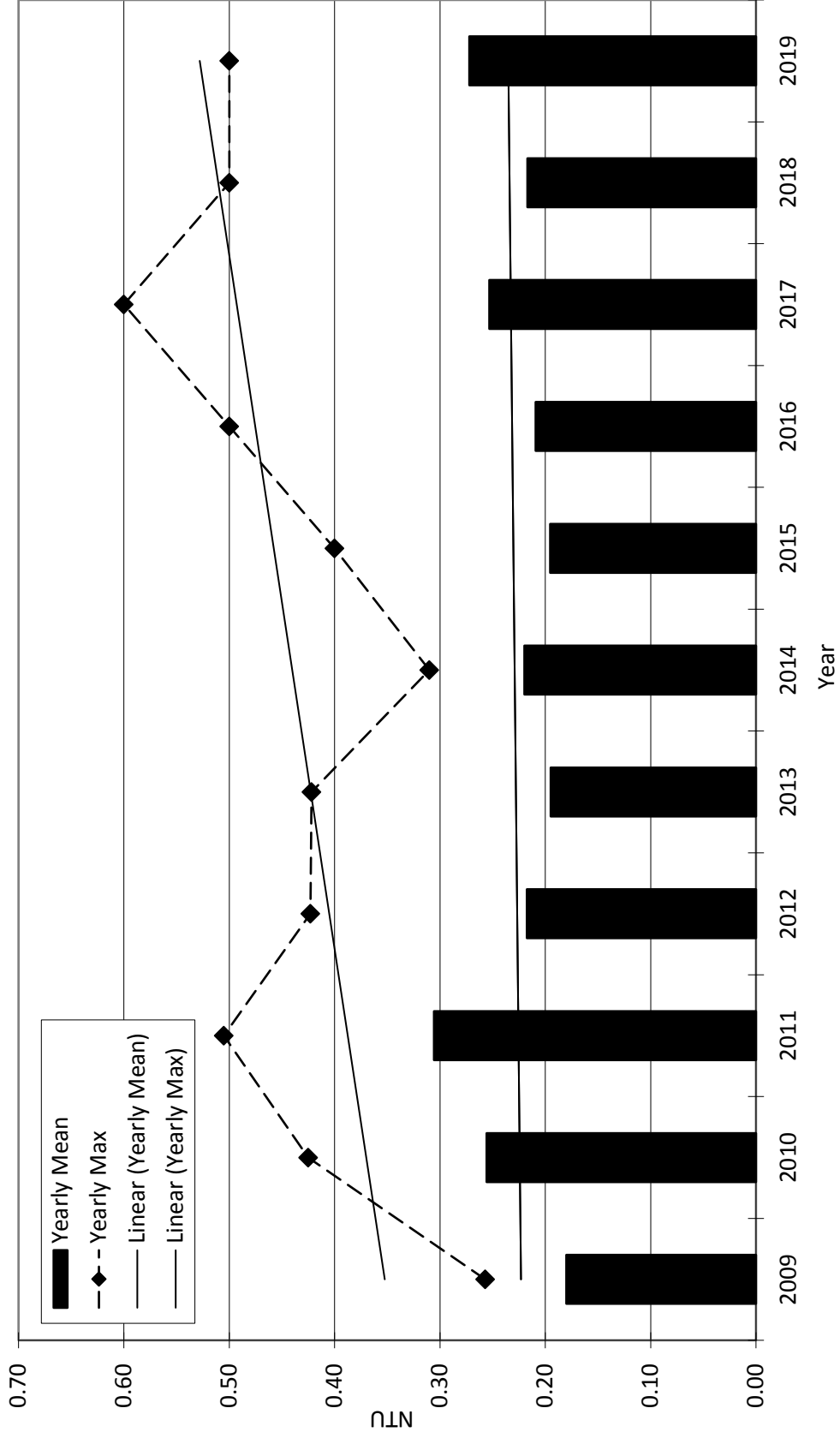


Figure 10.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Tahoe City Public Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

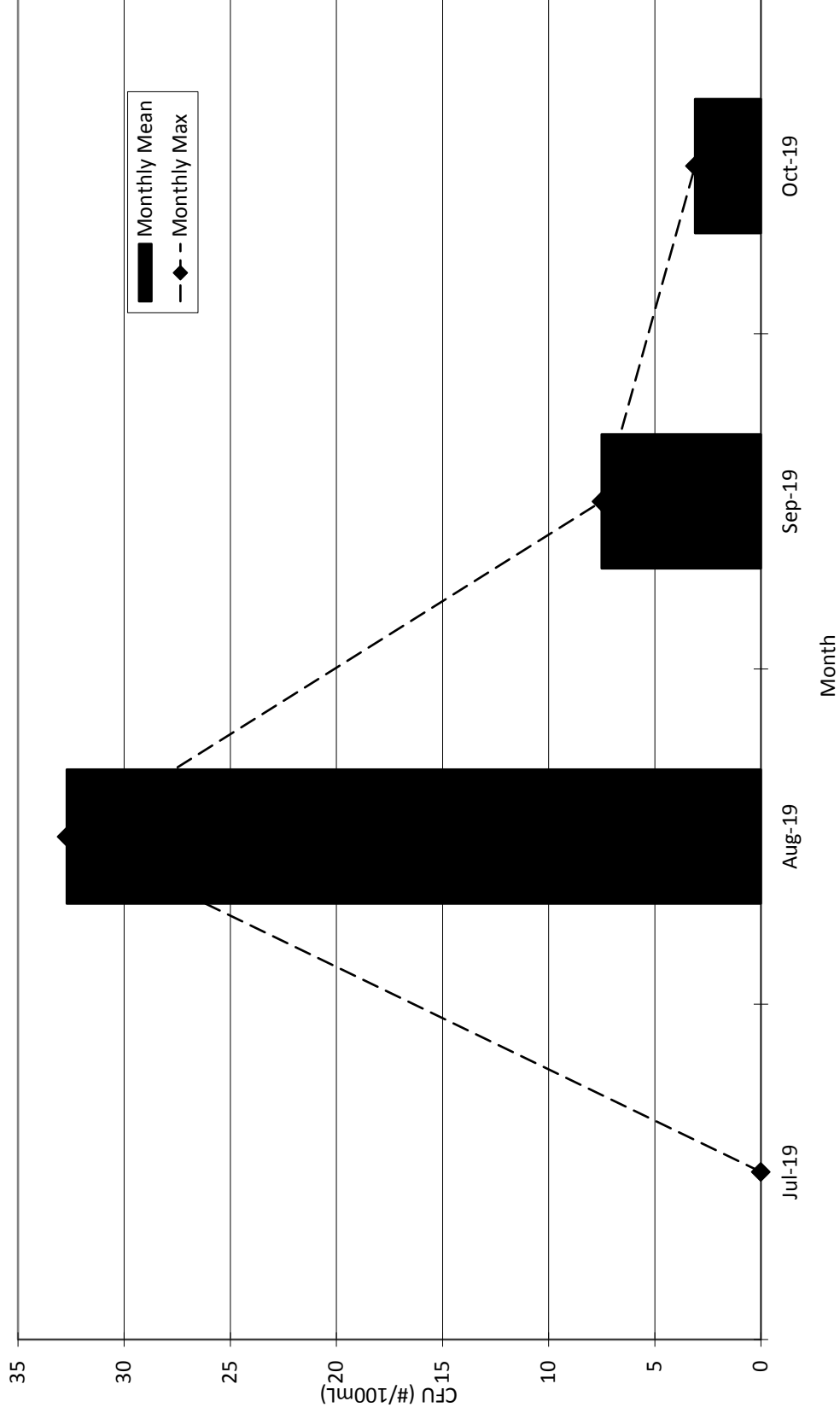
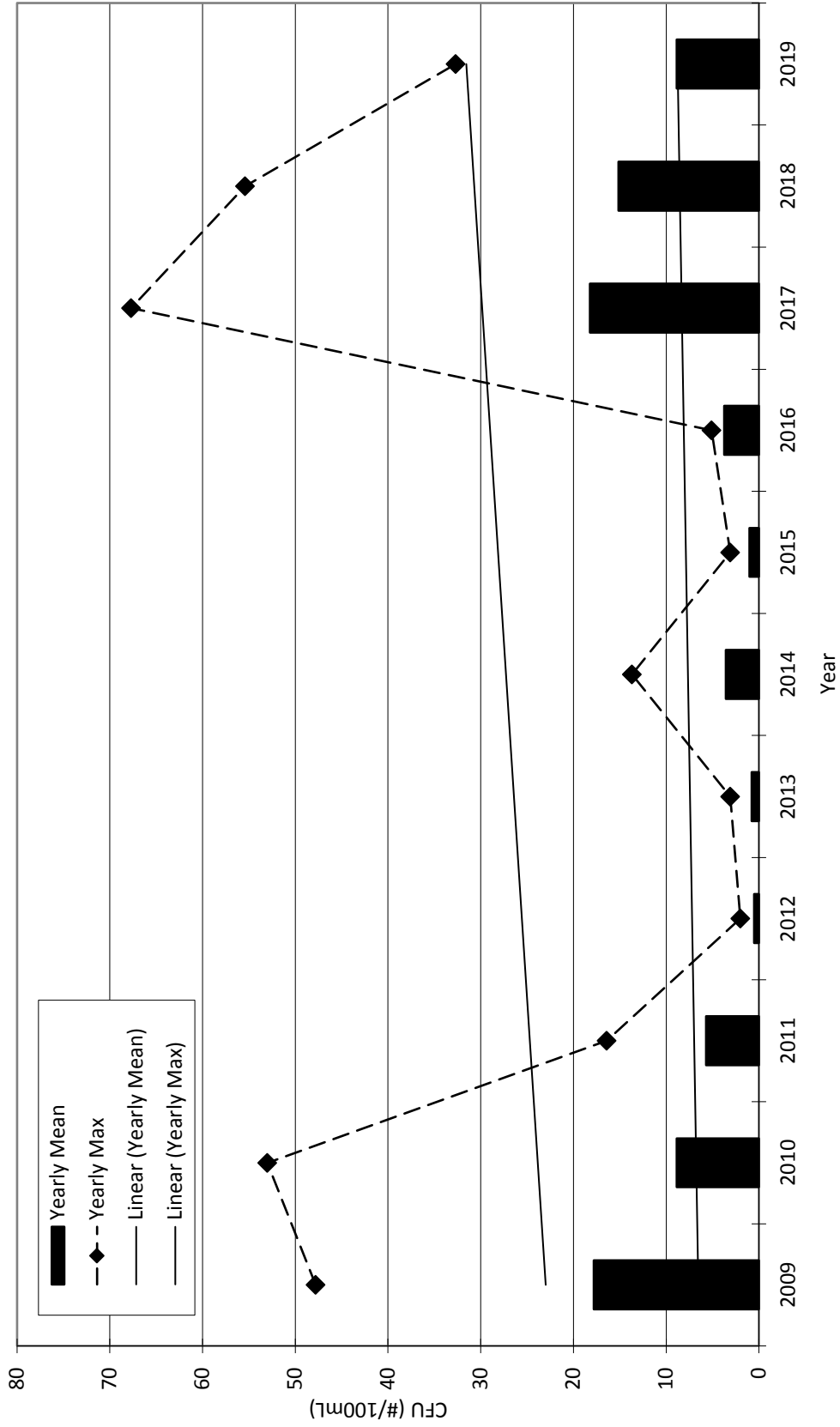


Figure 10.3: Yearly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Tahoe City Public Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





Consumer Confidence Report



Tahoe City Public Utility District 2019 Annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report

To Our Valued Customers:

The enclosed information is a report of the quality and laboratory analysis of the drinking water that we delivered to you over the calendar year 2019. The Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) is pleased to report that all systems met all USEPA and State drinking water health standards. On pages two and three you will find a table containing all detected contaminants in the water as well as general information on water quality, lead and copper sampling results, and different health effect language for various contaminants. Page four has a map showing sources and basic system locations as well as system identification information. This report can also be viewed at our website at: www.tcpud.org/ccr/current.pdf.

While TCPUD water is classified as either treated surface water or groundwater, it is important for you to understand all potential sources of drinking water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and Herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, U. S. EPA and the State Water Resource Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for possible contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

For questions or additional information please call Utilities Superintendent, Dan Lewis, at (530) 580-6330 or the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or view their website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>. To obtain general District information, to express your views, or to participate in the decision-making process of the TCPUD; you are welcome to attend or view online our Board of Directors meetings. The District Board of Directors meeting schedule, agendas and videos are available on our website www.tcpud.org or contact the District Clerk's office at (530) 580-6052.



Consumer Confidence Report

Detected Compounds The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change. If a substance or contaminant is not listed, it is either not detected above the detection limit in our sources or not required to be reported on this report.

Identify your system >				Tahoe City Main					
Contaminant (Units)	Sample Year	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Highlands Well #1	Highlands Well #2	T.C. #2 Well	T.C. #3 Well	T.C. #4 Well	Tahoe Tavern Well
Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)									
Arsenic (ppb)	2014 (2017)	10	4	(3.7)	(2.3)	ND	(ND)	(ND)	ND
Nickel (ppb)	2014	100	12	20	20	20	21	ND	20
Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)									
Calcium (ppm)	2014 (2017)	N/A	N/A	7.6	7.5	12.3	10.2	(8.9)	16.7
Chloride (ppm)	2014	500	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	ND	ND
Odor (TON)	2014 (2017)	1	3	ND	ND	ND	2	(0)	ND
Sodium (ppm)	2014 (2017)	N/A	N/A	14.6	11.6	5.0	5.2	(4.3)	5.3
Specific Conductance [E.C.] (µS/cm)	2014 (2017)	1600	N/A	215	189	164	160	(110)	217
Sulfate (ppm)	2014 (2017)	500	N/A	1.3	0.9	1.7	3.6	(2.5)	0.8
Total Alkalinity [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2014 (2017)	N/A	N/A	93.5	87.3	69.3	66.7	(59)	93.7
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2014 (2017)	1000	N/A	72	80	83	98	(100)	125
Total Hardness [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2014 (2017)	N/A	N/A	44	41	59	51	(43)	74
Treatment Plant Turbidity (1)	2019	TT=95% of samples ≤ 0.5 NTU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Turbidity (NTU)	2014 (2017)	5	N/A	0.25	0.45	0.17	0.23	(0.48)	0.19
Zinc (ppm)	2014 (2017)	5	N/A	ND	ND	ND	ND	(ND)	ND
Radiological Monitoring									
Radon 222 (pCi/L)	2003	N/A	N/A	547	1190	NS	1230	NS	1120
Disinfection By-products and Disinfectant Residuals									
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	2019	80	N/A	ND					
Halooacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2019	60	N/A	ND					
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	4(MRDL)	4(MRDLG)	RAA: 0.37, RANGE: 0.22-0.46					
Microbiological Monitoring									
Total Coliform (P/A)	2019	1	(0)	156T / 156A / 0P					
E-Coli (P/A)	2019	1	(0)	156T / 156A / 0P					

Lead and Copper Sampling Results							
Water System	Constituent	Year Sampled	# of Sites Sampled	90th % Results	# of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	PHG
Tahoe City Main	Lead (ppb)	2019	20	1.7	0	15	0.2
	Copper (ppm)		20	0.160	0	1.3	0.3
Alpine Peaks	Lead (ppb)	2017	5	2.2	0	15	0.2
	Copper (ppm)		5	0.175	0	1.3	0.3
McKinney Quail	Lead (ppb)	2018	10	3.7	1	15	0.2
	Copper (ppm)		10	0.79	0	1.3	0.3
Rubicon	Lead (ppb)	2018	10	2.4	0	15	0.2
	Copper (ppm)		10	0.66	0	1.3	0.3
Two schools were tested for Lead in 2019							
Typical Sources:	Lead: Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits						
	Copper: Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives						

Health Effects and General Information

Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and your children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. TCPUD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.



Consumer Confidence Report

† change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old or sampled.

1	Alpine Peaks		Quail Lake / McKinney Shores			Rubicon System			Violation	Major Origins in Drinking Water
	Riley's Springs	Lake Tahoe Intake	Crystal Way Well	Rubicon Well #1	Rubicon Well #2	Rubicon Well #3				
	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	NO	Erosion of natural deposits		
	20	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	NO	Erosion of natural deposits		
	10.1	7.9	11	8.8	10.2	8.1	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits		
	0.2	1.8	0.3	0.3	3.0	1.1	NO			
	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	NO	Naturally-occurring organic materials		
	2.9	6.0	4.4	6.6	6.7	5.4	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits		
	115	99.2	119	111	127	78.8	NO	Substances that form ions when in water		
	ND	1.7	0.5	ND	ND	5.4	NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits		
	53.0	45.3	54.6	44.8	47.6	38.9	NO	Leaching from natural deposits		
	84	65	96	38	92	16	NO	Erosion of natural deposits		
	39	29	43	30	35	23	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits		
	N/A	100% ≤ 0.5 NTU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	Movement of sediments and minute deposits		
	0.16	N/A	0.13	0.15	0.55	0.15	NO			
	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.15	NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits		
	613	3360	465	613	513	422	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits		
	NR	4.23			ND		NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		
	NR	5.6			ND		NO			
	N/A	RAA: 0.57, RANGE: 0.00-1.12			RAA: 0.31, RANGE: 0.00-0.75		NO	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment		
	23I / 23A / 0P	36I / 36A / 0P			24I / 24A / 0P		NO	Naturally present in the environment		
	23I / 23A / 0P	36I / 36A / 0P			24I / 24A / 0P		NO	Human and Animal Fecal Waste		

Arsenic: While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Radon: Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council on Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236).



Consumer Confidence Report



Tahoe City Public Utility District
 P. O. Box 5249
 Tahoe City, CA 96145
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 530-583-3796



Terms and Abbreviations Used in This Report

(1)	Treatment Plant Turbidity results are for the McKinney Quail Water Treatment Plant (Lake Tahoe Intake) only	<u>P</u>	Number of tests detecting presence of bacteria
<u>A</u>	Number of tests absent of bacteria	pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter: Measure of radioactivity per 1 liter of water.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.	PDWS	Primary Drinking Water Standards. MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.	PHG	Public Health Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.	ppb	Parts Per Billion: Parts contaminant for every 1 billion parts of water.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.	ppm	Parts Per Million: Parts contaminant for every 1 million parts of water.
NA	Not Applicable	RAA	Running Annual Average
ND	Not Detected: Indicates contaminant was not detected in the source water.	SDWS	Secondary Drinking Water Standards. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
N/R	Not Regulated or Not Required	<u>I</u>	Number of tests for bacteria (Laboratory analysis)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: Measure of water clarity using light scattering	TON	Threshold Odor Number
NS	Not Sampled	TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.
		Units	Number of units measured
		μ S	Microsiemens: Measure of electrical current flow through a solution

Where does your water come from?

All of the drinking water supplied to each water system, with the exception of the Quail Lake/McKinney Shores system, is classified as groundwater. Sources include wells and springs drilled deep into the ground, providing clean, high quality water that consistently meets all standards without significant treatment. The Quail Lake/McKinney Shores water system is comprised of both a treated surface water source and a groundwater source. The Tahoe City Main system serves all residents from Dollar Point south to the Tahoe Tavern area. The Alpine Peaks system serves the area of Alpine Peaks only. The Quail Lake/McKinney Shore system serves the area of Chamberland, Chambers Landing, McKinney Shores, Moana Circle, and Tahoma Meadows area. Lastly, the Rubicon system serves the areas of Meeks Bay south to Bliss State Park. A Source Water Assessment for each active source was completed in 2003. The source(s) are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: Sewer Collection Systems, Surface Water, Above Ground Storage Tanks, Transportation Corridors, Historic Gas Stations, and Water Supply Wells. There have been no contaminants detected in the water supply, however the sources are still considered vulnerable to the activities located near the drinking water source. Well construction and security measures should provide protection from most contaminating activities. Copies of all source water assessments are available for review at the TCPUD offices during regular business hours. Upon request, copies can be sent to individuals by contacting the Utilities Superintendent at (530) 580-6330.



Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

North Tahoe Public Utility District
Water Quality Data Summary 2019-2020

During the 2019-2020 reporting year, North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) remained within Federal and State water quality requirements. During the same period, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes no violation to the health, reporting, or monitoring requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Table 5.8). Additional regulatory information for NTPUD is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report found at the end of this section.

Turbidity

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, NTPUD met Federal and State guidelines for turbidity by remaining within regulatory limits. The monthly maximum and mean turbidity measurements did not exceed the filtration exemption maximum turbidity of 5 NTU (Figure 10.0, Table 14.0). The highest turbidity reading for the 2019-2020 reporting year was 0.85 NTU recorded on March 1, 2020, that corresponded with a wind event that produced sustained winds from the west/northwest of 1.5-8.2 mph (Table 5.1). The annual mean turbidity was 0.22 NTU, and 90% of results were below 0.31 NTU (Table 15.0). The highest monthly mean turbidity, 0.32 NTU, occurred in July 2019 (Table 15.0).

Table 15.0: NTPUD source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the NTPUD intake.

Month	Monthly max (NTU)	Date monthly max	Monthly mean (NTU)	Monthly median (NTU)	90 th percentile
Jul-19	0.46	6	0.32	0.31	0.38
Aug-19	0.39	9	0.29	0.28	0.34
Sep-19	0.85	3	0.30	0.24	0.49
Oct-19	0.31	14	0.19	0.18	0.22
Nov-19	0.28	16	0.20	0.19	0.25
Dec-19	0.47	22	0.23	0.20	0.27
Jan-20	0.32	17	0.19	0.18	0.25
Feb-20	0.19	24	0.15	0.15	0.17
Mar-20	0.26	1	0.16	0.15	0.17
Apr-20	0.31	13	0.19	0.20	0.23
May-20	0.22	28	0.17	0.18	0.20
Jun-20	0.80	17	0.22	0.19	0.24

Historically annual maximum turbidity is variable at NTPUD. Annual maximum results range from 0.50 NTU – 5.01 NTU, over the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020, with five results greater than 1.0 NTU and five below (Figure 11.1). The 2019-2020 annual maximum of 0.85 NTU is greater than the previous reporting year annual maximum of 0.50 NTU. Linear trend line analysis shows a decreasing trend in annual maximum for the 10-year reporting period. NTPUD has historically

maintained mean turbidity values below 0.50 NTU, including 0.22 NTU for 2019-2020. Annual mean turbidity shows a decreasing linear trend over the 10-year reporting period (Figure 11.1).

Coliform

NTPUD met Federal and State guidelines for total coliform for the 2019-2020 reporting year. The annual maximum total coliform reading for NTPUD is 30.0 CFU/100 mL, higher than the previous reporting years maximum of 23.0 CFU/100 mL. The maximum reading was taken on September 12, 2019, and was likely influenced by the increase in temperature to 70.4°F from a weekly average of 57.2°F paired with mixing caused by sustained winds of 1.4-8.2 mph (Table 5.5, Figure 11.2). Total coliform was detected in 29% of the 140 samples analyzed, lower than the previous years' 37% detection. The mean total coliform count of 1.82 CFU/100 mL was similar to the previous reporting years' reading of 1.85 CFU/100 mL (Figure 11.3). Over the 10-year reporting period of July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2020 maximum and mean annual data show an increasing linear trend over time (Figure 11.3)

For the 2018-2019 reporting year, NTPUD reported zero results greater than 100 CFU/100 ml, with all total coliform results below the filtration avoidance criteria requirement.

It should be noted that during the 2016-2017 reporting year, NTPUD reported three “too numerous to count” results of >1600 CFU that were attributed to high concentrations of pine pollen in suspension, as well as the rolling wave effect produced by easterly winds. These values have been omitted, due to their obtuse, non-defined nature, and the NTPUD annual maximum was reported as 50 CFU, the highest true reading for the 2016-2017 reporting year.

NTPUD also completed tests for E.coli coliform on all samples tested for total coliform. During the 2019-2020 reporting year, E. coli coliform was detected in 7 of the 140 samples (Table 15.1 and 15.2). The maximum E. coli coliform reading was 13 CFU/20mL, the annual mean was 0.21 CFU/20mL, and 90% of the samples were below 0 CFU/20mL. The maximum E. coli coliform result was taken on August 1, 2019.

Table 15.1: NTPUD annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the NTPUD intake.

	Total coliform CFU (#colonies/100mL)	E. coli coliform CFU (# colonies/20mL)
Mean	1.82	0.21
Median	0	0
Max	30	13
90th Percentile	4	0
Colony-Forming Samples	41	7
Total Number of Samples	140	140

Table 15.2: NTPUD monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020 Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the NTPUD intake.

	Maximum total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Mean total coliform (# colonies/100mL)	Maximum E. coli coliform (# colonies/20mL)	Mean E. coli coliform (# colonies/20mL)
Jul-19	9.00	2.85	4.00	0.62
Aug-19	23.00	6.77	13.00	1.15
Sep-19	30.00	5.42	0.00	0.00
Oct-19	4.00	1.27	0.00	0.00
Nov-19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dec-19	23.00	2.90	2.00	0.40
Jan-20	2.00	0.31	0.00	0.00
Feb-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mar-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Apr-20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
May-20	4.00	0.33	0.00	0.00
Jun-20	8.00	1.08	2.00	0.15

Figure 11.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

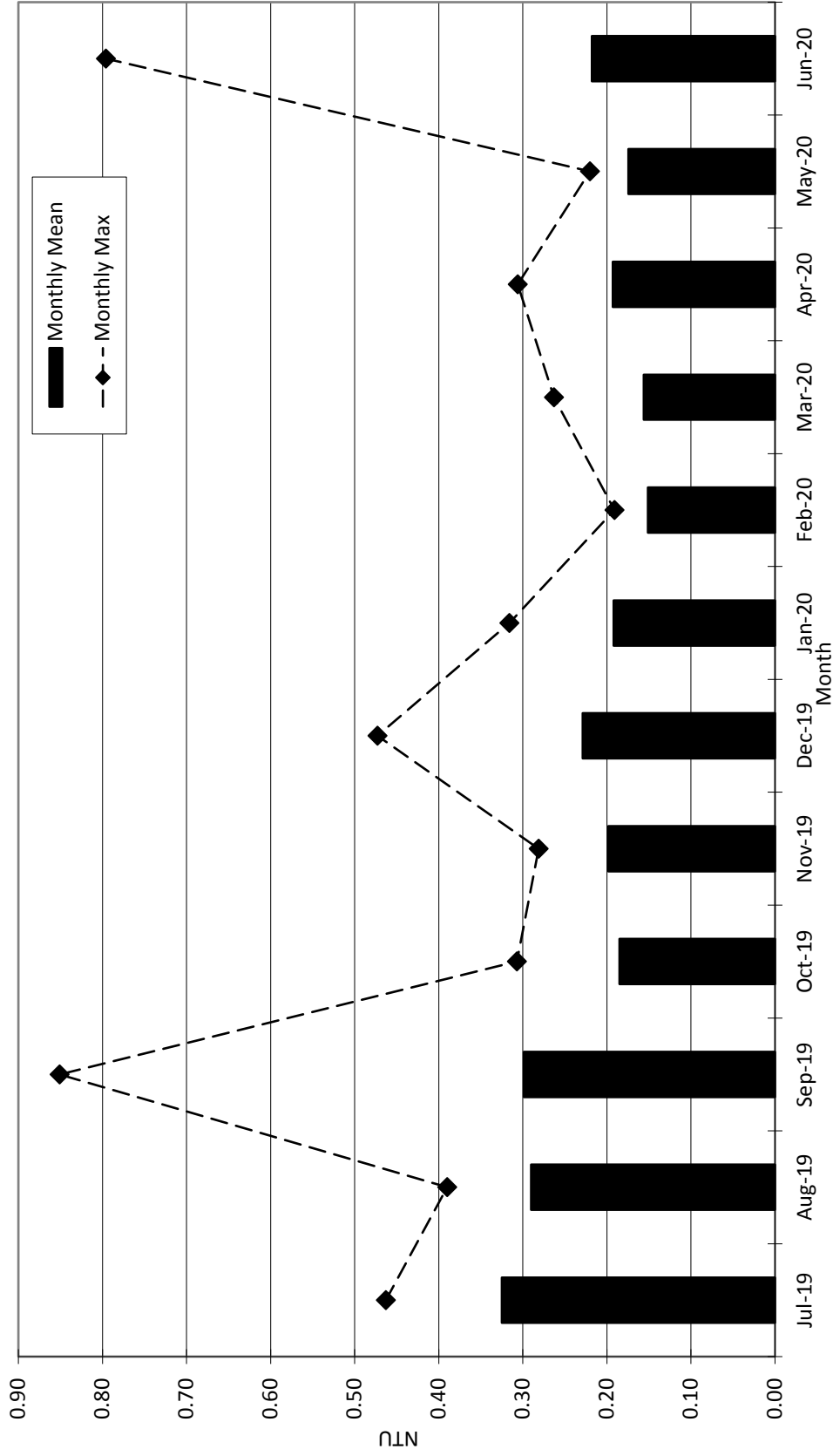


Figure 11.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

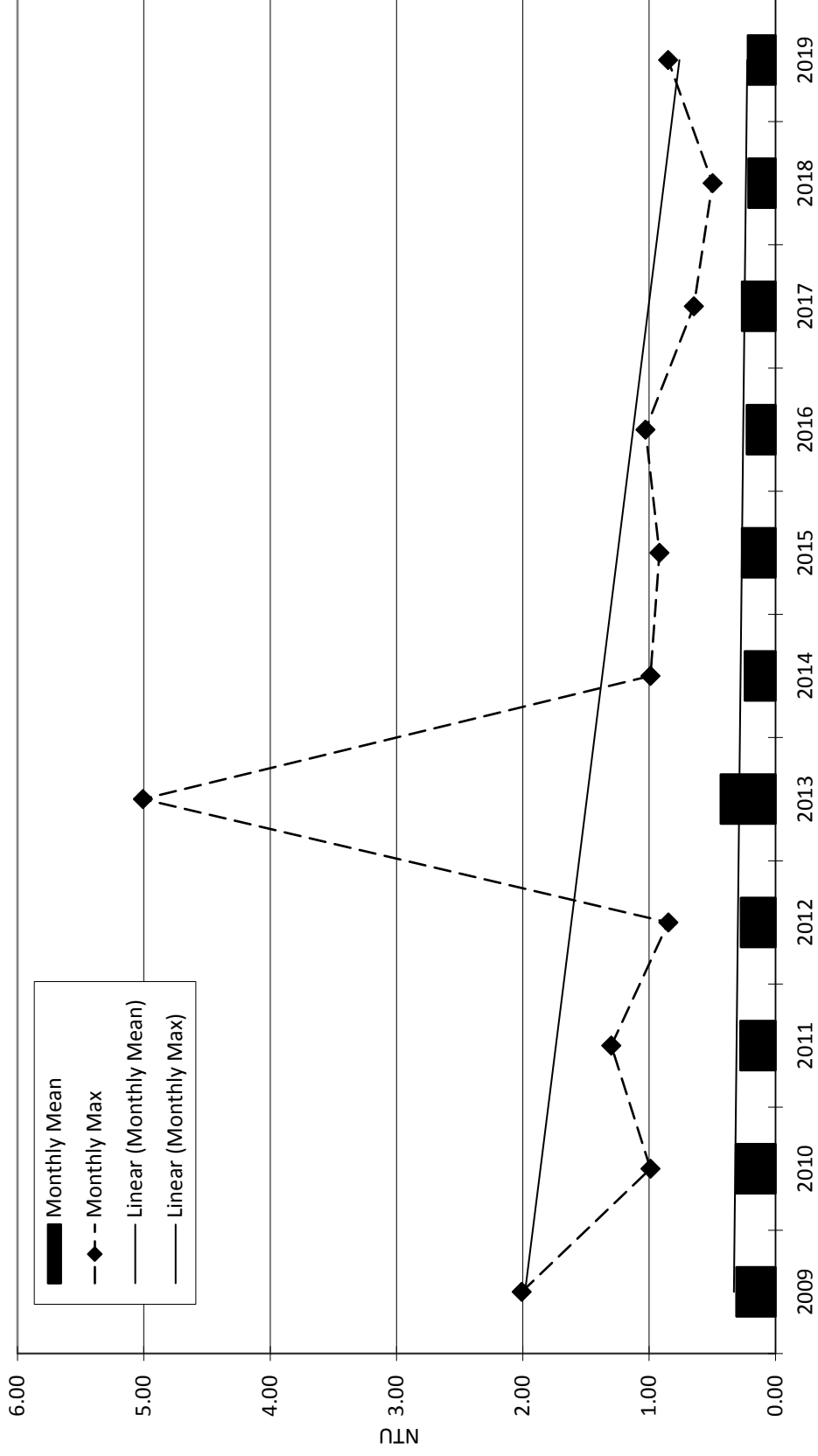


Figure 11.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

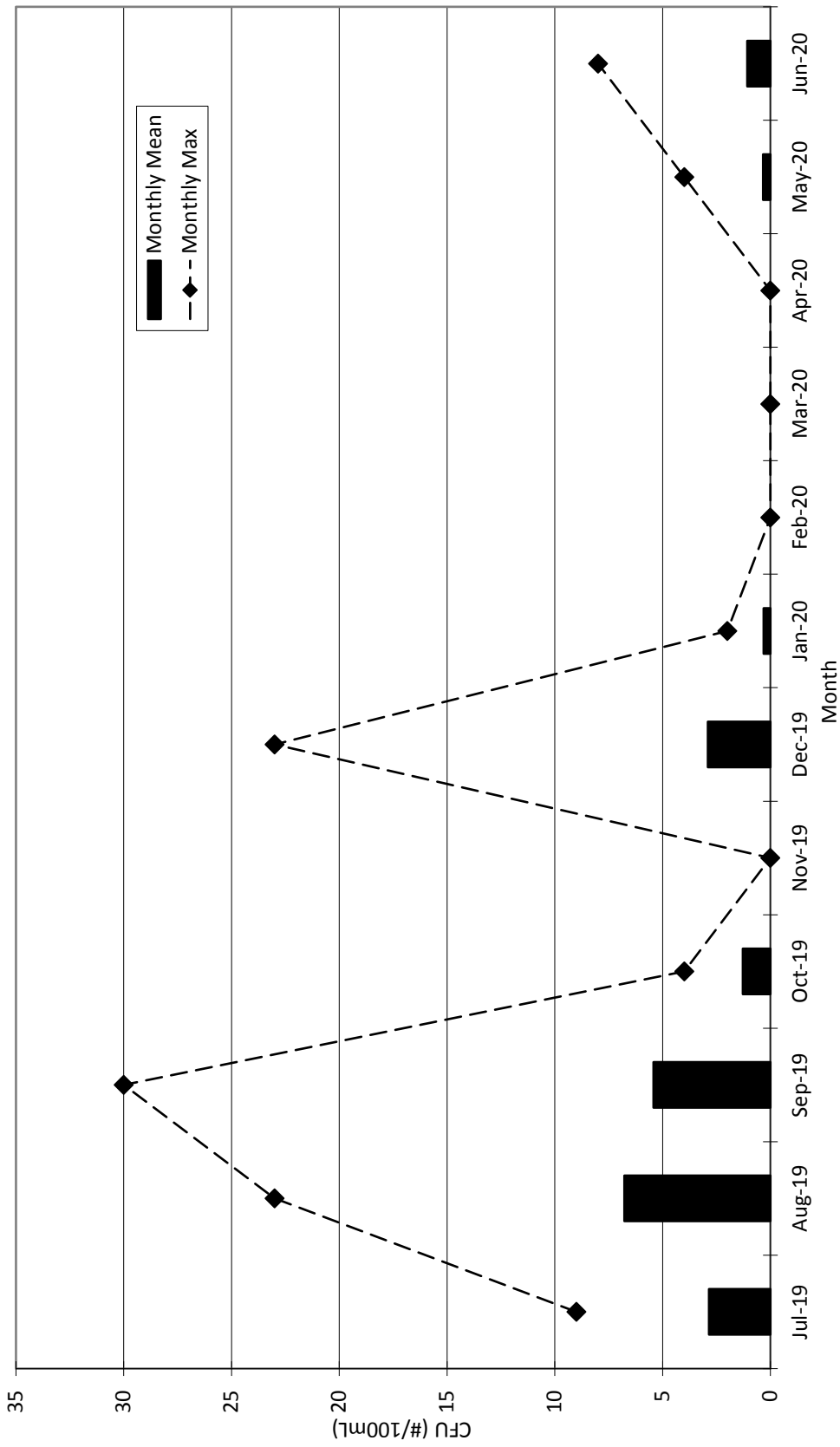
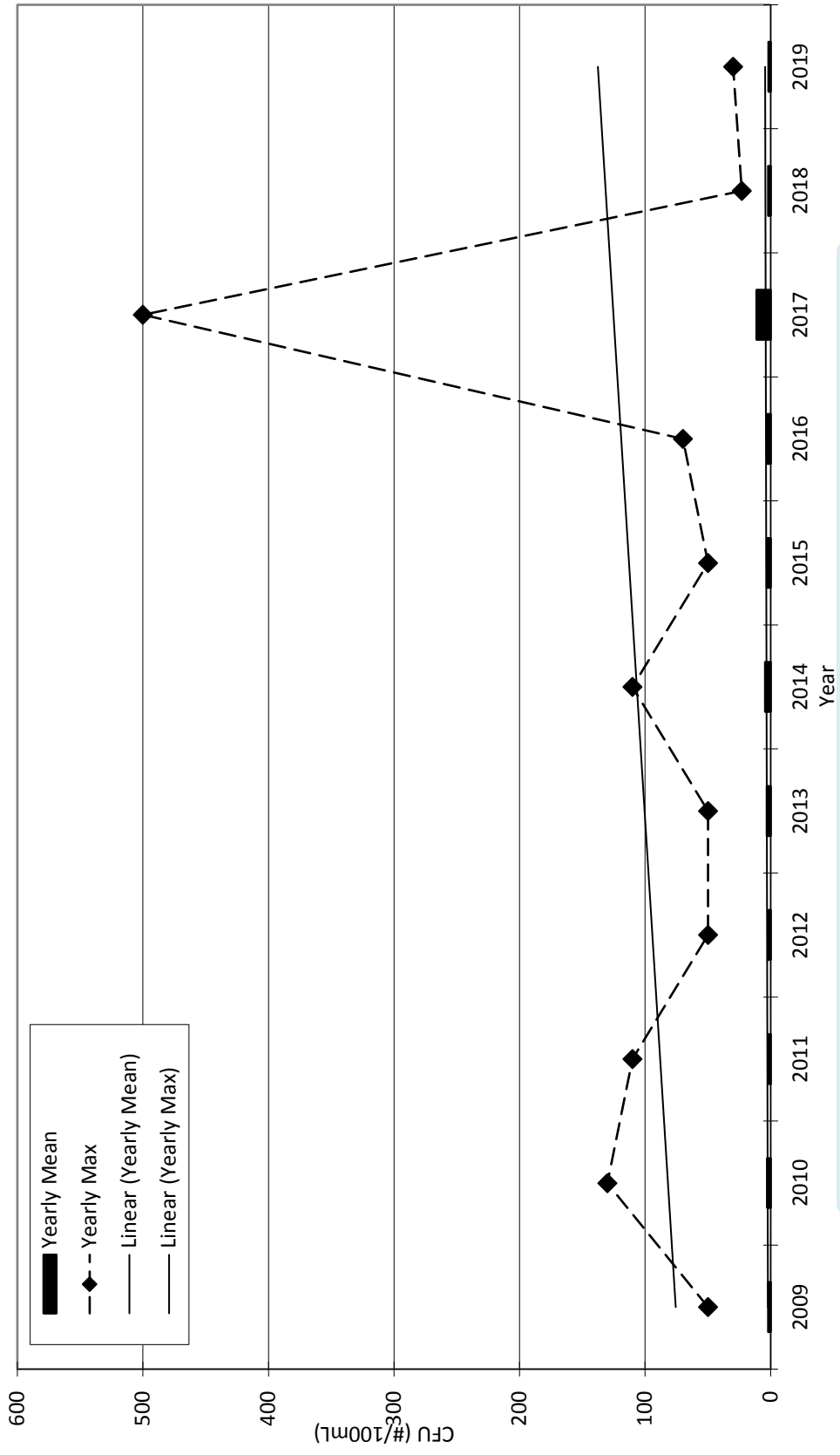


Figure 11.3: Yearly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.





Consumer Confidence Report



NORTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT ANNUAL WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR 2019

To Our Customers: This report contains important information about your drinking water.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Where does my water come from?

The North Tahoe Public Utility District services nearly 3,957 connections. These connections include single-family dwellings and business establishments, as well as separate irrigation and fire systems. The District operates three separate and independent water systems: Dollar Cove, Carnelian Bay, and the Tahoe Main system, comprised of Tahoe Vista, Kings Beach, and Brockway to the Nevada State Line. Dollar Cove is currently being supplied through the Tahoe City Public Utility District's Tahoe City system, by agreement of a joint well drilling project of the two Districts that is comprised of five separate wells (groundwater sources). Carnelian Bay draws its water from a single well (groundwater source). The Tahoe Main water system draws water from Lake Tahoe (surface water source) through an intake at the end of National Avenue in Tahoe Vista, as well as a single well (groundwater source) located in the North Tahoe Regional Park at the top of Donner Road. These combined sources supplied just under 361 million gallons of water to our customers in 2019.

How can I keep our drinking water safe and clean?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels in the environment it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, pick up substances from the presence of animals or human activity, and even radioactive material, in some cases. **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and **Volatile Organic chemicals**, that are byproducts of industrial process and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (Department), prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to their



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regulations. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

The drinking water that the District treats and provides for its customers comes from wells as well as the open water of Lake Tahoe. Many people don't see the link between the water you drink and the items that are put into the sewer system, but when people dispose of their waste incorrectly, it threatens the safety of our drinking water as well.

In the Tahoe basin, our storm drain system does not put runoff into the sewer system like so many other communities in this country. Most of the storm drains drain directly into the Lake! In addition to protecting our sewers, it is also extremely important that under no circumstances may substances be put directly into the storm drain.

Most liquid and automotive waste (oil, old gasoline) can be disposed of during one of the hazardous waste disposal days provided by Placer County and Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal at the Eastern Regional Landfill on Cabin Creek Road off Highway 89.

For Your Information

Our Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the North Tahoe Event Center. We encourage participation in these meetings. For meeting times and agendas please visit our website <http://ntpud.org/> or call the District office at (530) 546-4212.

To obtain specific water quality or watershed data contact Michael Warren, Water Quality Technician at (530) 546-4212 ext. 5452, or mwarren@ntpud.org. Visit www.ntpud.org to find more information.

Source water assessment and its availability

Our most recent watershed sanitary survey (Lake Tahoe) update is 2018.

Although the North Tahoe Basin sewage flows to Truckee and is treated, domestic sewage and wastewater disposal and collection are potentially contaminating activities (PCA) of key concern. Summer recreation on the lake is another PCA of key concern. The District does not have direct regulatory control or enforcement over the Lake Tahoe watershed; we rely on the regulatory powers of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Water Quality Data

These system tables list all the drinking water contaminants that were tested for during the 2018 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1—December 31, 2019. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. See the last page for Terms and Abbreviations used in the report. This full report is available on our website at ntpud.org/ccr



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Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV / AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The North Tahoe Public Utility District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Capture and use this water for household or garden plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water on most cases would be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can cause cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is four (4) picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council on Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236).

Conservation – A California Way of Life

In April 2017 the State of California placed permanent restrictions on wasteful water practices. The following wasteful water practices are now permanently prohibited:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways and other hardscapes
- Washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle



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- Using non-recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature
- Watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff
- Watering within 48 hours after measurable precipitation
- Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians

20% by 2020

The 20% by 2020 state mandate is that all water purveyors reduce their per capita water use by 20% from the average usage of our customers over 10 years in the early 2000's. The way this baseline is calculated is complicated and water leaks within our system also are included in this per capita water usage number. The waterline replacement projects and water leak detection and repair as part of our ongoing maintenance plan will also help to bring the District into compliance. If the District (or any water purveyor) fails to meet this 20% by 2020 mandate, the State has indicated that they will no longer be eligible for state grants.

The amount of water used for irrigation of outdoor landscaping is putting the District out of compliance and not on track to meet this mandate. The District is asking our customers to be vigilant on their outdoor watering and consider these useful tips.

- Don't water every day (it's not necessary!)
- Adjust your irrigation system to accommodate the cooler shoulder season
- Install weather-based smart irrigation controllers or sensors that automatically turn off your system during and after precipitation.

Visit <http://ntpud.org/conservation> for other helpful tips and information on rebates for water-saving appliances and irrigation supplies and free conservation supplies!

Full Document Here: [2019 Consumer Confidence Report](#)



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The State allows us to monitor contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. If a substance or contaminant is not listed, it is either not detected limit or not required to be sampled.

Contaminant (UNITS) Primary Standards	Identify your system >			Violation	Major Source in Drinking Water
	Sample Year	MCL	PHG (MCLG)		
Arsenic (ppb)	2016	10	0.004	NR	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	2016	100	10	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Monitoring					
Total Coliforms (T / A / P)	2019	1	[0]	22T / 10A / 4P*	Naturally Present in the environment
E-Coli (T / A / P)	2019	1	[0]	22T / 22A / 0P	Human and Animal Fecal Waste
Radioactive					
Radon 222 (pCi/L)	2003	N/A	N/A	NR	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2012	5	0.019	NR	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2017	15	[0]	NR	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic					
Nitrate - As N (ppm)	2019	1(45-N)	1(45-N)	ND	Runoff & leaching from fertilizers, septic tanks, sewage
Nitrite - As NO3 (ppm)	2019	45 (NO3)	45 (NO3)	ND	Runoff & leaching from fertilizers, septic tanks, sewage
Perchlorate (ppb)	2019	0.006	6	ND	Production of matches, flares, explosives, pyrotechnics
Aluminum (ug/L)	2016	1000	600	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Antimony	2016	6	1	NR	Discharge from petroleum refineries, fire retardants
Barium (ug/L)	2016	1000	[2] mg/L	22.6	Oil drilling wastes, Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium	2016	4	N/A	NR	Discharge from metal refineries, coal burning factories
Cadmium	2016	5	N/A	NR	Interanal corrosion of galvanized pipes, runoff
Chromium (ug/L)	2016	50	[100]	NR	Discharge from steel & pulp mills, chrome plating
Fluoride (F) Natural Source	2016	2	N/A	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Mercury	2016	2	N/A	ND	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from refineries
Selenium	2016	50	5	ND	Discharge from petroleum, glass & metal refineries
Thallium	2016	2	1	ND	Leaching from ore processing, discharge from glass
Disinfection By-Products					
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	[MRL=4.0(as Cl2)]		NR	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Disinfection By-Products					
Total Trihalomethanes (ppm)	2019	0.080	1000	NR	By products of drinking water disinfection
Halocetic Acids (ppm)	2019	0.060	1000	NR	By products of drinking water disinfection



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Aesthetic Standards Established by the State of California, Department of Health Services										
Secondary Standards	2019	<0.5 NTU	N5	AVG. 104 - 851	NR	NR	2017	0.15/0.45/0.17/0.23/0.19	NO	Soil runoff (erosion)
Clarity & Taste										
Turbidity (NTU) - Treated Water	2019	<0.5 NTU	N5	AVG. 104 - 851	NR	NR	NR	0.15/0.45/0.17/0.23/0.19	NO	Soil runoff (erosion)
Turbidity (NTU) - Raw Source	2019	TT/5.95%	N5	AVG. 104 - 851	NR	NR	NR	NR	NO	Soil runoff (erosion)
Bicarbonate as HCO3 (ppm)	2016	None/ppm	N/A	50.3	124	126	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	2016	N/A	N/A	3.6	16.1	17.1	[2014] 7.6/7.5/12.3/10.2/16.7	[2014] 7.6/7.5/12.3/10.2/16.7	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Carbonates CO3 (ppm)	2016	N/A	N/A	ND	ND	ND	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	2016	500	N/A	1.8	0.6	0.4	[2014]0.5/0.6/0.5/0.3/ND	[2014]0.5/0.6/0.5/0.3/ND	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Color	2016	15 Units	N/A	NR	ND	3	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Order (TON)	2016	1	3	N/A	ND	ND	[2014] ND/ND/ND/2/ND	[2014] ND/ND/ND/2/ND	NO	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Copper (ug/L)	2019	1000	160	ND	ND	ND	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Foaming Agents (MBA5)	2016	0.5	N/A	ND	ND	ND	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Hydroxide as OH	2016	N/A	N/A	ND	ND	ND	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	2016	300	N/A	ND	ND	ND	[2005]ND(1)/ND(125)/ND(1)/ND(1)/ND(1)	[2005]ND(1)/ND(125)/ND(1)/ND(1)/ND(1)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	2016	N/A	N/A	2.6	6.0	8.6	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese (ppm)	2016	50	N/A	ND	ND	ND	[2005] ND	[2005] ND	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Methyl-tert-butyl-ether (ppm)	2007	0.0005	5ug/L	ND	ND	ND	NR	NR	NO	Leaking underground fuel tanks
PH - Distired range:	2016	6.5-8.5	N/A	8.2	8.2	7.7	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits. Some water treatment
Silver	2016	100	N/A	ND	ND	ND	NR	NR	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2016	N/A	N/A	6.3	11.9	5.9	[2014]14.6/11.6/15.0/5.2/5/3	[2014]14.6/11.6/15.0/5.2/5/3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Specificconductance [E.C.] (us)	2016	1600	N/A	101	192	185	[2014]1.3/0.9/1.7/3.6/0.8	[2014]1.3/0.9/1.7/3.6/0.8	NO	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	2016	500	N/A	1.7	0.3	0.3	[2014]93.5/97.3/69.3/66.7/93.7	[2014]93.5/97.3/69.3/66.7/93.7	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Alkalinity [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2016	N/A	N/A	41.2	102	103	[2014]72/60/83/98/125	[2014]72/60/83/98/125	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2016	1000	N/A	20	112	97	[2014]44/41/59/51/74	[2014]44/41/59/51/74	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Hardness [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2016	N/A	N/A	32	65	78	[2014] ND	[2014] ND	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2016	5	N/A	ND	ND	ND	10 Samples 90th Percentile	10 Samples 90th Percentile	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
LEAD AND COPPER										
LEAD (ug/L)	2019	Action Level	MCL	20 Samples	Percentile	90th	ND	75	452	Internal corrosion-plumbing; erosion nat'l deposits.
Copper (ug/L)	2019	1300	1300	1300	1300	1300	10 Samples 18.32	10 Samples 18.32	452	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

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Conservation - A California Way of Life

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- Install weather-based smart irrigation controllers or sensors that automatically turn off your system during and after precipitation.
- Visit <http://tahoe.org/conservation> for other helpful tips and information on rebates for water saving appliances and free conservation supplies!

V. DESCRIPTION OF WATER SUPPLY

The purpose of describing a watershed that affects a drinking water supply is to provide information that will help to evaluate the vulnerability of the source (EPA 1999). TWSA purveyor members are located around Lake Tahoe, in California and Nevada. Most TWSA full members take water directly from the lake to service both a permanent and visitor population. Several have auxiliary groundwater sources. South Tahoe Public Utility District, a TWSA associate member, utilizes groundwater sources only. The watershed description briefly summarizes general location and features of the basin and source water, water system, population and land ownership, and local agreements. The Lake's location, unique physical characteristics, and national support for its protection and preservation create a distinctive political backdrop and regulatory system.

Lake Tahoe is one of the deepest and clearest lakes in the world. As such, it is a highly sought out destination for recreation, tourism and home ownership. Clarity and exceptional water quality are the basis of Lake Tahoe water quality goals. These important features give Lake Tahoe important designations. Both the federal government and California government have designated Lake Tahoe an "Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) Tier 3 which is the highest designation available. Nevada has designated Lake Tahoe a "Water of Extraordinary Ecological or Aesthetic Value".

Designated as a Tier III 303(d) Outstanding National Water Resource by CA Environmental Protection Agency (CAEPA) under the Clean Water Act (CWA), Lake Tahoe has been identified as an impaired body of water for not meeting applicable water quality standards established through the CWA. Along with this designation, comes the requirement to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for the pollutants that contribute to the water quality impairments.

A public water system (PWS) is a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals. EPA and delegated states and tribes regulate these public drinking water systems. Public drinking water systems may be publicly or privately owned, and provide drinking water to 90 percent of Americans.

Location and Hydrology

Lake Tahoe is a high alpine lake located within both the Nevada and California state lines. It is 22 miles long and 12 miles wide, with a surface area of 122,200 acres or 193 sq. miles. Approximately two-thirds of the land area is within California and one-third within Nevada. To the west, the Sierra Nevada Mountain range borders the basin across from the Carson Range on the east side of the lake. The basin is described as a high alpine and sub-alpine ecosystem. The primary soil type is granite (USGS 2003).

Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake on the North American continent and the second deepest lake in the United States. Lake Tahoe is the eleventh-deepest lake in the world with a maximum depth of 1,657 feet (505 meters) and an average depth of 1,027 feet (313 meters). The source of water for Lake Tahoe is precipitation. A majority of the precipitation falls into the lake directly (USGS 2003). The Lake Tahoe Basin (USGS watershed #16050101) has 63 sub watersheds draining into the lake and one outlet, the Truckee River.

Lake Tahoe contains an estimated 39.75 trillion gallons or 122 million acre feet of water. That's enough water to cover the entire state of California to a depth of 14.5 inches. The water that evaporates daily is

1.4 million tons, enough to supply the needs of 3.5 million people on a daily basis. The water in Lake Tahoe is 99.7 percent pure, about the same as distilled water.

With one outlet, it takes an average of 650-700 years for a particle to leave the lake (CTC 2003). Historically, a white plate called a Secchi disk could be seen in the lake at depths of 100 feet. A Secchi disk is an indirect measurement of clarity. The clarity has been reduced on average by 1 foot per year over the last thirty years. The decrease in clarity was attributed to storm water runoff, urban development, air quality and erosion (EPA 2005).

Clarity levels at Lake Tahoe in 2019 and 2014 showed the biggest improvements, according to researchers at the University of California, Davis, who have studied the lake for the last half century. The improvements are in part due to continuous work from the Lake Tahoe community to lower pollutant addition to the lake. They were also influenced by the drought, as reduced precipitation meant fewer contaminants flowed into Lake Tahoe, particularly during the summer, when clarity levels were the highest recorded since 2002. (TERC 2015)

In addition to aesthetic enjoyment, the exceptional quality of water in the Lake Tahoe Basin supports a number of beneficial uses related to human and environmental health, including drinking water supply, water contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and aquatic life and habitat. During the development of the Lake Tahoe TMDL, the plan created to reverse the decline in deep-water transparency in Lake Tahoe and to restore clarity, it was discovered that up to two thirds of the decrease in clarity of Lake Tahoe can be attributed to fine sediment particles (FSP = less than 16 microns). Also determined through the development of the TMDL was that storm water runoff originating in urban areas accounted for 72% of the FSP that eventually enters the lake.

The clarity of Lake Tahoe has long been one of the most important indicators of the changing condition of this iconic water body. In 2019, Lake Tahoe's clarity decreased nearly 8 feet from the previous year's dramatic 10-foot improvement. The average annual value in 2019 was 62.7 feet. The lowest value was recorded in 2017, when clarity was 60 feet.

Such year-to-year and even day-to-day fluctuations are common. A truer picture of the clarity is often indicated by a five-year running mean, which shows a mean clarity of 67.3 feet, according to the data released by the [UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center](#).

Lake Tahoe's average annual Secchi clarity measurements since 2000 are listed below. There are winter and summer clarity variables, winter tend to have more clarity depth.

- 2019 — 62.7 feet (19.1 meter)
- 2018 — 70.9 feet (21.6 meter)
- 2017* — 59.7 feet (18.20 meter)
- 2016 — 69.2 feet (21.1 meter)
- 2015 — 73.1 feet (22.3 meter)
- 2014 — 77.8 feet (23.7 meter)
- 2013 — 70.1 feet (21.4 meter)
- 2012 — 75.3 feet (23 meter)
- 2011 — 68.9 feet (21 meter)

- 2010 — 64.4 feet (19.6 meter)
- 2009 — 68.1 feet (20.8 meter)
- 2008 — 69.6 feet (21.2 meter)
- 2007 — 70.1 feet (21.4 meter)
- 2006 — 67.7 feet (20.6 meter)
- 2005 — 72.4 feet (22.1 meter)
- 2004 — 73.6 feet (22.4 meter)
- 2003 — 71 feet (21.6 meter)
- 2002 — 78 feet (23.8 meter)
- 2001 — 73.6 feet (22.4 meter)
- 2000 — 67.3 feet (20.5 meter)

*Lake Tahoe’s average annual clarity in 2017 was at its lowest level, 59.7 feet, since regular measurements began in 1968. This was likely due to the one-two punch of the end of a five-year drought followed by a winter of record-high precipitation levels that extended well into the spring. More sediment washed into the lake in 2017 than the previous five years combined. (Data Source: UC Davis TERC SOTL Report).

More than 80 percent of the watershed is vegetated (montane-subalpine type), covered predominantly by mixed coniferous forests, though bare granite outcrops and meadows are also common. About 2 percent of the watershed is impervious surface associated with urban development, which equates to over 5,000 acres (20 km²) (Minor and Cablk 2004). Much of the impervious land cover is adjacent to the lake or its major tributaries. 14 of the 63 individual watersheds have at least 10 percent impervious land area.

Most urban development exists along the lake’s shoreline, with the largest concentration at South Lake Tahoe in the south, Tahoe City in the northwest, and Incline Village in the northeast. The north and west shores are less densely populated. Much of the east shore is undeveloped.

TWSA purveyors’ combined service areas span 23 sub-watersheds in the Lake Tahoe Basin including: Bijou Park, Burke, Carnelian Bay, Carnelian Canyon, Cedar Flats, Dollar Creek, East Stateline Point, Edgewood, First, Glenbrook, Griff, Incline, Kings Beach, Logan House, McFaul, Mill, North Zephyr, Second, Slaughter House, Tahoe Vista, Third, Watson Creek and Zephyr creeks. The TWSA service areas are defined in [Plate 1].

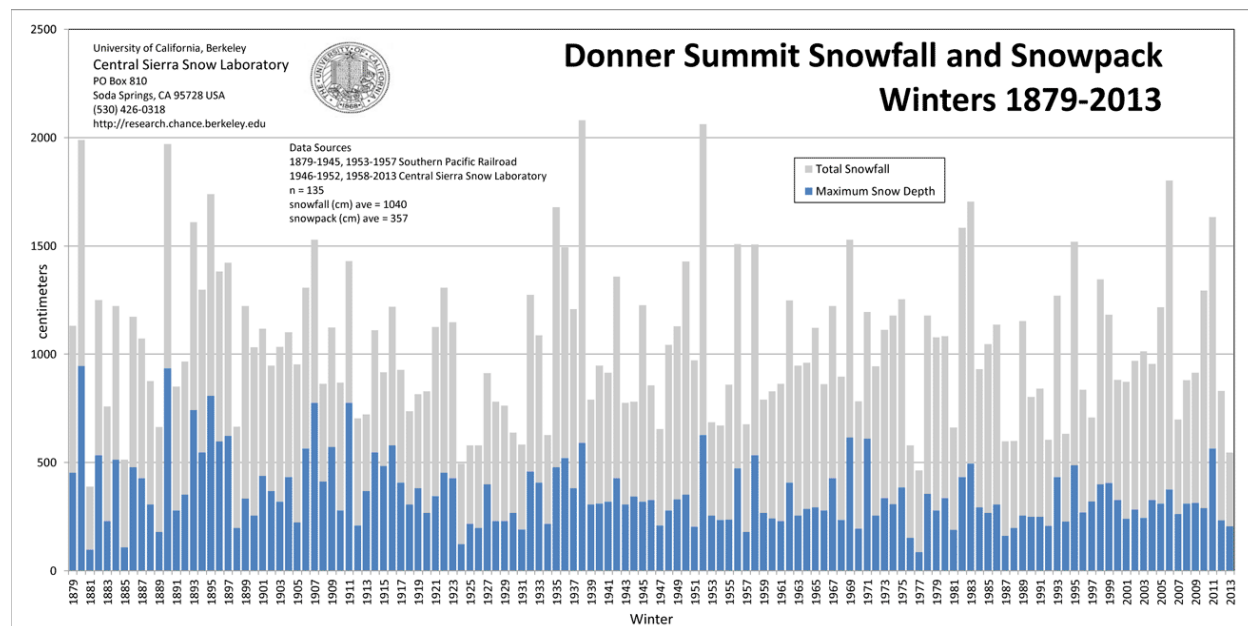
TWSA service areas in California range from the City of South Lake Tahoe, (STPUD and Lakeside) north along the west side of Lake Tahoe to Tahoe City and then into North Tahoe PUD service areas, including Kings Beach, CA.

The western service and watershed boundaries of Tahoe City Public Utility District extend from north of Emerald Bay to Dollar Hill, and along the Truckee River to the Nevada County line. This service area is very large, encompassing almost 22 square miles. There are numerous small independent water companies (non-TWSA) within these areas as well. NTPUD areas include Carnelian Bay, Tahoe Vista, Kings Beach and Brockway, CA. Heading eastward into Nevada, TWSA service areas include the member agencies: Incline Village GID, Glenbrook, Douglas County (Cave Rock/Skyland/Zephyr Cove), Round Hill GID, Kingsbury GID and Edgewood Water Company.

Other water suppliers located within the Tahoe Basin include several small municipal systems and private homeowners.

Climate, Climate Change, Drought and Record Setting Precipitation

<http://terc.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake>



Meteorologically, the long-term trends that have been prevalent do not change year-to-year. A changing climate is evident in almost all the long-term meteorological trends including rising air temperature and the declining fraction of precipitation as snow. The weather experienced in a given year can be far more variable.

By century's end, the Tahoe basin is projected to experience air temperatures up to 9 degrees higher than today's average. A shift from a snow-based to a rain-based climate will result in peak stream-flows occurring months earlier than present day, with those flows arriving as warmer water. Consequences could include changes to fish spawning, a loss of water storage and elevated wildfire risk.

Lake Tahoe, with its iconic blue waters straddling the borders of Nevada and California, continues to face a litany of threats related to climate change. But a promising new project to remove tiny, invasive shrimp could be a big step toward climate-proofing its famed lake clarity. That's according to the annual Tahoe: State of the Lake report, released by the [UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center](#). The report presents data regarding lake clarity, temperature, snowpack, invasive species, algae, nutrient loads and more, all in the context of the long-term record.

The long-term data set collected on the Lake Tahoe ecosystem by the University of California, Davis and its research collaborators is an invaluable tool for understanding ecosystem function and change. It has become essential for responsible management by elected officials and public agencies tasked with restoring and managing the Tahoe ecosystem. This is in large part because it provides an independent basis for assessing the progress toward attainment of Tahoe's restoration goals and desired conditions, while at the same time building our understanding of the natural processes that drive the ecosystem.

The UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) is increasingly using new approaches to enrich the long-term data record for Lake Tahoe. These include real-time measurements at over 25 stations around the basin; remote sensing from autonomous underwater vehicles, satellites, and aerial drones; and the deployment of a suite of numerical models. These tools are all focused on quantifying the changes that are happening; and, at the same time, understanding what actions and measures will be most effective for control, mitigation, and management.

Record setting precipitation was noted for winter 2018-19.

<https://thetahoeweekly.com/2019/06/2019-a-top-10-winter-for-water-not-snow>

“Local and even national media relentlessly touted “record snowfall” headlines for the Tahoe Sierra, but as is often the case these days, the claims were generally overblown. No doubt that ski resort snowfall tallies for February set new records, but it wasn’t enough to bump seasonal snowfall amounts even close to historic levels measured at the [Central Sierra Snow Laboratory](#) (CSSL) near Donner Pass.

Precipitation, however, is a more critical metric than snow and the news in that category is good.

Characterized by intense snowstorms and prolonged periods of generally wet and often gloomy weather, the winter of 2019 resulted in an impressive amount of precipitation (rain plus snow water equivalent). The June 1 data dispatch from Randall Osterhuber, lead scientist at the CSSL, reported 84.4 inches of precipitation measured so far at Donner Pass. That ranks 2019 at No. 10 in precipitation since 1871, with the potential to surpass 2011 at No. 9 with just 0.6 inches more. Even so, 2019’s current precipitation total at the snow lab is 37 inches shy of 2017’s — the wettest winter of record.

If you’re a local who has lived in the Tahoe area since 1982, you have now enjoyed or endured eight of the Top 10 wettest years in history.”

2016-17 was unique with another record setting winter precipitation level, almost 200% of normal precipitation. Some areas revived more than 700 inches (58 feet) of snow in winter 2016-17. The transition from extreme drought to record setting precipitation resulted in the lake completely filling up in 6 months, for the first time in 11 years, and allowing for seasonal releases downstream, for the first time in years.

Winter 2014-15 was noted as the lowest recorded snowpack in 150 years, with further estimation that it was the lowest snowpack in 500 years based on tree ring records. <http://phys.org/news/2015-09-sierra-nevada-snowpack-lowest-years.html>. Yet the recent winter of 2016-17, reversed this trend to be record setting precipitation.

In general, Tahoe’s climate is characteristic of an alpine ecosystem. Summer average daily temperatures range between 57° and 65° F. Annual winter temperatures vary between 40° and 50°F with minimums ranging between 20° and 25° F. Snowfall occurs generally in October through March with most snow precipitation accruing in January through March (WRCC 2005).

With air and water temperatures trending warmer, climate change is considered a major driver for ecological changes occurring in the lake, along with urbanization and invasive species. Stratification (lake mixing) has been affected by warming temperatures as well. During a typical summer the lake becomes

stratified, with warmer waters on top and cooler water at depth. In the winter these layers mix, a process that refreshes the lake and keeps it healthy. The extended stratification season on Lake Tahoe has major implications for water quality. “A longer stratification period increases the risk of losing oxygen at the bottom of the lake,” Schladow explained, “and this can release a huge, almost infinite supply of phosphorus to the lake in a process known as internal loading.” Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient in Lake Tahoe. The more there is - the more algae can grow, causing a decline in water clarity. (TERC 2012)

Precipitation as rain and snow is the single most important factor influencing pollutant delivery to Lake Tahoe. Precipitation drives the mobilization and transport of pollutants from the landscape into the tributaries or directly into the lake. The lake’s surface area, which is relatively large compared to its watershed area, is an important factor because a significant amount of precipitation (36 percent) enters the lake directly. Therefore significant amounts of airborne pollutants (fine sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus) enter the lake directly.

The Lake Tahoe Basin has a Mediterranean-type climate characterized by wet winters and dry summers. Most precipitation in the basin falls between October and May as snow at higher elevations and as snow/rain at lake level. Over 75 percent of the precipitation is delivered by frontal weather systems from the Pacific Ocean between November and March. However, precipitation timing can vary significantly from year to year (Coats and Goldman 2001, Rowe et al. 2002). Lower elevations receive about 20 inches (51 cm) of annual precipitation, but the upper elevations on the west side of the basin receive about 59 inches (150 cm) (USDA 2000).

The snow pack at higher elevations typically melts and runs off in May and June. However, at lower elevations near the lakeshore, the snow pack typically melts earlier in the spring and can even melt mid-winter, if temperature and solar radiation conditions are right. Commonly, the lower elevation snow pack melts completely before the tributaries crest with snowmelt from the higher, colder elevations.

Thunderstorms, especially rain-on-snow events, can lead to high runoff in a short amount of time, contributing to pollutant transport into Lake Tahoe and its tributaries. Thunderstorms in summer or fall can be intense and can generate large loads for short periods of time, typically in isolated geographic locations. However, summer thunderstorms contribute little to annual precipitation and typically are not responsible for significant pollutant loads to tributaries (Hatch et al. 2001, S. Hackley unpublished).

The effects of climate change are being studied by the Tahoe Science Consortium. Increased temperatures may shift more precipitation events to rain versus snow, which has the potential to increase runoff and affect forest health. Winter snowmelt is often occurring earlier and at a higher rate than in the recent past.

A well-defined rain shadow exists across the lake from west to east (Crippen and Pavelka 1970, Sierra Hydrotech 1986, and Anderson et al. 2004). The west shore averages about 35 inches/year (90 cm/year) of precipitation, while the east shore averages about 20 inches/year (51 cm/year).

MONTHLY - WEATHER AVERAGES SUMMARY

[°C] °F

<http://www.weatherbase.com/weather/weather.php?s=608762>

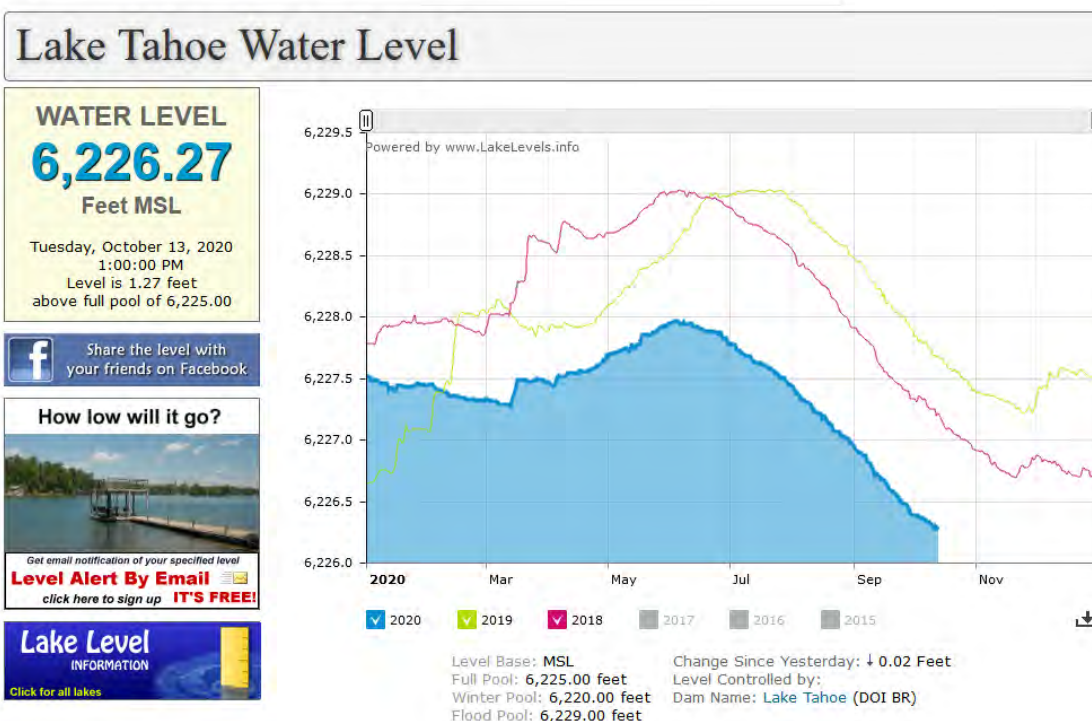
[[Show All Data](#)]

													Years on Record: 30	
Average Temperature		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	46.5	32.9	33.9	38	41.9	49.6	57.4	63.7	63.3	57.2	48	39.2	32.7	
													Years on Record: 30	
Average High Temperature		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	58.7	42.2	43.2	48.6	53.3	62.8	72.1	79.2	78.3	71.4	60.7	50	42	
													Years on Record: 30	
Average Low Temperature		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	34.4	23.6	24.6	27.4	30.6	36.4	42.7	48.3	48.3	42.9	35.3	28.4	23.3	
													Years on Record: 30	
Average Precipitation		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
in	12.2	0.9	1.1	1.5	1	1.3	0.5	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.5	
													Years on Record: 15	
Average Number of Days With Precipitation		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Days	47	6	6	7	4	4	3	1	1	2	3	5	5	
													Years on Record: 30	
Highest Recorded Temperature		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	91.6	51.5	54.1	61.4	69.3	76.4	90	91.6	90.4	82.7	75.1	61.6	53.5	
													Years on Record: 30	
Lowest Recorded Temperature		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	-6.9	-3.8	3.8	9.9	18.4	25.4	29.3	36.7	35.4	25.7	14.9	8.5	-6.9	
													Years on Record: 30	
Average Length of Day		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Hours	12.7	10.3	11.2	12.5	13.7	14.8	15.4	15.1	14.1	12.8	11.6	10.5	10	
													Years on Record: 30	
Average Number of Days Above 90F/32C		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Days	0.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.2	0.1	---	---	---	---	
													Years on Record: 30	
Average Number of Days Below 32F/0C		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Days	159	27.3	23.8	23.8	18.3	6.8	1.1	---	---	0.8	7.6	21.6	27.9	
													Years on Record: 15	
Average Snowfall		ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
in	63.5	13.5	16.1	11.8	2	1	---	---	---	0.1	1.2	4.3	13.5	

The lake has one outlet on its northwest side, forming the start of the Truckee River, which ultimately drains to Pyramid Lake, a terminal lake in Nevada. The lake's hydraulic residence time is 650 years, which means that on average it takes 650-700 years for water that enters the lake to leave the lake. Because of its volume, depth, and geographic location, Lake Tahoe remains ice-free year-round, though Emerald Bay has frozen over during some extreme cold spells.

A concrete dam was completed in 1913 to regulate water outflow at the Truckee River outlet in Tahoe City, California. In 1988, the dam was seismically retrofitted and enlarged to its current configuration. The upper six feet of the lake forms the largest storage reservoir in the Truckee River basin, with an

effective capacity of 240 billion gallons (745,000 acre-feet) (Boughton et al. 1997). The dam is under federal control.



<http://www.tahoe.uslakes.info/Level.asp>

Lake Tahoe's natural rim sits at 6,223 feet, but lake maximum capacity, set by a legal decree in 1915 at 6,229.1 feet, which gives the water master the ability to control the lake's level between those six feet.

On October 16, 2014, due to drought conditions, the lake returned to its natural rim level (6,223 feet), ceasing outflow in the Truckee River. On Sept. 1, 2015 – lake level was 6,222.8 feet.

(Source: <http://tahoe.uslakes.info/Level.asp>). The record low water level in recent history was in 1992, when the lake dropped to 6,220.26 feet.

Lake Tahoe is unique, the forces and processes that shape it are the same as those acting in all natural ecosystems. As such, Lake Tahoe is an analog for other systems both in western U.S. and worldwide.

Extensive studies are conducted on climate change's potential effects on Lake Tahoe by UC Davis and other researchers. <http://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/research/climate-change/modeling-climate.html>

The following parameters have research information available at the website listed above.

REAL TIME MONITORING OF LAKE TAHOE
CLARITY MONITORING
LAKE MONITORING
MEASURING THE BLUENESS OF LAKE TAHOE
REMOTE SENSING OF THE NEARSHORE
ASIAN CLAMS IN EMERALD BAY
ZOOPLANKTON IN LAKE TAHOE
METEROLOGY OF LAKE TAHOE
PERIPHYTON MONITORING
THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODELING OF LAKE TAHOE
DYNAMICS OF THE SURFACE OF LAKE TAHOE
DEEP LAKE OXYGEN
WATER CURRENT DRIFTERS
MODELING LAKE CLARITY
PHYTOPLANKTON IN LAKE TAHOE
MODELING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS
NUTRIENTS IN LAKE TAHOE

Climate change is increasing the lake's water temperature and affecting regional weather patterns in ways that could change the lake's ecosystem and cause more of a decline in the lake's clarity. Warmer water provides a more hospitable environment to algae and invasive species. Lake Tahoe's water is almost one degree F warmer than it was 30 years ago, according to UC Davis researchers. The average surface temperature in July has increased 5 degrees F since 1999. Average Tahoe temperatures have risen more than 2 degrees F. Spring snowmelt occurs a week earlier than in the 1950s, according to studies by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego and the U.S. Geological Survey. In the coming decades, UC-Davis scientists predict more rain and less snow will fall in Tahoe, and there will be more flood-causing storms where rain falls on snow. Streams and rivers will flow with greater intensity, causing more fine sediment to flow into the lake.

Water Systems Descriptions / Service Records 2019-2020

TWSA full member water purveyors:

- Maintained approximately 22,263 service connections. [Table 1]
- Supplied water to an estimated 33,347 full-time residents. [Table 1]
Note: Seasonal visitation can double or triple community occupancy.
- Average water flows ranged between 115,000 and 2,449,000 gallons per day (gpd). [Table 2]
- Annual peak water flow ranged between 252,000 and 5,330,000 gpd. [Table 2]

Table 1: Number of customers and service connections for TWSA partner agencies.

Agency	County, State	Full Time / Year Round Population Served / Customer Number *	Number of Service Connections
Kingsbury GID	Douglas, NV	3,839	2,655
Round Hill GID	Douglas, NV	1,200	479
Zephyr Water Utility	Douglas, NV	1,200	514
Cave Rock / Skyland	Douglas, NV	1,235	544
Incline Village GID	Washoe, NV	9,082	8,097
Glenbrook Water Cooperative	Douglas, NV	1,000	282
Edgewood Water Company	Douglas, NV	0-5000 (seasonal)	12
North Tahoe Public Utility District	Placer, CA	3930 = Total 3378 – Tahoe Main System 280 – Carnelian Bay System 275 – Dollar Cove System	3951= Total 3395 – Tahoe Main System 281 – Carnelian Bay System 275 – Dollar Cove System
Tahoe City Public Utility District	Placer/El Dorado, CA	6607 (utility system total) 319 (McKinney/Quail system)	5,729 (utility system total) 559 (McKinney/Quail system)
Lakeside Park Association	El Dorado, CA	254	134
Total		33,347	22,263

(*source: Water purveyor (or) ^Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS):
http://iaspub.epa.gov/enviro/sdw_form_v2.create_page?state_abbr=CA)

Table 2: Average annual flows and peak daily flow estimated from 2014 to 2020, in gallons per day (gpd) for TWSA partner agencies.

Agency	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-2019		2019 -2020	
	Average Daily Flow	Peak Daily Flow	Average Daily Flow	Peak Daily Flow	Average Daily Flow	Peak Daily Flow	Average Daily Flow	Peak Daily Flow	Average Daily Flow	Peak Daily Flow	Average Daily Flow	Peak Daily Flow
Cave Rock/Skyland Water System	627,000	798,333	305,852	974,000	461,333	663,000	318,785	663,043	366,119	768,838	360,797	722,870
Edgewood Water Company	601,715	1,612,400	551,896	1,764,100	540,377	1,454,700	574,000	1,445,000	577,149	1,083,200	506,004	833,200
Glenbrook Water Cooperative	248,300	548,000	232,233	467,161	356,850	760,400	243,857	564,320	280,197	583,133	243,845	630,290
Incline Village GID	2,690,000	5,945,000	2,540,000	5,380,000	2,560,000	5,640,000	2,593,000	5,610,000	2,541,000	5,560,000	2,449,000	5,330,00
Kingsbury GID	793,712	2,079,868	757,226	1,260,000	759,511	1,259,355	624,595	1,579,400	786,482	1,233,729	730,300	1,140,887
N. Tahoe PUD Tahoe intake withdrawals/ NTPUD full system	1,011,225 / 1,160,000	1,879,000 / 1,911,000	815,673/ 951,046	1,915,000 / 1,011,000	926,666 851,473 (revised in 2018) 1,082,030	1,601,000 1,837,903	815,176/ 1,016,718	1,607,963 / 1,891,000	808,687/ 1,004,203	1,932,988 (intake only-no data for full system)	843,732/ 999,654	1,534,747 (intake only-no data for full system)
Round Hill GID	200,418	677,800	184,090	516,200	177,642	546,200	175,915	455,600	195,718	439,600	190,100	487,700
McKinney-Quail / TCPUD Tahoe intake withdrawals/ TCPUD full system	109,816 / 1,038,131	235,209 / 2,756,987	100,434/ 890,713	200,508/ 1,903,836	100,484 964,018	237,027 2,092,240	124,000 1,210,000	190,000 2,470,000	110,000 / 1,472,000	288,000 /3,574,000	156,000 / 1,084,931	252,000 / 2,258,333
Zephyr Water Utility	322,735	536,000	182,745	549,500	260,321	370,032	181,510	370,032	190,371	363,419	197,769	374,387
Lakeside Park Association	100,000	424,000	97,000	424,000	70,000	288,000	134,000	280,000	197,330	489,000	115,000	457,000

Intakes

The majority of TWSA purveyors pull water directly from Lake Tahoe to service their customers. Nevada State Law provides recommendations that drinking water intakes extend 1,000 feet (ft.) from the shore, set 15 ft. below the surface, and 4 ft. from the bottom. (NAC 445A.6698, NRS 445A.860). The TWSA purveyors' intakes range from 500 ft. to 5,500 ft. long, 17 ft. to 600 ft. deep and set 3 ft. to 6.5 ft. above the lake bottom [Table 3.0].

Table 3: TWSA partner agencies' intake length (ft.), depth (ft.) and distance from Lake Bottom (ft.). Intake depth is dependent on the lake level. The depth is measured from Lake Rim.

Agency	Length (ft.)	Depth (ft.)	Bottom (ft.)
Kingsbury GID	750	60	5
Round Hill GID	2,450	52	4
Zephyr Water Utility Company	1,100	63	6.5
Incline Village GID	670	30	4
Glenbrook Water Cooperative	2,000	60	6
Edgewood Water Company *	5,500	535	4
North Tahoe PUD	1,800	28	4.75
Tahoe City PUD (McKinney/Quail System)	800	26	3
Cave Rock/Skyland ^	500 ft. 1800 (pre 9/2013)	17 ft. 65 (pre 9/2013)	4 ft. 6 (pre 9/2013)
Lakeside Park Association	2,300	37	4

^Sept. 2013: CR/S Intake was shortened with NDEP approval – to increase efficiency based on need to remove inline pumps.

*2017: Edgewood Water Company extended the lake intake an additional 3,000 feet out and 600 feet down to access water suitable for use in the heat exchangers in the Edgewood Lodge Project. EWC has also rerouted part of the raw water line and distribution line and added approximately 2 miles of distribution line to meet the demands of the Edgewood Lodge project. (comments: J. Summers)

Population and Land Ownership

TWSA suppliers service the needs of both a small permanent and a large, seasonal visitor population. The Tahoe Basin is home to approximately 55,000 full time, year-round residents. More than half the full-time, year-round population is based in the South Lake Tahoe area.

Tahoe Basin Full-Time/Year-Round Population Data

(source: <http://www.census.gov/popfinder>, 2014)

Incline Village, NV	9,082
Placer County, CA	10,448
Douglas County, NV	5,402
South Lake Tahoe / El Dorado County, CA	30,728
Total	55,660

Lake Tahoe Fast Facts

<http://www.trpa.org/tahoe-facts/>

- Lake Tahoe is 2 million years old
- Holds 39 trillion gallons of water
- Size of watershed: 501 sq. miles
- Lake surface area: 192 sq. miles
- 12 miles wide
- 22 miles long
- 72 miles of shoreline
- 1,645 ft. deep
- 6,223 ft. elevation (natural rim)
- Trees in the basin: 17 million
- 2 states: CA, NV
- 5 counties, 1 city
- 55,000 Tahoe Basin year-round residents
- Majority of private property owners are part-time residents
- U.S. Forest Service and state agencies manage almost 90% of land area
- 43,470 developed parcels in the basin
- Assessed property values in the basin total \$15.5 billion
- Average surface water temperatures are 68° Fahrenheit in the summer and 41° in the winter
- 63 streams feed into Lake Tahoe but only one, the Truckee River, flows out
- Approximately 15 million people visit Lake Tahoe every year
- Nearly 10 million vehicles drive into the basin annually
- The lake is designated as an Outstanding National Resource Water Tier 3 under the Federal Clean Water Act
- Lake Tahoe is the second deepest lake in the United States
- Lake Tahoe is so deep that a single drop of water entering the Lake today will take about 650 years to find its way out
- Highest peaks in the Tahoe Basin: Freel Peak at 10,891 ft.; Mt. Rose at 10,776 ft.

Tahoe as a Tourist Destination – More visitors than previously estimated

<http://www.trpa.org/tahoe-facts/>

Lake Tahoe and the surrounding area continue to rank as a top holiday destination for both international and domestic vacationers. Heavy seasonal visitation (primarily summer and winter ski season) greatly increases the service requirements for area water providers. Revised tourism numbers now estimate 15+ million visitors a year. Year-round resident population is 55,000.

Total population in the basin can reach 300,000 on peak days. This is more than the combined number of visitors to Grand Canyon National Park (3.2 million), Yosemite National Park (4 million) and Yellowstone National Park (2.7 million). Prior visitor population estimates were much lower, ranging between 3 million (TERC 2012) to 5 million (LTBMU 2012) annually.

2015 NLT Tourism Master Plan

<https://www.gotahoenorth.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2015-North-Lake-Tahoe-Tourism-Master-Plan1.pdf>

The 2015 North Lake Tahoe Tourism Master Plan (2015 Tourism Master Plan) lays out a framework of tourism investment strategies that can work in concert to continue to transform North Lake Tahoe into a national and international destination. Visitors have historically retreated to North Lake Tahoe for its tremendous natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The combination of high mountain peaks, a 125,000 acre lake and charming small communities make North Lake Tahoe a place loved by many. Almost 45% of current visitors come from the Bay Area, Northern California and western Nevada (Over 25% of visitors come from the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose area, 13% from Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto and almost 6% from Reno). Approximately 8% of visitors are international. 42% of visitors are day visitors with overall visitation concentrated on weekends and peak holiday periods.

Tahoe Tourism Economic Influences

<https://tahoprospersity.org/wp-content/uploads/measuring-for-prosperity-community-and-economic-indicators-for-the-lake-tahoe-basin-2018.pdf>

The Tahoe Prosperity Center’s “Measuring for Prosperity Report” details the current status of the Tahoe Basin’s community and economy. To ensure prosperity in the Tahoe Basin, we must first understand where we have been, and where we are heading. The Measuring for Prosperity Report analyzed trends in several economic and community indicators, areas of success, and areas, which require improvement. Tahoe’s Annual Economic Input was estimated at \$5.1 Billion (in 2015 dollars) with Visitor Services contributing \$3.2 billion of the total.

In addition to this report, Tahoe Prosperity Center’s current programs include:

- **Alert Tahoe** – adding emergency preventative fire cameras around the lake to protect Tahoe from catastrophic wildfire (and to protect our community, environment and economy).
- **Connected Tahoe** – expanding high-speed internet access and cell phone coverage.
- **Tahoe Workforce Housing** – getting rid of blight and building local workforce housing.
- **Workforce Tahoe** – ensuring Tahoe businesses and residents are prepared for the changing jobs, regional influences and education needs in the new global economy.

TABLE 4
UPDATED ALTERNATE ESTIMATE OF TAHOE BASIN VISITOR DAYS

SKIERS DAYS	4,200,000
SUMMER @150% OF SKIERS SHOULDER	6,300,000
SEASONS @75% OF SUMMER	4,725,000
TOTAL VISITOR DAYS	15,225,000

Source: ADE, Inc.

The cell phone data is picking up all travel into the Basin and counts a separate trip each time a person enters the Basin, even though this may entail multiple vehicle trips during the same sustained visitor trip as defined above. While it correlates fairly well to vehicle counts on the incoming roadways, the cell analysis must infer the purpose of the trips. There are several other trip components that could comprise a portion of the 24 million trips measured by TTD. The TTD data estimates about 185,000 inbound trips by work commuters in the month of July, which would translate to about 1.76 million annual trips. However, census journey-to-work data suggests that as many as 19,500 workers may commute into the Basin regularly, with 13,500 commuting out, at least occasionally.⁷ The high housing costs in the Tahoe area have meant that many workers must find lodging

in less expensive communities in the Carson Valley or in Truckee. ADE estimates this could account for 4.9 million in-commuter trips per year and 1.4 million out-commuter trips.

Therefore, it is possible that some of the trips classified as "visitors" in the cell phone data are in fact workers on an irregular commute pattern. In addition, there is a component of business related travel (deliveries and other business related trips) that are not separated out in the cell phone data.

On the other hand, the high number of second homes in the region means that homeowners are driving in to their properties from their permanent residence locations. Many of these trips may not be counted in the conventional tourism numbers but would show up in the

traffic data and cell phone records. Based on the percentages of second homes by county provided later in this report (see Table 7), we estimate there are about 58,600 houses in the Tahoe Basin with absentee owners. A portion of these may be rented to long term residents of the Basin, but many are short term rentals or kept for occasional use by their owners and their friends. Conventional tourist visitor estimates include short term vacation rentals where data is available (e.g., South Lake Tahoe permit program), but with the increasing popularity of AirBNB and other platforms, it is likely many of these visitors are missed. In addition, the conventional visitor counts would not include owners' occasional use of their own units. We estimate this would account for as many as 3.5 to 7.0 million trips into the Basin per year just based on two to four trips per month to each unit.

³Dean Runyan Associates, *The Economic Significance of Visitor Travel to the North Lake Tahoe Area*. 2012.

⁴Strategic Marketing Group. *South Shore Vision, Economic Impact Analysis*. 2012.

⁷Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics database, calibrated to American Community Survey labor force data.

This influx creates unique potential impacts to water quality. During a busy summer weekend day, 300,000+ visitors are estimated to enter the basin. The area includes 14 ski resorts, 14 golf courses, 35 public beaches, 180.5 miles of bike paths, and 425 miles of official unpaved trails. (TRPA 2002). The basin supports an estimated 23 million visitor 'days' per year (US Census 2000). The most current 2010 National Visitor Use Monitoring (Regional Annual Visitation Use Estimate) for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) shows 5,786,000 National Forest visits* to the National Forest lands here, and 8,999,000 Site Visits. (Source: LTBMU 2012)

*A "visit" is defined as the entry of one person upon a National Forest to participate in recreation activities for an unspecified period of time. A National Forest visit can be composed of multiple site visits. (Meaning that a single person doing multiple visits might be counted multiple times). *A "site visit" is the entry of one person onto a National Forest site or area to participate in recreation activities for an unspecified period of time. Local Chambers use their own estimate of around 3,000,000 visitors over the entire Lake Tahoe Basin, so you can see the numbers do vary. (Don Lane. USFS (LTBMU) pers. comm.)

Development and Growth

The Tahoe Basin is primarily “built-out”. Land coverage is strictly allocated and limited. Most available land coverage is already allocated, therefore most major projects are redevelopment focused rather than expansive. Development within the basin occurs almost entirely on the low-lying, gentle slopes near the lake shore. Much of the Tahoe Basin urban area is built-out, with efforts focusing on low-impact, re-development (LID) of existing properties.

A majority of the land (~80%) in the Tahoe Basin is either owned by the US Forest Service or is state land. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) manages 150,000 acres of National Forest Land in the Lake Tahoe Basin. It is the largest basin landholder. LTBMU’s programs include watershed management, urban lots, recreation and wildlife. Approximately, 20-25% of the land in the Tahoe Basin is privately owned [Plate 2] (NTCD 2002, HDR 1992).

Lake Tahoe Real Estate Trends

Tahoe Real Estate market performs quite differently than the national average. In 2020, from Covid-19 impacts (work from home opportunities) the Tahoe housing market experienced a price surge and limited inventory. Second home ownership and occupancy in those units increased. Even in an area the size of Lake Tahoe, market trends can vary dramatically from neighborhood to neighborhood. Land prices and housing costs in the Tahoe Basin are some of the highest in the nation.

South Lake Tahoe Real Estate Market Overview

<https://www.homeintahoe.com/south-lake-tahoe-market-report-5/>

Median Home Sales Price	Average Dollar Per Square Foot
2020 = \$525,000	2020 = \$376.63
2019 = \$475,000	2019 = \$315.51

Kings Beach Real Estate Market Overview

<https://www.redfin.com/city/23616/CA/Kings-Beach/housing-market>

Median Home Sales Price	Average Dollar Per Square Foot
2020 = \$575, 000	2020 = \$459.00
2019 = \$550,000	2019 = \$ \$408.00

Incline Village Real Estate Market Overview

<https://www.redfin.com/city/31207/NV/Incline-Village/housing-market>

https://www.trulia.com/real_estate/Incline_Village-Nevada

Median Home Sales Price
2020 = \$1,328,000
2019 = \$ 875,000.

Homes are selling for about \$466/sq. ft.

Agreements-Regulatory Controls

Lake Tahoe's famous clarity is a result of the unique physical environment and has gained world support for its protection and preservation. The Tahoe Basin, cradled between Nevada and California, presents a complex political backdrop for protecting Lake Tahoe as a water source. The local governments include: two states, six counties, one city and multiple special districts.

Lake Tahoe is one of the most regulated watershed basins in the country. Much of the attention of the regulatory authorities and scientific community have been directed towards Lake Tahoe's famous clarity, which does not directly address many of the concerns of the drinking water suppliers. An ongoing goal of TWSA members is to incorporate drinking water issues into basin planning, and community programs through education and outreach.

Lake Tahoe was designated a Tier III Outstanding Natural Resource Water (303d) under the Clean Water Act in 1972. Lake Tahoe has the highest level of protection as an ONRW water body and non-degradation rule applies. The effort to protect Lake Tahoe consists of the participation and development of numerous regulatory agencies and special interest groups including: the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. Historically, the focus has been on protecting its unique clarity.

The Lake Tahoe Basin is a unique system that has gained world-wide recognition. The lake location and unique status as one of two alpine lakes in the world of its character (the other is Lake Baikal, in Siberia, Russia) creates a complex political system of government, non-profit, special district, and concerned citizens.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), a bi-state environmental regulatory agency, is responsible for balancing human development and environmental protection in the Lake Tahoe Basin. TRPA is responsible for meeting nine environmental thresholds. The thresholds include: water quality, air quality, soil conservation, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, scenic resources, community design, recreation, and noise (Bi-Compact 1980). TRPA addresses source water protection issues in the TRPA Code of Ordinances. Lake Tahoe's nearshore conditions are now receiving more attention in the regulatory arena. As one of its strategic initiatives, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency worked with community members and stakeholders for almost 20 years, to update its shoreline policies and regulations. The plan was approved in October, 2018. For more information about the Shoreline Plan, visit www.shorelineplan.org.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board enforce state law and policies, respectively, to protect public health, water quality and to sustain ecosystems.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water is the regulating authority for Lake Tahoe water suppliers within Nevada.

The California Bureau of Health Protection Services regulated water suppliers within California until June 30, 2014. On July 1, 2014, the CA Drinking Water Division was transferred into the State Water Board.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, USDA Forest Service, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection work together to update their agencies' resource management plans for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Tahoe region is undergoing development of several long term strategic plans. These include an updated Tahoe Regional Plan to serve as the guiding documents for TRPA. Because TRPA is exploring new territory in the field of environmental planning, the Regional Plan will continue to mature as we learn more about how man impacts the environment. The Code of Ordinances is the most visible of several documents that make up the Regional Plan. <http://www.trpa.org/regional-plan/code-of-ordinances>

The Code regulates, among other things: land use, density, rate of growth, land coverage, excavation and scenic impacts. The regulations are designed to bring the region into conformance with the threshold standards established for water quality, air quality, soil conservation, wildlife habitat, fish habitat, vegetation, noise, recreation and scenic resources.

At the same time, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) has sought public comment on the Forest Plan revision; which is designed to serve as a long term guide for managing National Forest System lands in the Tahoe Basin.

http://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/FC_ProjectsPlans/FPR_LTBMU.php

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) also revised regulations relative to pollution discharges in its region. <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/>

A revised Basin Plan passed in 2012 removes the former prohibition on direct water application of herbicides/pesticides within the LRQWCB jurisdiction, replacing it with a project review/exemption review regulation. This statutory change opens up the potential for aquatic invasive species management within Lake Tahoe using chemical methods. TWSA has been and remains a vocal opponent of the approval to allow potential project use of aquatic herbicides and pesticides in Lake Tahoe.

Details of various agency, programs, plans, policies and actions are provided in later sections of this report.

Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 rule/ LT2ESWTR)

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/lt2/index.cfm>

The deadline for compliance was October 1, 2014. All TWSA members achieved compliance for the deadline, were granted extensions at that time and have completed required upgrades, or were exempted due to existing treatment processes.

The USEPA developed the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 rule/LT2ESWTR) to improve drinking water quality and provide additional protection from disease-causing microorganisms and contaminants that can form during drinking water treatment. Pathogens, such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, are often found in water, and can cause gastrointestinal illness (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting and cramps) and other health risks. In many cases, water needs to be disinfected through the use of additives such as chlorine to inactivate (or kill) microbial pathogens.

Cryptosporidium is a significant concern in drinking water because it contaminates surface waters used as drinking water sources, it is resistant to chlorine and other disinfectants, and it has caused waterborne disease outbreaks. Consuming water with Cryptosporidium, a contaminant in drinking water sources, can cause gastrointestinal illness, which may be severe in people with weakened immune systems (e.g., infants and the elderly) and sometimes fatal in people with severely compromised immune systems (e.g., cancer and AIDS patients).

The purpose of LT2ESWTR is to reduce disease incidents associated with Cryptosporidium and other pathogenic microorganisms in drinking water. The rule applies to all public water systems that use surface water or ground water that is under the direct influence of surface water. The rule will bolster existing regulations and provide a higher level of protection of your drinking water supply by:

- Targeting additional Cryptosporidium treatment requirements to higher risk systems;
- Requiring provisions to reduce risks from uncovered finished water storage facilities;
- Providing provisions to ensure that systems maintain microbial protection as they take steps to reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts.

This combination of steps, combined with the existing regulations, is designed to provide protection from microbial pathogens while simultaneously minimizing health risks to the population from disinfection byproducts. This includes about 14,000 systems serving approximately 180 million people.

Requirements of the rule

Systems initially monitor their water sources to determine treatment requirements. This monitoring involves two years of monthly sampling for Cryptosporidium. To reduce monitoring costs, small filtered water systems first monitor for E. coli—a bacterium that is less expensive to analyze than Cryptosporidium and monitor for Cryptosporidium only if their E. coli results exceed specified concentration levels.

Treatment

Filtered water systems were classified in one of four treatment categories (bins) based on their monitoring results. Most systems classified in the lowest bin and will face no additional requirements. Systems classified in higher bins were required to provide additional water treatment to further reduce *Cryptosporidium* levels by 90 to 99.7 percent (1.0 to 2.5-log), depending on the bin. Systems will select from different treatment and management options in a “microbial toolbox” to meet their additional treatment requirements. All unfiltered water systems must provide at least 99 or 99.9 percent (2 or 3-log) inactivation of *Cryptosporidium*, depending on the results of their monitoring.

Unfiltered water systems required to add treatment

Previously, existing regulations did not require unfiltered systems to provide any treatment for *Cryptosporidium*. Although unfiltered systems maintain watershed control programs to protect water quality, recent national surveys have shown *Cryptosporidium* to be present in the sources of unfiltered systems. Without treatment, these *Cryptosporidium* will pass into the water distributed to consumers. Available data indicate that the average risk from *Cryptosporidium* in unfiltered systems is higher than in filtered systems, so that treatment by unfiltered systems is required to achieve comparable public health protection. Further, with available technologies like UV and ozone, treatment for *Cryptosporidium* is feasible for all unfiltered systems. Consequently, EPA is establishing requirements under the LT2ESWTR for all unfiltered systems to treat for *Cryptosporidium*, with the required degree of treatment depending on the source water contamination level.

Filtration Avoidance General Criteria

For a drinking water system to qualify for filtration avoidance under the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) the system cannot be the source of a waterborne disease outbreak, must meet source water quality limits for coliform and turbidity and meet coliform and total trihalomethane MCLs. Disinfectant residual levels and redundant disinfection capability must also be maintained. Filtration avoidance also requires that a watershed control program be implemented to minimize microbial contamination of the source water. This program must characterize the watershed’s hydrology, physical features, land use, source water quality and operational capabilities. It must also identify, monitor and control manmade and naturally occurring activities that are detrimental to water quality. The watershed control program must also be able to control activities through land ownership or written agreements. (Filtration avoidance criteria are detailed in 40 CFR §141.71.)

**There are 160,000 public water systems in the United States.
 60 systems possess filtration avoidance permits.
 6 of those systems are at Lake Tahoe; all are TWSA members.**

TWSA OPERATORS UNDER FILTRATION EXEMPTION *

Ozone plus Ultra Violet Disinfection; chlorine residual for delivery:

- Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)
- Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID)
- Edgewood Water Company (Edgewood)
- Zephyr Water Utility District (ZWUD)
- Glenbrook Water Cooperative (Glenbrook)

Ultra-violet (UV) disinfection and chlorine residual for delivery:

- North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)

TWSA OPERATORS USING FILTRATION TREATMENT

Filtration and chlorine residual for delivery:

- Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD); McKinney Quail System (coagulation, pressure filter)
- Skyland Water Company (Skyland) (micro-filtration; .2 micron)
- Cave Rock Water System (Cave Rock) (micro-filtration; .2 micron)
- Round Hill General Improvement District (RHGID) (direct filtration; Trimate micropfloc)
- Lakeside Park Association (LPA) (direct filtration; Trimate micropfloc)

*** Treatment Requirements for Filtration Avoidance**

Water Quality Parameter	SWTR	SWTR + LT2ESWTR
Giardia	3 log removal/inactivation	3 log removal/inactivation
Virus	4 log removal/inactivation	4 log removal/inactivation
Cryptosporidium		2 log removal/inactivation
Turbidity	< 5 NTU	< 5 NTU
Total Coliform	<100/100 ml	<100/100 ml
Fecal Coliform	<20/100 ml	<20/100 ml

(Source: USACE Risk Assessment Report 2008)

TWSA Member Actions to Achieve LT2 Compliance

Regulatory requirements for raw water testing preceded any LT2 treatment upgrades. During this required testing, no Cryptosporidium detections were reported by TWSA members. As of the required deadline of October 1, 2014, the TWSA members had achieved LT2 Compliance (or had regulatory extension).

The Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/drink/sdwisfed/index.cfm>

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) databases store information about drinking water. The federal version (SDWIS/FED) stores the information EPA needs to monitor approximately 156,000 public water systems. The state version (SDWIS/STATE) is a database designed to help states run their drinking water programs.

SDWIS contains information about public water systems annual water quality, including any violations of EPA's drinking water regulations, as reported to EPA by the states. These regulations establish maximum contaminant levels, treatment techniques, and monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure that water systems provide safe water to their customers. This search will help you find your drinking water supplier and view its violations and enforcement history since 1993.

The online database (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.html>) allows anyone to select systems either by locating systems within a geographic area or by entering the water system ID number. For more detailed information about the water you drink, contact your local water supplier directly or call your state drinking water agency. To find the phone number for your state's drinking water agency, visit: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/local/index.cfm> or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs)

- Copies of member agency CCRs are included in Chapter 4 in this report.

All TWSA Members were well within compliance standards for drinking water quality provided to customers in the reporting year. Tahoe Tap[®] water continues to rank among the best drinking water in the nation.

Community water systems are public water systems that have at least 15 service connections or regularly serve at least 25 year-round residents. The Consumer Confidence Rule requires public water suppliers that serve the same people year round (community water systems) to provide consumer confidence reports (CCR) to their customers. These reports are also known as annual water quality reports or drinking water quality reports. CCRs summarize information regarding sources used (i.e., rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or aquifers) any detected contaminants, compliance and educational information. The reports are due to customers by July 1, annually.

Online postings of the CCRs are available by visiting the water agencies website, or by contacting the agency. New US EPA regulations allow for electronic delivery opt-out by customers. Due to the small customer base, the primary delivery method for TWSA members is printed, mailed CCRs.

Links to Member CCRs

TCPUD

<http://www.tahoecitypud.com/ccr/current.pdf>

NTPUD

<http://ntpud.org/ccr>

IVGID

<https://www.yourtahoepace.com/public-works/about-public-works/forms-documents>

Douglas County, Cave Rock/Skyland

<http://www.douglascountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6843>

Douglas County, Zephyr

<http://www.douglascountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6851>

KGID

<http://kgid.org/consumer-confidence-reports/>

RHGID

http://www.rhqid.org/past_newsletters.html

LPA

<http://lakesideparkassociation.org>

STPUD

<http://stpud.us/customers/water-quality-reports>

GLENBROOK

Contact water agency for CCR information (775) 790-0711.

EDGEWOOD

CCR not required; contact water agency for information (530) 588-4111.

More information

For a detailed report on TWSA and member agency water quality sampling procedures, reporting and analysis please see “*DRINKING WATER QUALITY INDICATOR REPORTING OPTIONS FOR THE TAHOE BASIN*” at this link:

https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/partnerships/tahoescience/documents/p079_DrinkingWaterQualityIndicatorReporting.pdf

Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP)

The State of California Urban Water Management Planning Act (Act) requires each urban water supplier with 3,000 or more connections, or supplies at least 3,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water, to submit UWMPs to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) every five years. The UWMP Act requires urban suppliers to report, describe, and evaluate water deliveries and uses, water supply sources, efficient water uses, and demand management measures (DMMs), including implementation schedule and strategy. The purpose of developing an UWMP is to evaluate whether a water supplier can meet the water demands of its water customers as projected over a 20 or 25 year period. The UWMP Act directs water agencies in carrying out their long-term resource planning responsibilities to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future demands. This evaluation is accomplished through analysis of current and projected water supply and demand for normal or average conditions, as well as during water shortages.

NTPUD: <http://ntpud.org/master-plans>

TCPUD: <http://www.tahoecitypud.com/download/general/uwmp.pdf>

STPUD: http://www.stpud.us/plan_documents.html

The **Nevada State Water Plan** is designed to guide the development, management and use of the state's water resources. It assesses the quantity and quality of our water resources, identifies constraints and opportunities which affect water resource decision making, and seeks to coordinate future actions to ensure that Nevadans obtain the greatest benefit from their water resources in the years to come. The first state water plan, *Water for Nevada*, was developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It identified a variety of issues and contained recommendations for improved water management, many which have now been implemented. Administration and management of the state's water resources has continued to evolve much to the benefit of the state's residents and the resources themselves.

<http://water.nv.gov/programs/planning/stateplan/documents/sum-es.pdf>

TWSA Member Agency Capital Improvement Projects and Infrastructure Upgrades (in addition to LT2 Compliance)

Kingsbury GID (KGID):

KGID has completed a waterline replacement project. This project consisted of replacing approximately 2,250 linear feet of a 4" steel line with 6" C-900 and added 2 new fire hydrants to this section. Improving water quality and fire protection. A new pressure reducing vault was installed to replace an old one. The old vault was in the roadway creating traffic control issues when service and maintenance was performed. The new vault was installed off of the roadway to alleviate this issue. 21 galvanized and copper service lines have been replaced with Polyethylene lines. Lastly 200 linear feet of 6" spiral welded steel watermain was replaced with 6" C-900.

KGID has pre-placed 2 large FSAA compound meters within the service area, for use with wireless metering, to access two (difficult to access -confined space entry) private locations with fire hydrants.

Previous CIP:

KGID completed replacing the 12" steel line in Hwy 50 that serves as the secondary feed for the Lakeside Inn and Casino. The replacement of the steel 12" from Kahle to the Nugget PRV is also completed, approximately 100' of pipe. A 6"FSAA with a ¾" X 2" compound bypass has been purchased to replace the Abbey Rd vault meter. A 8"FSAA with a 1" X 3" compound bypass has been purchased to replace the Kahle Community Center vault meter. These are both purchased but not installed.

Sewer rates have now been adjusted to cover future CIP costs.

The Kingsbury General Improvement District's (KGID) new \$19 million water treatment plant was activated in 2015. KGID completed construction of a new, state of the art water treatment plant to come into compliance with LT2. The facility is a 6 MGD plant utilizing UV and Ozone, as well as onsite chlorine generation. Construction began in September of 2014 and the plant came online December 2015.

A new luxury development, Tahoe Beach Club will consist of 143 Luxury Condominium Residences. Plans include a 160-foot floating pier extension near the KGID intake. Construction related activities had the potential to present problems for the District due to the proximity to the intakes. Post construction activities will be assessed for the potential for contamination of the source water. KGID is working with the developer and is preparing comments. NDEP has commissioned an additional Risk Assessment Study for this intake.

Round Hill GID (RHGID):

RHGID rebuilt 5 Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV's) on water mains.

RHGID is currently in the process of replacing meter mains at the Castle Rock subdivision, which is funded through the NDEP SRF. All precautions have been made as per contract and regulations. Our fire hydrant replacement in conjunction with STPUD grant project is complete. We are scheduled to have an assessment to begin rehabilitation and/or replacement of 2 PRV's in the lower portion of our water system.

RHGID replaced a 50 year old, dilapidated, 500,000 gallon concrete water storage tank located in the upper pressure zone with a new 500,000 gallon welded steel tank.

RHGID is in the process of updating their water conservation plan. Water and sewer rates increased in October 2019. (\$126.19 combined monthly).

Edgewood Water Company (EWC):

No new CIP- previous CIP noted here:

EWC installed a second VFD for pump #2 at our pump house. Installation was completed by Arctic Electric and controls were done by Sierra Controls. The second VFD gives us the redundancy we were looking for as well as giving the #1 pump some down time. The #1 pump has been running 24/7 since May 2017.

EWC treatment plant road was paved in August 2018.

Edgewood Water Company was involved in the expansion/modification of the water treatment and distribution system to accommodate the 150 room Edgewood Lodge and 40 shared residences that are part of the Edgewood Lodge Project. The project was completed and opened in June, 2017.

<http://www.edgewoodtahoe.com>

EWC has completed the LT2 project that included new UV treatment using the Calgon Carbon UV system. Also as part of LT2, EWC upgraded the ozone system with new ozone generators, dryers, destruct systems and analyzers.

EWC constructed a lake intake extension (5,500 feet out and 600 feet down) to access water suitable for use in heat exchangers to be used by the Edgewood Lodge Project. The intake extension allowed for a unique HVAC modification, cold lake water is used in circulation on the properties for the property cooling needs. EWC rerouted part of the raw water line and distribution line in addition to adding approximately 2 miles of distribution line to meet the demands of the Edgewood Lodge Project.

Lakeside Park Association (LPA):

On 5/7/2020 a notification was received from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services:

"According to NRC #1276845, CALLER IS REPORTING AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF HYDRAULIC OIL ONTO SOIL, ASPHALT AND TALLACK CREEK FROM A ROAD GRADER DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES."

Observation of the raw and finished water resulted in no enhancement of treatment techniques.

* CIP PROJECT (12/2019 – 2/2020)

- New Pump Control Panel w/ Operator Interface & Surge Protection
- Replace / install two new Marathon Motors
- Install new variable frequency drives at all 3 motors
- New VPN for remote capabilities / support
- Install redundant transmitters for reliability
- Install new check valves & piping

CIP Projects:

Greenwood – Hill Water Main Replacement Project. The project included installation of approximately 612 lf of 8" water main, reconnection of 10 services and related improvements.

New metal roof for the existing water plant building.

Lakeside Park Mutual Water bills its customers a bimonthly flat rate which was increased by 3% in July 2018.

Prior Projects:

Ultraviolet C Pilot Test for aquatic weeds control 2017-2019.

<http://www.laketahoenews.net/2017/03/ultraviolet-light-used-kill-tahoe-weed>

[https://tahoercd.org/wp-](https://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/UV_Plant_Control_Pilot_2018_Monitoring_FINAL.pdf)

[content/uploads/2019/02/UV_Plant_Control_Pilot_2018_Monitoring_FINAL.pdf](https://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/UV_Plant_Control_Pilot_2018_Monitoring_FINAL.pdf)

Killing aquatic invasive weeds in Lake Tahoe with ultraviolet C light was tried for the first time summer 2017. The California Tahoe Conservancy Board on March 16 agreed to spend \$260,128 on the pilot project in South Lake Tahoe. The money was awarded to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, which has been integral in working on ways to eradicate various invasive species from Lake Tahoe. John J. Paoluccio of Inventive Resources Inc. has developed a system in which the plants are killed – almost like getting a lethal sunburn. The light damages the DNA and cell structure of the aquatic invasive weeds. This stops reproduction and eliminates the weed in a few days. The CTC staff report says, "The project will help the Tahoe RCD determine the optimum intensity and duration of treatment necessary for eradication of AIS plants."

<https://tahoercd.org/aquatic-invasive-species-control-projects>

Cedar Water Line Replacement Project completed in 2016. This project included replacement of 760 feet of 6" and 2" steel water line with 8" c900 water main. New services and a fire hydrant were added.

Security fencing placed around water treatment site.

Glenbrook:

In 2015, volunteers in the League to Save Lake Tahoe's Eyes on the Lake program discovered a new infestation of aquatic invasive plants in Glenbrook Bay, on Lake Tahoe's eastern shore. In 2016/17 Glenbrook homeowners and League volunteers pitched in to help remove the infestation using manual methods. See how they did it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRspQNXY4CM>

Glenbrook replaced the ozone generators and installed new UV reactors. The Glenbrook Water Treatment Plant upgrade was completed by September 2014.

In February 2016, officials from the Glenbrook Water Cooperative in Glenbrook, NV accepted the Gold Medal Award at the Great American Water Taste Test. Glenbrook was selected by a panel of judges at the GAWTT finals from thousands of entries.

Incline Village GID (IVGID):

<https://www.yourtahoeplace.com/ivgid/resources/construction-updates>

The Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) currently maintains 90 miles of water mains to deliver safe and reliable potable water to all areas of Incline Village and Crystal Bay. Unfortunately, water infrastructure doesn't last forever and, as a substantial portion of the District was developed using corrosion and leak prone thin wall steel pipe, the District has a robust annual water main replacement program. Since 1982, the District has replaced approximately 38 miles of steel water mains throughout Incline Village and Crystal Bay at a cost of \$17-million, not adjusted for inflation. There is approximately six miles of steel water mains (roughly seven percent of the District's total water main inventory) still slated for replacement.

WRRF Aeration System Improvements

The aeration process of wastewater treatment supplies oxygen to facilitate the biological activity that converts raw sewage into treated wastewater effluent. The plant has six 200,000-gallon aeration basins with two jet aeration clusters per basin supplied by computer controlled multistage centrifugal aeration blowers. This project funds the design and replacement of the aeration equipment. The Board awarded the work to KG Walters on December 11, 2019. Construction commenced and is anticipated to continue until December 2020. Progress meetings are held every two weeks.

Water Reservoir Safety and Security Improvements – Phase 1

This project will replace the ladders that access the top of ten out of thirteen of the District's potable water tanks, and install intermediate access platforms, protective railings and new fall protection devices. Exterior access to the roof area is required to meet the needs of the District for water quality monitoring and to perform routine repairs to radio communication equipment. The ladders also need to be secured from access by the public. The reservoir ladders, fall protection, platforms, and protective railings will meet the current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards. Due to budget constraints, the Board awarded the contract for ten reservoirs out of the thirteen bid to Resource Development Company on April 10, 2019. Two

change orders have been issued to extend the construction contract time, only, due to COVID 19 concerns. The Contractor is now on site, construction has begun, with completion anticipated by November 14, 2020.

Water Reservoir Safety and Security Improvements- Phase 2

The second phase of this project will provide the same safety and security improvements to the other three potable water reservoirs not awarded with Phase 1, above. This work was awarded to Paso Robles Tank at the June 10, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. Construction is substantially complete.

2020 Watermain Replacement & Fire Flow Enhancement Project, Martis Peak Road

A 2020 Capital Improvement Project, this project included slip lining a 14-inch water main under State Route 28 and replacing aging steel water main in Martis Peak Road and Rifle Peak Court. IVGID Engineering Staff completed the design and the construction contract was awarded at the June 23, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. Construction is complete.

Building Upgrades, Water Resource Recovery Facility

A 2021 Capital Improvement Project, this project replaces the existing non-operable sliding gate at the Water Resource Recovery Facility with a new electronic vertical pivot security gate. The vertical pivot gate will operate in all weather conditions. Installation of the gate is required in order for the District to be in compliance with AWIA 2018 safety and security protocols for water and sewer infrastructure. IVGID Engineering Staff prepared bid documents and solicited proposals from six local gate contractors for the project. Two (2) bids were received on Friday, August 28, 2020. 2021 Capital Improvement Project budget, \$80,000.

Sierra Gate & Control has been very responsive, having already completed the required earthwork; they are now awaiting delivery of the gate assembly. Anticipated completion of construction is January, 2021.

Crystal Shores AIS Treatment

A local HOA worked with Tahoe RCD on identification and bottom barrier/diver control of a small infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil at the Crystal Shores marina. The aquatic plant removal work implemented at Crystal Shores West, Crystal Shores East, and Crystal Shores Villas is part of a multi-year lake-wide strategy to remove aquatic invasive plants from the nearshore of Lake Tahoe Basin. Together with removal and/or reduction of all aquatic invasive species (including invertebrates and warm water fish), these projects contribute to the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP # 01.04.02.06).

Key accomplishments of project:

- Acres of Invasive Species Inventoried: 1.5 acres
- Acres Treated for Invasive Species: 3 acres

<https://eip.laketahoeinfo.org/Project/FactSheet/01.04.02.0051>

2017 Watermain Replacement and Fire Flow Enhancement

Project scope of work included:

Sawmill Road: Replaced 1,600 linear feet of 6" steel watermain and 985 linear feet of 8" steel watermain with 8" watermain. Connect to 29 domestic service lines. Remove and replace 3 fire hydrants. Selby Drive: Replaced 970 linear feet 6" of steel watermain with 8" watermain. Connect to 10 domestic service lines. No fire hydrants replaced.

Pine Cone Road:

Replaced 475 linear feet 6" of steel watermain with 8" watermain. Connect to 6 domestic service lines. Remove and replace 1 fire hydrant.

The work also includes: Installation and connection of air release valves as needed, abandonment of specified lines and valves; traffic control; maintain residential and business driveway access; erosion & sediment controls; pavement repair; replacement of existing features, including vegetation, concrete, and other utilities removed and/or damaged by construction activity; and working within Right of Ways in Incline Village, Washoe County, Nevada. This work will improve available fire flow capacity in these residential areas, help reduce unaccounted for water loss, and reduce service interruptions to customers and costly pavement patch penalties that result from water leak repair activities.

Burnt Cedar Water Disinfection Plant Improvement Project

This was the multi-year mandatory upgrade of IVGID's existing drinking water treatment facilities to attain LT2 compliance by 2014. Construction and start-up of the upgraded system occurred over a two year period.

2016 Watermain Replacement and Fire Flow Enhancement Project

Replacement of 1,100 linear feet of failing 6" steel water main with 8" C900 PVC pipe; installment of one new fire hydrant on North Enterprise. Replacement of 220 linear feet of failing 6" steel water main with new 6" C900 PVC pipe and installment of one new fire hydrant on Oriole. Replacement of approximately 325 linear feet of failing 6" steel water main with 8" C900 PVC pipe; installment of two new fire hydrants on Teresa Ct. and Wassou Road.

2015 Watermain Replacement and Fire Flow Enhancement Project

This project replaced approximately 2,800' of old steel watermains by means of a trenchless pipe-bursting technique. Another 270' of was replaced using standard watermain replacement methods. This project addressed Beowawie Road, Oxen Road and the commercial easement between Village Boulevard and Southwood Boulevard.

Incline & Third Creeks Restoration Project, Phase V; SR 28 Culvert Outfall

This project restored and enhanced additional sections of Incline Creek, improved water quality flowing into Lake Tahoe and improved fish passage at the point where Incline Creek crosses State Route 28. Two 66" culverts were also rehabilitated.

2014 Watermain and Fire Flow Enhancement Project

This project replaced approximately 2,600 lineal feet of watermains and related appurtenances along Dale Drive, Knotty Pine, Willow Court and Lark Court.

2014 Reline Sewer Main Project

This project rehabilitated approximately 9,485 lineal feet of sewer mains using a cast-in-place process.

Spoooner Pump Station

The Spooner Pump Station has been modified to upgrade the export pumps to two 250-HP and two 350-HP, remove the existing standby generator and diesel fuel tank, create a bypass system between the discharge and suction headers, the addition of a building for the new 900-kW standby generator with a 1,600-gallon fuel base tank and construct a new access road onto State Route 28 on the south end of the site.

North Tahoe PUD (NTPUD):

On 10/15/2019 we had a “Total Coliform present” on one of our routine distribution samples in our Carnelian system. We followed our protocol and treated the system. Repulled samples as required and the system was back to normal operation.

On 8/18/2020 we had a “Total Coliform present” on one of our routine distribution samples in our Carnelian system. We followed our protocol and treated the system. Repulled samples as required and the system was back to normal operation.

Installation of approximately 833 linear feet of 8-inch watermain and appurtenances and three (3) new fire hydrants.

Current Water/Sewer Projects - June 2020

<https://ntpud.org/watersewer>

Total Project Budget value is all inclusive costs applicable to the project (those capitalized): design, fees, construction, management, inspection, contingencies, etc. Figure shown includes all monies previously spent and those currently budgeted for. Figure may not include monies earmarked in out years as shown in 5-year CIP focus.

Construction Phase

Kingswood West Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation (Project #2031): Rehabilitation of a 500,000-gallon water storage tank in the Kingswood West subdivision.

Status: Under Construction, see item G-4.

- Percent Complete: 100% (Design), 10% (Construction)
- FY 19/20 – 20/21 Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$430,000
- Construction Contract Award Amount: \$315,800
- Progress Payments to Date: \$0
- Approved Contract Change Orders to date: \$0
- Expected Completion Date: Summer 2020

N-1 Satellite Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation (Project #1952): Project includes new pumps/motors, controls, generator, station valves/piping, new influent gravity main, and fence for scenic improvements.

Status: Construction and multiple professional services supporting contracts executed. Pre-construction meeting held on June 4th.

- Percent Complete: 100% (Design), 0% (Construction)
- FY 19/20 – 20/21 Project Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$1,250,000
- Construction Contract Award Amount: \$768,500
- Progress Payments to Date: \$0
- Approved Contract Change Orders to date: \$0
- Expected Completion Date: Spring 2021

Easement & Vegetation Clearing (Project #2024): Survey staking (marking) easement limits and subsequent vegetation removal as applicable for select locations as deemed applicable.

Status: Multiple locations: Dollar Pump Access: Sight line clearing completed. Oxford Easement: Vegetation clearing and easement connection improvements out for bid for July 14th award. Forest Glen/Lincoln Green: Survey marking in process. D-5 Influent alignment: Survey marking scheduled, letters to parcel owners have been sent.

- Percent Complete: 100% (Design), 25% (Construction)
- Total Project Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$100,000
- Awarded Bid Amount: \$0
- Progress Payments to Date: \$0
- Approved Contract Change Orders: \$0
- Expected Completion Date: Summer 2020

Active Design / Bid Preparation Phase

National Avenue SCADA Improvements – Phase 3 (Project #1622): Final phase addressing clean-up, documentation, and maintenance items to complete project.

Status: See item E-3.

- Percent Complete: 100% (Design), 10% (Construction)
- FY 19/20 Project Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$250,000
- Engineer's Estimate for Construction: TBD
- Bid Opening: N/A
- Expected Completion Date: Summer/Fall 2020

Base Facilities Emergency Power Distribution (Project #1953): Provides Annex, fuel pumps, and shop power supply from Base emergency generator. Project is partially grant funded (75%) through FEMA/CalOES.

Status: Civil and Electrical design is in process. Project will be advertised for bid on June 12th, bid opening on July 30th, with award at the August Board meeting.

- Percent Complete: 90% (Design), 0% (Construction)
- FY 19/20 – 20/21 Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$280,000

- Engineer's Estimate for Construction: TBD
- Bid Opening: July 30, 2020
- Grant Required Completion Date: December 26, 2020

Kingswood West SCADA Hub Rehabilitation: Full rehabilitation of platform, back-up power supply, cabinets, and all SCADA and Radio components. SCADA hub located adjacent to Kingswood West tank and serves the District's entire SCADA and hand-held Radio communications backbone. Status: Design in process.

- Percent Complete: 50% (Design), 0% (Construction)
- FY 20/21 Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$250,000
- Engineer's Estimate for Construction: TBD
- Bid Opening: Summer 2020
- Expected Completion Date: 2020

Zone 2 Watermain Loop (Project #21XX): 250 feet of 8" watermain to loop upper portion of pressure zone 2 enhancing fire flow capacities.

Status: Survey complete. Design begun.

- Percent Complete: 10% (Design), 0% (Construction)
- FY 20/21 Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$225,000
- Engineer's Estimate for Construction: TBD
- Bid Opening: Summer 2020
- Expected Completion Date: October 15, 2020

National Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation (Project #1953): Full rehabilitation of sewer pump station. The last of four (4) main pump stations to receive full rehabilitation in this current rehabilitation cycle.

Status: Design in Process.

- Percent Complete: 30% (Design), 0% (Construction)
- FY 19/20 – 21/22 Budget (Design, Construction, CM/CI): \$3,160,000
- Engineer's Estimate for Construction: TBD
- Bid Opening: Fall 2020
- Expected Completion Date: 2021

Completed Water/Sewer Projects

- Kingswood Water Main Replacement Project
- Secline Pump Station Rehabilitation
- C-1 Wet Well and Dry Well Modifications
- Carnelian Bay Water West Main Replacement
- Zone 2 Water Tank Project
- Tahoe Marina Estates Water Line Replacement Project (In conjunction with Placer County Erosion Control Project)

- Cutthroat Water Main Replacement
- Kingswood Booster Pump Station Stairs
- Dollar Cove Water Treatment Study
- Lincoln Green Water Line Replacement
- Kingswood West Tank Security Fence
- Beaver Street Water and Sewer Line Replacement Project (In conjunction with Placer County Erosion Control Project)

The District continues an aggressive water conservation education and services program including a low-flow toilet rebate credit program for water customers.

Tahoe City PUD (TCPUD)

<http://www.tcpud.org/capital-improvement-projects>

CIP Completed:

- Bunker Water Tank (1.2 MG Steel Tank),
- Tahoe Cedars Interconnection (4,900 feet of 12" water main connecting McKinney Quail System to Tahoe Cedars System)
- Rideout Well (Redundant Source for Timberland System)

CIP in Process (Fall 2019 Completion)

- Timberland Water System Replacement (4,000 feet of water main, 64 water services/meters and 12 new fire hydrants)
- Madden Creek Interconnection (2,000 feet of 12" water main connecting McKinney Quail System to Madden System)

Bunker Water Tank completed. This work included construction of a new 1.2 million gallon water steel storage tank to replace the existing undersized and aged redwood tank. The existing water tank, constructed of redwood in 1960, has a storage capacity of 500 k gallons. This project was the highest priority due to current deficiencies, including continued water leakage.

TCPUD consolidated three private water systems on January 2, 2018, adding 1,573 connections or 38% increase in water customer base. For a current map of District systems, visit: http://tahoe.360-biz.com/sites/default/files/images/DistrictWaterServiceAreas_2018_1.pdf

West Lake Tahoe Regional Water Treatment Plant

<http://www.tcpud.org/capital-improvement-projects/west-lake-tahoe-regional-water-treatment-plant-8126>

The Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) is undertaking the construction of a permanent, year round, 1 MGD, surface water, drinking water treatment plant to replace the temporary seasonal treatment plant located at Chambers Landing. The new water treatment plant will provide a reliable, drought-resistant, and safe drinking water source to the TCPUD's McKinney-Quail Water Service area and, potentially, other water systems in the West Lake Tahoe region. In October of 2015, the TCPUD Board of Directors completed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for the project, adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program and approving the project. More information may be found on

the [Environmental Review Page](#). Pending final design and permitting, TCPUD is targeting 2020 for project construction.

This would replace the seasonal interim surface water treatment plant at Chambers Landing, constructed in the spring of 2004. Currently this area is supplied by the Crystal Way Well, the seasonal plant at Chambers Landing, and the emergency interconnect to the McKinney Water District. A failure of the Crystal Way Well could cause a major disruption during the winter months, including a potential emergency boil order if untreated surface water was used. The seasonal plant was intended as an interim solution providing a backup supply to the Crystal Way Well. A permanent secondary source is required. A new surface water treatment plant has been identified as the best solution for this system. A plant capable of supplying, or being expanded to serve more regional needs is anticipated. This will allow a lower cost of service per customer as well as planning for future source needs in the broader area currently served by private water systems.

Other recent projects include:

Madden Creek Systems Acquisition and Intertie In
January 2018, TCPUD acquired and began operating the Madden Creek Water System (formerly Mid Sierra Utilities). Since the acquisition, TCPUD Board of Directors has dedicated significant time towards understanding how to invest in and improve the water supply and fire suppression capabilities of the Madden System.

TCPUD identified a high priority need for backup water supply and additional water storage for the Madden System. To accomplish this, the District developed this project to interconnect the Madden System to the TCPUD's McKinney-Quail Water System. The Project will provide the needed backup water supply and emergency water storage, in addition to replacement of critical water system components to enhance fire protection and improve water delivery and pressure.

Due to the size and complexity of the Project, it has been broken into a two-phased construction schedule; the first phase includes the McKinney-Quail interconnection and associated high pressure transmission line replacement, and the second phase includes water distribution, servicing, and fire protection improvements. Phase 1 construction was scheduled to start in late summer 2019. The project will benefit the public by enhancing water supply and reliability as well as improving fire protection within the water system service area.

Timberland Water Company Interconnection and Distribution Improvements

In January 2018, TCPUD acquired the former Timberland Water Company and began providing water service to Timberland's former customers on January 2, 2018. TCPUD staff identified the Project as a high priority capital improvement project to begin construction activities in 2019. The first phase of the Project includes installation of approximately 4,440 linear feet of 8-inch water main, 487 linear feet of 4-inch water main, 80 service reconnections and meters, 10 new fire hydrants, and 6 refurbished fire hydrants to replace the varying 2-inch to 6-inch existing system infrastructure.

Since acquiring the Timberland Water System in 2018, TCPUD Board of Directors has dedicated significant time understanding how to invest in and improve the water supply and fire suppression capabilities of the system. The Board has approved over \$2 million in 2019 towards this estimated \$3.7 million capital infrastructure project. The project will benefit public health through enhancement of water supply and reliability as well as improving fire protection within the water system service area. Project construction is planned for two phases, starting mid-June 2019.

Tahoe City Mainline Emergency Water Supply

The work consists of constructing approximately 1,400 feet of 12-inch raw water line along Grove Street from the existing Grove Street lake intake to the Tahoe City Golf Course property. The Tahoe City water system currently relies on groundwater wells for drinking water production. The waterline will provide the District with the ability to utilize the existing Grove Street lake intake as a backup water supply source, if drought conditions continue. The waterline will provide the District with the ability to supply raw water to the golf course for irrigation.

Grouse Drive and Upper Ellis Water Line Replacement Project

The work on Grouse Drive consisted of the replacement of 1,005 feet of 6" waterline with new 12" waterline from Bald Eagle Rd to the eastern Snowbird Loop. The work will include the installation of new fire hydrants and replacing service lines to the existing meter pits. The upper Ellis Road work will consist of the replacement of approximately 1,214 feet of 4" and 6" waterline with new 12" waterline from Snowbird Loop to the valve just south of the existing PRV located near lot 100. This work will also include installation of new fire hydrants and replacing service lines to the existing meter pits.

Highway 89 Conductor Casing Crossings

Install empty conductor casing crossings at various points along Highway 89 between Tahoma and Tahoe City. These casings will allow for installation of future water line crossings for anticipated transmission system improvements. Key locations may include areas currently served by other water purveyors. For the next 2-3 years CalTrans will be constructing their environmental improvement project from Tahoma to Tahoe City. Installation of these casings prior to or during the CalTrans project will allow the casing to be installed by open cut method. After the CalTrans project is complete the same conductor would have to be installed by bore and jack, which is both costly and not always successful due to rock and soil conditions.

Tahoe City Public Utility District Water & Sewer Rate Study

HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) presented the draft report on the water and sewer rate study update conducted for the Tahoe City Public Utility District (District). For this update, the study objectives were to provide an independent review of the five-year financial plan, develop rate structure alternatives for Board consideration, and develop a five-year rate schedule that will result in sufficient revenue to fund the operating and capital needs of the water and sewer utilities.

Tahoe City Well Replacement Project

Tahoe City Main water system (Dollar Hill to Tavern Heights) relies primarily on the Tahoe City Wells No. 2 and 3 for source water. During the summer months both wells are required to meet maximum day demand. The loss of one of the wells may require the use of a lake intake depending on the time of year. Use of a lake intake would require heavy chlorination and the posting of a boil water

advisory. The existing Well No. 1 is of good water quality, however similar to Well No. 2 was not drilled deep enough originally. The well was drilled in 1958 and was not cased below 50'. A new well will need to be drilled, however, all of the existing infrastructure can be reused saving considerable expense on other items. This project could delay the need for the development of another water source (surface water treatment plant) for the Tahoe City Main water system.

Highland and Rubicon Line Replacements

This work consisted of the replacement of the District-owned portion of approximately 139 water service lines in the Highlands subdivision and 150 in the Rubicon Water System. All of the lines in the Highlands are located in easements at the back of the properties, while all of the lines in Rubicon are in the road. The service lines located in these areas have experienced significant failures due to polybutylene pipe material becoming brittle and pipe connection methods. Over 25 laterals in each area have been repaired in the last three years. Replacing all of the services at once will save a significant amount of crew time and overall material cost, as well as limiting water loss and property damage due to failure.

2017: Manzanita water line replacement, 800 feet of 2 inch PB that had failed several times.

2017: Two tank interiors were rehabilitated, and two exteriors.

Tahoe City Sewer System Rehabilitation Project

The Tahoe City Public Utility District (District) completed a project to rehabilitate a portion of the Tahoe City sewer system. The sewer lines in the project area were constructed in 1952 and are some of the oldest in the District's system. As part of the project, the District and its consultants will be working within the neighborhood to locate and investigate the condition of existing sewer lines and laterals. Construction occurred in 2015.

TCPUD continues an aggressive water conservation education and services program including rebate credit programs for water customers.

Douglas County Water Systems (Cave Rock, Skyland, Zephyr):

Douglas County is currently in the process of a system wide SCADA upgrade for water systems at Lake Tahoe and Carson Valley. The upgrade is a key component to providing safe, reliable drinking water to customers of Douglas County. The County has recently consolidated all water systems under the responsible care of Douglas County into one Lake Tahoe and Carson Valley water rate structure. The water rate consolidation and increase will provide revenue to implement a robust 10 year Capital Improvement Plan for water systems at both Lake Tahoe and the Carson Valley.

Douglas County has recently adopted a consolidated water rate structure for water systems at both Lake Tahoe and the Carson Valley. The consolidated water rate includes a 6% increase in the rate. See Douglas County website for additional information.

Cave Rock evaluation for intake line replacement or upgrade was conducted in 2015-16, in the event that the lake level continues to drop due to the drought.

U V addition to ZWUD Treatment plant was completed and online spring of 2015.

Marla Bay Intake - 10" check valve was replaced fall of 2015.

Uppaway Booster Station was completed summer of 2015.

2019 TRPA "Best in the Basin" Awards

<https://www.trpa.org/trpa-recognizes-six-projects-with-best-in-basin-awards/>

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) awarded six exceptional projects with Best in Basin awards. Now in its 29th year, TRPA's annual Best in Basin awards program each year showcases projects around the lake that demonstrate exceptional planning, implementation, and compatibility with Tahoe's natural environment and communities.

The project implementers recognized with awards built new mountain trails, reduced stormwater pollution, improved forest health, and wildfire preparedness, and worked to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species at the lake. This year's Best in Basin award winners are:

Incline Flume Trail: Thanks to public and private partnerships, this family-friendly backcountry trail is complete and accessible to nearly all abilities. The project began with the USDA Forest Service officially adopting the trail, which allowed local groups to make significant improvements. The Friends of Incline Trails recognized that this old flume path needed major repair and enhancement. More than 1,500 volunteer hours combined with professional work crews from the USDA Forest Service and American Conservation Corp made the trail possible. The Incline Flume Trail starts just off the Mount Rose Highway and across to Tunnel Creek Road.

Meeks Bay Trail Project: A little more than three-quarters of a mile long, this Class 1 multi-use path is a major addition to the West Shore trail system. The trail links two significant recreational centers on Tahoe's West Shore—Sugar Point Pine State Park southward to the entrance of Meeks Bay Resort. The pathway runs parallel to Highway 89 and significant engineering hurdles were overcome while constructing the trail. The path was constructed in just one season and within existing USDA Forest Service and Caltrans right of ways. Seventy percent of the project required retaining walls, as well as the construction of a large bridge. Central Federal Lands Division of the Federal Highway Administration was the lead agency on this project.

Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystems: There are approximately 4,700 acres of meadow in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and the USDA Forest Service manages some 2,700 acres. TRPA has identified meadows as important areas for restoration. In 2018, the USDA Forest Service completed restoration of Baldwin Meadow. Nearly all trees were removed from the meadow and perimeter trees were thinned. Additional restoration tools used included willow planting, channel repair, and re-routing trails. Forest Service crews also completed a controlled burn of the meadow. Meadow restoration will allow the land to adapt to future conditions brought on by climate change.

Tahoe Keys Bubble Curtain: Invasive plants like Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed have been growing out of control in the Tahoe Keys for years now, and their proliferation has threatened

to spread out into Lake Tahoe proper. The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association and the League to Save Lake Tahoe teamed up with experts from Canada to create an underwater “bubble curtain.” An underwater hose emits a strong current of bubbles that keeps plant fragments from escaping out and into Lake Tahoe. The hose is fanned out in a V-shaped pattern, pushing plant fragments to the outer walls of the channel, which are then collected every afternoon. The goal of the project is containment of the invasive plants, while scientists look for a long-term solution to control the infestation.

Upper Truckee River Reach 5 Restoration Project: Restoration along the Upper Truckee River is the culmination of 7 years of planning by the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the California Tahoe Conservancy. Staging for the project began in 2012, and channel construction continued from 2013 through 2016. Then from 2017-2018, the adaptive management and stabilization phase was completed. The project restored 120 acres and required the re-channeling of 7,340 feet of the Upper Truckee River. The new channel allows for improved aquatic habitat and increased channel and floodplain connectivity while reducing stream bank erosion. During the planning phase, an estimated 10,000 native Western Pearlshell mussels were identified in the project area. The Upper Truckee River is the only river known to contain this mussel in the Lake Tahoe Basin. In the end, some 25,000 mussels were re-located and returned to the river. A significant amount of hand work was required to complete this project by crews from the California Conservation Corps, the Generation Green program, and members of the Youth Conservation Corps.

Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project: This project was completed by the El Dorado County Department of Transportation and tackled runoff and erosion issues in the Country Club Heights area between Meadow Vale Drive and Elks Point Drive. Runoff and erosion were a persistent problem along Boca Raton Drive because of inadequate infrastructure. New improvements include curb and gutter, sediment traps, and infiltration basins, which allow for the re-wetting of the existing meadow system. The meadow now does its proper job of spreading and infiltrating stormwater runoff. This project is an outstanding example of using hardscape and natural systems to capture and treat stormwater runoff.

2018 TRPA “Best in the Basin” Awards

<http://www.trpa.org/trpa-recognizes-nine-projects-with-best-in-basin-awards-2/>

TRPA Recognizes Nine Projects with Best in Basin Awards
October 24, 2018 By Thomas Lotshaw

Stateline, Nevada – The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) on Wednesday recognized nine exceptional projects completed in 2017 with Best in Basin awards. Now in its 28th year, TRPA’s Best in Basin awards program each year showcases projects around the lake that demonstrate exceptional planning, implementation, and compatibility with Tahoe’s natural environment and communities.

The project implementers recognized with awards built new mountain bike trails, reduced stormwater pollution, overhauled roads to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, reduced water and energy usage, improved forest health and wildfire preparedness, and opened new businesses helping communities thrive.

This year's Best in Basin award winners are:

Angora Ridge and Mule Deer Trails: Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association and the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit partnered to build five miles of trails in an area burned by the 2007 Angora Fire. The trails connect to existing trails in the area and lay the groundwork for future trail improvements. Volunteers contributed more than 2,000 hours to help build the trails.

Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement: Placer County and partners overhauled one mile of state Route 28 in Kings Beach and improved roads in neighborhoods adjacent to the commercial core. The project installed bike lanes, sidewalks, landscaping, and roundabouts; reduced coverage; and installed infrastructure to fix drainage issues and capture and treat stormwater runoff that harms Lake Tahoe's clarity.

The Lodge at Edgewood Tahoe: Following an overhaul of its golf course to restore wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat, Edgewood Properties built this world-class lodge that was recently certified as a LEED Silver building for its sustainable design and construction and energy efficiency.

Meyers Stream Environment Zone/Erosion Control: El Dorado County installed numerous stormwater improvements along the roadways of Arapahoe, Bakersfield, Choctaw, Country Club, East San Bernardino, Pioneer, San Diego, Santa Fe, Sioux, and Ute, diverting stormwater to public lots where it can infiltrate into the ground and to restore a 3.5-acre wetland. The project is estimated to reduce fine sediment stormwater pollution from the area by 72 percent, about 51,000 pounds per year.

South Lake Brewing Company: Bill Olin and South Lake Brewing Company overhauled a former hardware store sitting empty for more than five years in South Lake Tahoe, turning it into a new brewery. The project redid everything from the outside façade and landscaping to the interior, turning the empty building into a community gathering place and part of Lake Tahoe's growing brewery industry.

Novus Select: Corey Rich and Chris McNamara partnered to turn an old building on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe into the headquarters for Novus Select, a world-renowned video and photography agency. Rich and McNamara are encouraging others to see the area's older buildings and vacant lots as a great place to live, work, and invest to help make South Lake Tahoe the outdoor recreation capitol of the world.

1127 Lone Indian Trail/South Tahoe Public Utility District Turf Buy-Back Program: Terry and Phyllis Powers partnered with South Tahoe Public Utility District to remove more than 2,000 square feet of turf from their yard and replace it with a mosaic of flowers, native plants, and hardscape that will save thousands of gallons of water annually. In 10 years of the utility district's turf buy-back program, 339 projects have been completed, removing 409,876 square feet of turf to reduce energy usage and save millions of gallons of water each year.

Defensible Space Collector App: Cal Fire, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, and the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partnered to develop a new application that allows all fire agencies at Tahoe to

report and share information about defensible space inspections and compliance in one shareable tool. This provides a holistic approach to identify fire prevention and outreach needs at the homeowner and neighborhood level to help agencies and residents make strides in wildfire preparedness at Tahoe.

Aspen Community Restoration: Aspen stands are ecologically significant because of the wildlife, plants, fungi, and soil processes they support, and some aspen stands bear carvings by Basque shepherders in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Without natural disturbances like wildfire, conifers can rapidly out-compete and displace aspen stands. Since 2009, the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has reduced conifer densities in approximately 450 acres of aspen stands at Tahoe to protect the stands and help ensure they are healthy and regenerating.

2017 TRPA Best in Basin Awards

<http://www.trpa.org/trpa-recognizes-15-projects-with-best-in-basin-awards>

September 28, 2017

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) on Wednesday recognized 15 exceptional projects completed in 2016 with Best in Basin awards.

Now in its 27th year, TRPA's Best in Basin awards program each year showcases projects around the lake that demonstrate exceptional planning, implementation, and compatibility with Tahoe's natural environment and communities.

The 15 public and private project implementers recognized with Best in Basin awards restored streams and wetlands, cleaned contaminated properties, built bike trails and shared-use paths, improved forest health and community wildfire preparedness, reduced stormwater pollution that harms Lake Tahoe's famous water clarity, and revitalized communities.

"People are making tremendous progress to restore and conserve Lake Tahoe's natural environment, improve the vitality of our communities, and make the region more sustainable," said Joanne S. Marchetta, executive director of TRPA. "The amount of partnership and collaboration demonstrated by this year's award winners, and the number of privately funded projects, shows Lake Tahoe is working together like never before."

This year's Best in Basin award winners are:

Kingsbury Stinger Trail: The U.S. Forest Service and nonprofit Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association partnered to build this multi-use trail that runs from the Andria Drive trailhead in upper Kingsbury to the Tahoe Rim Trail and ends at Terrace View Street in lower Kingsbury, connecting with a Class 1 bike path there. The project restored a steep and heavily-eroding old trail alignment. More than 100 people contributed to the project with 1,500 hours of volunteer work. Project partners: American Conservation Experience, State of Nevada Recreational Trails Program.

Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment, Phase 1: Nevada Tahoe Conservation District daylighted a portion of Burke Creek in Stateline that was previously in an underground culvert,

creating 200 feet of new stream channel, functioning floodplains, and installing a new, more appropriately sized stream crossing under Highway 50. Project partners: Balance Hydrologics, Wood Rodgers, Burdick Excavating, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Division of State Lands, Douglas County, U.S. Forest Service.

Edgewood Lodge and Golf Course Improvement Project: Edgewood Companies made major improvements to its golf course water features, which receive stormwater from surrounding areas and function as the final treatment area before they discharge into Edgewood Creek and Lake Tahoe. The project renewed storage capacity of ponds, created new wetlands and 32,766 square feet of new stream environment zone, and significantly reduces fine sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus pollution into Lake Tahoe. Project partners: Nichols Consulting Engineers, Sierra Nevada Construction, Soil Tech, SMC Construction.

Tahoe Mountain Lab: Cristi and Bernard Creegan and Jamie and David Orr overhauled the Tahoe Daily Tribune building in South Lake Tahoe, turning it into a unique co-working space for startup businesses and entrepreneurs and a gathering place for the community. The project improved the building's energy efficiency by 34 percent; built upon the success of the recent Harrison Avenue upgrades; and breathed new life and vitality into an aging and under-utilized building. Project partners: Creegan Builders, Joe Ward, Gabbart and Woods, Tahoe Daily Tribune.

Sierra Tract Erosion Control Project Phases 3-4: The City of South Lake Tahoe upgraded several hundred acres of the Sierra Tract neighborhood to reduce nuisance flooding and stormwater pollution into the Upper Truckee River. The project installed curb and gutter on neighborhood roads, above- and below-ground infiltration basins and treatment facilities, and protection for road shoulders. Project partners: CDM Smith Inc.; Western Botanical Services, Burdick Excavating.

Lake Tahoe Unified School District Energy Upgrades: The district secured a \$763,000 grant through the California Clean Energy Jobs Act Proposition 39 K-12 Program to update aging and energy inefficient facilities. The project installed building automation systems, upgraded 7,287 interior and exterior lights to more efficient LED lighting, installed a high-efficiency HVAC system at the district office, installed smart irrigation systems district-wide, and installed high-efficiency windows at the middle school. Investment totaled \$2.7 million, with potential lifecycle savings of more than \$6 million. Project partners: Climatec, Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative.

Silliman Slope Stabilization: Property owners stabilized 145 feet of heavily eroding slope between Fallen Leaf Lake Road and Fallen Leaf Lake with rip-rap, boulders, and vegetation to protect the lake from erosion and improve public safety on the narrow road. Project partners: John and Rich Silliman, John Larsen, Randy M. Klitsch/TECS, Tahoe Outdoor Living.

Camp Richardson BMP Retrofit: The U.S. Forest Service and Camp Richardson Resort Inc. partnered to upgrade the popular Camp Richardson tent and RV campgrounds with paved roadways and parking areas to reduce dust, best management practices and infiltration basins to reduce stormwater pollution, new restrooms and a check-in kiosk, and bear-proof food lockers at campsites. The project reduced impervious coverage in stream environment zones and reduced overall coverage by 20 percent.

Lake Valley Wood Roof Replacement Program: Shortly after the Angora Fire, Lake Valley Fire Protection District secured a federal grant that has helped nearly 400 homeowners replace hazardous wood-shake roofs with non-combustible roofing materials and create defensible space on their properties, improving community resilience to wildfires and helping create fire-adapted communities at Lake Tahoe. Project partners: California Office of Emergency Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency, local roofing contractors, and City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County building officials.

Cave Rock Tunnel Extension: Nevada Department of Transportation built a 60-foot-long, 27-foot-tall tunnel extension carefully blended into the surrounding landscape to protect the traveling public from falling rocks at Cave Rock. The project included measures to improve scenery, lighting upgrades, road repaving, and improved signage to alert motorists of icy conditions and bicyclists in the tunnel. The project also included water quality improvements along nearly four miles of U.S. Highway 50 to reduce stormwater pollution into Lake Tahoe. Project partners: Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Q&D Construction, CA Group Inc., Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, South Shore Transportation Management Association, Tahoe Transportation District, Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce, Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, Hi-Tech Rockfall Construction, Nevada Highway Patrol, Titan Electrical, Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, CMC Steel.

Northwood Boulevard Fuel Reduction: Property owner James Hite, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, and Healthy Trees, Inc. partnered to thin 15 acres of dangerously overgrown forest in Incline Village, reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health and resilience. Project partner: Nevada Division of Forestry.

Somers Loop Water Quality Improvement: Nevada Pacific Development Corporation, David and Cheryl Duffield, and a team of partners restored the former Stack Estate, a 6.4-acre lakefront site in Crystal Bay. Working in steep and rugged terrain with near-surgical precision, the project removed seven dilapidated structures, removed five abandoned septic systems and 20 drums of hazardous household waste, restored 12,769 square feet of native vegetation, and removed 540 cubic yards of soil and rock contaminated with diesel fuel, motor oil, kerosene, or lead to achieve a clean close for the site from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. Project partners: Midkiff & Associates, Inc.; Marlette Environmental Consulting, LLC; Resource Concepts, Inc.; Tri-State Surveying, Ltd.; Walden West Design; Olsen Engineering; Wise Consulting & Training; Cruz Construction Company, Inc.; Clean Harbors Environmental Services; Kelley Erosion Control, Inc.; Alpha Analytical, Inc.; Advance Installations, Inc.; Nelson Electric Company; High Sierra Blasting; Luke Landscape Contractors, LLC.

Tahoe Beachfront Residences: Todd Davidson and partners razed an old, lakefront hotel on state Route 28 in Kings Beach to build this new residential project, marking the first significant private investment after the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project. The project reduced the number of units on site and vehicle miles traveled, reduced impervious coverage at the site by 11 percent, installed best management practices to improve water quality, improved scenic qualities from the lake and highway, and established a new node of vibrancy in a Kings Beach community ripe for investment and revitalization. Project partners: GLAMorris, Dale Cox Architecture, Bill Johnson, Arnett & Associates, PR Design and Engineering, Inc.

Homewood Bike and Pedestrian Trail: Tahoe City Public Utility District and partners completed this 1-mile “missing link” in the West Shore Bike Trail, which runs from Tahoe City to Sugar Pine State Park. The trail runs between Cherry Street and Fern Street in Homewood, improving on a popular community and recreation amenity, increasing safety and recreation opportunities, and helping people travel the West Shore without a motor vehicle. Project partners: Auerbach Engineering, Dokken Engineering, Vinciguerra Construction, Caltrans, Homewood Mountain Resort, Placer County, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, California Tahoe Conservancy, California Natural Resources Agency, Tahoe Fund, Placer County Parks.

Lake Tahoe Info Website: This new [website](#) launched by TRPA and other partners in the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is a clearinghouse for information on all EIP projects, which entities funded them, when and where they were completed, and what they accomplished. The website puts the full story of the EIP at the fingertips of anyone with a computer, no small feat for a program with more than 50 public and private partners that have invested more than \$2 billion over two decades in projects to conserve and restore Lake Tahoe’s environment. Project partners: U.S. EPA, TRPA, Sitka Technology Group, Environmental Incentives.

2016 TRPA Best in Basin Awards

<http://www.pressreleasepoint.com/trpa-recognizes-nine-projects-best-basin-awards>

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) announced and recognized nine award recipients for its annual Best in Basin program. Now in its 26th year, TRPA’s Best in Basin program recognizes and showcases projects that demonstrate exceptional planning and implementation and compatibility with Lake Tahoe’s environment and communities.

The nine project implementers recognized with Best in Basin awards built bike paths and a bike park, improved energy efficiency at one of Tahoe’s resorts, restored streams and wildlife habitat, reduced stormwater pollution that washes into the lake and harms its famous water clarity, and restored the Angora Fire burn area.

These projects illustrate the progress our partners are making to restore and conserve our environment, improve our communities, and make our region more sustainable, “These projects illustrate the progress our partners are making to restore and conserve our environment, improve our communities, and make our region more sustainable,” said Joanne S. Marchetta, ED of TRPA.

The projects recognized with Best in Basin awards are:

Granlibakken Energy Upgrades: Working with Sierra Business Council, Placer County, and the mPOWER program, Granlibakken Tahoe upgraded its heating and air conditioning systems and kitchen appliances with more energy-efficient units. The project results in an estimated 43 percent reduction in energy use and annual savings up to \$44,000. The resort has also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of its Better Buildings Challenge showcase projects.

Bijou Bike Park: South Lake Tahoe volunteers with the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association and Elite Trax built this highly-popular recreation site. The bike park includes a world class BMX track, two pump tracks, three slopestyle jump lines, and a perimeter of loop trail—all nestled in five acres

of forested land in Bijou Community Park, a convenient location in the center of the South Lake Tahoe community.

Central Incline Village Phase II Water Quality Improvement: Washoe County and partners installed infiltration basins, sediment cans, inlets, and infiltration galleries, pervious concrete road shoulders, filters, and monitoring equipment to reduce stormwater pollution in 244 acres of Incline Village.

Sawmill 2B Bike Path and Erosion Control Project: El Dorado County and partners built 1.2 miles of Class 1 bikeway, completing an important transportation link connecting South Lake Tahoe and Meyers. The bikeway connects neighborhoods, schools, and popular recreation sites. The project included water quality improvement features to reduce erosion and stormwater pollution and also thinned thick forested areas along the bikeway to help reduce wildfire risk.

Middle Rosewood Creek Area A Stream Environment Zone Restoration: Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and its partners restored more than 2,100 feet of stream channel and floodplain to improve water quality, fish passage, and wildlife habitat. This stretch of Middle Rosewood Creek was severely degraded before the project and had the potential to deliver thousands of cubic yards of sediment into Lake Tahoe over the next two decades, making it a high-priority restoration area.

Lower Chipmunk and Outfall Water Quality Improvement: Placer County and partners completed this project to capture stormwater and reduce sediment loads from Lower Chipmunk Street, Brockway Vista East, and State Route 28.

Incline Creek Restoration, State Route 28 Culvert: Incline Village General Improvement District and its partners relined and upgraded this culvert to prolong its service life and also improve fish passage, stream habitat, and water quality. Before the project, the culvert dropped water more than four feet down on the other side. The project built a series of riffle and pool step sections to gradually raise the stream bed up to the culvert, creating low-flow fish passage for longer periods of migration.

Lake Forest Water Quality Improvement: Placer County and partners improved water quality and erosion control and restored stream environment zones in a 173-acre area around Lake Forest Beach. The project installed filters, drop inlets, sediment cans, and curb and gutter to reduce stormwater pollution, upgraded compacted dirt road shoulders with pervious concrete that allows for stormwater infiltration and roadside parking at this popular recreation site, and also restored a wet meadow area.

Angora Burn Area Restoration Phase III: Following the Angora Fire in 2007, the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit took immediate steps to manage the 3,100 acre burn area to address immediate erosion risks. Over the last nine years the Forest Service, working with community and government partners, has reforested 672 acres, restored 44 acres of aspen and meadow, completed 1,400 acres of fuels reduction and forest thinning to reduce wildfire risk, relocated roads and trails out of stream zones and upgraded them with best management practices, installed new wayfinding signage for better recreation access, and restored 2,000 feet of stream channel.

Additional information about this year’s award winning projects and photos are available at <http://www.trpa.org/best-in-basin-map/>. For additional information, TRPA Public Information Officer at 775-589-5278.

Securing Funding for Watershed Control Programs

Appointed staff members from each participating water agency form the TWSA Board of Directors. The largest partner, IVGID, offers its Resource Conservationist as the Association’s Executive Director. IVGID provides additional staff support for TWSA activities with the services of the Director of Public Works and Resource Conservation Technician. A partner agreement stipulates cost sharing of the expenses incurred by IVGID on behalf of the association. Members pay an annual fee, in part proportional to the size of their service areas and in part, in equal amounts representing common administrative costs. The average annual budget is now \$145,000.

This funding is used to support TWSA programs including: staffing costs, agency advocacy, event sponsorship, customer handouts such as dog waste campaign expenses, refillable water bottles, radio and print advertising, member staff training, school programs, scholarships and TWSA publications. Other projects such as the USACE Lake Tahoe Risk Assessment Model are cost shared above the annual budget, as needed.

Public Education

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association has a defined public outreach and education campaign for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Our websites are www.TahoeH2O.org (and) www.DrinkTahoeTap.org. Key outreach messages included: “Drink Tahoe Tap®”, the “Tap It” network; “Do You Know Where Your Drinking Water Comes From?”, “Protect the Source” and “They Drop It; You Drink It”. Extensive information of the various TWSA outreach campaigns are listed in the Action Plan Highlights earlier in this report. 2020 had major new Drink Tahoe Tap / Take Care campaigns launch.

TWSA provides referral to the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and Tahoe Resource Conservation District free BMP landscape evaluation services. By working with partner agencies, the topic of aquatic invasive species prevention is provided to the public. Water conservation, appreciation of tap water, watershed protection and pollution prevention messages are delivered to the public. The primary means of distribution for the educational campaigns include: a website, videos, print media, web, tv and radio ads, public service announcements and personal interaction at community events. TWSA has an ambitious program of sponsorship of refillable water containers (bottles) as a major outreach component.

Water Emergency Declaration for California 2014-15; restrictions eased in 2015-16

On the California side of the lake, emergency water use restrictions were declared statewide due to extended drought conditions. NTPUD, STPUD and TCPUD all enacted emergency water reduction notices, increased levels of enforcement and ramped up their water conservation/education/ rebate programs.

On the Nevada side, members promote voluntary actions such as restriction on daytime landscape watering and installation of low flow fixtures and appliances. Most have ordinances prohibiting water waste. Purveyors provide water conservation information each spring to customers via billing inserts and newspaper articles.

Water Efficiency (Water Conservation) Activities

Details of actions taken by member agencies are provided in the previous chapter, Action Plan Highlights. Water conservation plans and outreach are an integral part of the member agencies’ messages to customers. Efforts concentrate on outdoor water usage rather than indoor usage. In the past 3 years, many of the TWSA members have lowered base gallon allocations, reduced tier trigger levels, and increased consumption and service rates.

The California systems are making efforts to achieve the CA 20 x 2020 rule (20% reduction in water use by year 2020). The 20x2020 *Water Conservation Plan* sets forth a statewide road map to maximize the state’s urban water efficiency and conservation opportunities between 2009 and 2020, and beyond. It aims to set in motion a range of activities designed to achieve the 20 percent per capita reduction in urban water demand by 2020. These activities include improving an understanding of the variation in water use across California, promoting legislative initiatives that incentivize water agencies to promote water conservation, and creating evaluation and enforcement mechanisms to assure regional and statewide goals are met. The 20x2020 Plan discusses these many activities in detail.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/hot_topics/20x2020

Free landscape water use audits are offered to limited areas within the TWSA watersheds.

TWSA provided leak detection tablets and water conservation information in outreach materials.

TWSA / Waste Not education programs, categorized by group, scope, and extent of public outreach.

WASTE NOT Education and Outreach Programs

Program	Detail	Estimate of Potential Reach
Staff	3 full time staff assigned to Waste Not (and Tahoe Water Suppliers Association) education and outreach. Current staff are AWWA Water Efficiency Practitioner Grade I certified and attended (Irrigation Association) Irrigation Auditor Training	All IVGID customers, all TWSA customers
Print Media / Ads	Tahoe Tribune Newspaper Tahoe Quarterly Magazine Tahoe Local Magazines	2 to 5 ads annually (Tribune) 20,000 newspapers distributed per issue (Other publications) 60,000-100,000 copies per printing

Television and radio	Public service announcements	1-12 assorted messages annual; custom or regional Take Care messaging
Utility Bill Flyers	Information focused on water conservation	4,200 "PW News" newsletters mailed to utility customers 12 x annually. Water conservation information featured in summer months.
Brochures to class participants, utility customers and attendees at public events	"Drink Tahoe Tap" "Protect the Source". "Keep your Water Clean" "Tahoe Top 10 Water Conservation Tips" "Water Conservation at Home" "Native Plants" "Leak Detection" "IVGID Water System" IVGID Wastewater System"	500 to 2000 of each flyer printed and distributed annually
Watershed Protection Signage / Tools	Dog Waste Stations; Cigarette Butt bins; Take Care signage	90 Dog waste stations distributed within the watershed ; 125 cigarette bins distributed in watershed; multiple signage placements
Websites: Tahoe Water Suppliers Association IVGID Social Media	www.TahoeH2O.org www.DrinkTahoeTap.org www.ivgid.org Facebook: Drink Tahoe Tap; IVGID Public Works	5,000 – 10,000 annual hits Custom and regional Take Care messaging
Conservation Tools for customers	Dye tabs, leak detection cards, shower times, Tahoe Landscape Guide, native wildflower seeds, refillable water bottles, dog waste bags	5,000 -10,000 annual
Efficiency Rebates	\$100 HE appliance rebates (ULF toilet/HE clothes washer)	1-100 customers; annual
Landscape Water Use Consultations & Audits	District staff provides free, on-site analysis of irrigation practices for customers. Full audits conducted on as-need basis.	1-10 per summer

“Water Waste” door hangers	District staff posts educational door hanger at properties observed with runoff, poor irrigation practices, daytime watering, etc.....	1- 50 per summer
High Water Use ‘courtesy alert’ messages	Customers with monthly bills trigger high use; leak detection warning; customized billing messages; advertising the free water use consultations.	25 to 300 per month; summer
Billing Analysis	Meter reads are analyzed by District Meter Reader and billing staff for large increases attributed to leaks, over-irrigation.	15 to 100 customers per month
Presentations	Presentations to local schools (K-20), Homeowner Association, Board of Realtors, etc. Ongoing classroom presentations on source water protection and water conservation.	1-6 presentations annually on IVGID services and programs, including water conservation. Presented to various grades at Incline Village Elementary, Middle School, High School. (200-500 students) Sierra Watershed Education Partnership Trashion Shows focus on water conservation and Drink Tahoe Tap ®.
Public Events		
Earth Day (2 annual)	Water Conservation / Water Quality education booth	5,000+ attendees (North Shore) 800 attendees (South Shore)
Children’s Science Days (2 annual)	Water Conservation / Water Quality education booth	1000+ elementary grade students
SnapShot Day	Tahoe to Pyramid Lake regional citizens monitoring program	Over 300 volunteers watershed-wide, annual event

Other Community Outreach events	Collaboration at environmental education events held in Incline Village; North and South Lake Tahoe. Staff provides a Water Quality/Conservation education booth, taste test and activities.	50-2000 attendees per event; average 1-2 events monthly.
Demonstration Garden Classes	Classes related to native plant gardening, irrigation , composting	5 to 10 students at each class; series of 4-6 classes offered each summer.
NTPCD BMP Classes	3 hour BMP workshops	3 to 5 classes annually; 20 attendees per class
Beach sampling	District staff conducts regular sampling at 6 Incline Village locations.	12-18 samples annual

Metering

Water conservation efforts by the purveyors have increased with additional purveyors going to metered systems.

- IVGID has all metered connections, with a 3 tier increasing block rate structure.
- NTPUD is a fully metered system, with a 2 tier increasing block rate structure.
- KGID is a fully metered system, with a 3 tier increasing block rate structure.
- Glenbrook is not metered.
- Douglas County has some meters installed in the Cave Rock and ZWUD systems.
- TCPUD is fully metered and began consumption based water rates for residential customers in 2009.
- Edgewood changed out all meters in 2009-2010.
- RHGID is a fully metered system, with a 3 tier increasing block rate structure.

Leak Detection

- IVGID meter reading staff conducts monthly billing analysis and on-site leak detection assistance for customers. Distribution system leak detection is ongoing. The district has reduced system water loss to less than 10%.
- TCPUD’s program includes annual leak detection. TCPUD completes a system-wide water audit program, monthly. Thirteen separate areas comprising the entire water service area are audited monthly. A running annual audit is also conducted for the entire system using AWWA provided software. TCPUD installed a backwash recycling system at the McKinney Quail Water Treatment facility. Over 90% of backwash water is now recycled. TCPUD also started a large meter testing program.
- NTPUD has installed the next generation MLOG radio. Itron has combined the MLOG technology with their ERT series and it is called the 100W + Leak Sensor. When deployed, it monitors the segment of the distribution system around the clock, acoustically surveying the integrity of the system. The 100 Series module collects and stores up to 40 days of hourly

reads from the customer-side leaks. At the same time, it is also collecting and storing the data from the leak sensor. The leak sensor samples the pipe conditions every 22.5 minutes, totaling 64 times per day. These readings are collected from the 100W at the same time the automated meter reading is done. Each sensor will cover up to 300 linear feet. The District began installing the 100W with each new meter upgrade and/or ERT replacement. Presently, the 100W + sensors are being installed in areas of habitual main leaks that warrant constant monitoring.

- KGID conducts in house detection, ongoing.
- RHGID tracks unaccounted for water.

Mapping (See maps located at end of report)

Using the 2002 Sanitary Survey updates and corresponding watershed maps as a template, the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association started a watershed mapping program in 2003. TWSA staff has developed extensive reference maps, defined by watershed, on the Lake Tahoe basin as a method to: describe the watersheds, identify land ownership and land use changes, ascertain potential sources of drinking water contamination, and locate potential areas of future monitoring. Maps have been created for the water purveyors that describe: land ownership, land use, general description and location, service boundaries, potential contaminating sources and recreation. The maps have been useful in describing the watershed features, identifying inconsistencies and areas of improvement for basin-wide mapping programs, locating potential sources of contamination, and structuring education and monitoring programs.

Fire Flow / Emergency Interties

Regional fire-flow funding update is provided in earlier section “Action Plan Highlights”.

Beginning in 2007- 2008, TWSA members began to research the feasibility of additional infrastructure to link several district water supplies, in order to increase water availability during potential emergencies. It was determined the agencies in the southeastern section of the lake had the most potential to intertie.

- The Douglas County systems worked with JWA engineering on an intertie evaluation.
- In 2008, KGID and Edgewood completed an intertie.
- LPA completed a 10" intertie with STPUD in 2007.
- TCPUD completed an emergency intertie with Tahoe Park Water Company in 2016 proving water to Tahoe Park only.
- IVGID and NTPUD have an emergency intertie available.

TWSA/United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Lake Tahoe Source Water Risk Assessment 2008

Current research in the Tahoe Basin includes studies on the effect of shoreline activities on drinking water quality. Perri Standish-Lee of Black and Veatch completed a study on the effects of human recreation on drinking water quality in 2006. Results indicate that any activities capable of introducing contaminants to Lake Tahoe’s Near Shore Zone can have a direct impact on water quality. Water quality degradation can result in a possible waterborne disease outbreak or a loss of filter avoidance; thus, putting the burden of water filtration installation costs on local residents.

The Risk Assessment Project/Model (Phase 1), primarily funded by USACE with some TWSA matching funds, was completed in the fall of 2008. This project quantified the risk of contamination from potential sources for three of the TWSA water suppliers' drinking water intakes, and provided a working spreadsheet to evaluate potential risks from spills and Shorezone development. The Risk Assessment can be used to identify potential mitigation for high risk activities and/or emergencies. Importantly, the assessment will help identify response time necessary, based on time of travel maps, to protect human health during an emergency. The development of the model provides water purveyors with a hands-on system to quantify immediate potential threats to the raw water used in the municipal water delivery systems, from proposed projects. It also helps to identify potential mitigations for a proposed activity, and it will provide water suppliers with information to react to emergency spills and/or leaks of potential contaminants within their watersheds.

TWSA Risk Assessment / Model Projects (RAM)

Copies of the Risk Assessment Reports are available by contacting the TWSA Executive Director madonna_dunbar@ivgid.org.

2013-14 Refinements of 2008 Model

The NDEP began discussion of further refinement of the 2008 Report and initiated a contract with the Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC) through IVGID as a fiscal agent in June 2013. Working collaboratively with researchers at the TSC, the NDEP and TWSA commissioned the study to use new, more highly refined, water current data in the model and re-evaluate at a minimum the southeastern corner of Lake Tahoe (Intake areas for Edgewood/Kingsbury/Lakeside).

"2014 Lake Tahoe Flow Modeling, Potential Pathogen Transport and Risk Modeling Report"

S. Geoffrey Schladow, Andrea Hoyer, Francisco Rueda and Michael Anderson/ June 2014:

In spring 2013, NDEP initiated discussion with TWSA to fund Phase 2 of the Lake Tahoe Risk Assessment Model developed in 2008 (Black & Veatch, B&V Project No. 41717). Phase 2 was funded by NDEP (\$74,000) and TWSA (\$19,000) for a total of \$95,000 in 2013-14.

There has been significant improvement in the data available on lake currents since 2008, so the upgrades were allowed to provide better modeling with more refined area grids based on this new data. This project re-analyzed lake water current patterns in the southeastern corner of Lake Tahoe, in the area of the Edgewood and Kingsbury intakes. The analysis is related to public water systems at Lake Tahoe and the impact that local potential contaminating activities have on the source water. In addition to new data, new potential contaminating activities have been proposed near the public water system intakes, which will also impact system specific risk models.

Flow Modeling and Pathogens (PO # S004422)

Executive Summary

Swimming and other body-contact recreational activities have been identified by the USEPA, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the California Department of Health Services and other public health professionals as a potential source of microbiological contamination of recreational waters.

This study was undertaken to quantify the impacts of body contact recreation on microbial water quality at the Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID) and Edgewood Water Company intakes on Lake Tahoe.

This study builds upon the risk assessment conducted previously (Black and Veatch, 2008), and specifically incorporates 5 new features:

- (i) Findings of new 3-D hydrodynamic simulations for the nearshore southeastern portion of Lake Tahoe;
- (ii) Development of a finer-scale 50 m x 50 m finite-segment pathogen fate-consumer risk model;
- (iii) Additional recreational use associated with the proposed Beach Club and Edgewood Lodge/Resort developments;
- (iv) Risk assessment for the Edgewood Water Company intake; and
- (v) Treatment plant upgrades at KGID and Edgewood that include UV disinfection meeting the requirements of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment rule (LT2). As in the prior study, this risk assessment focused on *Cryptosporidium* because of its low infectious dose, environmental persistence and resistance to conventional disinfection.

Mean annual *Cryptosporidium* concentrations were predicted using a Monte Carlo-based pathogen fate-consumer risk model. Dose-response calculations applied to predicted concentrations following treatment provided probabilistic estimates of health risks resulting from consumption of recreationally-impacted treated drinking water.

Model simulations demonstrate that the additional recreational use at Beach Club and Edgewood Lodge/Resort beaches, in conjunction with improved understanding of transport, results in increased potential for *Cryptosporidium* to reach the KGID and Edgewood intakes. For example, the median annual concentration at the KGID intake increased from 0.0018 oocysts/100 L (Black and Veatch, 2008) to 0.0082 oocysts/100 L, although the additional 3-log removal achieved with UV disinfection following ozonation greatly lowered treated water concentrations and substantially lowered risk of infection. The predicted median annual risk of infection was lowered from 0.23 (Black and Veatch, 2008) to 0.0011 infections/10,000/yr (this study) for KGID, while the probability of exceeding the USEPA target of 1 infection/10,000/yr was reduced from 4.9% (Black and Veatch, 2008) to <0.02 infections/10,000/yr (the lowest probability limit based upon the number of simulations). The median predicted annual risk level for the upgraded ozone+UV Edgewood plant was 0.0007 infections/10,000/ yr, with <0.02% probability of exceeding the USEPA target (lowest probability limit).

The modeling results that underpinned these conclusions provide a number of additional insights to minimizing pathogen entrainment into drinking water intakes. Primarily, by using a technique developed under this project, it is now possible to determine the source area of pathogens (or any other contaminant) that arrive at a water intake. The results also provide insight into the complex

interplay between the windfield, the strength of the lake's thermal stratification and the transport patterns of pathogens. Most notably, having an intake located below the maximum depth of the thermocline greatly reduces the frequency of pathogen arrival at the intake. This has other implications with respect to lake level and drought conditions.

With prolonged drought episodes (predicted to be more frequent under future climatic conditions), lake level will be lower and thereby reduce the depth of the water intakes. Under those conditions the period of time favorable for pathogen transport to the intakes is likely to increase significantly. Similarly, the time of water withdrawal can be used to minimize risk. Night time and early morning withdrawals seem to pose the greatest risk, as pathogens released the previous day have had little opportunity to be de-activated by solar radiation. This highlights the linkage between drinking water quality and maintenance of high water clarity, particularly in the nearshore region. Maximizing the penetration of UV radiation from solar radiation into the water column provides "free" water treatment.

The release of a surrogate for herbicide transport from the vicinity of Tahoe Keys was simulated, and showed that herbicide could be transported to the vicinity of the nearshore regions of south-east Lake Tahoe within a 24 hour period. Within that period, material did not actually arrive at any of the water intakes, but based on other results in this report, that would occur within less than 48 hours. It must be borne in mind that these results are a first estimate of the fate of herbicides. No account has been taken of the dilution that a real plume of herbicide would be subject to, and the possible breakdown into other chemicals. Likewise the toxicity (if any) of the herbicide for the case of consumption or body contact recreation has not been considered as it was beyond the scope of the study. However, should the use of herbicides be permitted at Lake Tahoe, there is a strong case that a more complete study of the fate of these products on public health should be undertaken. A TWSA sponsored workshop on this report and the current data was offered on Nov. 5 and 6, 2014 by Dr. Schladow at both north and south Tahoe locations. The presentations were covered by local media.

<http://www.laketahoenews.net/2014/11/scientists-studying-life-below-taho-s-surface/>

and at

<http://www.recordcourier.com/news/13714581-113/lake-tahoe-schladow-wind>

2008 Phase 1:

Executive Summary - TWSA B&V Project 41717

Summary & Conclusions

Time of travel maps were developed for the watershed. Watershed travel times varied with flow; at low flow rates, the time to reach Lake Tahoe from 1 to 2 miles ((1.6 – 3.2 km) away in the watershed was less than 16 hours, while high flow resulted in travel times from anywhere in the watershed to be less than 10 hours.

Pathogen fate-consumer risk model calculations found water quality to be generally good at the Burnt Cedar, McKinney-Quail and Kingsbury Grade intakes, although body contact recreation does represent a potential threat to drinking water quality for intakes with high levels of recreation use nearby and, most importantly, limited removal at the treatment plant.

Three primary variables most directly influence the risk posed to water quality at the water supply intakes in Lake Tahoe:

- Recreational use (including the number of recreators, location of recreation and prevalence of infection within the recreator population).
- Direction and magnitude of advective currents in the vicinity of the intake.
- Effectiveness of treatment processes at the water treatment plant (WTP).

The vulnerability of the intakes to sewage and fuel spills and other contaminating events within the watershed will also be dependent upon the location and magnitude of an input, the direction and speed of advective and dispersive transport, dilution, contaminant losses within the water column.

Risk Assessment Model 2008

As part of the Risk Assessment, a model was developed. The model serves as a tool for decision making, by evaluating potentially contaminating activity within one quarter mile (1320 feet) of intakes and can help determine the level of risk of human disease, transmission, and infection. The RAM can be used to identify potential mitigation for high risk activities and/or emergencies. Importantly, the assessment will help identify response time necessary, based on time of travel maps, to protect human health during an emergency.

ARkStorm@Tahoe Project

<http://tahoescience.org/arkstorm-project>

Addressing social and ecological impacts of extreme winter storm events in the Lake Tahoe region. What is an ARkStorm? Atmospheric rivers (ARs) are large flows of water vapor that typically occur in fall and winter, bringing huge amounts of moisture over the Pacific to the U.S. West Coast. Landfalling ARs are storm events with the potential to deliver extreme amounts of precipitation to the West Coast, including California and Nevada, over a just a few days. The name “ARkStorm” was coined to describe large AR storm sequences, which, for instance, can produce precipitation in California that in places can exceed totals experienced only once every several hundred to 1,000 years. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Multi Hazards Demonstration Project (MHDP) designed a scientifically-plausible winter ARkStorm scenario for California emergency managers, stitching together historical AR storms from 1969 and 1986, separated by only 4 days.

This hypothetical ARkStorm would rival but not exceed the intense California winter storms of 1861 and 1862 that left the Central Valley of California flooded and the state’s economy destroyed. It was designed to exceed any single storm in the 20th Century. On September 12, 2013 a meeting was facilitated at Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) for the TWSA members and other agency representatives to discuss the operations of water and sewer supply systems during a potential long-term storm event. A March 14, 2014 Tabletop Exercise (TTX) was run at the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) in Reno, NV.

Winter 2016-17 became an ‘test’ ArkStorm situation, with flooding impacts in the Truckee River Corridor and Reno/Carson areas.

Water Demand and Sewer Services

TRPA: http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/18_Ch12_Implementation_FINAL_9_30_2016.pdf

Water Demand

Water rights in the Lake Tahoe Region are controlled by the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA), which was signed on September 6, 2008 and went into effect in 2015. The TROA formalizes, regulates and monitors water rights and water use in the Tahoe Region, the Truckee River watershed, and the final outflow areas of Pyramid Lake and the Carson River in Nevada. Under the TROA, total water extractions in the Tahoe Region are capped at 34,000 acre feet per year, limiting each state as follows:

California: 23,000 acre feet per year
 Nevada: 11,000 acre feet per year

The Tahoe Region has numerous public water systems, including large-scale and small-scale (i.e., less than 200 households) systems. In addition, there are many single-use intake lines along Lake Tahoe’s shoreline and wells. The large-scale water and wastewater treatment systems in the Tahoe Region are provided by public utility districts (PUDs) and general improvement districts (GIDs). On the California side of the Region, PUDs may acquire, construct, own, complete, use, and operate a variety of services, including water, electricity, recreational facilities, drainage facilities, street lighting, and fire protection. Similarly, Nevada GIDs oversee the development, maintenance, and use of public facilities such as water and sewer systems, streets and sidewalks, and parks and open space. Since 1968, all wastewater in the Tahoe Region has been treated and pumped out of the Region to avoid discharge into the lake. Districts are bound by service areas and directed through boards created by local governments.

The following PUDs and GIDs operate within the Tahoe Region:

Cave Rock Estates GID	Oliver Park GID
Incline Village GID	Round Hill GID
Kingsbury GID	South Tahoe PUD
Lakeridge GID	Tahoe City PUD
Logan Creek Estates GID	Zephyr Cove GID
Marla Bay GID	Zephyr Heights GID
North Tahoe PUD	Zephyr Knolls GID

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA, 2015) consists of public water suppliers in the Lake Tahoe Region that use Lake Tahoe as their source of drinking water. TWSA consists of:

Cave Rock Water System (Cave Rock; Douglas County)
Edgewood Water Company (Edgewood)
Glenbrook Water Cooperative (Glenbrook)
Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)
Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID)
Lakeside Park Association (LPA)
Zephyr Water Utility (Zephyr; Douglas County)
North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)
Round Hill General Improvement District (RHGID)
Skyland Water Company (Skyland; Douglas County)
South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD)
Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD)

In 2015, TWSA suppliers served approximately 20,597 service hookups, supplying water to approximately 34,410 residents. The average daily water flow for TWSA suppliers ranges from 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 2,690,000 gpd. Peak daily water flow ranges from 424,000 gpd to 5,945,000 gpd (TWSA, 2015).

Numerous water purveyors distribute water from groundwater sources throughout the Region, including South Tahoe Public Utility District, Lukins Brothers Water and the Tahoe Keys Water Company.

Water demand in the Lake Tahoe Region varies year to year due to changes in resident and/or visitor populations, length of summer growing seasons (for outdoor irrigation), and drought conditions (which can lead to local water restrictions imposed by local utility districts). Water conservation is encouraged by many Lake Tahoe water purveyors. The South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD), for example, provides a lawn turf buy-back program, water-efficient appliance rebates, leak detection assistance, and irrigation efficiency evaluations.

Sewage Disposal

The Porter-Cologne Act in California, and an executive order by the Governor of Nevada dated January 27, 1971, prohibit discharges of domestic, municipal or industrial wastewaters to Lake Tahoe, its tributaries, groundwater, or the portion of the Truckee River within the Tahoe Region.⁸ As a result, Tahoe Region wastewater is generally collected, treated, and discharged to locations outside of the Region in one of the following four sewer export systems:

1. South Tahoe Public Utility District – Wastewater for the City of South Lake Tahoe and unincorporated portions of El Dorado County (south of Emerald Bay) is exported to Alpine County, California, via a sewer export line over Luther Pass (California State Route 89).
2. Douglas County Sewer Improvement District – Wastewater for Douglas County is exported to the Carson Valley in Nevada, via a sewer export line over Daggett Pass (Nevada State Route 207, Kingsbury Grade).
3. Incline Village General Improvement District – Wastewater for Washoe County is exported to the Carson City/Stewart area, Nevada, via a sewer export line over Spooner Summit (U.S. Highway 50).
4. Tahoe City and North Tahoe Public Utility Districts – Wastewater for Placer County and the portion of El Dorado County north of Emerald Bay is exported to the town of Truckee, California, via a sewer export line in the Truckee River Canyon (along California State Route 89).

Exceptions may be granted to discharges under alternative plans (for wastewater disposal authorized by state law, and approved by a state agency with appropriate jurisdiction). TRPA may also approve sewage holding tanks or other no-discharge systems in accordance with Subparagraph 60.1.3.C of the TRPA Code of Ordinances as a temporary measure, or as a permanent measure in remote public or private recreation sites, where a sewer system would create excessive adverse environmental impacts.

The California Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, has authority to issue wastewater discharge waivers in the California portion of the Lake Tahoe Region. In Nevada, this authority rests with the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP). Exceptions have been given to cabins in remote summer home tracts on the California side of the Region (including Upper and Lower Echo Lakes, Fallen Leaf Lake, Lily Lake, Glen Alpine, and Emerald Bay). Some summer homes are allowed to discharge “gray water” to leach field systems, but are also required to contain and transport “black water” sewage to an approved sewer dump station for treatment in a sewer plant.

⁸ See section 60.1, TRPA Code of Ordinances

There are five sewer treatment plants located in the Tahoe Region, each of which exports treated sewage into one of the four export lines noted above. Existing sewage capacity for these plants, including “reserved” capacity, is summarized in Table 12-18, below. As the table indicates, none of the five Tahoe sewer treatment plants are near their total capacity. In discussions with sewer plant officials, all five sewer plants were originally designed for a much larger population than currently expected at Lake Tahoe. Excess plant capacity is a result of a number of factors, including TRPA growth controls and localized population decreases, combined with water conservation efforts, and public purchases of environmentally sensitive lands.

Table 12-18. 2015 Sewage Disposal Capacity in Millions of Gallons per Day (MGD)

Sewer Collection District	Approximate 2015 Peak Sewer Flow	Approximate Capacity ¹	Approximate Reserve Capacity
North Tahoe PUD	0.65 ³	6.00	5.35
Tahoe City PUD ²	1.16	7.80	6.64
South Tahoe PUD	4.93	7.70	2.77
Incline Village GID	1.61	3.00	1.39
Douglas County SID	2.31	3.75	1.44
<p><u>Notes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The North Tahoe and Tahoe City Public Utility Districts share a common North Shore sewer export line to Truckee, where sewage is combined with four other sewer collection districts for treatment by the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA). Sewer plant capacity for NTPUD and TCPUD is, therefore, a factor of export line capacity and total capacity of the T-TSA treatment facility (9.60 million gallons per day). 2. TCPUD’s sewer collection is split between a North Shore and a West Shore collection system. TCPUD’s portion of the shared TCPUD-NTPUD North Shore export line has a capacity of 3.5 MGD. TCPUD’s West Shore collection system has a capacity of 4.3 MGD, and is “fixed” by pumping capacity at their Sunnyside pump station. 3. Equals 2015 average sewer flow. A peak flow estimate was not available from NTPUD. <p><i>Source: Tahoe Region Sewer Districts</i></p>			

Tahoe Basin Water Systems. Graphic courtesy of STPUD.

Legend

Public Water Service Providers

Agency Name, System Name

- CA State Parks, DL Bliss
- CA State Parks, Emerald Bay
- CA State Parks, Sugar Pine State Park
- Douglas County, Cave Rock
- Douglas County, Skyland
- Douglas County, Uppaway Water System
- Elk Point Sanitation District, Elk Point Sanitation District
- Incline Village GID, IVGID
- Kingsbury GID, Kingsbury GID
- McKinney Estates Water District, McKinney Estates Water District
- Nevada Rural Water Association, Logan Creek Estates GID
- Nevada State Parks, Spooner Lake State Park
- North Tahoe Public Utility District, North Tahoe Public Utility District
- Round Hill GID, Round Hill GID
- South Tahoe Public Utility District, STPUD
- Tahoe City Public Utility District, Alpine Peaks System
- Tahoe City Public Utility District, McKinney/Quail System
- Tahoe City Public Utility District, Rubicon System
- Tahoe City Public Utility District, Tahoe City (Subregional) System
- Tahoe City Public Utility District, Tahoe Truckee Forest Tract System
- Tahoe City Public Utility District, Tahoma Meadows Water Co
- Talmont Resort Improvement District, Talmont Resort Improvement District
- US Forest Services, Camp Richardson
- Zephyr Water Utility District, ZWUD

Private Water Service Providers

Company Name, System Name

- Agate Bay Water Co, Agate Bay Water Co
- Camp Galilee, Camp Galilee
- Cascade Properties, Cascade Properties
- Edgewood Water Co, Edgewood Water Co
- Fallen Leaf Lake, Fallen Leaf Lake
- Fulton Water Co, Fulton Water Co
- Glenbrook, Glenbrook
- Glenridge Water Co, Glenridge Water Co
- Lakeside Mutual Water Co, Lakeside Mutual Water Co
- Lakeview Water Co, Lakeview Water Co
- Lukins Bros. Water Co, Lukins Bros. Water Co
- Madden Creek Water, Madden Creek Water
- Skyland/Nielsen Water Co, Skyland/Nielsen Water Co
- Spring Creek, Spring Creek
- Tahoe Cedars Water Co, Tahoe Cedars Water Co
- Tahoe Keys Water Co, Tahoe Keys Water Co
- Tahoe Park Water Co, Tahoe Park Water Co
- Tahoe Pines/Tahoe Swiss Village Water Co, Tahoe Pines/Tahoe Swiss Village Water Co
- Timberland Water Co, Timberland Water Co
- Ward Well Water Co, Ward Well Water Co
- Washoe Heights Mutual Water Co, Washoe Heights Mutual Water Co
- Zephyr Cove Lodge and Resort, Zephyr Cove Lodge and Resort



EPA Reference on Unfiltered Systems



Comprehensive Surface Water Treatment Rules Quick Reference Guide: Unfiltered Systems

Overview of the Rules	
Title	Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) - 40 CFR 141.70-141.75 Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR) - 40 CFR 141.170-141.175 Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR) - 40 CFR 141.500-141.571
Purpose	Improve public health protection through the control of microbial contaminants, particularly viruses, <i>Giardia</i> , and <i>Cryptosporidium</i> .
General Description	The Surface Water Treatment Rules : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Applies to all public water systems (PWSs) using surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI), otherwise known as "Subpart H systems." ▶ Requires all Subpart H systems to disinfect. ▶ Requires Subpart H systems to filter unless specific filter avoidance criteria are met. ▶ Requires unfiltered systems to perform source water monitoring and meet site specific conditions for control of microbials.

Overview of Requirements				
The purpose of this table is show how the requirements for the IESWTR and LT1ESWTR build on the existing requirements established in the original SWTR.				
APPLICABILITY: PWSs that use surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water (Subpart H) that do not provide filtration.		Final Rule Dates		
		SWTR 1989	IESWTR 1998	LT1ESWTR 2002
Population Served	≥ 10,000	✓	✓	
	< 10,000	✓	N/A (except for sanitary survey provisions)	✓
Regulated Pathogens	99.99% (4-log) inactivation of viruses	✓	Regulated under SWTR	Regulated under SWTR
	99.9% (3-log) inactivation of <i>Giardia lamblia</i>	✓	Regulated under SWTR	Regulated under SWTR
	99% (2-log) removal of <i>Cryptosporidium</i> (through watershed control)		✓	✓
Residual Disinfectant Requirements	Entrance to distribution system (≥ 0.2 mg/L)	✓	Regulated under SWTR	Regulated under SWTR
	Detectable in the distribution system	✓	Regulated under SWTR	Regulated under SWTR
Unfiltered System Requirements	Avoidance Criteria	✓	✓	✓
Disinfection Profiling & Benchmarking	Systems must profile inactivation levels and generate benchmark, if required		✓	✓
Sanitary Surveys (state requirement)	CWS: Every 3 years NCWS: Every 5 years		✓	Regulated under IESWTR
Covered Finished Reservoirs/Water Storage Facilities (new construction only)			✓	✓
Operated by Qualified Personnel as Specified by State		✓	Regulated under SWTR	Regulated under SWTR

(CWS) Community Water System (NCWS) Non-community Water System

Disinfection

Disinfection must be sufficient to ensure that the total treatment process of the system achieves at least:

- 99.9% (3-log) inactivation of *Giardia lamblia*.
- 99.99% (4-log) inactivation of viruses.

Currently, *Cryptosporidium* must be controlled through the watershed control program and no inactivation credits are currently given for disinfection. Systems must also comply with the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) requirements specified in the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 1 DBPR).

Residual Disinfectant Monitoring and Reporting Requirements			
Location	Concentration	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting (Reports due 10 th of the following month)
Entry to distribution system.	Residual disinfectant concentration cannot be < 0.2 mg/L for more than 4 hours.	Continuous, but states may allow systems serving 3,300 or fewer persons to take grab samples from 1 to 4 times per day, depending on system size.	Lowest daily value for each day, the date and duration when residual disinfectant was < 0.2 mg/L, and when state was notified of events where residual disinfectant was < 0.2 mg/L.
Distribution system - same location as total coliform sample location(s).	Residual disinfectant concentration cannot be undetectable in greater than 5% of samples in a month, for any 2 consecutive months. Heterotrophic plate count (HPC) # 500/mL is deemed to have detectable residual disinfectant.	Same time as total coliform samples.	Number of residual disinfectant or HPC measurements taken in the month resulting in no more than 5% of the measurements as being undetectable in any 2 consecutive months.

System Reporting Requirements	
Report to State:	What to report:
Within 10 days after the end of the month:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Source water quality information (microbial quality and turbidity measurements). ➤ In addition to the disinfection information above, systems must report the daily residual disinfectant concentration(s) and disinfectant contact time(s) used for calculating the CT value(s).
By October 10 each year:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report compliance with all watershed control program requirements. ➤ Report on the on-site inspection unless conducted by state in which the state must provide the system a copy of the report.
Within 24 hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Turbidity exceedances of 5 NTU and waterborne disease outbreaks.
As soon as possible but no later than the end of the next business day:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Instance where the residual disinfectant level entering the distribution system was less than 0.2 mg/L.

Filtration Avoidance Criteria

Since December 30, 1991, systems must meet source water quality and site specific conditions to remain unfiltered. If any of the following criteria to avoid filtration are not met, systems must install filtration treatment within 18 months of the failure. The following table outlines the avoidance criteria established by the SWTR and later enhanced by the IESWTR and LT1ESWTR.

Filtration Avoidance Criteria			
		Requirement	Frequency
SOURCE WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS	Microbial Quality	<p>Monitor fecal coliform or total coliform density in representative samples of source water immediately prior to the first point of disinfectant application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fecal coliform density concentrations must be $\leq 20/100$ mL; OR ▶ Total coliform density concentrations must be $\leq 100/100$ mL. <p>Sample results must satisfy the criteria listed above in at least 90% of the measurements from previous 6 months.</p>	1 to 5 samples per week depending on system size and every day the turbidity of the source water exceeds 1 NTU.
	Turbidity	Prior to the first point of disinfectant application, turbidity levels cannot exceed 5 NTU.	Performed on representative grab samples of source water every four hours (or more frequently).
SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS	Systems must:	Calculate total inactivation ratio daily and provide 3-log <i>Giardia lamblia</i> and 4-log virus inactivation daily (except any one day each month) in 11 of 12 previous months (on an ongoing basis).	Take daily measurements before or at the first customer at each residual disinfectant concentration sampling point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Temperature ▶ pH (if chlorine used) ▶ Disinfectant contact time (at peak hourly flow) ▶ Residual disinfectant concentration measurements (at peak hourly flow)
	System must comply with:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MCL for total coliforms in 11 of 12 previous months (as per Total Coliform Rule). ▶ Stage 1 Disinfection Byproducts Rule requirements (as of January 1, 2002, for systems serving $\geq 10,000$ or January 1, 2004, for systems serving $< 10,000$). 	
	Systems must have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Adequate entry point residual disinfectant concentration (see disinfection requirements). ▶ Detectable residual disinfectant concentration in the distribution system (see disinfection requirements). ▶ Redundant disinfection components or automatic shut-off whenever residual disinfectant concentration < 0.2 mg/L. ▶ A watershed control program minimizing potential for contamination by <i>Giardia lamblia</i> cysts and viruses in source water; IESWTR and LT1ESWTR update this requirement by adding <i>Cryptosporidium</i> control measures. ▶ An annual on-site inspection by state or approved third party with reported findings. ▶ Not been identified as a source of a waterborne disease outbreak. 	

Disinfection Profiling and Benchmarking Requirements

A **disinfection profile** is the graphical representation of a system's microbial inactivation over 12 consecutive months.

A **disinfection benchmark** is the lowest monthly average microbial inactivation value. The disinfection benchmark is used as a baseline of inactivation when considering changes in the disinfection process.

Disinfection Profiling and Benchmarking Requirements Under IESWTR & LT1ESWTR		
REQUIREMENT	IESWTR	LT1ESWTR
AFFECTED SYSTEMS:	Community, non-transient non-community, <u>and</u> <u>transient</u> systems.	Community and non-transient non-community systems only.
BEGIN PROFILING BY:	April 1, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ July 1, 2003 for systems serving 500-9,999 people. ▶ January 1, 2004 for systems serving fewer than 500 people.
FREQUENCY & DURATION:	Daily monitoring for 12 consecutive calendar months to determine the total logs of <i>Giardia lamblia</i> inactivation (and viruses, if necessary) for each day in operation.	Weekly inactivation of <i>Giardia lamblia</i> (and viruses, if necessary), on the same calendar day each week over 12 consecutive months.
STATES MAY WAIVE DISINFECTION PROFILING REQUIREMENTS IF:	TTHM annual average <0.064 mg/L <u>and</u> HAA5 annual average <0.048 mg/L: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Collected during the same period. ▶ Annual average is arithmetic average of the quarterly averages of four consecutive quarters of monitoring. ▶ At least 25% of samples at the maximum residence time in the distribution system. ▶ Remaining 75% of samples at representative locations in the distribution system. 	One TTHM sample <0.064 mg/L <u>and</u> one HAA5 sample <0.048 mg/L: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Collected during the month of warmest water temperature; AND ▶ At the maximum residence time in the distribution system. Samples must have been collected after January 1, 1998.
DISINFECTION BENCHMARK MUST BE CALCULATED IF:	Systems required to develop a disinfection profile and are considering any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Changes to the point of disinfection. ▶ Changes to the disinfectant(s) used. ▶ Changes to the disinfection process. ▶ Any other modification identified by the state. Systems must consult the state prior to making any modifications to disinfection practices.	Same as IESWTR, and systems must obtain state approval prior to making any modifications to disinfection practices.

VI. POTENTIAL SOURCES OF POLLUTION

Watershed Control Programs provides information on the potential sources of pollution in order to identify and control activities that may lead to the deterioration of the quality of a drinking water source (EPA 2003). General threats to source water quality are defined in federal and state regulations. Previous sanitary surveys have identified threats specific to the watersheds contributing to the purveyor's source water. Sources of pollution are identified through source water quality and land use monitoring.

This chapter is a summary of activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, which are characterized in general, as potential sources of pollution by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, other regulatory agencies, previous sanitary surveys or by other means. The popularity of Lake Tahoe as a recreation destination for 15+ million visitors a year creates unique potential impacts to water quality.

The TWSA Risk Assessment Models (2014/2008) and earlier studies for North Tahoe PUD conducted by Black & Veatch, analyzed the potential release of fecal coliform and other viral and bacteriological contaminants from swimmers on Tahoe North Shore beaches. The study indicated that intake location and water current patterns show minimal potential for contamination, but potential exists.

The Environmental Protection Agency defines general watershed characteristics and activities that are detrimental to drinking water quality as:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Point sources of contamination such as wastewater (sewage) treatment plants, industrial discharges, barnyard feedlots, or private septic systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal populations specific to the discussion of Giardia contamination
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effect of precipitation, terrain, soil types, and land cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discharge to ground water which recharges the surface source
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logging
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pesticide usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grazing animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unauthorized activity in the watershed

Potential pollution sources in purveyors' watersheds have been identified in previous sanitary surveys including:

- Sewer system breaks/spills
- Recreation
- Trash disposal
- Changes in land ownership, zoning or land activities that affect water clarity
- Erosion, stream pollution, storm run-off, and urban run-off which contributes to the pathogenic contamination of source water
- Wildfire
- Wildlife

TRPA Water Quality (208) Plan

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-U.S.-EPA-Adopted-Lake-Tahoe-208-WQMP_2013.06.19.pdf

In June 2013, TRPA released the 208 Plan required for certain areas by the Federal Clean Water Act (section 208). These plans promote efficient and comprehensive programs for controlling water pollution in a defined geographic area. The Lake Tahoe 208 Plan was updated by TRPA on December 12, 2012, which initiated the need for parallel updates of the Plan by the states of Nevada and California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Lake Tahoe Water Quality Management Plan (also known as the 208 Plan or WQMP) is a framework that sets forth the components of the water quality management system in the Lake Tahoe Region, the desired water quality outcomes for the Tahoe Basin, and the mechanisms adopted by all the relevant entities to achieve and maintain those outcomes. The WQMP is organized to reflect the water quality management plan elements required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) regulations at 40 C.F.R. Section 130.6, which implements Sections 208 and 303(e) of the Clean Water Act, as well as the unique situation in the Lake Tahoe Region.

Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment

All sewage is exported out of the Tahoe Basin, and there are strict stormwater and TMDL management requirements. Wastewater treatment is a major area of concern for water quality. In 1966, a significant control action (Porter-Cologne Act) took place to protect the pristine quality of Lake Tahoe when Nevada and California acted to prohibit the discharge of treated wastewater effluent into the lake. Treatment plants were retrofitted with export pipelines and pump stations to transport the effluent out of the basin. Sewage systems were expanded to export untreated wastewater to the Town of Truckee, California, for treatment and disposal for the north and west shores. In 1971, both states prohibited septic tanks and required that all sewage generators be connected to an existing sewage system.

In Tahoe, these programs are administered by the CA Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

All treatment and collection facilities participate in local and county spill notification programs.

The Lake Tahoe Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure Partnership (LTWIP) was formed in 2007, as an association of local agencies providing wastewater services. Group activities are referenced in detail in later sections of this report.

The following are excerpts:

TABLE 2 – WQMP COMPONENTS AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

AGENCY	DOCUMENT
TRPA	July 26, 2012 Bi-State Recommendations
	Regional Plan
	Code of Ordinances
	Regional Plan EIS
	BMP Handbook
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Lahontan Basin Plan)
	Lake Tahoe TMDL for the California portion of the Region
	Lake Tahoe TMDL Substitute Environmental Document
	Other TMDLs for California 303d listed waters in the Region
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	Lake Tahoe TMDL for the Nevada portion of the Region
	Other TMDLs for Nevada 303d listed waters in the Region
The Counties, City of South Lake Tahoe, and State Departments of Transportation	Load Reduction Plans
	Conforming Area Plans
U.S. Forest Service	U.S. Forest Service Forest Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region
	Conforming Area Plans
	U.S. Forest Service Soil and Water Conservation Handbook in California
	U.S. Forest Service BMP Manual in Nevada

CHAPTER 3: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Effluent limitations are restrictions imposed on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of pollutants discharged into waters of the United States.²⁹ The CFR requires WQMPs to include water quality based effluent limitations as a plan element in accordance with CWA Section 303.³⁰

3.1 NPDES PROGRAMS

Section 402 of the CWA establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program to regulate discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States. An NPDES permit sets specific pollutant discharge limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other special conditions as appropriate.³¹ The CWA allows the U.S. EPA to authorize state and other governments to implement the NPDES Program, including permit issuance and enforcement authorities. The U.S. EPA has oversight responsibilities and works closely with the authorized states and tribes on strategic planning, priority-setting and measurement of results.³² Since its introduction in 1972, the NPDES permit program is responsible for significant improvements to water quality in the United States.³³

The States of California and Nevada are approved by the U.S. EPA to implement the NPDES Program in their respective states and their NPDES permits are subject to U.S. EPA review. The LRWCB administers the NPDES program for the California portion of the Lake Tahoe Region and the NDEP Bureau of Water Pollution Control administers it for the Nevada portion.

The NPDES program regulates both stormwater and non-storm discharges from point sources and issues stormwater permits for the following:

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) of certain sizes or as designated by the permitting authority;
- Industrial facilities in any of the 11 designated categories that discharge to an MS4 or to waters of the United States; and
- Construction activity that disturbs one or more acres of land or disturbs less than one acre but is part of a larger plan of development.³⁴ All eligible discharges must prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that includes a monitoring and reporting program.³⁵

The following NPDES permits, which may be subject to change through the permit modification, reissuance and termination process, are currently either applicable state-wide or to the Lake Tahoe Region specifically:

California NPDES Permits

CHAPTER 4: MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE TREATMENT

The CFR requires WQMPs to identify municipal and industrial waste treatment operations in accordance with Section 208 of the CWA.⁵⁰

California prohibited the discharge of treated wastewater into Lake Tahoe through enactment of the Porter-Cologne Act, and Nevada did the same through the Executive Order by the Governor of Nevada dated January 27, 1971.⁵¹ Both states prohibited septic tanks and required that all sewage generators be connected to an existing sewage system.⁵²

The TRPA Regional Plan Public Services and Facilities Element includes goals and policies that provide for adequate level of public services while the Water Quality Subelement includes provisions that protect Lake Tahoe's water quality.

The TRPA Code of Ordinances Chapter 60 – Water Quality prohibits the discharge of domestic, municipal, or industrial wastewater to Lake Tahoe and its tributaries.⁵³ Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances includes wastewater service requirements for projects proposing construction of a new structure or reconstruction or expansion of an existing structure.⁵⁴

The TRPA BMP Handbook includes technical guidance on best practices for waste management and material pollution prevention.⁵⁵

4.1 LARGE UTILITIES, PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Wastewater treatment in the Tahoe Region is provided by public utility districts (PUDs) and general improvement districts (GIDs). Districts are bound by service areas and directed through boards created by local governments.

On the California side of the Region, PUDs may acquire, construct, own, complete, use, and operate a variety of services, including water, electricity, recreational facilities, drainage facilities, street lighting, and fire protection. The following Public Utility Districts operate various wastewater collection and treatment operations in the California portion of the Lake Tahoe Region in accordance with federal, state and regional law:

North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) provides sewer services to the residents of the north shore of Lake Tahoe. The District's boundary ranges from the Nevada state line in Crystal Bay to Dollar Hill in California and includes the communities of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Brockway Vista, Carnelian Bay, Cedar Flat and Agate Bay.⁵⁶

South Tahoe Public Utility District provides sewage collection, treatment, and export to protect Tahoe's delicate ecosystem for portions of El Dorado County within the Tahoe Region.⁵⁷

Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) provides sewer services for a 31 square mile area within both Placer and El Dorado Counties, extending from Emerald Bay to Dollar Hill, and along the Truckee River to the Nevada County line.⁵⁸

In Nevada, maintenance of public facilities including sewers within private developments is the responsibility of the property owners within the development. Under the authority of NRS, a county may establish a General Improvement District (GID) for this purpose.⁵⁹ Nevada GIDs oversee the development, maintenance, and use of public facilities such as water and sewer systems, streets and sidewalks, and parks and open space.⁶⁰ The following GIDs operate various wastewater collection and treatment operations in the Nevada portion of the Lake Tahoe Region in accordance with federal, state and regional law:

Cave Rock Estates GID serves approximately 80 properties in Douglas County adjacent to Lake Tahoe Cave Rock formation.⁶¹

Douglas County Sewer Improvement District operates a sewer treatment facility for portions of Douglas County within the Lake Tahoe Region.⁶²

Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID) provides sewer collection services to Stateline Nevada residences off of State Route 207 or Kingsbury Grade.⁶³

Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) is responsible for processing and removing sewage and wastewater for communities of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, Nevada.⁶⁴

Lakeridge GID⁶⁵ and Logan Creek Estates GID⁶⁶ serve portions of Douglas County.

Marla Bay GID serves residents of Marla Bay, Nevada.⁶⁷

Oliver Park GID serves a portion of Douglas County, Nevada off of Kahle Drive.⁶⁸

Round Hill General Improvement District provides wastewater collection service to 470 private residential customers and 50 commercial customers in Zephyr Cove, Nevada.⁶⁹

Zephyr Heights GID⁷⁰, Zephyr Cove GID⁷¹ and Zephyr Knolls GID⁷² serve portions of Douglas County.

Treatment plants of four local districts (Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency, IVGID, Douglas County Sewer Improvement District #1, and STPUD) are retrofitted with export pipelines and pump stations to transport treated effluent out of the Region.⁷³ Since

1968, all wastewater in the Tahoe Region is pumped from treatment plants out of the Region to avoid discharge into the Lake.⁷⁴

LOCAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

South Tahoe Refuse (STR) provides refuse and recycling service within the City of South Lake Tahoe, the unincorporated El Dorado County areas and the Tahoe Township area of Douglas County.⁷⁵ STR collects more than 100,000 tons of waste each year. This waste is collected and sorted for recycling at the South Tahoe Refuse Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) located at STR's transfer station in South Lake Tahoe, California. The MRF initiates or improves separation of aluminum cans, glass, plastics, cardboard, different grades of paper, tin, metals, appliances, milled wood, green waste, stumps, construction debris (concrete, asphalt), and tires.⁷⁶

Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) with Waste Management, Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD)⁷⁷, and the WASTE NOT program provides trash and recycling services for communities of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, Nevada.⁷⁸

The Tahoe-Truckee Sierra Disposal Company, Inc. (TTSD) provides waste removal services for the Lake Tahoe Region from Emerald Bay to Crystal Bay. The company handles approximately 63,000 tons of solid waste per year. All materials collected by TTSD, including garbage and recyclables, are hauled to the Eastern Regional Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), located between Truckee and Squaw Valley in Placer County, where they are sorted in an effort to meet California's mandatory solid waste diversion requirements. The MRF, which was built in 1994–1995, handles household recyclables, including plastics, aluminum, tin, glass, cardboard, newspaper, carpet, and computers. Also, the facility recycles "white goods," such as refrigerators and freezers, and waste wood, which includes dimensional wood (e.g., construction remnants) and lot clearing debris. Material that is not recyclable is treated as solid waste and taken to the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill in Roseville or to the Lockwood landfill in Nevada.⁷⁹

Trash or Hazardous Waste Spills

No trash or hazardous waste spills from solid waste collection or transportation companies have been reported to the EPA during the past year. All solid waste is collected and transferred out of the basin. There are no active landfill sites within TWSA member boundaries or the Tahoe Basin.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection sites and collection days are located throughout the basin, in order to provide an easy way for homeowners to drop off small quantities of home-generated wastes, potentially harmful to water quality if disposed on improperly. HHW Sites are maintained at Incline Village GID (NV), Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District (NV) and the Cabin Creek and South Tahoe Refuse Transfer Stations (CA). These programs offer a valuable service to water quality protection, by offering services for proper disposal of toxic substances. The IVGID site handles approximately 40 tons of combined HHW/electronic waste materials annually.

Don't Trash Tahoe

Over the past several years, the presence of litter and trash in the communities and on public lands has been gaining local and national attention. The League to Save Lake Tahoe has been spearheading monthly cleanups around the basin, and organizing community teams called "Tahoe Blue Crews". www.keeptahoeblue.org/our-work/shoreline-protection/tahoe-blue-crew-why .

IVGID Waste Not and other area partners host episodic volunteer trash cleanup events for the Incline Village, Crystal Bay, NV and Tahoe Nevada (east shore) regions.

The **Tahoe Take Care** campaign provides multiple outreach messages on stewardship actions for locals and visitors. <https://takecaretahoe.org/>. This topic was greatly expanded in 2020 with new messaging developed about reducing plastic waste, refilling with tap water, and other messages. Many of the top suggestions touch on existing Waste Not /TWSA outreach messages and programs.

Cigarette Butts

IVGID Waste Not/TWSA, the League to Save Lake Tahoe and Keep America Beautiful have teamed up on a cigarette butt bin disposal project to place 250 bins at high use areas. To date, half have been installed in the inaugural year of distribution.

<https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/news/press-releases/250-cigarette-butt-collection-canisters-to-be-installed-at-lake-tahoe>

Cigarette Canister Program Keeps Butts out of Lake Tahoe

Posted by [League to Save Lake Tahoe](#) - January 10, 2020

<https://takecaretahoe.org/success-stories/cigarette-cannister-program-keeps-butts-out-of-lake-tahoe/>

“Stop at a Tahoe beach, popular trail or parking lot after any nice day in the Basin, and you’re bound to find cigarette butts littered on the ground. They’re unavoidable. In fact, at volunteer clean-up events organized by the League to Save Lake Tahoe (the League), cigarette butts were the top collected trash item in 2018. In that year alone, volunteers picked up more than 27,600 butts!

In June of 2019, the [League to Save Lake Tahoe](#) and the [Tahoe Waters Suppliers Association](#) launched a program to combat cigarette litter. Their initiative calls for distributing an initial 250 cigarette butt collection canisters at high-use locations around Lake Tahoe. You can spot them by their Take Care Tahoe and Keep Tahoe Blue branding. The aim of the “Tahoe Cigarette Disposal Program” is to reduce toxic chemicals from littered cigarette butts leaching into the environment in order to protect wildlife, reduce litter on Lake Tahoe’s shoreline and protect Lake Tahoe’s famed water clarity.

As of December 2019, 125 cigarette cannisters have been installed at key locations, including trailheads, beaches and businesses. The cigarettes collected in the cannisters are gathered and shipped to [TerraCycle](#), a recycling and waste reduction organization. Believe it or not, the stuff that makes up cigarette filters, a synthetic material called cellulose acetate, [can be recycled and remade](#) into useful items like shipping pallets and plastic lumber. Residual paper, tobacco and ash from the cigarettes is separated out and turned into compost.

The program has thus far been a success, and there are plans to install more than the initial round of 250 canisters. The League to Save Lake Tahoe, in collaboration with its partners, continue to organize volunteer community clean-up events around the Basin after popular vacation dates like Labor Day weekend, the 4th of July and Earth Day.

If you are a business owner who would like to adopt and install a canister, or if you are a concerned citizen who would like to inform the League of a hot spot where a canister would help, please email cigarettedisposal@keeptahoeblue.org. “

Over 27,600 cigarette butts picked up at Keep Tahoe Blue cleanups in 2018 - Lake Tahoe, CA

The League to Save Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Waters Supplies Association (TWSA) are in the process of distributing an initial run of 250 cigarette butt collection canisters at key locations around Lake Tahoe. The aim of the Tahoe Cigarette Disposal Program is to reduce toxic chemicals from littered cigarette butts from leaching into the environment, to protect wildlife, and to reduce litter on Lake Tahoe's shoreline and vicinity. The program came about after the League noticed that cigarette butts were the top collected items at cleanup events. At the League's most recent cleanups this month (the Tahoe City Cleanup and the Bike Path Cleanup) over 4,500 cigarette butts were collected. Last year more than 27,600 cigarette butts were collected in and around Lake Tahoe by the League. That number was a call to action.

"We are so excited to be partnering with the TWSA to build the awareness that cigarette butts are a toxic form of litter that doesn't biodegrade," said Marilee Movius, community engagement manager for the League. "With the help of these new cigarette butt canisters, it will be easy for everyone to properly dispose of cigarette butts and Keep Tahoe Blue. We are looking forward to collecting data to analyze again next year and hoping to see a dramatic drop in the amount of cigarette litter," she added. An estimated 98 percent of cigarette filters are made of plastic fibers, which means they do not biodegrade and can become a form of micro-plastic.

Micro-Plastics

Micro-plastics have emerged as a potential contaminate of concern in freshwater surface waters, including Tahoe. Despite Tahoe's unique situation of a self-contained basin, with no major upstream influences such as industrial discharges or sewage, recent research has shown micro-plastics to be present in both shoreline sediment samples. Probable vectors of distribution include atmospheric deposition and trash/ urban runoff. Two area research agencies are conducting micro-plastic sampling efforts, of open water, selected drinking water intakes and stormdrain sites.

TWSA and other partners initiated a special outreach campaign on this topic. Details are in Executive Summary section. Launching in October, 2019 IVGID/TWSA began working on an Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program Grant for the proposal titled "Pilot Project to Reduce Sourcewater Plastic Pollution in Lake Tahoe" , approved for grant funding up to the amount of \$61,995.00.

In additional, NDEP secured \$25,000 in funding from the 2019 Multipurpose Grant to support a limited scope of research described in the proposal "Baseline Plastics Research on the Fate of Plastics in Lake Tahoe." 1st year update of the study being conducted by TERC- UC Davis.

Multiple articles have been featured in media over the past year.
<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/the-fate-of-plastics-in-lake-tahoe/>

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Michelle Gartner



The fate of plastics in Lake Tahoe?

JOE PROUDMAN / UC DAVIS

UC Davis staff Research Associate Katie Senft checks the sand for plastic at Incline Beach, Lake Tahoe. While the majority of research on microplastic and the environment has centered on oceans, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) researchers are studying Lake Tahoe's plastic pollution to gain insights on the fate of the lake.

Michelle Gartner
Special to the Sierra Sun

If the sun hits the blue waters of Lake Tahoe just right, and it's a calm day off the point where the Cal Neva Resort & Casino sits quiet, stand up on your paddleboard or lean over the bow of your kayak and look for plastic floating on the surface or at varying depths.

Following major wind events, you might find a mini "garbage patch" forming on the surface.

Surface currents formed by wind create two large systems of rotating currents that mimic an ocean gyre, one on the north end of the lake and one on the south. Gyres are generated by three phenomena: global wind patterns,

Earth's rotation and Earth's landmasses. The mountains affect wind patterns in the lake allowing smaller gyres to also manifest near the shore-

Harbor to Hidden Beach and continue to Kings Beach.

As a result, patches of plastics can be seen in the water within a couple of hun-

“The research UC Davis is doing right now is looking at the fate of the microplastics (in Lake Tahoe) ... because most of the research that has been done on microplastics and plastic pollution has been based on oceans.”

— Heather Segale

Tahoe Environmental Research Center education and outreach director

line, in coves or around inlets.

The large gyre near the North Shore circles counter-clockwise and on the south another circles clockwise, coaxing plastics as well as other debris to collect in specific areas of the lake. Litter on the North Shore can get carried west from Sand

dred yards from the shore, specifically between the spot where old hot springs sit at Brockway Springs Drive and Stateline Point near the Cal Neva.

UC Davis, Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) researchers created a computer simulation of

surface currents for a 2-1/2 day period in August.

“The currents are 'driven' by the wind, which is recorded every 10 minutes on buoys and docks at 13 locations at Lake Tahoe,” explained Professor S. Geoffrey Schladow and a team of researchers with the Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

“At the beginning of the model run (time 0) a set of colored 'balls' are distributed across the lake surface – a different color in each quadrant. Watch as the currents then move them about. The green arrows also show the current velocity and direction across the lake.

“While the motion may at first appear chaotic, notice

PLASTICS, 17

FROM THE COVER

PLASTICS

From page 1

that there is a lot of regularity to the motion. There are two main circles (or gyres) that the balls trace out. These gyres are usually anti-clockwise in the north, and clockwise in the south. Sometimes there are smaller gyres closer to shore, especially at the very south of the lake. Things to note are the time it takes these gyres to undergo a complete revolution (about 1.5 days) and the pulsating motion that the gyres exhibit. This is due to the daily variation in the strength of the winds at Lake Tahoe, with stronger winds typically occurring in the afternoon," said Schladow.

Understanding surface currents is important because currents are responsible for the transport of contaminants, invasive species, urban storm water and floating debris."

NEW STUDIES START

Heather Segale, TERC education and outreach director, talked about funding received to study the fate of

microplastics in Lake Tahoe and how it will be utilized.

"The research UC Davis is doing right now is looking at the fate of the microplastics (in Lake Tahoe) ... because most of the research that has been done on microplastics and plastic pollution has been based on oceans."

Segale added, "More types of plastics will float and float longer (in salt water)" as compared to less dense fresh water where not as many types of plastic float and the ones that do, don't float as long.

Salt, temperature and pressure affect water density. Salt water is more dense than fresh water and as the temperature or pressure increases, density increases for both salt and fresh water.

Fresh water is most dense just above freezing, becoming less dense as water temperatures rise.

"Our research right now is looking at the fate of those plastics. Are they mostly staying at the top? The answer is no, not really," Segale said. "Are they going down... where the density gradient changes from where the warmer water sits on top of the colder



PHOTO BY MICHELLE GARTNER

Trash collected from the garbage patch that forms between the hot springs and Stateline Cal Neva point.

water? Or are they sinking to the bottom? Or are they getting eaten up by the different filter feeders that are in the lake like kokanee salmon or zooplankton?"

At Hidden Beach in Nevada, debris gets pushed on shore after one of these wind events, Segale said, emphasizing "the amount of plastic we found these couple of times that we've gone after a wind event is just incredible."

Where plastics get deposited and what effects the Lake Tahoe environment have on the plastic is something UC Davis TERC is looking to learn.

8,000 POUNDS PULLED OUT

According to the United States Department of Justice, it wasn't that long ago that dumping became illegal in the U.S.

"Beginning in the 1970s, Congress enacted a set of laws to protect the nation's air, water, and lands from uncontrolled pollution," the Justice Department website states. "These laws responded to the consequences of unregulated industrial development that had fouled those resources to the point where rivers were not fishable, air

was unhealthy to breathe, and land contamination put Love Canal at the forefront of national consciousness."

Over 8,000 pounds of garbage have been pulled out of both Lake Tahoe and Donner Lake over the last two years. In addition to the obvious pieces of plastic from trash not properly disposed, smaller pieces often invisible to the naked eye are also being carried by Tahoe's currents around the lake.

"We are seeing lots of trash from decades ago, things like a bicentennial diet Pepsi can," said Colin West of Clean Up the Lake, which over the last two months managed crews that pulled up most of that garbage.

Storm water, air and humans are likely the only things contributing to the plastics in Lake Tahoe, as there is no waste water allowed to be discharged into the lake.

Polypropylene sandbags are one example of what could be adding to the microplastics in Lake Tahoe. Tarps made of the same material are also commonly used around the lake to cover

boats, kayaks and protect things from the wind and the sun's rays, the exact thing that speeds up the deterioration of the plastic.

Ultraviolet rays "increase the degradation rate" of woven polyethylene. Sandbaggy, a high-end manufacturer, states "our sandbags have 1600 (hours) of UV protection, meaning they can last for about six months under the sun before deteriorating." Yet, at a minimum, most sandbags used for construction on the shores of Lake Tahoe are in place for the duration of a two-year building permit.

It's important to note that larger projects often take several years to complete.

"My research so far has not shown a definitive remove-by date," said Jeff Cowen, public information officer with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. "However, since we do not allow this kind of pollution, there may be a guideline somewhere that needs to be better described."

Michelle Gartner is a freelance writer who lives in Gardnerville, Nevada.

2019 - Microplastics are found in Lake Tahoe's waters for first time ever (8/26/19)

<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2019-08-26/lake-tahoe-microplastic-pollution-detected>

LAKE TAHOE, Calif. — Scientists have detected microplastic pollution in Lake Tahoe's deep blue waters for the first time. Now they are trying to determine its source and potential harm to the lake's flora and fauna.

Preliminary analyses of water samples collected by researchers at the [Desert Research Institute](#) in Reno revealed the presence of particles of synthetic fiber and bits of red and blue plastic no bigger than the head of a pin.

"On one level, we're heartbroken and disappointed by this discovery," said Monica Arienzo, an assistant research professor at the institute and leader of the investigation. "We really hoped we wouldn't find much of this material in Tahoe's water, which is almost entirely snowmelt."

At the same time, she said, the team is looking forward "to diving deep into the many questions and concerns it raises."

Tracing the particles to their source won't be easy. Recent studies have shown that particles from discarded plastic products — flip-flops, toys, toothbrushes, water bottles, synthetic clothing, Styrofoam packaging and myriad others — can be transported long distances through the atmosphere by wind, rain and falling snow.

As a result, the pollution in the basin cradling Tahoe's water could be local, or from locations around the world. "Right now, we're not sure where it came from," Arienzo said. "But we're definitely going to try and figure it out."

The finding complicates a long struggle against erosion, sewage effluent, unbridled development, invasive clams and algae to save the lake, 6,225 feet in elevation. Federal state and local governments have spent more than \$2 billion over the last six decades buying land and developing erosion control and wetlands restoration projects.

The shoreline of the lake, 22 miles long and 12 miles wide, has become one of the most tightly regulated places in the United States.

Yet, it didn't take long for the researchers, part of the [Nevada System of Higher Education](#), to find what they were looking for. They used a system of pumps, funnels, tubing and filters to collect water samples 20 feet from the water's edge at six locations, including areas of both high and low human activity.

The sampling was conducted throughout the spring at Tahoe Keys, a popular boating resort; Emerald Bay State Park, where boat access is limited; and at three stormwater outfalls into Lake Tahoe. The work was done in collaboration with the nonprofit [League to Save Lake Tahoe's](#) citizen science program.

The team also collected water samples at other Nevada waterways including Lake Mead and the Las Vegas Wash.

To isolate particles caught in the filters, researchers oxidized organic matter such as insects, twigs and algae. Next, a high-density liquid-separation method was used to allow sediments to settle to the bottom and plastics to float to the top.

The team has since been examining the particles they collected under powerful microscopes for classification by size, shape, color, GPS coordinates and chemical composition.

Microplastic debris is an emerging concern among scientists and environmentalists. Researchers recently [found surprisingly high levels of microplastics](#) in Arctic snow, demonstrating the global reach of these tiny particles of pollution.

About 245 million tons of plastic are produced annually around the world, according to industry estimates. That represents 70 pounds of plastic annually for each of the 7.1 billion people on the planet, scientists say.

Microplastics, potentially toxic and not biodegradable, have become a ubiquitous contaminant in the Pacific Ocean and seas around the world, scientists say. Much of it comes from densely populated coastal watersheds such as Southern California.

By contrast, the study of microplastics in freshwater alpine lakes such as Lake Tahoe is still in its infancy.

“Turning up this stuff at a world-famous nearly pristine mountain lake may move people to take action,” said Zack Bradford, senior science analyst at the League to Save Tahoe. “We’ll see.”

The Desert Research Institute team is scheduled to present its findings to the American Geophysical Union in December.

Hazardous Algae Blooms (HABs)

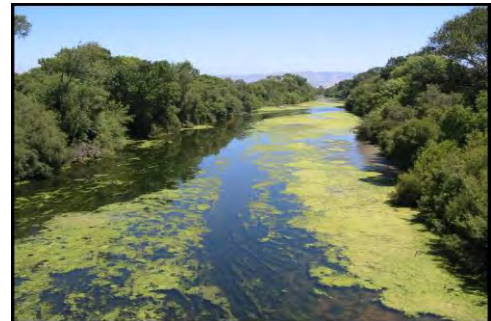
A live and archive portal is maintained at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/swamp/harmful_algal_blooms.html

Freshwater CyanoHABs Program (Blue-Green Algae)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/freshwater_cyanobacteria.html

Observations of harmful algal blooms (HABs) and algal toxins have increased globally in recent years. HABs are problematic because they can affect multiple beneficial uses including recreation, aquatic life, and drinking water by reducing aesthetics, lowering dissolved oxygen concentration, causing taste and odor problems, and producing potent toxins.



See an algae bloom? [Click here to report it!](#)

Water Board staff are working with state and local entities to identify and respond to HAB incidents throughout California. The Water Board first began to formally address this issue in 2005 when it formed the Blue Green Algae Work Group, later renamed the California Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom Network (CCHAB). An initial product of this group was the [Voluntary Guidance Document](#) (original release 2010, updated 2016). Subsequently, SWAMP prepared [California Freshwater HAB Assessment and Support Strategy](#) to articulate a coordinated program to assess, communicate and manage HABs in California. Since then staff at both the State and Regional Water Boards have worked to coordinate monitoring and follow up when algal blooms are detected. SWAMP has also developed the infrastructure (bloom reporting form, guidance documents, field and lab procedures, etc.) to support the strategy and to coordinate monitoring when blooms are detected.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Links

- [CCHAB Portal \(with HAB Toolbox\)](#)
- [Voluntary Guidance Document](#) (Updated in 2016; Developed in 2010)
- [CA Freshwater HAB Assessment and Support Strategy](#)
- [Division of Drinking Water Cyanobacteria Page](#)
- [CCHAB Work Group Page](#)
- [CA Water Quality Monitoring Council](#)
- Regional Water Board HAB Resource Web Pages
 - [North Coast Region](#)
 - [San Francisco Bay Region](#)

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Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs)

Freshwater CyanoHABs Program (Blue-Green Algae)

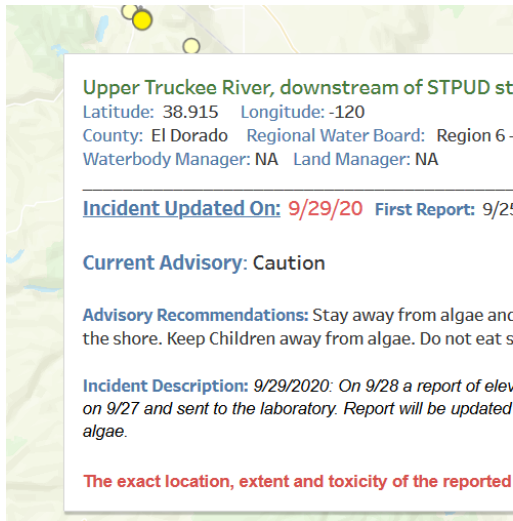
Algal Bloom Observations of harmful algal blooms (HABs) and algal toxins have increased globally in recent years. HABs are problematic because they can affect multiple beneficial uses including recreation, aquatic life, and drinking water by reducing aesthetics, lowering dissolved oxygen concentration, causing taste and odor problems, and producing potent toxins. Water Board staff are working with state and local entities to identify and respond to HAB incidents throughout California. The Water Board first began to formally address this issue in 2005 when it formed the Blue Green Algae Work Group, later renamed the California Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom Network (CCHAB). An initial product of this group was the Voluntary Guidance Document (original release 2010, updated 2016). Subsequently, SWAMP prepared California Freshwater HAB Assessment and Support Strategy to articulate a coordinated program to assess, communicate and manage HABs in California. Since then staff at both the State and Regional Water Boards have worked to coordinate monitoring and follow up when algal blooms are detected. SWAMP has also developed the infrastructure (bloom reporting form, guidance documents, field and lab procedures, etc.) to support the strategy and to coordinate monitoring when blooms are detected.

See an algae bloom?

[Click here to report it!](#)



2020 HAB Incidents (Tahoe region) Summer 2020



Upper Truckee River, downstream of STPUD station
 Latitude: 38.915 Longitude: -120
 County: El Dorado Regional Water Board: Region 6 - Lahontan
 Waterbody Manager: NA Land Manager: NA

Incident Updated On: 9/29/20 **First Report:** 9/25/2020

Current Advisory: Caution

Advisory Recommendations: Stay away from algae and scum in the water. Do NOT let pets go in the water, drink the water, or eat scum on the shore. Keep Children away from algae. Do not eat shellfish from this waterbody.

Incident Description: 9/29/2020: On 9/28 a report of elevated benthic algal biomass was submitted to the Water Boards. Samples were collected on 9/27 and sent to the laboratory. Report will be updated when lab results are received. Caution advisory. Keep dogs and children away from algae.

The exact location, extent and toxicity of the reported bloom may not be accurate and may not be affecting the entire waterbody.

Thermalito After..	Last verified >30 ..	9/3/20	Detail
Thermalito Fore..	Last verified >30 ..	9/3/20	Detail
Klamath River ES..	Caution	9/21/20	Detail

Tahoe Keys Lagoon
 Latitude: 38.929 Longitude: -120
 County: El Dorado Regional Water Board: Region 6 - Lahontan
 Waterbody Manager: Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) Land Manager: Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA)

Incident Updated On: 9/25/20 **First Report:** 6/9/2020

Current Advisory: Last verified >30 days ago

Advisory Recommendations: No new observations have been made of this bloom for 30 days. The bloom may still be present or may have subsided. Contact waterbody manager for current conditions.

Incident Description: The Tahoe Keys Lagoons are being monitored monthly through a collaborative effort between Lahontan Water Board and Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA).

9/25/20. Recent water testing indicates low levels of Anatoxin-a of 0.17 ug/L at one of the sampling locations. Caution signs are to remain in place.

9/2/2020. Caution signs remain in place based on recent water testing.

8/20/20. Samples collected on 8/12/2020 detected anatoxin-a at all sampled locations and contained cyanobacterial cells. Microcystin was also detected, but at only two of the five sample locations. Caution signs remain in place.

7/20/2020. Samples collected on 7/14/2020 detected anatoxin-a (0.22-2.28 ug/L) and contained cyanobacterial cells. Caution advisory.

6/9/20. Results from 6/9/2020 sampling event indicate no toxins detected.

The exact location, extent and toxicity of the reported bloom may not be accurate and may not be affecting the entire waterbody.

Days since last verified:
 <7 days
 8-30 days
 31-90 days

Summer 2019:

Several suspected algae blooms were reported in Lahontan’s Sierra and Lake Tahoe regions in 2019. Sampling and monitoring yielded no evidence of cyanobacteria toxins.

<http://southtahoenow.com/story/08/26/2019/algae-testing-underway-water-south-lake-tahoe-beach>

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. - Authorities are testing water and algae in the Kiva Beach area after a man reported the death of his dog after allegedly being in Lake Tahoe behind Tallac Historic Site a week ago. The death of the dog came to the attention of Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board late Wednesday, August 21. The following day they were joined by the El Dorado County Environmental Health Department along the stretch of beach the dog’s owner said they were at the previous Sunday. They spoke with the owner and retraced their steps that day.

Agency staff did not see the typical visible signs of harmful algae (floating scum, floating algae, green/blue colors at the surface) where the dog had played in the water. Lahontan still took samples of algae off a rock one foot down from the surface as well as from the water. Those genetic test results are not expected until the end of the week or just after Labor Day, according to Lahontan Assistant Executive Officer Doug Smith.

Caution signs have been posted in the area as a precaution. Smith said physical evidence of harmful algae was not present when they were at the location. Smith said there are three levels of warnings/signposting at sites where toxic algae is reported, suspected or confirmed.

A 'Caution' comes where there are algae sightings but harmful concentrations are not suspected. A 'Warning' says don't go swimming and don't drink the water. Levels of toxins are low at this point but above caution levels. 'Danger' postings say there is confirmed toxicity at that spot and to stay away. There is currently nothing above a 'Caution' level in the Lake Tahoe Basin, Smith said.

"Dogs don't have 'the yuck filter' as humans do," said Smith of water. Humans know to be careful or use caution, but pets don't as they see water as something fun to play in, or drink. Smith did say it is always wise to keep an eye on pets playing near water and to stay away from stagnant ponds. While he hasn't seen anything believed to be harmful at any of his visits to the beach with his dog, Smith did say the pond at Tallac may be a different story.

"Nobody saw any signs that it looked like harmful algae," said Smith as they walked Kiva Beach behind Tallac Historic Site. "But we were there four days after it happened."

There have been no other reports made to Lahontan of other suspected toxic algae areas in the lake though the Tahoe Keys are at a 'Caution' status. Nearby, at Indian Creek Reservoir, a 'Caution' status is also in place and at Red Lake, there was a 'Danger' status issued in 2018 with no updates since. A report is released by the <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/> on all areas with any of the three statuses.

Spill Incidents for the Reporting Year

Spill information is compiled annually from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Spill Reporting Program and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board records. The list includes incidents occurring on the Nevada and California sides of the lake. The list is not comprehensive to include all incidents.

In California, there are new resources available to track hazardous waste spills, including an annual state-wide sanitary sewer overflow compliance report:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/docs/.

A search of this database yields several small incidents for the reporting year.

The most significant *potential* incident occurred on 9/7/19, on Highway 50 at Elks Club Drive in California. Big Rig accident released unknown amount of diesel fuel into surrounding area. Diesel did not go in the Truckee River. There was no release to surface water, though the accident was on a bridge over the upper Truckee River. They were able to dam the fuel spill from reaching the water, and much of the fuel incinerated.

Sanitary Sewer spills are reported via the California Water Board Web Portal:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.shtml#sso

This portal focuses on sanitary sewer overflow reports. The reports are logged on an interactive map by discharge type.

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS: 06/11/2020 - 10/11/2020

Spill type: + Category 1 o Category 2 ^ Category 3 [More Info](#)

Click on a map icon for incident information.

Note: Map does not include spills from sewage treatment plants.

Filter by volume (gallons): 0 - 1,000,000+ gal.

Minimum: 0
Maximum: 100,000
[Set Volume](#)

Filter by date: 06/11/2020 - 10/11/2020

Start: Jun 11 2020
End: Oct 11 2020
[Set Dates](#)

Filter by Agency: (All)
[Set Agency](#) [Show All](#)

SSO Event ID: 867861

Site Name: 8352 Speckled
Spill date: 6/23/2020 8:00:00 AM
Volume: 40 gallons
Recovered: 0 gallons
Type: Category 3
Reason: Root Intrusion
Address: Not Reported
City: Not Reported
County: Placer
Coordinates: 39.243 N -120.026 W
Responsible Agency: North Tahoe PUD
Collection System: North Tahoe Public Utility Dst CS
[Full Report](#)

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) Reports

- [Interactive SSO Report](#)

Sanitary sewer system agencies covered under Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems ([WQO No. 2006-0003-DWQ](#)), referred to as Enrollees, are required to report all SSOs for which their agency has responsibility into the State Water Resources Control Board's SSO database. Enrollees are also able to report sewage discharges from privately owned laterals or collection systems, for which the Enrollee has knowledge of the event but is not responsible, on a voluntary basis. These discharges are known as private lateral sewage discharges (PLSDs) and are separate from SSOs. Only Enrollees are allowed to submit and modify the information associated with their sanitary sewer system in the SSO database. Please visit the SSO Program Web Page for additional information on SSO reporting and the State Water Board's regulatory efforts to reduce the numbers and volumes of SSOs statewide.

The SSO Report allows users to view summary information of SSOs and private lateral

sewage discharges reported by Enrollees as well as complete reports submitted for specific sewage discharge locations

- [Public Sewage Spill Incident Map](#)
These interactive geographic information system (GIS) maps, updated nightly, plot all certified sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and Private Lateral Sewage Discharges from sanitary sewer collection systems (not including any spills from wastewater (sewage) treatment plants), reported by agencies into the state's online California Integrated Water Quality System. This includes the spill location, amount, source, and name of the responsible or reporting agency.
- [Private Lateral Spill Incident Map](#)
A second map allows users to see Private Lateral Sewage Discharges, voluntarily reported from enrollees in the program from pipes which empty into public sewer collection systems. Private lateral spills are caused from failures in pipes that tie private businesses and homes into the public sewer collection system, and are maintained by individual property owners. They often suffer from overflows which can affect public sewer collection systems.
- [SSO Data Flat Files](#)
The CIWQS SSO database provides information entered by Enrollees of General Order 2006-0003-DWQ. The data are available to the public, agencies, and interested stakeholders. The data files include: Enrollee spill data, no-spill certification statements, private lateral sewage discharges, sewer system management plan elements data, and sanitary sewer facility information.

Storm Water

- **Looking for the Status of an NOI (Notice of Intent)?**
 - [Facility At-A-Glance Report](#) – You do not need to log in.

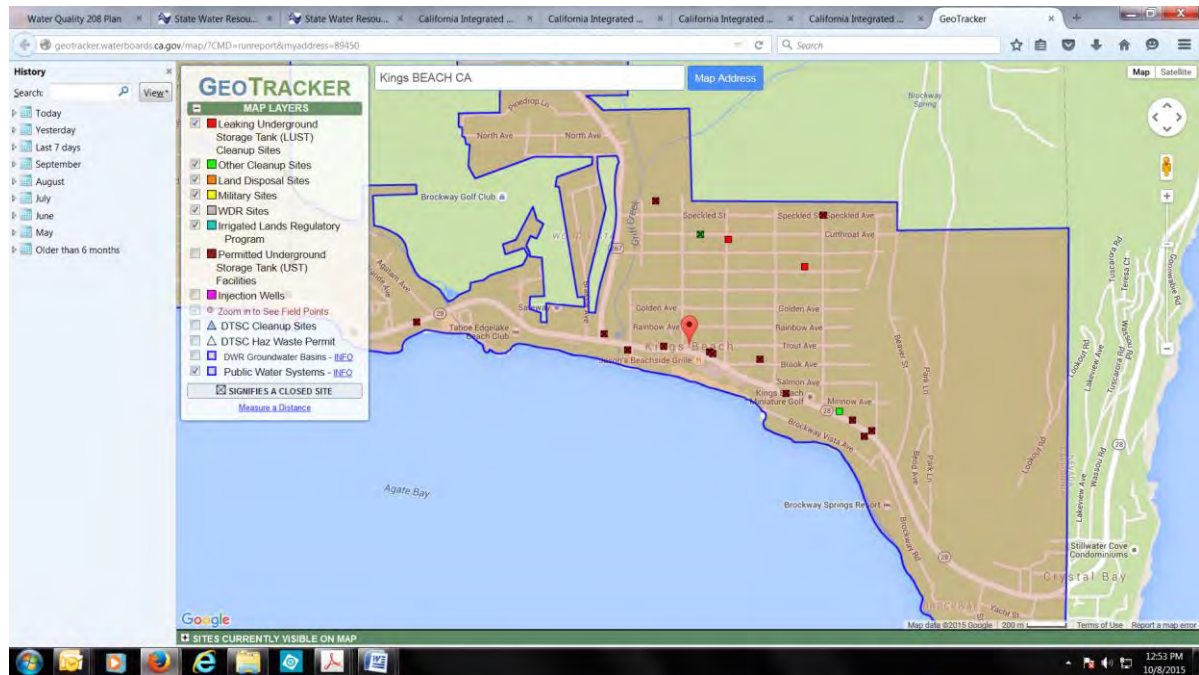
Facilities Reports

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.html#facilities

- [Facility-At-A-Glance](#)
This report allows users to view a wide range of information regarding a specific facility on one screen. This includes owner, violations, inspections, and orders and other regulatory measures issued to a facility. For more information about the report and how to navigate, we have developed a [Fact Sheet](#).
- [Interactive Regulated Facilities Report](#)
This report allows the user to display information by city, county, or region. The user can select a program, agency type, and permit status. They are then shown a summary table based on their criteria, which enables them to drill down for more information.
 - [SMARTS Database](#) – Click on the “Public User Menu button on the SMARTS website.

In addition, the CA Water Board operates an extensive, **interactive database on former and current hazardous waste sites** using at:

<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=89450>



Nevada Tahoe area spills are reported to TWSA through the NDEP Spill Hotline notification system. Each year, TWSA staff receives a summary of spills which are reviewed. This information is requested from NDEP annually, contact is Rebecca Bodnar (Rebecca.bodnar@ndep.nv.gov)

Lahontan Water Board Issues Cleanup Order for PCE Contamination in South Lake Tahoe 2019 Update



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150
Phone (530) 542-5400 □ Fax (530) 544-2271
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>

Lahontan Water Board Receives \$4.6 Million Grant to Investigate Perchloroethylene (PCE) Contamination in South Lake Tahoe's Groundwater

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: March 13, 2019

Contact: Doug Smith
Phone: (530) 542-5453

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. – The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) announced today it has received a \$4.6 million grant to investigate regional perchloroethylene (PCE) groundwater contamination in South Lake Tahoe affecting drinking water wells.

Multiple drinking water supply wells, including those operated by three different water suppliers, have been affected or are threatened by the PCE contamination. In spite of these impacts, South Lake Tahoe water purveyors continue to provide a safe water supply for South Lake Tahoe residents, businesses, and visitors.

"While Lake Tahoe's beauty and clarity remains a worldwide attraction, our drinking water supplies are at risk of further contamination unless prompt action is taken," said Patty Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer for the Lahontan Regional Water Board. "This grant gives us the critical funds to fully investigate the regional PCE groundwater contamination, track down all potential sources of pollution, expedite cleanup and protect our remaining drinking water sources."

Funds from the grant award, issued by the State Water Resources Control Board's [Site Cleanup Subaccount Program](#) (SCAP), will be used for investigating an area referred to as the "South Y area" of South Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County (generally surrounding the intersection of Highways 50 and 89 and extending north and northeasterly).

The project will investigate the horizontal and vertical extent of regional PCE groundwater contamination, including potential sources of the regional contamination. "Sentry" groundwater monitoring wells will also be installed to monitor groundwater near several water supply wells,

providing information water suppliers can use to better protect their water supply systems from the PCE contamination.

Several businesses in the South Y area are known or suspected to have used, stored, or disposed of PCE or PCE-containing products. PCE is a common ingredient in many dry-cleaning and metal degreasing products.

PCE has been detected in groundwater in the South Y area at concentrations as high as approximately 1,700 parts per billion (ppb) and in individual supply wells as high as approximately 60 ppb. The drinking water maximum contaminant level for PCE is 5 ppb. The water supply wells with detections exceeding 5 ppb PCE were shut down to ensure customers continue receiving safe drinking water.

PCE is a colorless liquid that can be harmful when ingested, inhaled or touched. Short-term exposure can cause acute effects, such as dizziness, headaches, and nausea, among other things, while prolonged exposure is known to cause cancer and neurological problems.

In 2017, the Lahontan Water Board issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) requiring multiple responsible parties to investigate and cleanup the full lateral and vertical extent of PCE contamination originating from a property in the South Y area that formerly operated a dry-cleaning facility. In addition, there have been several other investigations that have occurred over many years in the South Y area. However, the investigations have been site-specific or localized investigations and have failed to evaluate the full extent of the regional PCE contamination.

"This will be the first comprehensive regional investigation of the South Y area PCE contamination and should provide valuable information allowing the Lahontan Water Board, water suppliers, and other parties to better address the contamination through water treatment and cleanup," Kouyoumdjian said. "We are pleased to lead this effort and are looking forward to a very productive investigation."

The Lahontan Water Board received the grant money from SCAP, a relatively new program established by [Senate Bill 445 \(Hill, 2014\)](#) authorizing grants for projects to investigate sources of surface water and groundwater contamination, and to remediate the harm to human health, safety, or the environment caused by existing or threatened surface or groundwater contamination. The Lahontan Water Board will coordinate with its contractor and oversee implementation of the grant-funded work, which is expected to begin in early summer 2019.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of the quality of California's water resources in eastern California. For more information about the Lahontan Water Board visit its [website](#).

###

2018 PCE Plume Update 9/25/2018

STPUD update on the PCE groundwater contamination in South Lake Tahoe (www.STPUD.us):

72% of the water supply in South Lake Tahoe is under threat from PCE contamination (see map). Immediate steps are necessary to protect South Lake Tahoe's drinking water supply. While Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan) is working to hold the polluters accountable, the water suppliers are taking a parallel track to protect South Lake Tahoe's community water supply from further contamination. The South Lake Tahoe water suppliers (South Tahoe Public Utility District, Lukins Brothers Water Company and Tahoe Keys Water Company) have met with Lahontan

staff, State Water Resources Control Board staff and presented during the public comment period at the Lahontan Board meeting on September 13, 2018 on the immediate steps necessary to protect South Tahoe's drinking water supply.

As of August 2018, the following progress has been made:

1. The State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance is moving forward with processing Lukins Brothers Water Company application to install granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment to restore 750 gpm of lost water supply.
2. The State Water Board Division of Drinking Water requested South Lake Tahoe water suppliers develop an Emergency Response Plan to address the possible use of impaired sources for emergency response. A multi-agency Emergency Response Plan was identified as a priority by the water suppliers to ensure the continued availability of potable water. The water suppliers are applying for a planning grant through the Division of Financial Assistance to develop this plan. The Division of Drinking Water will help fast track the application.
3. Lahontan received SB445 funding to start a groundwater contaminant investigation (spring 2019) which would involve: regional plume delineation; installation of sentinel wells to monitor contaminant movement; and contaminant source area identification.

Lahontan staff and the water suppliers plan to meet monthly to identify next steps and secure additional funds to address the PCE groundwater contamination. Lahontan plans to work with the water suppliers to host quarterly public meetings to keep the public up to date on the PCE groundwater contamination clean-up process.

FACT SHEET: Groundwater Contamination at South Tahoe “Y”

In South Lake Tahoe, the primary source of drinking water is groundwater. In 1989, the contaminant tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was first found in drinking water wells near the intersection of Highways 50 and 89, referred to as the South “Y”. Today, the PCE remains in groundwater and forms a contaminant plume believed to cover more than 400 acres. PCE is a manmade chemical that was used from the early 1960s through the mid-1980s as a solvent for dry cleaning clothes and degreasing metal. During the late 1980s, concerns about the toxicity of PCE led Federal and State environmental agencies to list PCE as a probable carcinogen and as a toxic pollutant. Presently, five public drinking water wells have been impacted by the South “Y” PCE Plume. When PCE is detected in a well, the well is shut down and treatment is added to remove the contaminant, or an alternative source of drinking water supply is provided. Water providers in South Tahoe are working together to protect and sustain our groundwater to make sure you have safe drinking water.

How would I be exposed to PCE?

Exposure to PCE typically occurs from breathing contaminated air, drinking contaminated water or eating food contaminated with PCE. PCE can get into drinking water when it is spilled or improperly disposed of and leaches into groundwater. Established drinking water standards and regular water quality testing by water providers are used to ensure our water is safe to drink.

Where is PCE in South Lake Tahoe?

The South “Y” Plume extends north from the South “Y” to the Tahoe Keys, and toward Lake Tahoe. Groundwater used by wells operated by the Lukins Brothers Water Company (LBWC) and Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) are currently impacted by the plume. During the 1990s, the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) installed a treatment facility to remove PCE from four drinking water wells. Today, three of the wells have been destroyed and the remaining well is currently not used. In 2009, TKPOA installed a treatment system to remove PCE from groundwater at one of its wells. In 2014, Lukins discovered PCE in two wells and immediately stopped using them. All three drinking water systems are interconnected and the water providers have the ability to share water and are working together to ensure our entire community has access to reliable and safe drinking water.



FACT SHEET: Groundwater Contamination at South Tahoe “Y”

What is being done about PCE?

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is the state regulatory agency which oversees the cleanup of contaminated groundwater. Lahontan has conducted numerous investigations to determine the source of PCE and is working with the responsible parties to determine the total extent of their contamination. The South Tahoe water providers are working together to develop and implement short-term fixes and long-term solutions to provide clean drinking water to our community. To date, the water providers have secured a \$500,000 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board to complete a feasibility study that will help to identify potential alternatives for addressing contamination from the South Y Plume.

Food for thought

In Tahoe, historically, we have had some of the most pristine drinking water in the world. Water providers in South Lake are working together to ensure every drop of water that flows from your tap is safe.

For more information go to www.stpud.us/groundwater





Shorezone Recreation and Boating Activity

As one of its strategic initiatives, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency worked with community members and stakeholders to update its shoreline policies and regulations. Significant changes to regulations, enforcement and monitoring on the impacts of watercraft recreation, both on the water and associated land developments/structures, are proposed.

The shoreline of Lake Tahoe is of both local and national significance. The 72 miles of Lake Tahoe's shoreline offers a diversity of views that range from sandy beaches to isolated coves, rocky shorelines, and steep cliffs. While Lake Tahoe's clarity goals, measured near the center of the lake, are of utmost importance, the shoreline is where most locals and visitors interact with Tahoe's blue waters.

Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan

<http://shorelineplan.org/> <https://www.trpa.org/programs/shorezone/>

The TRPA Governing Board approved a new Shoreline Plan for Lake Tahoe in October 2018. The plan supports boating, paddling, swimming, and other water-based recreation, while also ensuring effective natural resource management for continued attainment of environmental goals in the Lake Tahoe Region. Adoption of the Shoreline Plan occurred October 24, 2018. Since 2015, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), along with critical stakeholder partners, has developed the Shoreline Plan to develop guidelines for appropriate uses along the shore of Lake Tahoe. This Shoreline planning initiative updates the shorezone element goals and policies in TRPA's Regional Plan and the shorezone chapters in the TRPA Code of Ordinances. The overarching goal of the Shoreline Plan is to enhance the recreational experience along Lake Tahoe's shores while protecting the environment and responsibly planning for the future.

PERMITTING

The Shoreline Plan lifts a longstanding moratorium on new shorezone structures at Lake Tahoe, setting caps and regulations for new shorezone structures such as piers, moorings, and public boat ramps. The plan also creates a framework for marinas to enhance their facilities if environmental improvements are made part of the project. For more information about TRPA permits for moorings, structures, and other shorezone activities, please review the fact sheets at the bottom of this page or visit [TRPA's Applications & Forms Page](#).

During this pier allocation period (2019-2020), TRPA may allocate seven multiple-parcel piers. TRPA reviewed the submitted proposals based on the prioritization criteria in the code, which resulted in awarding six multiple-parcel pier applications the opportunity to submit a complete New Pier Application to TRPA. There were 23 projects tied for the seventh multiple-parcel pier allocation, which was decided by a random drawing on July 17, 2019.

BOATING

The Shoreline Plan creates new programs to ensure shoreline structures and boating activity do not harm the environment, scenery, or recreation experiences at Lake Tahoe. These programs include coordinated enforcement against illegal boat moorings on the lake, more projects to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species, enhanced monitoring to better assess noise and scenic impacts from boating activity and shoreline structures, stronger boating safety education, and new

provisions to keep boats with aftermarket exhaust systems that exceed TRPA, California, and Nevada noise limits from operating on the lake.

The cost of these programs will be paid for through new fees apportioned to various shoreline users and structures. These fees include annual mooring registration fees, an increase in boat sticker fees, and boat rental concession fees. Lake Tahoe watercraft inspection sticker fees increased by \$12 in 2019. This increase is needed to help pay for boater education, no-wake zone enforcement, and projects to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe.

NO-WAKE ZONES

The new shoreline program includes stronger boater education and enforcement of the [600-foot no-wake zone](#) at Lake Tahoe. The plan expands the no-wake zone to include all Emerald Bay and creates a 100-foot no-wake zone buffer around swimmers and paddlers and a 200-foot no-wake zone buffer around shoreline structures. These no-wake zones are in place to prevent unsafe boating in areas where boaters, paddlers, and swimmers share the lake, and to reduce noise impacts from boating.

Environmental documents were prepared in 2017. See http://shorelineplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Shoreline-EIS-Scoping-Summary-Report_Sept.2017.pdf

Key policy issues that the plan addresses:

- Recreational Access
- Marinas and Boating
- Environmental Effects of Access
- Recreational Facilities
- Low Lake Levels
- Streamlining the Approval Process
- Public and Private Access to the Lake

TWSA provided comment in this process. Comments were submitted on water quality concerns. A request was submitted in 2016/17/18 for expansion of the zone of protection (requiring notification to water providers) around intakes from the current 600 ft. buffer to 1,320 ft. This larger zone of protection (partly by ordinance, partly by review process) is now incorporated in new regulatory review process.



What's New For 2019 Boating Season

NO WAKE ZONES

Lake Tahoe has no-wake zones to keep boaters and swimmers safe. Motorized boats must maintain a safe distance from shore and from paddlers, swimmers, and structures. Remember, for everyone's safety, please stay under 5 mph when boating within:

- 600 feet of shore
- 100 feet of paddlers and swimmers
- 200 feet of shoreline structures
- Emerald Bay



KEEP BOAT ENGINES MUFFLED

Boats must comply with noise limits and keep exhaust systems muffled so all visitors enjoy a peaceful Lake Tahoe. Exceptions are in place for classic and antique boats and special events.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Remember to arrive with your boat Cleaned, Drained & Dry to help keep aquatic invasive species out of Lake Tahoe. TRPA and partners are ramping up programs to protect the lake from invasive species and boat sticker fees will increase in 2019.

Look for updates at tahoeboatinspections.com

FREE DOWNLOAD!



TAHOE BOATING APP

This summer, TRPA and partners are launching a new Tahoe Boating app to inform boaters about Lake Tahoe, no-wake zone boundaries, area attractions, and how to enjoy the lake safely and responsibly.

Download the free app at TahoeBoating.org



Learn more about TRPA's shoreline plan at: trpa.org/shoreline

June 2019



1220 Sweetwater Road
Incline Village, Nevada 89451
775-832-1212

TWSA Members:
Cave Rock Water System
Edgewood Water Company
Glenbrook Water Cooperative
Incline Village GID
Kingsbury GID
Lakeside Park Association
North Tahoe PUD
Round Hill GID
Skyland Water Company
South Tahoe PUD
Tahoe City PUD
Zephyr Water Utility

July 2, 2018

Ms. Rebecca Cremeen
Shoreline Plan EIS Comments
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
PO Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) staff on 6/26/18 to discuss the water provider concerns regarding the proposed Shoreline Plan. As was discussed, the TWSA Board supports the formal codification of a '¼ mile requirement of notification' in the Shoreline Plan for *all shoreline structures*, for protection of drinking water infrastructure. Our organization's #1 priority is the protection of the public drinking water sources located here at Lake Tahoe.

On behalf of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association Board (TWSA), we would like to submit two specific comments, and two general comments, regarding the proposed Shoreline Plan Code of Ordinance language.

The TWSA Board is in support of Alternative 1, *pending adoption of the following language revisions:*

Section 84.4.3:

- 1) We request that the word "pier" be replaced by "*shoreline structure*", to read as follows:

Development Standards: "For an additional ~~pier~~ "*shoreline structure*" located within ¼ mile of a public drinking water intake, TRPA shall notify and consult with the appropriate water provider(s) as part of the application process."

This suggested language revision would clarify Section 84.4.3 to match the definition in Section 50.11. (Section 50.11 - Allocation of Shorezone Structures:

"Structures in the shorezone and lakezone shall be allocated pursuant to applicable provisions in Chapter 84, Development Standards in the Shorezone and Lakezone. The following subsections address allocation of shorezone structures: 84.3 Mooring Structures / 84.4.Piers")

- 2) Add the suggested language below to Section 84.3.2.E.7 (page 84-4)
 (84.3 Mooring Structures, 2. General Standards, E. Allocation, and Permitting:
 Add: 7.) "For additional structures located within 1/4 mile of a public drinking water intake, TRPA shall notify and consult with the appropriate water purveyor(s) as part of the application process."

The comments below outline the reasoning behind the requested language changes.

- All structures have potential impact to drinking water supply infrastructure. There have been multiple instances where buoy blocks and anchor lines have been moved by littoral drift, and/or deliberate human alteration. This has placed boats very close to municipal water intakes. Some intakes here at Lake Tahoe have suffered damage from these actions. Boats have sunk close to, and on top of, active intake lines. Having a greater ability to consult with TRPA, and TRPA enhanced enforcement regarding mooring placements, would provide greater protection to the water supply.
- The EIS summarizes the intent for consultation within ¼ mile for "any proposed shoreline structure", and the potential for impacts to water supply, in the EIS Summary section 15.3, excerpt below.

Table ES-1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impacts			Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measures		Significance with Mitigation
B = Beneficial	NI = No Impact	LTS = Less than significant	PS = Potentially significant	S = Significant	SU = Significant and unavoidable	
<p>not result in adverse effects. Specific projects implemented in accordance to the adopted Shoreline Plan would be subject to permit processes and conditions pursuant to TRPA regulations and, depending upon location and whether or not there is federal discretion, CEQA and NEPA statutes and implementing regulations. Such review could include site-specific impact analysis and adoption of feasible mitigation measures that must be implemented to assure that standards of the region are met.</p> <p>With the addition of access points to the lake and the increase in navigational hazards in the form of longer piers and additional structures in the water, the Shoreline Plan alternatives could result in a long-term increase in the risk of accidental discharge of fuel and other hazardous materials into the lake. Alternative 1 would require that TRPA consult with water purveyors when evaluating applications and development of permit conditions for any proposed shoreline structure within one quarter mile of a drinking water intake, while Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 would require consultation within 600 feet. Furthermore, as described in Chapter 6, "Hydrology and Water Quality," Impact 6-4, given the rapid rate of biodegradation of hydrocarbon compounds, the non-toxic levels monitored on the lake, and current TRPA regulations pertaining to control of discharges of contaminants from boating facilities using best management practices (BMPs).</p>						

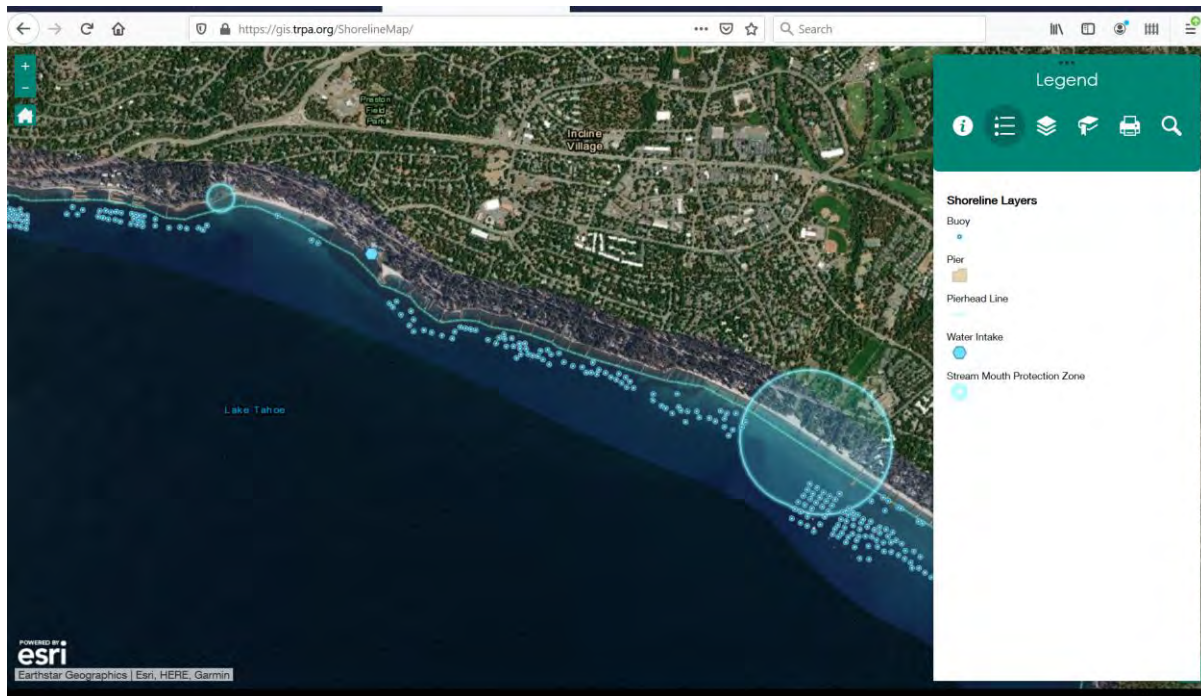


Background: On March 22, 2017, RPIC endorsed a set of policies (see page 131 of the Governing Board packet available at: <http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/March-22-2017-Governing-Board-Packet.pdf>) that included the following language: “Public drinking water intakes: within ¼ mile of water intakes, water purveyors will be notified and consulted on project conditions.”
(source: Brandy McMahon, bmcMahon@trpa.org, correspondence)

TWSA Comment summary:

Tahoe Water Suppliers Association	Concerned with zone of protection for water supply intakes. Suggests using Marina Best Management Practices to control debris, oil and AIS fragments, such as trash skimmer and/or water 'air gates'.	Water Quality
Tahoe Water Suppliers Association	Concerned with potential contamination from nearshore development, impacts from boating (especially buoy fields which are encroaching on intake infrastructure and fuel spills), AIS management issues in Tahoe and the Keys, and human water contact recreational bacterial/viral potential contamination.	Public Health and Safety, Recreation, Water Quality
North Tahoe Public Utility District	Concerned about boats sinking near water intakes due to weather. Suggests setting and enforcing a deadline for boats to be removed from the water, especially on buoys around water intakes.	Recreation, Water Quality

To view a map of Lake Tahoe’s shoreline including an inventory of shoreline structures (such as marinas and boat ramps), natural features, and environmental constraints go to:
<http://gis.trpa.org/ShorelineMap>



Process: Reaching consensus on standards for shoreline structures such as piers, buoys and boat ramps has been difficult in the past with the complex mix of public and private land, the lake’s renowned water clarity and natural beauty, a complex regulatory environment with two states, four counties, a city and numerous state and federal agencies.

A team of diverse stakeholders has come together to create a holistic, robust and inclusive planning process for the lake’s shoreline. The process, known as the Shoreline Plan, is working to develop a set of policies over the next two years based on engaging a wide range of stakeholders, rigorous scientific data, and creating an open, inclusive process.

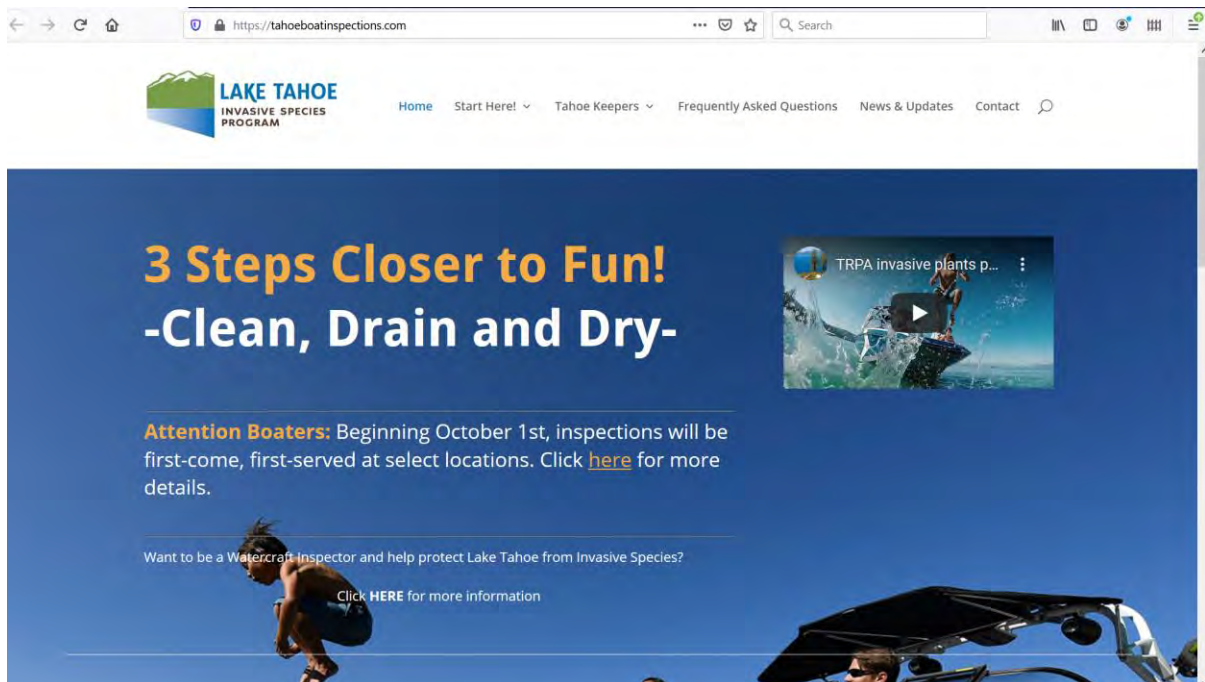
TRPA and its partners selected an internationally recognized mediation entity, the [Consensus Building Institute \(CBI\)](#), to design and implement a strategic, organized process that engages stakeholders on all issues. [Click here for a detailed outline of the process and timeline.](#)

Shoreline Studies – Resources: A number of studies and reports completed in the past have focused on the impacts of shoreline activities and boating. These studies are helping inform TRPA’s ongoing shoreline planning initiative and are being made available on the website as a resource for the public. www.shorelineplan.org

Topics: Air Quality/Boating and Watercraft Use/Carrying Capacity/Dredging/Economics Fisheries/Low Lake Level Adaptation/Miscellaneous/Noise/Scenic/Water Quality

Findings – Findings summary available here:

<http://shorelineplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CBI-Shoreline-Assessment-Findings-for-Public-Review.pdf>



Boating

2018 marked the 10th Anniversary of the Tahoe Boat Inspection program.

<https://tahoeboatinspections.com>.

This program has inspected almost 7,000 boats annually, and conducted decontamination processes on about 45% of the boats inspected.

The revised Shoreline Plan has strong boater (and marina) education, policies, restrictions BMP and enforcement components. <http://shorelineplan.org>

- TRPA boating regulations and information about the mandatory boat inspection program is included in the next chapter of this report.

Recreational boating presents a potential source of pollution. Accidental boat submersion, release of fuel, release of sewage, and the potential introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) are all areas of concern. TRPA and other agencies have worked to educate boaters on clean boating practices. TRPA established a blue boating program under the 2008 Shorezone Ordinance; however, the Blue Boater Program (which included water quality monitoring and additional boat inspection requirements on engine tuning) is not in operation.

TRPA's current ordinance does require:

- All boats are prohibited from sewage release except at designated pump-out stations.
- All motorized boats are required to undergo a vigorous AIS inspection before launch.
- All boat launch ramps are locked if there is no inspector on site.
- Any spill incidents are reported to the US Coast Guard and state regulatory agencies who then notify water providers of any potential problems near their intakes.
- All watercraft engines must be 4 stroke to reduce hydrocarbon emissions.
- All non-motorized watercraft are requested to undergo voluntary inspection.
- TRPA boating regulations and information about the mandatory boat inspection program is included in the next chapter of this report.

Shorezone Development and Projects

TWSA staff regularly attends monthly Interagency Shorezone Coordination Group meetings, in order to keep TWSA purveyors informed of development with possible impacts to the drinking water intakes. A ¼ mile (1320 ft.) buffer is the trigger for prompting water provider input on potential permanent projects.

Since 2008, TWSA staff has been receiving copies of re-issued and newly permitted boat buoy permits from Nevada State Lands. Many of these structures are located outside the ¼ mile intake buffer, and as a result, the water providers do not provide comment. Any project of significance to the water providers is forwarded to the applicable agency for comment submittal to Nevada State Lands.

Several large development projects were under recent review for potential impacts: the Glenbrook Buoy Field Expansion, the Beach Club on Lake Tahoe and the Edgewood Lodge and Golf Course Improvement Project.

Edgewood Lodge and Golf Course Improvement Project

<http://www.tahodailytribune.com/news/local/edgewood-celebrates-completion-of-100m-lodge>

They [broke ground on the new Edgewood Lodge at the south shore of Lake Tahoe in October of 2015](#), but plans and environmental improvements began years before that in preparation for the new 169,000 square-foot hotel and spa with dining, shopping and adventures options along with 154 rooms.

Some of the environmental improvements completed to date include: moving the stormwater off the casino corridor and pulling through the ponds on the golf course, a dam system at Friday's Station that supplies water to the course and Edgewood Creek improvements, a cooling system using lake water, dredging the current ponds around the course and bring back to their natural state and the daylighting of Edgewood Creek.

Nearly 25 years in the making, Edgewood Tahoe's \$100-million lodge is finally completed. "What you see here today is the culmination of a vision that was formed 25 years ago when [the late] Brooks Park and [general manager] Bobby King thought it would be a good idea for golfers to have a place to stay after they completed their round of golf," said John McLaughlin, president and CEO for Edgewood Companies.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Executive Director Joanne Marchetta pointed to specific environmental restoration projects on the 4,200-acre Edgewood Creek watershed, which feeds directly into the lake — and includes the golf course itself. "It's the environmental benefits that really outshine here. We have enhanced wetlands, new fish and wildlife habitat, and improved stormwater systems," said Marchetta. "The restoration of the golf course is actually improving more than 53,000 square feet of stream environment zone. These are the kinds of new wetlands that filter polluted stormwater runoff before it enters the lake." These environmental improvements were required by the

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board approved the Edgewood Tahoe Lodge and Golf Course realignment project on August 23, 2012 in a unanimous vote. The Board voted to certify the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement, approved a code amendment for the height amendment and approved the 154-room hotel project that includes environmental improvements to water quality as well as sensitive land restoration.

TWSA staff and member agencies were involved in public comment regarding potential impacts to Edgewood Water Company's drinking water quality from an expanded beach access area near the intakes.

The Edgewood Tahoe Lodge Project will include significant and water quality improvements for the Edgewood Creek watershed. The plan includes the transfer of development rights from blighted sites within city limits to the Lodge Project.

During the summer of 2012, the project proponent (Edgewood Companies) contract engineer (R.O. Anderson) and Project Manager (Brandon Hill) held several meetings and conference calls to address NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and TWSA Member concerns.

These concerns centered on:

- 1) Potential increased microbial contamination from the new beach access area (area will have limited access capped at 250 people/day).
- 2) Requesting use of the TWSA Risk Assessment Model (which was then conducted) and additional support material to verify the contactor submission that project would have no impact to water quality.

Below is a summary of final correspondence from NDEP:



STATE OF NEVADA
 Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
 DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brian Sandoval, Governor
 Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director
 Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

August 3, 2012

Ms. Theresa Avance, AICP
 Senior Planner
 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
 PO Box 5310
 Stateline, NV 89449

RE: Edgewood Lodge and Golf Course Improvement Project Final EIS
 NDEP project review number (DO-4286-12)

Dear Ms. Avance,

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) has reviewed the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) responses to the Bureau's comments contained in the Edgewood Lodge and Golf Course Improvement Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by Ascent Environmental. We appreciate the work that has been done with appropriate parties to help assure long term protection of public health.

The NDEP-BSDW appreciates the amendments made to the Final EIS in response to expressed concerns with the Draft document. Additional references to the Nevada drinking water program, Nevada Administrative Code and TRPA Code, NDEP regulations governing watershed control and monitoring, the project's creation of a new potential microbial contamination source, and project construction timeline management, all improve the document with respect to increased awareness of interactions between the project's amendments to land use and the drinking water supply for the area. New discussion with respect to the Kingsbury General Improvement District intake also adds clarity on the relative locations of the projects.

As amended in Section 5.6 of the Final EIS, the NDEP-BSDW looks forward to future discussions with the TRPA to address measures linked to the watershed control program. NDEP will remain engaged with the Edgewood Water Company and Edgewood Lodge project proponents to identify any cooperative Best Management Practices for the new beach and pier access that would prove beneficial for the long term health of the watershed.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (775) 687-9515 or jcarr@ndep.nv.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Carr, PE, CEM
 Chief, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

cc's on Page 2:



901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 4001 • Carson City, Nevada 89701 • p: 775.687.4670 • f: 775.687.5856 • ndep.nv.gov

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Correspondence from R.O. Anderson Engineering on behalf of Edgewood Companies providing information on the Risk Assessment run conducted July 2012 and other studies reinforcing their position. This information is archived in earlier TWSA Annual Reports.

Beach Club on Lake Tahoe Development - KGID Treatment Plant Relocation

<http://southtahoenow.com/story/07/28/2016/old-kgid-treatment-plant-and-trailers-removed-new-luxury-project>

What was once home to 155 mobile homes and the KGID water treatment plant took one big step towards being a luxury condominium project when developers tore down the plant. Going up on the 20-acre site is the Tahoe Beach Club Lakefront, a 143 two-five-bedroom luxury condominium residences. The first phase, completed in Fall 2017, includes 48 residences.

Bob Mecay, CEO of Beach Club Development, removed the last vestiges of the retired water treatment plant. In its place will be The Beach Club athletic facility. "It's a momentous occasion for us because it signifies the start of our project as well as milestone for environmental improvements," said Mecay. "The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Board of Governors unanimously approved the project due to its environmental benefits."

The buildings will be LEED-certified to improve and restore its natural surroundings. Streams spanning over two acres will be restored and native vegetation will be utilized throughout the property. Once finalized the project will reduce the number of sediment run-off from approximately 11,000 to 600 pounds a year. Greenhouse gas emissions anticipate to be reduced by more than 60 percent.

The project also complements the Nevada Tahoe Conservancy District's efforts to restore ecological function of Rabe Meadow within the Burke Creek channel, reduce pollutants into the lake and improve safety in case of a flood.

The Kingsbury General Improvement District's (KGID) new \$19 million water treatment plant was relocated to the back of the property in 2015. The state of the art facility utilizes ultraviolet treatment to the ozone disinfection, which meets Environmental Protection Agency requirements. "This is a great example of the partnership between private industry and the public sector coming together to make both projects happen" said Cameron McKay, general manager of KGID.

Those living in the mobile home park were originally told in 2003 that they would have to move so the project could be built. It took 14 years of planning to get to this point.

Editor Notes: On February 29, 2008 NDEP submitted comments that the DEIS did not fully address potential impacts to the Kingsbury GID water system. The DEIS noted that water lines would need to be re-routed, and that buildings will be adjacent to the existing surface water treatment plant. The proposed pier was adjacent to the drinking water intake. As of 2014, several problems had been resolved, allowing for the project to progress.

**Glenbrook Buoy Field Expansion
(DO-2814-07)**

http://www.trpa.org/documents/agendas/hearings%20officer/summaries/2007/may_8_2007_Summaries.pdf

Expansion to the buoy field adjacent to the Glenbrook Water Company intake was determined by NDEP as a potential source of contamination due to potential source water contamination events from increased boating activity. Mitigation measures agreed upon by NDEP staff include the yearly signing of a notice of awareness for proper boating practices by the buoy users.

A copy of this notice was required to be included in TWSA annual reports starting in 2009, along with information on any incidents and follow up procedures taken. TWSA has a digital copy of the annual letters on file.

In 2008, the Glenbrook Homeowners Association began the required annual notices and reported no incidents since the mitigation process began.

Buoy assignments are given out annually by lottery. Buoy occupants are required to sign a letter stating that they are aware of the proximity of the Glenbrook water intake to the buoy field, and that any accidents or spill incidents need to be reported immediately. This documentation is maintained by the Glenbrook Homeowners Association and provided to TWSA for review and archiving.

The Nevada Bureau of Safe Drinking Water has stated in association with this project that if increased microbial contamination occurs, the agency will re-evaluate the purveyor's filtration avoidance status.

**NOTICE TO BUOY USERS
WARNING**

THE GLENBROOK DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEM INTAKE LINE AND INTAKE STRUCTURE ARE LOCATED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE CABANA BUOY FIELD. ANY DISCHARGE OF GAS, OIL, CHEMICALS, OR SEWER EFFLUENT MUST BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY SO THAT APPROPRIATE CLEAN UP MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO PROTECT YOUR WATER SUPPLY WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

TO REPORT A SPILL, PLEASE CALL THE WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR AT 775-790-0711 OR 775-790-0414 AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AT 775-749-5266. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO BE CALLED AT 911.

I hereby acknowledge that I have received this notice and take full responsibility for ensuring that any spill is promptly reported.

SIGNATURE OF BUOY USER

A sample of the letter used in the Glenbrook Buoy Field mitigation requirements. Copies of the signed letters are received and archived by TWSA annually.

Chemical and Pesticide Usage

How to Request a Prohibition Exemption to use Aquatic Pesticides

(October 2016)

Purpose	Key Process Steps			Time to Approval
Vector Control	Submit required Vector-Pesticide information to Water Board for review	Water Board will review submitted information for completeness	If complete, aquatic pesticide use may commence immediately	Typically a few days to a week
Fisheries Management using Rotenone	Submit required Fisheries-Pesticide information to Water Board for review	Water Board will review submitted information for completeness	If complete, Water Board will inform you if proposal is either scheduled for next available public hearing or for Executive Officer action	One month to review for completeness plus at least 3-4 months for Board hearing
EMERGENCY	IMMEDIATELY contact the Water Board to notify about the situation	Submit required Emergency-Pesticide information to Water Board for review	If complete, aquatic pesticide use may commence immediately	Can be the same day as notification
Time Sensitive Project	Contact the Water Board to notify about the time sensitive situation	Submit required Time Sensitive-Pesticide information for Water Board to review and respond within ten days	If complete, the Water Board will inform you if proposal is either scheduled for next available public hearing or for Executive Officer action	From ten days to a few months. Additional time may be needed to develop environmental documentation
Not Time Sensitive	Submit required Normal-Pesticide information to Water Board for review	Water Board will review submitted information for completeness	If complete, Water Board will inform you if proposal is either scheduled for next available public hearing or for Executive Officer action	One month to review for completeness plus at least 3-4 months for Board hearing. Additional time may be needed for CEQA documents

Editor Note: This has been the topic of greatest concern for the TWSA membership for the past 10 years. Extensive information on the topic and TWSA involvement is included in this next section. The final decision on approval of an herbicide exemption lies with the Lahontan RWQCB Board, with auxiliary approval needed from TRPA.

TWSA members have expressed great concern over the potential impacts to drinking water quality by proposed aquatic herbicide issue, for the past 10 years. TWSA staff and members attend monthly meetings with the TKPOA working group, which includes the League to Save Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Sierra Club, Lahontan staff, TRPA staff and other stakeholders. TWSA has provided ongoing public comment on the plan at the TRPA Governing Board, CA State and Lahontan Water Board meetings.

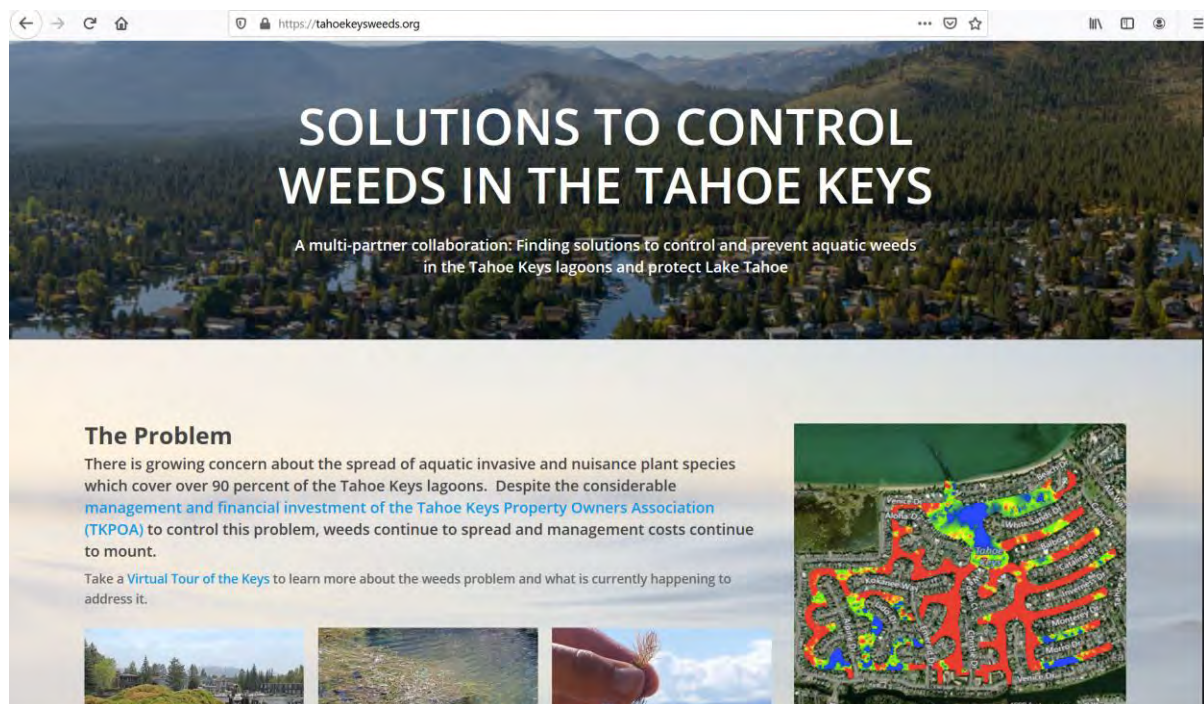
Potential Use of Herbicides

Current information is posted at: <https://tahoekeysweeds.org> . This is a rapidly developing topic.

In 2018, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) submitted the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT) Application, to Lahontan Water Board. This triggered the need for an [Environmental Impact Report](#) (EIR) required by the [California Environmental Quality Act](#) (CEQA) and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board), and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA).

The Control Methods Test application proposes the use of targeted herbicides as one weed control method to test (along-side and in combination with other methods) to reduce and control the abundant growth of invasive and nuisance aquatic weeds that are compromising water quality and degrading beneficial uses of the Tahoe Keys lagoons, as well as threatening the future ecosystem and water quality of Lake Tahoe.

The environmental analysis (CEQA and Antidegradation Analysis) will determine if the use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) approved herbicides can meet the strict environmental standards of Lake Tahoe's classification as a [Tier Three, Outstanding National Resource Water](#). The review process will be ongoing into 2021.



EPA Approval given for Lahontan Basin Plan Amendment Changes, Sept. 10, 2015.

Regulatory changes, initiated in 2011, by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to the "Lahontan Basin Plan Amendment", removed a former prohibition on aquatic herbicides/pesticides and replaced it with a project review process.

EPA approval was given Sept. 10, 2015 on the changes, see letter below.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Resolution Number 2012-0018; Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan): *To Replace a Pesticide Water Quality Objective with a Waste Discharge Prohibition on Pesticides with Exemption Criteria* (the Amendment).



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

SEP 10 2015

Ms. Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian
Executive Officer
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

Dear Ms. Kouyoumdjian:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Resolution Number 2012-0018; Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan): *To Replace a Pesticide Water Quality Objective with a Waste Discharge Prohibition on Pesticides with Exemption Criteria* (the Amendment). By this letter, I am pleased to inform you that I am approving the water quality standards portions of this amendment.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted the Amendment on December 7, 2011 under Resolution No. R6T-2011-0102, and adopted by the SWRCB on May 15, 2012 under Resolution No. 2012-0018. The Amendment was certified by the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on September 6, 2012, in accordance with 40 CFR 131.6(e) that the standards were duly adopted pursuant to California law. EPA received the main submission for review on July 24, 2012 and received notice of the OAL certification on September 10, 2012.

Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires EPA to approve or disapprove new or revised state-adopted water quality standards. The State regulatory provisions which are subject to EPA's approval authority under Section 303(c) are those addressing antidegradation, beneficial uses, water quality criteria, and certain provisions addressing implementation of water quality standards for surface waters.

The Amendment makes various revisions to the Basin Plan in Chapters 3 (Water Quality Objectives), 4 (Implementation), and 5 (Water Quality Control Measures for the Lake Tahoe Basin). Revisions in Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 include the removal of the existing water quality objective for pesticides. Other revisions in Chapter 3 include changes to the water quality objectives for use of the fish toxicant rotenone. In addition, the revisions in Chapter 5, pp. 5.1-10 include the removal of water quality objectives for use of rotenone that are duplicative of the revised rotenone water quality objectives in Chapter 3. We have determined that the above revisions are subject to EPA's 303(c) approval authority and are consistent with the requirements of the CWA and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Part 131.5 and 131.6.¹

¹ The regulations governing water quality standards were revised in a Final Rule signed August 5, 2015. See 80 FR 51019 ("Final Rule"). This revised rule is effective October 20, 2015, and includes a transition period. For that reason, the State's revisions are evaluated using the regulations as they existed before the Final Rule. See 80 FR 51022.

Final Rule Approved Paper

Revisions in Chapter 4 and additional revisions to Chapter 5 include a new waste discharge prohibition for pesticide application to water with specific exemption criteria and also include changes to certain requirements regarding rotenone use in fisheries management. EPA is not acting on the revisions in Chapter 4 nor the additional revisions to Chapter 5 as they are not new or revised water quality standards under Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act, but rather implementation provisions that are not within the scope of this approval action.

In order to provide further clarity, we have provided an attachment to this transmittal letter that includes the complete text of the provisions that we are approving in today's action.

Public Participation

Public involvement is an integral component of a successful water quality program. Based upon our review of the administrative record for the subject amendment, the public review procedures followed by the State in the development of State Board Resolution No. 2012-0018 and the Regional Board Resolution R6T-2011-0102 are consistent with the procedural requirements set forth in 40 CFR 131.20(b).

Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) states that each federal agency shall ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency will not likely jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered (listed) species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. On August 24, 2015, EPA initiated informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on our action concerning the revised pesticide and rotenone water quality objectives. EPA concluded consultation with the Service on August 31, 2015 with the Service's concurrence with EPA's finding of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" for the proposed criteria.

EPA looks forward to working with you and your staff toward our mutual goal of protecting and enhancing the quality of California's waters. If EPA can be of further assistance in meeting these goals, please call me at (415) 972-3438 or have your staff contact Matthew Mitchell at (415) 972-3508.

Sincerely,



Michael Montgomery
Acting Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Mary Fiore-Wagner, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Dan Sussman, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Rik Rasmussen, State Water Resources Control Board
Corey Buffo, U.S. EPA, Office of Water

Tahoe Lakewide AIS Map, 2019

All current controls are non-chemical.

<https://tahoekeysweeds.org/>



Aquatic Invasive Species Overview

The focus on control of aquatic invasive species (AIS) has become a leading topic of concern in Tahoe over the past 10 years. Greater understanding of the extent of the subject has become more relevant in agency management programs. The spread of the more aggressive Curlyleaf Pondweed in the Tahoe Keys waters is of mounting concern. The following excerpts summarize historical process and status of management options.



AUGUST 2017

Photos: League to Save Lake Tahoe (left), peterspain.com (right)

A brief history of aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe

In 2008, with some of the most destructive aquatic invasive species (AIS) known, quagga and zebra mussels, approaching Lake Tahoe's doorstep, Lake Tahoe Basin partners jumped into action to launch the nation's most comprehensive boat inspection program. Now nine years later and with no invasions, the Lake Tahoe AIS Program is widely considered a national model for how to effectively keep new AIS from entering a water body.

However, prior to shutting the door on new AIS in 2008, nearly 30 non-native species had already made their way into the lake. Documentation of these species and their locations around the lake began in the mid-1990s even though many were introduced (both intentionally and accidentally) many decades prior. Since their introduction, they have established into infestations and are spreading rapidly, altering the environment in ways that could change Tahoe forever.

Aquatic invasive plants, warm water fish and invertebrates have the adaptive ability to make their surroundings more hospitable for themselves and other invasives, while simultaneously threatening the well-being of Tahoe's native species. These AIS are thriving in the lake right now. By cycling nutrients, altering food webs, preying on native species and covering pristine beaches with clam shells and mats of weeds, they threaten a \$5 billion economy while destroying the unique clarity that makes Lake Tahoe an annual destination for over 24 million visitors. The good news is that Tahoe agencies have a plan in place to systematically control these species and take back the lake.

Plan for the control of aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe

In 2015, researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno, completed a comprehensive plan to control AIS already established in the waters of Lake Tahoe. This ecologically-based approach to prioritizing species and infestation sites identified two aquatic plants, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, and warm water fish, as the primary targets for control work in the immediate future. Emphasis also remains on early detection and rapid response to any new satellite infestations of aquatic invasive plants and Asian clams.

Coupled with other factors such as feasibility, permitting and project cost, a five year action list was developed to aid in the search for funding needed to complete the job.

A Eurasian watermilfoil infestation in one of three Crystal Shores marinas. Photo on left taken July 2015 prior to the placement of bottom barriers. Photo on right taken 2016 after control treatment was complete. Photos: Tahoe Resource Conservation District



Tahoe Taking Action - 2017

Control of AIS is a multi-year endeavor that seeks to reduce the impacts from aquatic invaders to a point of insignificance. An integrated approach using numerous techniques is essential to success. Work taking place in 2017 is fueled by public/private partnerships and funding sources including California Tahoe Conservancy (SB630 and Prop 1), League to Save Lake Tahoe, Nevada Division of State Lands, Proposition 84, Tahoe Fund, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Truckee River Fund, and numerous private contributions. Below are some projects underway in Lake Tahoe today.



Tahoe Using New Innovative Technology

Lead: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Tahoe RCD and Inventive Resources, Inc. are embarking on a project using ultraviolet light to treat aquatic invasive plants in Lake Tahoe. Ultraviolet-C light works by damaging the DNA and cellular structure of invasive plant life that currently threatens the health of the lake. While this technology needs further field testing to determine its full potential, ultraviolet light could augment Tahoe RCD's methods, especially in low-water years, in tight spaces within marinas, or in river systems.



Success at Crystal Shores

Lead: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Crystal Shores marinas are now weed-free. After three years of treatment using bottom barriers and diver-assisted suction removal, surveys show no new plants sprouting this season. Moving forward, this site will receive annual surveys to maintain the success and catch any new potential infestations early. Early detection of the infestation and the rapid response by public and private partners to begin treatment was critical for the success of this project.



Asian Clams at Sand Harbor State Park

Lead: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency/Nevada Division of State Lands

A control project began in mid-June at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Sand Harbor, to treat a small, isolated population of Asian clams before it spread to an unmanageable level. The project consists of covering approximately 4 acres of the lake bottom near the boat ramp with thin rubber barriers which is intended to suffocate the clams. While boating in the area, please do not anchor within the project to avoid ripping or tearing the barriers.



Tahoe Keys Passes Special Assessment to Combat Weeds

Lead: Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) is proud to announce a nearly 2/3 "FOR" vote was achieved in April 2017 authorizing up to \$2.4 million over 4 years to test various ways to control the invasive weeds in the Tahoe Keys lagoons, including bottom barriers, plant fragment control methods, laminar flow aeration and other innovative approaches. The "FOR" vote also authorizes the TKPOA to propose a small-scale, pilot test to assess the effectiveness of aquatic herbicides on the invasive plants, if permitted.



Eyes on the Lake Volunteers Take Action

Lead: League to Save Lake Tahoe

Tahoe's citizen science monitoring program, Eyes on the Lake, is comprised of volunteers reporting presence and absence of aquatic invasive plants. In 2016, volunteers identified two new invasive weed infestations and reported them to resource managers. Both locations are receiving control work this season because of these dedicated volunteers.





August 2015

A Brief History of Aquatic Invasive Species at Lake Tahoe: The Tipping Point?

In 2008, with the threat of invasion from some of the most destructive aquatic invasive species (AIS) known (quagga and zebra mussels) approaching Lake Tahoe's doorstep, Basin partners jumped into action to launch the nation's most comprehensive boat inspection program. Now seven years later and with not one new invasion, the Lake Tahoe AIS Program is widely considered a national model for how to effectively keep new AIS from entering a water body. This \$1.5 million per year program (funded by user fees and public dollars) has inspected 43,000 boats and decontaminated 21,000 boats while finding hundreds of potential invaders threatening Lake Tahoe, including mussels on twelve boats in 2014.

However, prior to shutting the door on new AIS in 2008, nearly 30 non-native species had already made their way into the Lake. Documentation of these species and their locations around the Lake began in earnest in the mid-1990s even though many were introduced (both intentionally and accidentally) many decades prior. Since their introduction, they have established into prolific infestations and are spreading rapidly, altering the environment in ways that could change the Lake Tahoe we know forever.

Aquatic invasive plants, warm water fish and invertebrates have the adaptive ability to make their surroundings more hospitable for themselves and other invasives, while simultaneously threatening the wellbeing of Tahoe's native species. These AIS are thriving in the Lake right now. By cycling nutrients, altering food webs, preying on native species and covering pristine beaches with clam shells and mats of weeds, they threaten a \$5 billion economy while destroying the unique clarity that makes Lake Tahoe an annual destination for over three million visitors. The good news is that Tahoe now has a plan in place to systematically control these species and take back the Lake.¹

Photos (clockwise from top left):
Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD), peterspain.com, TRCD



Key Invasive Species of Concern (year introduced)²

Signal Crayfish (invertebrate)	late 1800s
Mysid Shrimp (invertebrate)	1960s
Eurasian Watermilfoil (plant)	1970s
Bass, Bluegill, Goldfish (warm water fish)	1970s
Asian Clams (invertebrate)	2002
Curlyleaf Pondweed (plant)	2003
American Bullfrog (amphibian)	2004

Implementation Plan for the Control of AIS within Lake Tahoe

Researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno developed the Implementation Plan in collaboration with the Lake Tahoe AIS Coordination Committee and with review by an AIS expert panel of individuals from academic, management and regulatory backgrounds. They designed the Implementation Plan to serve as an ecologically-based approach to prioritizing species, locations and strategies for removal and control of AIS at Lake Tahoe for the next three to five years. Seven of the most damaging species were categorized into **three categories** of management recommendations.

Category 1 Species | Feasible Control Action

- Eurasian Watermilfoil (plant)
- Curlyleaf Pondweed (plant)
- Warm Water Fish

Resources should be focused on these species first because there are existing control methods that have been used successfully at Lake Tahoe and removal of these species may lead to the reduction of other AIS in the Lake.

Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed grow rapidly and spread easily, forming dense mats of vegetation. These infestations inhibit recreation, cycle nutrients into the water column leading to increases in algal growth, decrease water clarity and provide habitat for invasive warm water fish. Warm water fish in turn alter the food web through predation, decreasing the biodiversity of native fish species.

Originating on the south shore of Lake Tahoe, Eurasian watermilfoil was identified at 13 sites around the Lake in 1995, increasing to 18 sites in 2012. Curlyleaf pondweed was identified at two sites in 2003 and now occupies eight sites as of 2012.

Both aquatic invasive plants spread through fragments transported by currents and boats as well as by root structures, seed and in the case of curlyleaf pondweed,

by clone structures called turions. In 2006, invasive warm water fish species were found in 12 of 19 sites surveyed, but current distribution is unclear.

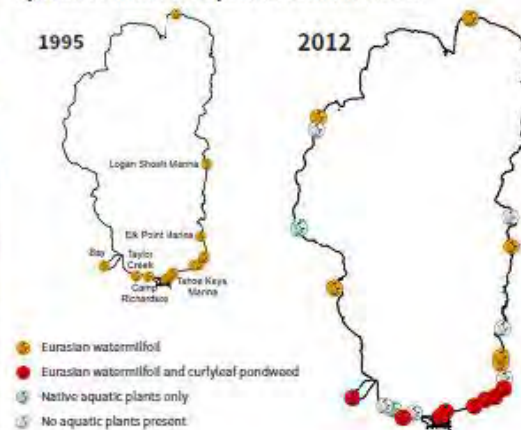
Recommended Action: Control

Efforts to remove a nearly 6 acre infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil in iconic Emerald Bay proved successful through a multi-year comprehensive strategy using bottom barriers to block out sunlight, followed by SCUBA diver-assisted suction and hand removal of plants. As of 2015 there are no longer aquatic invasive plants at this site. This methodology has been used effectively at other infestations in Lake Tahoe including lakeside of the Tahoe City Dam where a quarter acre infestation was removed in 2014. Mechanical removal of warm water fish using electro-shocking has decreased these fish populations in the short term. Multi-year treatments are recommended to occur in concert with aquatic invasive plant removal efforts. All control efforts need to include post-project monitoring to assess effectiveness.

Photos: Phil Caterino (left), California State Parks (right)



Spread of Invasive Aquatic Plants in Tahoe



Category 2 Species | Potential Control Action

- American Bullfrog (amphibian)
- Signal Crayfish (invertebrate)

There are existing control methods that have proven to reduce populations of these species but the long-term feasibility of these methods for use at Lake Tahoe is still unknown.

American bullfrogs have been observed along the south shore since 2004, including several breeding populations. Signal crayfish populations dominate the nearshore zone around the entire Lake with the highest densities along the west and north shores. Both species are voracious predators that significantly alter the food web, while crayfish can also provide a food source for invasive warm water fish species.

Recommended Action: Increased Monitoring

Crayfish are currently being commercially harvested but it is unknown if this action is significantly reducing populations. It is unclear at this time if American bullfrog populations are increasing in Tahoe and what unwanted effects may be occurring. Increased monitoring of both species will assist in guiding future control actions. In areas where bullfrogs persist, proposed future projects should include monitoring and potential control actions.²

Asian Clam Distribution (2014)

- Absent
- Present



Category 3 Species | No Feasible Control

- Mysid Shrimp (invertebrate)
- Asian Clams (invertebrate)

At this time, no control method that is allowed at Lake Tahoe has been proven to be successful in effectively reducing populations.

Mysid shrimp were intentionally introduced into Lake Tahoe in the 1960s as a food source for game fish (kokanee salmon and lake trout). They now persist in high densities (300 individuals per square meter) throughout the lake. They dramatically alter the native food web and have been proven responsible for fisheries collapse in other regions. There are no known control methods for mysid shrimp.

In 2002, researchers found low densities (two to 20 individuals per square meter) of Asian clams in a small section of the southeastern portion of the Lake, but by 2014, populations had spread along approximately 13 miles of shoreline from Cave Rock to Baldwin Beach (including a six acre satellite population at the mouth of Emerald Bay), with densities reaching 5,000 individuals per square meter in some areas. Once established, Asian clams dominate the lake bed and have been associated with algal blooms. Their shells also wash up on beaches in large numbers, affecting aesthetics and usability.

Recommended Action: Research Control Methods

Small scale control actions in areas where Asian clams are causing negative impacts to water quality should still be implemented while continuing to research a combination of control methods for future use.²

Photos, from top: Carl D. Howe, licensed under CC BY-SA 2.5; Wikipedia user MDE, licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Site Prioritization for Control Actions | Category 1 Species

A decision support tool was developed, with factors including fish/plant interactions, infestation size, human visitation and satellite populations. **The goal is to reduce overall expansion of these species in Lake Tahoe**

1. Tahoe Keys Main Lagoon
2. Tahoe Keys Marina
3. Meeks Bay
4. Ski Run Marina & Channel
5. Tahoe City Dam
6. Lakeside Marina
7. Regan Beach
8. Taylor Creek
- 9-11. Crystal Bay Marinas 1,2,3

These ecologically-driven priorities will be further refined in an action list based on factors such as cost and feasibility.



Tahoe Keys

The Tahoe Keys is a large private homeowners development and commercial marina completed in the 1960s within the Upper Truckee meadow. It consists of 1,529 homes covering 372 acres of land and 172 acres of interconnected waterways, with three outlets to Lake Tahoe. Several AIS were introduced beginning in the 1970s and 80s that have now become established populations and a potential source for spread to the rest of Lake Tahoe.

Two of these invasive aquatic plant species, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, along with a nuisance native aquatic plant, coontail, now occupy nearly 100 percent of the waterways. The environment created within the Tahoe Keys provides the perfect habitat for invasive warm water fish and the potential introduction of other AIS. Any efforts for long-term control of these species in Lake Tahoe are

contingent upon control within the Tahoe Keys.

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) invests \$400,000 per year to “harvest” these plants in order to maintain use of the channels. A better solution is needed and the TKPOA has recently completed an Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) to address this problem.

Recommended Action

The IWMP recommends a suite of control actions including the placement of bottom barriers, shifts in landscape practices to reduce nutrient inputs and targeted herbicide application (among others). The implementation of this plan still requires regulatory agency approvals and extensive environmental review with a target date for action no sooner than 2017. ³

We Must Continue the Fight

The Lake Tahoe AIS Program, a partnership composed of 40 agencies and organizations, has successfully prevented new introductions of AIS into Lake Tahoe since 2008 and provides the framework for successful implementation of AIS control actions moving forward.

The recent development of two science-based control plans for Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Keys offers the guidance needed to systematically and comprehensively stop the assault of AIS on Lake Tahoe. Additionally, the recent

passing of California Senate Bill 630 (SB630) provides funding from private pier and buoy leases, a portion of which is directed to AIS control efforts at Lake Tahoe. With the combination of best available science, extensive public education, agency collaboration and private sector participation solving the AIS Challenge is within reach.

We must continue to make progress. The next step is to secure the additional funding needed to expand and improve the control efforts to protect the Lake.

Information in this overview is drawn from the following management plans.

1. TRPA (Tahoe Regional Planning Agency): 2014. Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan, California - Nevada. 35 pp. + Appendices.



2. Wittmann, M.E. and Chandra, S. 2015. Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species within Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe AIS Coordination Committee, July 31, 2015. Reno, NV. 52 pp.



3. August 2015. Draft Integrated Weed Management Plan for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. Prepared by Sierra Ecosystem Associates for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association.



You can make a difference.

Contact one of these organizations or agencies to get involved.



Photos (clockwise from top left): League to Save Lake Tahoe, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Map data ©2015 Google, Tahoe Resource Conservation District

NO PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZERS

By Linda Callahan, Architectural
Control Department Manager

IN 2015, THE TAHOE KEYS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

(TKPOA) adopted new restrictions for the use of landscape fertilizers in the Keys. On December 18th, 2015, the Board of Directors voted to adopt these changes.

The additional language was added in order to restrict the use of fertilizers that are phosphorous based as recommended by the Tahoe Keys Water Quality Committee. These fertilizers are *partially responsible* for the escalated growth of invasive aquatic weeds in our lagoons.

Section 10 Item 10.15 of the Architectural Control Rules Brochure reads as follows:

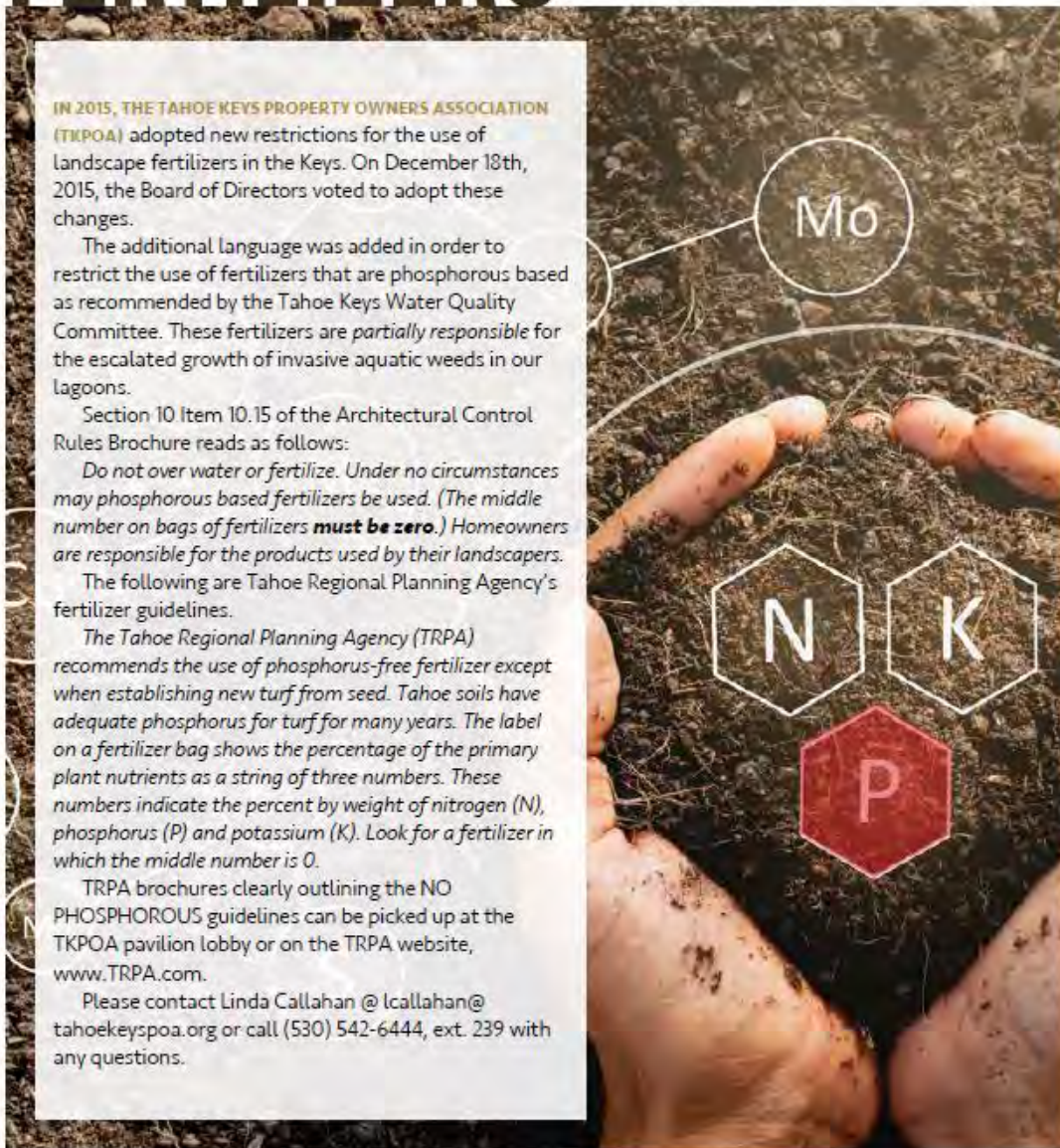
*Do not over water or fertilize. Under no circumstances may phosphorous based fertilizers be used. (The middle number on bags of fertilizers **must be zero.**) Homeowners are responsible for the products used by their landscapers.*

The following are Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's fertilizer guidelines.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) recommends the use of phosphorus-free fertilizer except when establishing new turf from seed. Tahoe soils have adequate phosphorus for turf for many years. The label on a fertilizer bag shows the percentage of the primary plant nutrients as a string of three numbers. These numbers indicate the percent by weight of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Look for a fertilizer in which the middle number is 0.

TRPA brochures clearly outlining the NO PHOSPHOROUS guidelines can be picked up at the TKPOA pavilion lobby or on the TRPA website, www.TRPA.com.

Please contact Linda Callahan @ lcallahan@tahoekeyspoa.org or call (530) 542-6444, ext. 239 with any questions.



2018 TRPA BEST IN

TKPOA Bubble Curtain and Seabin Project

By Gregory J. Hoover, TKPOA WQ Manager / AIS Management Coordinator

THE TAHOE KEYS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

(TKPOA) was awarded the 2018 Tahoe Regional Planning Agencies (TRPA) Best in Basin Award and a Certificate of Commendation from Nevada Senator Catherine Cortez Masto for the West Channel Bubble Curtain and Seabin Project. The Water Quality Staff received this prestigious award with five other Lake Tahoe Basin Agencies at the December 18, 2019 TRPA Governing Board Meeting. The Best in the Basin awards program annually recognizes and showcases public and private projects that demonstrate exceptional planning, implementation, and compatibility with Lake Tahoe's environment and communities.

The TKPOA introduced the Boat Backup Station in the West Channel in 2016 to help combat the number of plant fragments that are transported into Lake Tahoe. During the 2018 season, TKPOA installed a Bubble Curtain in the West Channel to help reduce the number of fragments spreading out into Lake Tahoe. In 2019, TKPOA installed the first of two Seabins in the West Channel to further reduce the number of fragments spreading out into Lake Tahoe by halting the plants at the Bubble Curtain and collecting them into the Seabin.

This is the first time that these two technologies have been combined together to form an intergraded system used for fragment control from Aquatic Plants. The objective of the Bubble Curtain and Seabin Project is to (1) create a barrier in the West Channel which would reduce the amount of plant fragments and debris from entering Lake Tahoe, (2) collect the diverted weed fragments and debris and (3) integrate these methods that have only been used independently of each other. This program aims to monitor and record the integration of these methods, and their efficiency and effectiveness.

The bubble curtain setup design consists of a "V"-shape formation. The purpose for this design was to

create three collection points for plant fragments and garbage to collect, one in the center and two on either of the channel near the bulkhead. The Seabin was placed on the West Channel bulkhead next to the Bubble Curtain. It was strategically placed at this location due to the Bubble Curtain design and placement. The Seabin, along with the Bubble Curtain, ran for 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

The Bubble Curtain and Seabin collection and monitoring took place twice daily, five days a week from June, 2019 to October 2019. Over the 131 days of monitoring, 159.32 ft³ of weed fragments were collected, sorted and identified. These plants and their percentages were: Eurasian Water Milfoil, (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) 49.91%, Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) 29.94%, Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), 10.90%, Elodea (*Elodea canadensis*) 4.81%, Richardson Pondweed (*Potamogeton richardsonii*) 2.51%, Leafy Pondweed (*Potamogeton foliosus*) 1.0%, Common Bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*) 0.04%, other plants .35% and common grass clippings 0.18%.

Due to the integration of these technologies and the success that the project has had in its first year, it was awarded the **2018 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Best in Basin**. Due to the success that we have had, the WQ Staff is looking at installing both a similar system into the East Channel and smaller systems throughout the West Channel in the 2020/2021 seasons.

We would like to thank Jessie Patterson and the League to Save Lake Tahoe who partnered with the TKPOA and provided \$5000 in grant funding for this project. We would also like to thank the Water Quantity Committee and the Water Quantity Staff for all of their hard work on this project over the last two seasons.



APRIL 4TH – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 21ST)

BOARD ACTIONS

- Appointed Steven Shepherd to fill the Board of Directors vacancy for the remainder of the 2018–2020 term.
- Approved the unaudited December 2019 Financial Statements and January 2020 Financial Statements.
- Approved publishing the Architectural Control proposed rule changes for a 28 day member review period.
- Postponed the due date for the revised Water Quality Special Assessment to June 1st, 2020.
- Approved the purchase of (2) LG Sonic E-Line XL Ultrasound Packages for an approximate total cost of \$9,910 to be funded from the Water Quality Special Assessment Funds, with the contingencies that the AIS Management Coordinator verify that cheaper options that meet TKPOA's needs are not available.
- Approved the purchase of (1) Weedo Tigercat, (1) Weedo Aqua Harvester, and (1) Weedo Mobile Conveyor Belt for an approximate total cost of \$154,050 to be funded from the Water Quality Special Assessment Funds.
- Approved the Water Quality Yellow Pond Lilly Abatement Project for \$21,832 to be charged to the Water Quality Special Assessment Funds, Water Quality Operating Funds, and the City of South Lake Tahoe (CSLT).
- Rescinded the June 12th, 2019 Street Light Project approval for \$237,097 and approved a revised TKPOA Street Light Replacement Project and approved the purchase from Wesco Distributors for 150-RAB 54 watt Light Emitting Diode (LED) Bulbs, 30 RAB 100 watt LED bulbs, and 30 RAB surge protectors to be installed by the Tahoe Keys Water Company for a total of \$24,851.29 to be funded out of the Common Reserve Fund.

Keep Tahoe Blue partners with Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association to control aquatic invasive plants

By League to Save Lake Tahoe Staff

Some of the blue waters of Lake Tahoe are in danger of turning green from aquatic invasive plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. These invaders thrive in shallow, shoreline waters, and can take hold if temperatures continue to rise and no immediate action is taken.

In 1995, an infestation was discovered in Emerald Bay but nothing was done to control it for many years. It spread and infested a staggering six acres. Though ultimately a success story, it took years to control and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Today a new, collaborative approach to addressing aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe is being spearheaded by the League to Save Lake Tahoe (www.keeptahoeblue.org). The League is partnering with concerned homeowners associations around the lake to train, empower, monitor and control infestations with innovative methods before costs balloon and large areas are impacted.

One example of a successful partnership is the one between the League and the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA). The warm protected waters of the Tahoe Keys lagoon on the South Shore are ground-zero for aquatic invasive plants and the 172 acres of waterways are over 90 percent full of these invaders.

"The League has been working closely with the Keys since 2013 to address this aquatic invasive weed situation, and without their participation, initiative and investment a lot of these tests and projects would not be happening. It's been a great group to work with because we have a common goal of trying to address these weeds," said Jesse Patterson, chief strategy officer for the League.

Current control methods are inadequate to address the size and complexity of the infestation. The League worked to find and test innovative solutions

to stop these plants from entering Lake Tahoe. Casual brainstorming conversations between TKPOA staff, the League and other Tahoe community members lead to project sketches on the back of a napkin at a conference and eventually a formal plan. The idea was to create a barrier of bubbles to stop invasive plant fragments from leaving the infested Keys and entering Lake Tahoe.

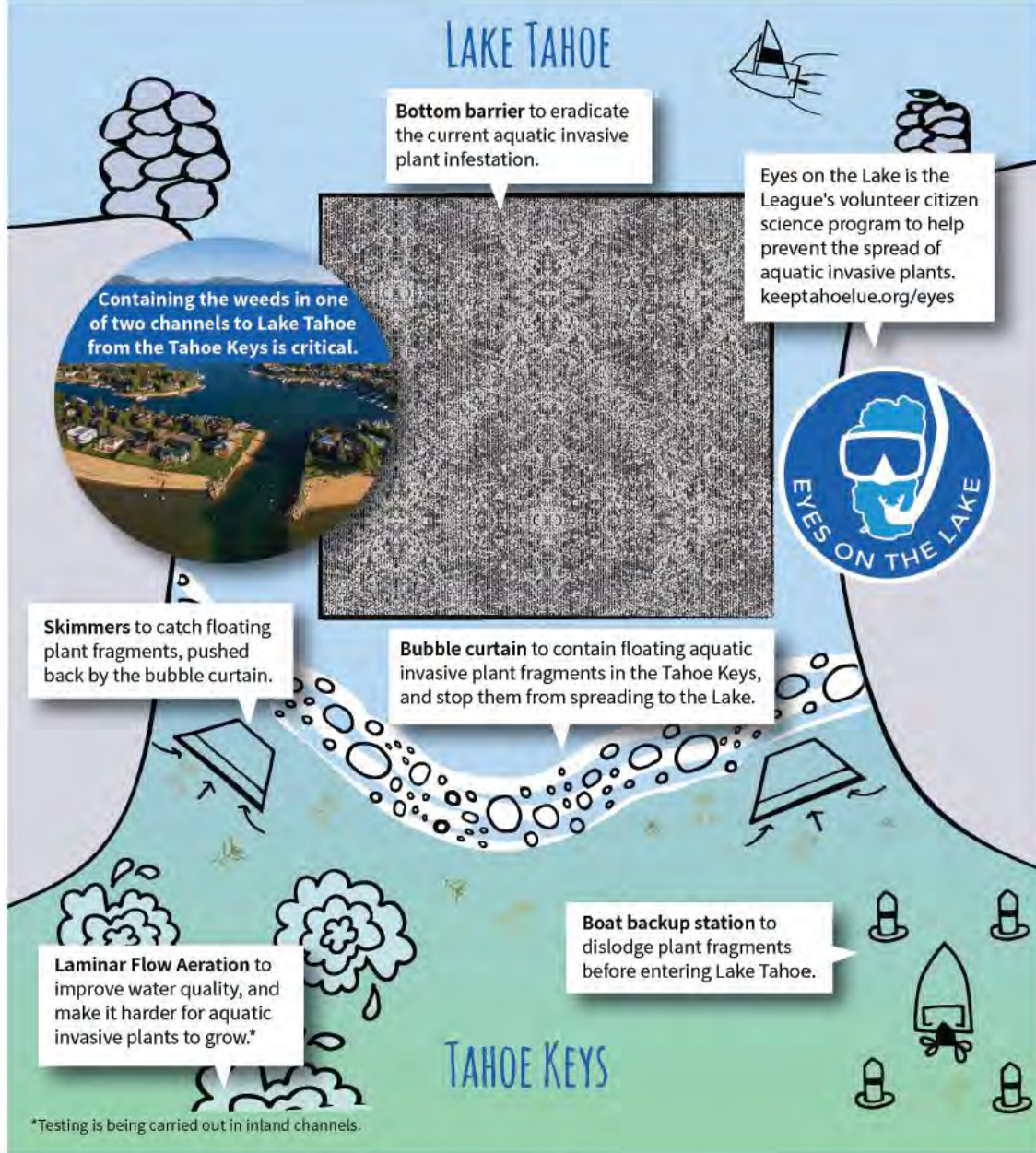
"Bubble curtains" have been used for decades around the world to contain marine debris and corral tuna farming operations in the open ocean but never to stop aquatic invasive plants from spreading.

In collaboration with the TKPOA, League scientists worked with experts to design, fund and install a custom bubble curtain across the channel between the Tahoe Keys lagoon and Lake Tahoe. The "V-shaped" wall of air now dislodges plant fragments from boats passing through and moves them to the edges of the channels where they can be collected and removed. Thousands of invasive plant fragments floating in the lagoon that would normally be carried out into the Lake on surface currents are trapped and discarded.

"The Tahoe Keys, because we have a major problem with aquatic invasive weeds, is trying to provide a leadership role in Lake Tahoe by incorporating and installing the different technologies to fight aquatic plants," said Greg Hoover, water quality manager/ AIS management coordinator at the TKPOA.

Effectiveness monitoring had been in place since the project's installation in 2018 and will be used to assess if similar efforts can be installed at other infested marinas around the Lake. The League and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) will be using the best practices and applying those to other HOAs wishing to protect their little piece of Lake Tahoe.

INNOVATIONS TO CONTROL AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE TAHOE KEYS



Tahoe Keys Lagoons Restoration Project Historical Perspective and Site-Specific Conditions

By Andy Kopania, TKPOA Water Quality Committee Chair

Through the diligent efforts on behalf of TKPOA and representatives of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board), our application to treat aquatic weeds is moving forward to the detailed environmental review stage. The Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was publicly released on June 17, 2019 and initiated a 45-day public comment period. Public workshops were held in South Lake Tahoe on June 25, 2019 and in Kings Beach on July 16, 2019. An informational presentation was also given to the TRPA Governing Board at its regular meeting on June 26, 2019. The public comment period ended on August 2, 2019, after which time preparation of the EIS/EIR will begin.

While that work is occurring, it might be worthwhile to understand some of the background information related to the weed issue, how we got to this point, and what has been done to date to address the aquatic weeds.

There are several key points that will be emphasized throughout this article. First, the presence of aquatic weeds in the Keys lagoons has been known for a long time – at least since the 1970s. Second, the size or scale of the infestation in the Keys is the most important factor in identifying and implementing a range of solutions to this challenge. Third, the TKPOA has been conducting field trials and other studies dating back to the late 1980s. Fourth, based on those studies, the preferred solution to address the aquatic weeds is selective removal of the target, or undesirable, species and not complete die-off of all species. There are native aquatic plant species in the Keys that are important for successful restoration of a healthy ecosystem and it would not be beneficial to remove those along with the invasive and undesirable weeds.

To provide a little background on the Tahoe Keys, the development was first approved and permitted in the 1960's, first by El Dorado County and subsequently by the City of South Lake Tahoe. Construction of the Keys pre-dated the existence of TRPA and many of the environmental regulations that exist today. The Tahoe Keys development consists

of 372 acres, about 170 of which are waterways. The three main waterways are the Main (or West) Lagoon, the Marina (or East) Lagoon, and Lake Tallac. There are currently 1,529 single family homes and townhomes within the Keys, although a development agreement with the City of South Lake Tahoe from 1970 allowed construction of up to 2,500 units. In addition, there is also a commercial marina (Tahoe Keys Marina and Yacht Club), a private series of boat docks (Tahoe Keys Beach and Harbor Association), and a private commercial center (Tahoe Keys Village) which are not affiliated with the TKPOA.

The map at right shows the land ownership in and around the Keys. The U.S. Forest Service owns Pope Marsh to the west and some of the land along the south side of Lake Tallac. State of California-owned land in the Upper Truckee marsh to the east of the Marina Lagoon is administered by the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC). The private marina, docks, and commercial center are present along the east and south sides of the Marina Lagoon. In the Main Lagoon, the Association owns some of the land under the centers of the channels on the east half, but the property owners in much of the Main Lagoon area actually own the land under the lagoons to the center of the waterways. The Association common areas, the land around the townhome developments, and Lake Tallac are owned by TKPOA.

The aerial image of the Keys below has been marked with several colored areas to provide some perspective of the size of the Keys lagoons relative to other features around Lake Tahoe. As stated above, the Keys waterways occupy about 170 acres. Around the rest of Lake Tahoe, there

are about 30 other enclosed marinas. Those marinas in total occupy about 20 to 30 acres. The area outlined in yellow in the main channel of the Main Lagoon on the aerial image is about 25 acres. Thus, virtually all of the other marinas around Lake Tahoe would fit inside the area outlined in yellow. The second largest marina on Lake Tahoe is the Tahoe City Marina, which covers 6 acres, or about 3% of the area of the Keys waterways. Eighty-five percent of all of the marinas around Lake Tahoe are one-acre or



less. The red rectangle outlining the west channel entrance covers one acre. Thus, 85% of all other marinas at Lake Tahoe would fit inside our west channel entrance. Fifty percent of all of the marinas at Lake Tahoe are one-half acre or smaller. The small green rectangle in the bottom center of the aerial image defines a half-acre area.

To provide additional perspective on the size of the Keys waterways, a football field or youth soccer field is roughly one-acre in size. Thus, 85% of all other marinas at Lake Tahoe are the size of or smaller than a football field, while our lagoons have an area equivalent to about 170 football fields.

Over the past 50 years, the TKPOA has conducted a substantial number of weed management actions and a great amount of research to address the weed infestation. In the 1970s, a water circulation and treatment system was installed to improve water clarity and remove phosphorus, the primary nutrient supporting the growth of aquatic weeds. Our first weed harvester was purchased in the 1970s and replaced in 1983. In 1988 we conducted a field trial of a method called rotovating, which is basically a large underwater rototiller. The first studies of the effectiveness and selectiveness of aquatic herbicides for treating the undesirable aquatic weeds while preserving the desirable aquatic plant species were conducted in the 1990s. These treatment tests are referred to as mesocosm studies and additional iterations were also conducted within the last 5-10 years.

In 1995 the TKPOA applied for the first time to the Lahontan Water Board to conduct a small-scale field test of aquatic herbicides in the lagoons, but that application was denied. By the 2000s, the degree of infestation had increased appreciably. In this decade, the rapid spread of curlyleaf pondweed has introduced even greater challenges for management of aquatic weeds.

The two maps at right provide an understanding of how rapidly and widespread the aquatic weeds grow within the Keys lagoons each year. Our AIS staff conduct surveys



April 2018 Hydro-acoustic scan results



July 2018 Hydro-acoustic scan results

called hydro-acoustic scans approximately monthly throughout the boating season. A hydro-acoustic scan is basically a fish-finder that has been modified to show the presence and density of aquatic weeds. The results of the scans are plotted on "heat maps", where cool colors like blue and green indicate few if any weeds present while hot colors like yellow, orange, and red indicate dense weed infestations. The first map shows the conditions in April 2018. Most areas of the Main Lagoon are almost completely weed free and the areas of dense infestations are small and localized. However, within just three months, the July 2018 scan shows that dense infestations have popped up and spread throughout much of the Main Lagoon. Such rapid growth provides a real challenge to our current harvesting and fragment collection efforts.

From 2013 to the present, we have continued to test new and innovative methods to minimize weed growth, reduce nutrient concentrations, and control the spread of fragments within and out of the Main Lagoon. The chart at right provides a listing of just some of the things that the TKPOA has conducted over the past few years.

While the TKPOA has invested a substantial amount of resources in studies, tests, and field research, we are starting to get strong support from other agencies in the region. The League to Save Lake Tahoe was the first outside entity to join with the Keys to work on solutions, providing over \$100,000 in direct funding to assist with installation of our bubble curtain and other actions. TRPA has secured up to \$3 million in Lake Tahoe Restoration Act federal funding to address aquatic weeds, a large proportion of which will be used for environmental studies and field tests of eradication methods to help define and gain approval for a long-term solution for the Tahoe Keys. The Lahontan Water Board has also initiated necessary studies to address permitting requirements for approval of a long-term solution. The TKPOA Water Quality Committee sincerely appreciates the support and on-going efforts of these agencies.

A Partial List of Studies, Monitoring, and Actions Conducted by the TKPOA to Address Weed Infestation:

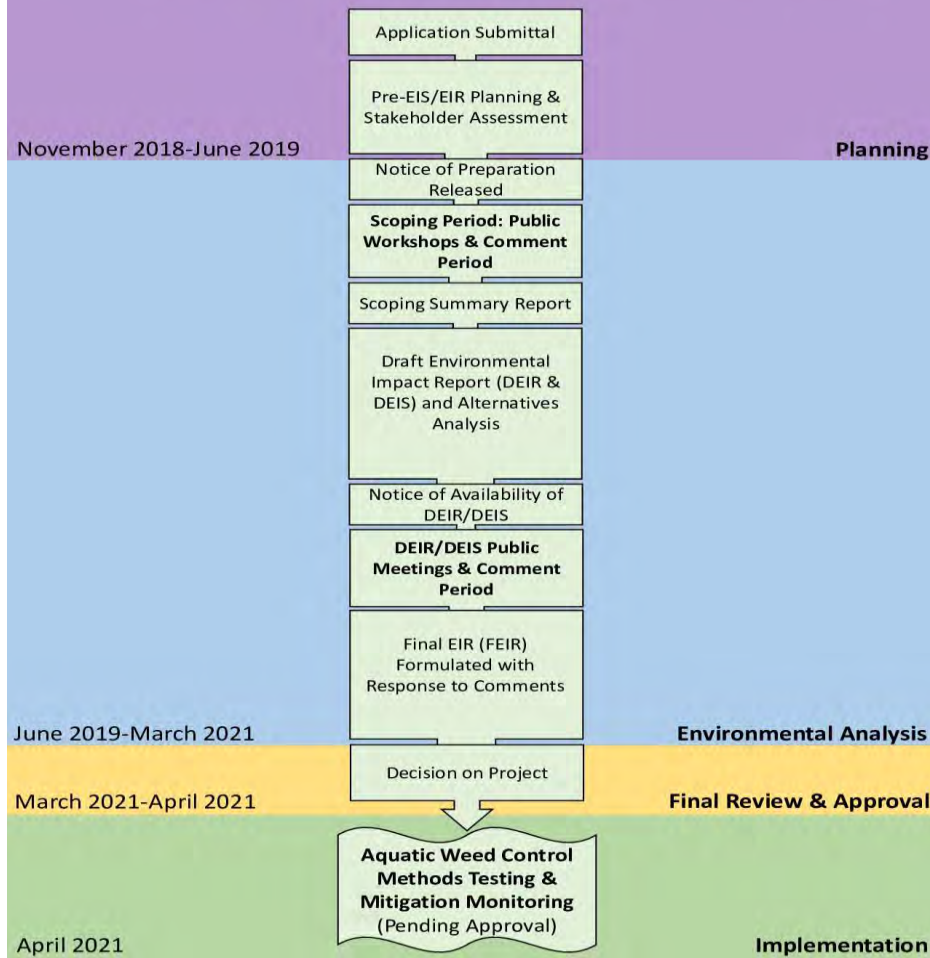
- ✓ TESTING AND USE OF BOTTOM BARRIERS
- ✓ TRACER DYE STUDIES TO DEFINE WATER CIRCULATION
- ✓ CHANNEL DREDGING
- ✓ MESOCOSM STUDIES
- ✓ ADDITIONAL REVIEW OF ROTOVATING
- ✓ GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS STUDY
- ✓ GOOSE DROPPINGS NUTRIENT STUDY
- ✓ BOAT BACKUP STATION
- ✓ ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION OF NUTRIENTS STUDY
- ✓ STUDIES OF THE SEDIMENT ECOLOGY
- ✓ WEED FRAGMENT STUDIES: PRE & POST HARVEST
- ✓ SEASONAL WEED SPECIES ABUNDANCE SURVEYS
- ✓ HYDRO-ACOUSTIC SCANS
- ✓ WATER QUALITY MONITORING
- ✓ 6-ACRE AERATION TEST (BEGAN EARLY 2019)
- ✓ SEA BINS TO PASSIVELY COLLECT WEED FRAGMENTS

TAHOE KEYS LAGOONS RESTORATION

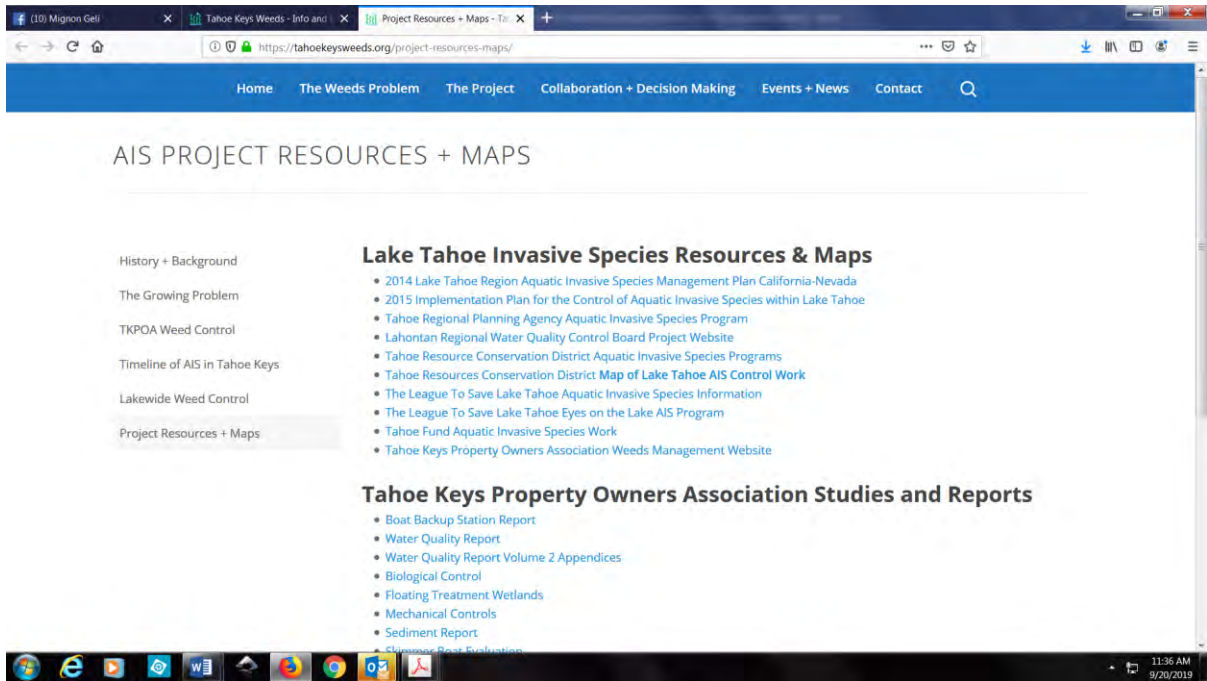
Keys Breeze | AUGUST 2019 | 21

Tahoe Keys Weeds - Supporting Materials posted at: www.tahoekeysweeds.org

**Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) Application for Exemption
Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weeds Control Methods Test (CMT)
Project Review Timeline**



Multiple documents are available. The application (2018) is undergoing more revisions (as of Oct. 2019). Draft CEQA documents and draft environmental analysis documents, including anti-degradation analysis, are anticipated for release in 2020. All materials submitted for the current proposed application are posted on a public information page (and) on the Lahontan website. www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan / www.Tahoekeysweeds.org / www.keysweedsmanagement.org



(Editor Note 1: The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association Board of Directors' position on non-emergency AIS management is as follows: Lake Tahoe's' ONRW Tier 3 status warrants that permitted herbicide use should be considered only after the full vetting of all non-chemical control methods. In the case of the introduction of zebra or quagga mussels {which would be considered an emergency} chemical methods could be warranted.)

(Editor Note 2: In addition to weed problems, some of Tahoe Keys Lagoons were subject to localized blue green algae growth and associated cyanobacteria blooms for several weeks in summer 2017, 2018, 2019. The situation was monitored and public health notices posted, but no control actions were taken. <http://www.tahoedailytribune.com/news/toxic-algae-detected-in-some-tahoe-keys-waterways>)

(Editor Note 3: The Tahoe Keys Control methods test project is still under revision. For current information visit: www.tahoekeysweeds.org).

Aquatic invasive plants affect all the marinas around Lake Tahoe and continue to spread, constituting the immediate threat to Lake Tahoe, according to the University of Nevada, Reno's 2015 Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species within Lake Tahoe.

The comparatively warm and shallow waters of the Tahoe Keys lagoons (located in South Lake Tahoe) make for the perfect habitat for the aquatic invasive plants (Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed). Ongoing harvesting programs pulled roughly 100 cubic yards of weeds in 1984 - around 10,000 cubic weeds were removed in 2016. They have now taken over more than 90 percent of the 172-acre lagoons.

In 2015, the TKPOA commissioned Sierra Ecosystem Associates (SEA) to prepare an Integrated Weeds Management Plan (IWMP). The IWMP in its May 2016 revision focused on non-chemical control methods. However, a one – time pilot test of herbicides was initially proposed for 2018, separate from the IWMP activities.

The main goal of the Tahoe Keys Integrated Management Plan is to gain control over aquatic invasive weeds and nuisance weeds in the Tahoe Keys lagoons, which are a major part of the greater Tahoe Keys development. The plan aims to reduce the biomass (overall volume) of these weeds – curly leaf pondweed, coontail and Eurasian watermilfoil – by about 90% (revised to 75% in 2018) from 2015 levels.

The goals of the Nonpoint Source Water Quality Management Plan are to reduce runoff and the sediment, nutrients and other pollutants that runoff can carry into the keys lagoons and into Lake Tahoe.

In 2018, the Project Title was changed from Tahoe Keys Lagoons Restoration Project to **Tahoe Keys Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT)**.

In summer 2019, Public Scoping was conducted by the lead agencies. Multiple meetings and workshops were offered for public engagement. Extensive comments were submitted, and the project was modified from those comments. In June 2020, the DRAFT Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) was released. Multiple virtual workshops were held for public education on the project during summer 2020.

https://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Tahoe-Keys_DRAFT-EIR-EIS.pdf

2020: A TWSA staff summary is available at: [https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/DEIR_TKPOA_CMT_TWSA_Staff_Summary_08142020_\(1\).pdf](https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/DEIR_TKPOA_CMT_TWSA_Staff_Summary_08142020_(1).pdf)

In August 2020, TWSA and the consultant firm, Water Quality and Treatment Solutions (WQTS) , provided extensive comment on the environmental documents. Link to the comment letters is: [https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/TWSA_COMMENTS_TKPOA_DEIR_2020_-_FINAL_with_WQTS_attachment_SUBMITTED_8_27_2020_\(1\).pdf](https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/TWSA_COMMENTS_TKPOA_DEIR_2020_-_FINAL_with_WQTS_attachment_SUBMITTED_8_27_2020_(1).pdf)

The following provides a summary of the 2019 scoping process:

1.0 Introduction

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) (Lead Agencies) released the Notice of Preparation (NOP; Attachment 1) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Tahoe Keys Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT) on June 17, 2019. In conjunction with the NOP release, and with the Tahoe Keys Stakeholder Committee, the Lead Agencies launched a comprehensive public engagement process that ran from June-August 2019. This outreach included a wide range of public meetings and activities that were held to encourage feedback on the proposed project description and scope of environmental analysis while also guiding the formulation of project alternatives. This Scoping Report incorporates key information provided in the NOP, summarizes the Lead Agencies' scoping activities as well as public response to the project, summarizes comments received, and attaches a comment matrix quoting the comments received and indicating where in the EIR/EIS or the CEQA/TRPA process they will be addressed.

2.0 Background Provided in the NOP

In response to the need to control the abundant growth of non-native and nuisance aquatic weeds, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) developed the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weeds Control Methods Test (CMT). The CMT will test various control methods of weed control methods in the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. The CMT was designed using best available science and Integrated Pest Management Principles with significant input from the Tahoe Keys Stakeholder Committee. The Stakeholder Committee was created to ensure a collaborative and transparent environmental review process, and to ensure that a broad range of options was considered in the development of the CMT. The CMT is designed to learn more about the efficacy and potential impacts of new AIS control technologies and the potential use of herbicides in the Tahoe Keys lagoons.

TKPOA is proposing the CMT to test control methods of three target aquatic weeds: Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and coontail. The target aquatic weeds have adversely affected the water quality and ecosystem of the Tahoe Keys lagoons, created optimum habitat for non-native fisheries, and adversely impacted beneficial uses of the waters of the Tahoe Keys lagoons which are: municipal and domestic water supply, groundwater recharge, freshwater replenishment, water-contact recreation, non-water contact recreation, navigation, commercial and sport fishing, cold freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, preservation of biological habitats of special significance, migration of aquatic organisms, spawning, reproduction and development of fish and wildlife, preservation of rare and endangered species, water quality enhancement and flood peak attenuation/flood water storage. A transparent and efficient regulatory and public review process is necessary so that a range of integrated control methods can be tested for their safety, efficacy, compatibility, and utility in controlling target weed infestations to inform long-term management options in the Tahoe Keys. Implementing long-term management options will aim to prevent irreversible infestations in the greater Lake Tahoe ecosystem.

TKPOA is seeking an exemption to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) prohibition of the use of aquatic pesticides and approval from TRPA to test aquatic herbicides as a potential AIS control tool. The specific requirements that were followed can be found in the Basin Plan, Chapter 4.1, Waste Discharge Prohibitions – Exemption Criteria for Controlling AIS and Other Harmful Species, for Projects That Are Neither Emergencies Nor Time Sensitive.

TKPOA initially applied to TRPA and the Lahontan Water Board for a similar test that was reviewed under a TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist and an Initial Study under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). That review identified “Data Insufficiencies” and “Potentially Significant Impacts”. As such, TRPA determined that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment and an Environmental Impact Statement shall be prepared (April 2018). That decision initiated this new jointly developed CMT.

2.1 History & Context

In the 1980s and 1990s, the invasive weed Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) became established in the Tahoe Keys lagoons and other areas around Lake Tahoe. As of 2012, 18 infestation sites were known with the possibility of more that were not surveyed (Wittmann and Chandra 2015). Then, in 2003, curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) was first discovered in Lake Tahoe. Currently, curlyleaf pondweed is limited to the south and southeastern shores of Lake Tahoe with infestations observed from Taylor Creek to Lakeside Marina (Wittmann and Chandra 2015, LTSLT 2016). Newer infestations were also recently found as far north as Elk Point Marina (Anderson 2016, pers. communication) on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) is classified as a native plant to California, but in recent years has grown in abundance in the Lake Tahoe region, specifically in the lagoons. Coontail has heavily infested the deeper channels of all the lagoons, most abundantly in the Marina Lagoon and Lake Tallac Lagoon, where it comprises over 70% percent of the aquatic plant matter (TKPOA 2016a).

The two invasive, non-native aquatic weed populations in the Tahoe Keys lagoons have been growing rapidly. Recent aquatic plant surveys (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) show the extent and density of excessive plant growth in the lagoons. In recent years, 85% to 90% of the available wetted surface in the lagoons has been infested with target aquatic weeds with a large majority being the non-native invasive species. Of particular concern is the recent rapid growth and spread of curlyleaf pondweed, which has the potential to not only infest significantly more of Lake Tahoe’s aquatic habitat than Eurasian watermilfoil, but can also be more difficult to control due to the large number and dispersal capacity of its asexual turions, which are produced in mid to late summer (Woolf and Madsen 2003, Wittmann et al. 2015, Xie and Yu 2011). Turions are overwintering buds that become detached and spread throughout the waterway and have the potential to remain dormant at the bottom of the water for several years. Curlyleaf pondweed is also capable of growing in deeper, colder waters, which may potentially be more detrimental to Lake Tahoe if allowed to spread unchecked.

Seasonal harvesting has been the main weed control practice in the Tahoe Keys lagoons since the mid- 1980s. Continual harvesting throughout the summer months works to keep the lagoons navigable by boat, however, harvesting operations do not, overall, reduce aquatic weed biomass. Harvesting may actually aid in aquatic weed population growth (Crowell et al. 1994, TKPOA 2015). The expansion and excessive aquatic weed growth in the lagoons is due to several environmental conditions including abundant nutrient availability, relative warm, stagnant and shallow waters with sufficient light for weed growth. The target aquatic weeds introduced to the lagoons have found these to be ideal habitat conditions for prolific growth.

In response to the growing AIS problem in the Tahoe Keys lagoons and the goal to limit non-point sources of pollution, the Lahontan Water Board issued Waste Discharge Requirements to TKPOA on July 14, 2014. As part of these requirements, TKPOA was tasked with developing two planning documents. 1) A Non-Point Source Water Quality Management Plan (NPS Plan) to address potential land-based sources of nutrients (not part of this application) and (2) an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) to address the growth of target aquatic weeds. The purpose of the IMP is to optimize management effects on controlling target aquatic weeds by incorporating a suite of feasible and proven control methods that can be tailored to fit site constraints, infestation size, and urgency of control. TKPOA's exemption application addresses, in part, long-term implementation of the IMP.

The only control methods that can currently be used in the TKPOA IMP are non-chemical control in nature. At the time of the NOP, these methods consist primarily of weed harvesting and bottom barriers. However, due to the size, density, and dominance of the infestation, these control methods have been shown to produce limited results. In addition, the current primary control method, harvesting, results in the production of large quantities of weed fragments (TKPOA 2014). Without proper controls, these fragments may be transported by wind, aquatic animals, and boat traffic within the lagoons and into Lake Tahoe, thus contributing viable weed fragments and turions that can become established and create new populations in nearshore habitats and marinas.

2.2 Project Purpose, Need, & Objectives

Purpose: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency: To preserve and protect natural resources throughout the Tahoe Basin, including water quality.

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Water Board: To preserve, protect, and restore water quality in the Lahontan region.

Need: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency: Manage and control aquatic invasive species to achieve compliance with the environmental threshold carrying capacities (thresholds) established to set environmental standards for the Lake Tahoe basin.

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Water Board: To control AIS and nuisance plants to prevent future threats to long-term water quality within the context of aquatic weeds. Additionally, to uphold and maintain the beneficial uses and water quality objectives specified in the Lahontan Basin Plan. Beneficial uses designated by LRWQCB include: Cold Freshwater Habitat, Navigation, Water Contact Recreation, and Non-contact Water Recreation.

2.3 Goals & Performance Measures

The Project Description attached to the published NOP (Attachment 1) stated the following Project Goals and Performance Measures. NOTE: These may be subject to change as the project progresses.

2.3.1 Project Goals

Test a range of large-scale, localized and long-term target aquatic weed control methods to determine what combination of methods within the test areas will:

1. Reduce target aquatic weed infestations as much and as soon as feasible to help protect Lake Tahoe.
2. Bring target aquatic weed infestations to a manageable level.
3. Improve the water quality of the Tahoe Keys lagoons.
4. Improve navigation and recreational use and enhance aesthetic values.
5. Reduce the potential for target aquatic weed re-infestations after initial treatment.

While not a specific goal, it is anticipated that invasive fish species populations will decrease with any measurable decreases in target aquatic weed populations, as the existing conditions in the Tahoe Keys provides such habitat.

2.3.2 Performance Measures

Project effectiveness will be evaluated based on the following performance criteria:

1. Determine the effect on water quality in the Tahoe Keys lagoons through monitoring.
2. Achieve and maintain at least a 75% reduction of target aquatic weed biomass in test locations from baseline (invasive weed biomass from hydroacoustic scans in summer of 2019).
3. Achieve and maintain a minimum three feet of vessel hull clearance within navigation channels year-round to maintain beneficial uses and prevent weed fragment generation and dispersal.

The performance measure to reduce target aquatic weed biomass by at least 75% reflects prior studies on the efficacy of some Group A methods (Anderson 2017). In addition, reducing target aquatic weed biomass by at least 75% presents the most realistic probability for long-term target aquatic weed control that minimizes the need for repeated

long-term use of Group A treatment methods. It is also anticipated that a 75% reduction in biomass would be required to achieve and maintain three feet of vessel hull clearance. With a 75% reduction in target aquatic weed biomass, competition for space, light, and nutrients is expected to be sufficiently reduced such that native aquatic habitat may be re-established.

3.0 Stakeholder Outreach

From the onset of the development of the proposed project, the lead agencies and TKPOA agreed to pursue a robust collaborative stakeholder process to inform and guide the development of the project and the environmental review process. In August 2018, TRPA hired Zephyr Collaboration to serve as third-party neutral facilitators to design and implement the collaborative process. As a first step, an assessment of stakeholder interests, concerns and questions was completed by Zephyr Collaboration in October 2018. The Stakeholder Assessment Report (Attachment 2) summarized various stakeholder interests and perspectives, and included recommendations for a collaborative, transparent, inclusive stakeholder process to inform the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Review (EIR/EIS).

Based on recommendations made in the Stakeholder Assessment, the Tahoe Keys Stakeholder Committee and the Tahoe Keys Stakeholder Consultation Circle was formed.

The Stakeholder Committee consisted of the following agencies and organizations:

- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (listening & advisory role)
- League to Save Lake Tahoe
- Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District
- Tahoe Water Suppliers Association

The Stakeholder Consultation Circle consisted of the following agencies and organizations:

- California Attorney General's Office
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- California State Lands Commission
- California Tahoe Conservancy
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- Key Concerned Citizens
- Lake Tahoe AIS Coordinating Committee
- Lake Tahoe Marina Association
- Lakeside Park Association
- Local Native American Tribes
- Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District

- North Lake Tahoe Resort Association
- Sierra Club
- Southshore Tahoe Chamber
- Tahoe Keys Beach and Harbor Association
- Tahoe Lakefront Homeowners Association
- Tahoe Fund
- Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Zephyr Collaboration worked with the Stakeholder Committee to design a project website to host all project information: www.tahoekeysweds.org which was launched in June 2019. The NOP, public workshop announcements, and full project background information is all posted on the project website.

3.1 Scoping Process

The NOP was issued June 17, 2019, inviting public comment on the proposed project, with a 45-day scoping period beginning on the date of issue and closing on August 2, 2019. Generally, the following scoping schedule was followed:

Date	Activity
June 5, 2019	Public Website Launch; Public Workshops Announced
June 17, 2019: Official Scoping Begins	Release of NOP
June 25, 2019	Lahontan Water Board CEQA Scoping Meeting and Public Workshop 1 in South Shore
June 26, 2019	TRPA Governing Board Public Hearing
June 27, 2019	Stakeholder Consultation Circle (SCC) Meeting
July 16, 2019	Public Workshop 2 North Shore
July 17, 2019	Responsible Agencies must respond to the NOP; providing the Lead Agency with specific detail about the scope and content of the environmental information related to the Responsible Agency's area of statutory responsibility within 30 days after receiving the Notice of Preparation.
July 24, 2019	TRPA Governing Board Field Trip and Public Hearing
August 2, 2019: Official Scoping Ends	Close of scoping period; all comments due
September 3, 2019	TRC to provide a draft Scoping Report to the Lead Agencies for Review and approval.
September 17, 2019	Lead Agency comments on draft Scoping Report due to TRC
October 1, 2019	Final Scoping Report delivered by TRC to Lead Agencies.

The NOP included a reference to the TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist/CEQA Initial Study that had been prepared in 2017-2018 leading to the decision to prepare an EIR/EIS. This

Table 1. Number and source of comments received during the scoping period.

Source	Number of Commenters	Number of Comments	
		Individual	Flipchart/Group
Email	40	204	
June Public Workshop	3	4	44
July Public Workshop	1	1	37
SCC Meeting			26
Governors Board Meetings	2	2	
Total	44	211	107
			318

In the NOP, the following potential environmental issue areas were identified to be addressed in the EIS/EIR.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hydrology and Water Quality | Geology and Soils |
| Biological Resources | Land Use and Planning |
| Human Health | Public Services |
| Hazards and Hazardous Materials | Greenhouse Gas Emissions |
| Recreation | Global Climate Change |

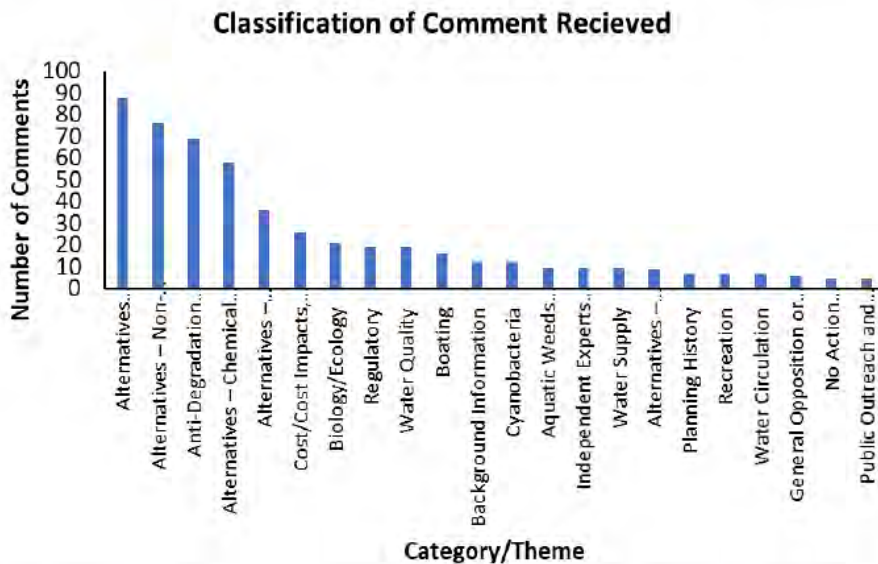


Figure 1. Comment classifications by number of comments received during the scoping period. Note: only classifications with five (5) or more comment are displayed. The following classifications received fewer than 5 comments: history, protection, jurisdiction, mitigation, risk assessment, cumulative & longterm effects, hydrology, indirect effect, project goals & objectives, and trash. More information about the comments within these categories can be found in the comment spreadsheet (Attachment 8).

Excerpts from the Current Project Description:

Test and Monitoring Period

A three-year test program is proposed:

- During the first year Group A methods would be used to reduce the population of the target aquatic weeds, with a target reduction of at least 75% in the treatment areas.
- First-year treatment would be followed by monitoring and two years of treatments applying Group B aquatic weed management methods to eliminate or manage residual aquatic weed populations.
- No mechanical harvesting would be performed in treatment areas during the methods test. Harvesting in control areas would only be conducted if necessary for navigation.

(source page 9 – Project Description 10/29/19)

2.0 Project Description and Alternatives

This chapter presents the Proposed Project, Action Alternatives, and No Action Alternative considered in this EIR/EIS to control aquatic weeds. The history and status of aquatic weed infestation in Tahoe Keys lagoons is described in Section 1.3. This chapter explains the process used for alternatives development and selection, and summarizes alternatives that were considered and eliminated. Elements common to all alternatives are described, followed by a detailed description of the Proposed Project and Alternatives.

2.1 Summary of Proposed Project and Alternatives

This EIR/EIS considers the Proposed Project and two Action Alternatives for aquatic weed control methods testing (CMT), as well as the required No Action Alternative (Figure 2).

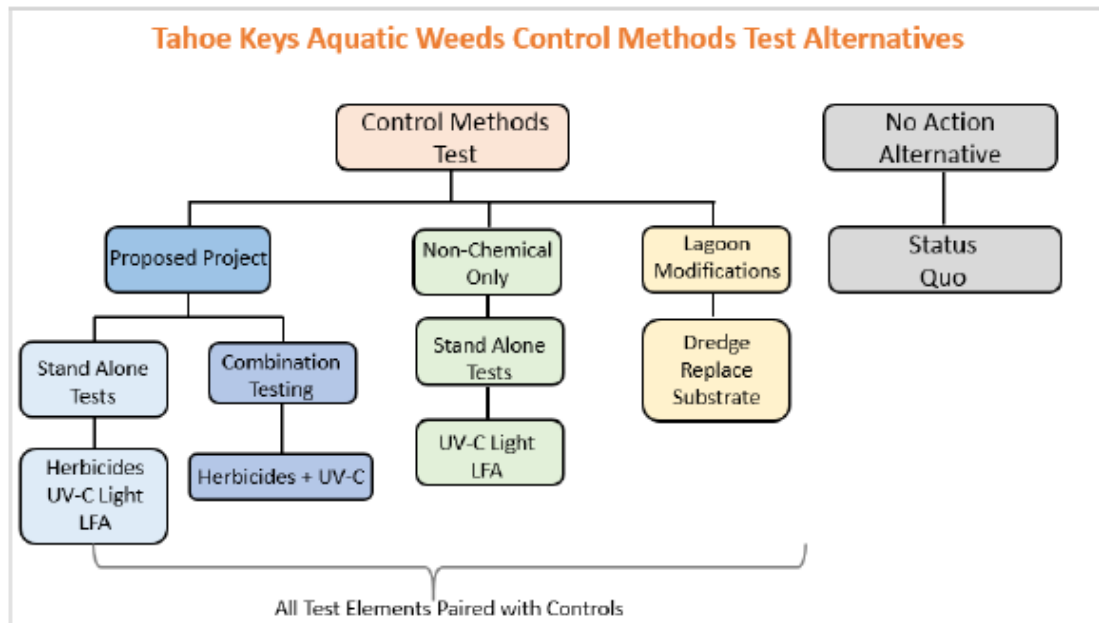


Figure 2: Components of the Proposed Project and Alternatives.

1. **Proposed Project:** The Proposed Project consists of a program to test alternative aquatic weed control methods, both as stand-alone treatments and in combination. Some methods were considered as full alternatives, and others were applied in support of these alternatives. Control methods were grouped as follows:
 - a. **Group A methods** are full alternatives. They use herbicidal and non-herbicidal treatments at a large scale to achieve extensive reduction in target aquatic weeds (targeting at least 75% reduction). The Proposed Project tests stand-alone treatments using aquatic herbicides, UV light, and LFA, as well as combined herbicide and UV light treatments.

- b. **Group B** methods are proven non-herbicidal maintenance treatments that are applied locally to follow up Group A treatments and control residual target aquatic weeds. Group B methods may include such actions as spot treatments with UV light, bottom barriers, diver-assisted suction and diver hand pulling techniques.
- c. In addition to Group A and B methods, a variety of protective measures have been considered and could be applied during tests, as described below (2.3.3). Protective measures will be prescribed to reduce potential impacts of treatments identified through the environmental evaluation. Additional mitigation measures may be implemented as needed, based on monitoring results.

TWSA Board
supports these
2 options >

2. **Action Alternative 1- Non-Herbicidal Treatments:** A key action alternative is to proceed only with tests of non-Herbicidal methods of aquatic weed control. Under this alternative, no treatments with herbicides would be considered, but all other elements of the test program would be as described above for the Proposed Project.
3. **Action Alternative 2- Lagoon Modifications/Bottom Substrate Removal and Replacement in the Tahoe Keys Lagoons:** This action alternative responds to comments received during this scoping and would consist of direct reclamation at selected test locations in the Tahoe Keys lagoons through suction dredging (i.e., wet excavation) of the bottom layers of organic material and underlying sediment to remove the roots and turions of aquatic weeds, followed by placement of a new layer of bottom sediment (e.g., coarse sand).
4. **No Action Alternative:** This required alternative would consider the long-term consequences to the Tahoe Keys lagoons and the entirety of Lake Tahoe, of undertaking no new weed control activities in the Tahoe Keys lagoons. Under this alternative only existing control methods would be employed by TKPOA and individual property owners (e.g., voluntary use of bottom barriers, the existing LFA project, mechanical harvesting, and weed fragment control). Because herbicide and UV light applications would not be tested under this alternative, it is assumed that these methods for aquatic weed control would not be used in the foreseeable future under a No Action Alternative.

2.2 Alternatives Development and Selection

2.2.1 Alternatives Development

As described in Chapter 1, the lead agencies worked with a Stakeholder Committee to provide broad guidance and input to the development of alternatives. Building on initial work by the Stakeholder Committee, the Lead Agencies defined, screened, selected and characterized the proposed project and alternatives. This work included:

- Developing criteria for alternatives review and selection
- Reviewing a wide range of potential alternatives against the criteria
- Assigning alternatives to various parts of the test program (i.e., determining which methods for controlling aquatic weeds should be considered “Group A methods”, which are “Group B” methods, and which should be incorporated as design mitigation in the test program)

- Considering which alternatives should be carried forward for review and which should be eliminated and preparing statements that explain these decisions. Those alternatives that were considered and eliminated from consideration are described in Section 2.7 at the end of this chapter.
- In-depth development of the components and approach to be used in the Proposed Project and Action Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative
- Preparation of narrative descriptions of the Proposed Project, Action Alternatives, and No Action Alternative, with accompanying graphics, maps, figures, tables and appendices
- Supervision of the preparation of draft EIR/EIS materials presenting the alternatives process and the description of project and alternatives.

2.2.2 Selection Criteria

The following four criteria were used to screen and select alternatives:

1. Ability to meet project goals and objectives

Project Goals and Objectives are set forth in Chapter 1 of the EIR/EIS. This criterion considers whether a project alternative will meet these goals and objectives, and related performance measures. If the alternative was considered unable to meet key goals and objectives, it was eliminated from further consideration.

This criterion incorporates consideration of the efficiency and efficacy of methods to control aquatic weeds. For this EIR/EIS, it also focuses on the objective of testing aquatic weed control methods, as opposed to long-term management of aquatic weeds, which will be addressed in subsequent work under CEQA and TRPA.

2. Feasibility

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA and TRPA, only alternatives which are feasible need be considered (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[a] & TRPA Code of Ordinances 3.7.4.B.). The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency both define feasible as *“Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.”* (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15364). In determining which alternatives are potentially feasible, this EIR/EIS focuses on consideration of technical and economic feasibility/practicality; the potential to violate federal, regional or state statutes or regulations; and whether an alternative balances relevant economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

In determining whether an alternative was infeasible due to legal factors, alternative screening considered the antidegradation policy and prohibition exemption criteria outlined in the Lahontan Board Basin Plan, including the potential to violate any water quality objective; the potential to cause long-term degradation of water quality; and the ability to limit any short-term degradation of water quality to the shortest possible time and confine

it to the smallest area necessary for project success.

3. Level of impacts

Alternatives should avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of the project. This criterion considers the extent of impacts and the degree to which potentially significant impacts were judged capable of being avoided or mitigated. It also considers whether the residual (unmitigatable) impacts of the project are large relative to other alternatives. It considers the risks and unintended consequences potentially posed by the project to the extent that they can be reasonably foreseen.

4. Similarity to other alternatives carried forward

This criterion recognizes that while a representative range of alternatives must be considered, neither CEQA nor TRPA generally require the evaluation of every variation within that range. Some alternatives can be eliminated from consideration because they are sufficiently similar to those that are carried forward (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[a]).

2.2.3 Group A Methods Selected

Alternatives carried forward for evaluation in the EIR/EIS consist of Group A methods selected based on their ability to meet the criteria described above. The selected Group A methods are listed below, with a brief summary of the reasons they were selected for consideration. The selected methods are more fully described in the sections below presenting the Proposed Project and Action Alternatives.

- **Aquatic herbicides:** proposed by TKPOA following research and consultation with aquatic weed control specialists from government agencies and academia, herbicide products were selected to target aquatic weed species in Tahoe Keys lagoons and minimize potential effects to non-target plants, animals, and people.
- **Ultra-Violet Light:** an emerging aquatic weed control technology that was tested at Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Beach in 2017, resulting in some dieback of Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, and coontail.
- **Laminar Flow Aeration:** a technology to improve water quality in water bodies with low dissolved oxygen and buildup of fine organic sediment, LFA has recently been tested at a small site at Ski Run Marina resulting in reductions in organic sediment thickness, sediment nitrogen concentrations, and aquatic plant coverage
- **Suction Dredging and Substrate Replacement:** among alternatives proposed in public scoping comments to physically modify Tahoe Keys lagoons, suction dredging and replacing bottom substrate may be the least infeasible for further evaluation.

2.2.4 Group B Methods Carried Forward in EIR/EIS Alternatives

Bottom Barriers: Synthetic bottom barriers have been used in the Tahoe Keys Main Lagoon since 2011, and up to 5 acres are currently permitted. The barriers are mats of fabric that are

anchored to the substrate with weights before or during the early stages of seasonal plant growth, with the purpose of physically suppressing growth and blocking sunlight. Barriers are placed by diver assisted hand crews, and remain in place for 2-4 months before they are relocated or removed from the water. Effectiveness has been shown to be short-term, and recolonization is common. In densely infested areas plant fragments can root and grow in sediment that has settled on top of barriers. Over a 4-year period, bottom barrier treatments complemented by diver hand pulling and suction conducted as part of the Lake Tahoe AIS Program successfully controlled Eurasian watermilfoil in a 6-acre area in three locations within Lake Tahoe's Emerald Bay. Bottom barriers are not species selective, and native plants and invertebrates in the covered areas would be impacted at least temporarily. Many areas of the Tahoe Keys are covered with a thick organic layer as previously stated. This limits the ability of bottom barriers to function effectively; they are considered useful only in areas with minimal thickness or where the organic layer has been removed or decomposed as a result of LFA.

Impermeable Bottom Barriers with Hot Water or Acetic Acid: Scoping comments have suggested that bottom barrier effectiveness may be improved by injecting hot water, steam and/or acetic acid underneath impermeable barriers after they are anchored on the substrate. These injections would be considered a discharge and subject to NPDES permitting and antidegradation policy requirements, with concerns for impacts to water temperature and pH. Other aspects of bottom barriers would be similar to those described above for bottom barriers.

Diver-assisted Suction/Hand Pulling: This method employs divers (or snorkelers in very shallow water) to manually pull aquatic weeds from the sediment and guide them into a suction device that pumps the plant materials onto a barge where they are bagged and removed for offsite disposal. Water is returned away from where the divers are working. Trained divers can selectively remove target species, limiting the impacts to native plants and animals. This labor-intensive method, complemented by bottom barrier use, was successful at removing all or nearly all viable propagules in treated areas of Emerald Bay. One diver could potentially treat $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in six hours, with less production in dense weed beds. Risk factors are higher for divers at high elevations, and worker productivity is less compared to sea level. Fragment control and turbidity are potential environmental challenges.

Spot Suction Dredging: This method is similar to the diver-assisted suction/hand pulling method described above. The diver-assisted suction/hand pulling attempts to minimize sediment disturbance. Spot suction dredging intended to remove sediment could be used around docks and other obstructions, but would come with significant challenges for (1) sediment dewatering before the sediment could be transported for off-site disposal, and (2) treatment of dewatering water before it could be discharged. Like other dredging methods, spot suction dredging would not be species-selective and some loss of non-target plants and animals would be expected.

2.3 Proposed Project: Testing Combinations of Aquatic Weed Control Methods

This section describes the Proposed Project and provides detailed information on the proposed treatment schedule and duration for herbicidal and non-herbicidal aquatic weed control methods to be tested. Descriptions of herbicidal methods include the specific herbicide products, spatial extent of applications, estimated cost of treatment, method and rate of application, control and containment measures, and best management practices proposed for herbicide application and monitoring.

The Proposed Project will test both stand-alone treatments of Group A methods (herbicides, UV light, and LFA), and a combination of herbicide and UV light treatments. All Group A treatments will be supported by the implementation of mitigation measures described in this EIR/EIS and additional mitigation that may be determined based on the outcome of Group A testing and site conditions. Group A methods will be followed by implementation of Group B methods in the two years following testing. Specific follow-on Group B methods will be selected based on target and non-target aquatic plant presence, Group A monitoring results, and site conditions present at the time of implementation. Figure 4 show some examples of how Group B methods may be selected. Mechanical harvesting will not be performed in test sites during the testing period, and no weed control methods will be implemented within the control sites other than harvesting when necessary for navigation. The current program of mechanical harvesting and fragment control methods will continue during this period in areas of the lagoons outside of test sites.

2.3.1 Overview of Test Program

Target Aquatic Weeds

The Proposed Project tests the safety, efficacy, compatibility, and utility of methods to control three target aquatic weeds: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), and coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*).

Location and Size of Test Plots, Including Controls

Tests will be conducted at selected sites within the Tahoe Keys lagoons. Figure 3 shows the currently anticipated locations of the sites for testing Group A methods (note that these locations may be adjusted based on Spring 2021 hydroacoustic scans and macrophyte surveys in the lagoons).

A total of 21 sites are proposed for treatment with herbicides, UV light, both herbicide and UV light, or LFA in year one of the CMT (Figure 3). An additional three sites would be monitored as control/reference sites for comparison. The test plan comprises the following distribution of sites:

- Six herbicide-only sites in the Main Lagoon (three replicate sites each for two herbicide products)
- Three herbicide-only sites in Lake Tallac (three replicate sites for one herbicide product)
- Three UV-only sites

- Six combination sites (herbicides and UV light treatment).
- Three LFA-only sites
- Three control sites

The 21 treatment sites (and the three control sites) will be selected to reflect the range of heterogeneity in the Tahoe Keys lagoons, including differences in water depths, water clarity, nutrient inputs, water circulation, shoreline conditions (e.g. bulkheads vs rocky or irregular shores), density and size of docks, and effects of wind and weather.



SOURCE: DigitalGlobe, 2018

Tahoe Keys Lagoons Restoration Program EIR/EIS, D180990

ESA

Figure 3: Locations of proposed aquatic weed Group A treatment method sites and control sites in Tahoe Keys lagoons

The total area proposed for treatment with aquatic herbicides, UV light, LFA, or aquatic herbicides in combination with UV light, is 41.40 acres divided among 21 sites. This represents approximately 24% of the total surface area of the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. The total area to be treated with herbicides would be 16.73 acres, including those test sites where herbicides would be used alone or in combination with UV light treatments (see Table 1). (Within the combination treatment sites, one-third of the area is assumed to be used for herbicide applications.) This represents approximately 10% of the total surface area of the 172-acre

Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test Project Update - Lahontan Water Quality Control Board, September 19, 2019 Meeting

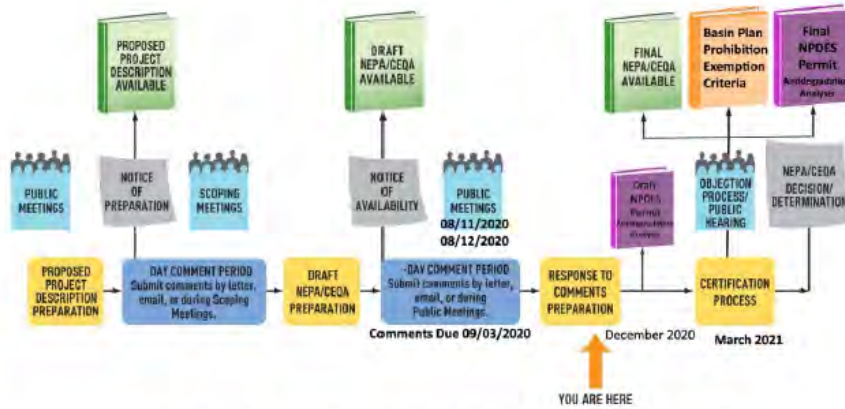
Lahontan and TRPA staff presented an update on the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test Project to the Lahontan Board who will be determining the use of herbicides as a control method through a Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption application and NPDES Permit. The Executive Director of the TRPA, Joanna Marchetta, spoke to the 50 years of weed issues at the Tahoe Keys Lagoons, the process of applying for lifting the prohibition of herbicide use for the Tahoe Keys, the public misimpression that there is only an herbicide option, and the \$5 Billion Economy of Lake Tahoe. Lahontan and TRPA Staff provided the Board with an overview of the Tahoe Keys, the weed infestation history, stakeholder engagement, project application, and regulatory requirements the Tahoe Keys Lagoons are currently under. The current project facilitator provided a high-level summary of Scoping results including 300+ public comments. The presentation finished with Lahontan staff providing the Board with the considerations for the Tahoe Keys exemption request, and all Basin Plan Pesticide Discharge Prohibition exemption requests including: the final CEQA Document, Exemption to Basin Plan Prohibition on pesticide Discharges, Individual or General NPDES permits, 401 Certifications if applicable. All items will be presented to the Lahontan Board for approval in Spring 2021. If non-chemical methods are chosen for the Tahoe Keys Lagoon Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test Project then only the 401 Certification will be to be acquired by the Lahontan Board, there will be NO exemption or NPDES required for non-chemical methods testing.

TWSA Staff Summary August 2020

[https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/DEIR_TKPOA_CMT_TWSA_Staff_Summary_08142020_\(1\).pdf](https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/DEIR_TKPOA_CMT_TWSA_Staff_Summary_08142020_(1).pdf)

Excerpts:

Tahoe Water Suppliers Association Staff Summary



Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT) Environmental Certification Process

Lahontan RWQCB Board Meeting March 2021

Certify-Final EIR/EIR Grant-Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption Adopt-NPDES Permit

Full Documents: https://tahoekeysweeds.org/environmental_analysis/

Executive Summary

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) is seeking approval for their exemption to the basin plan amendment on the prohibition of herbicide use in Lake Tahoe, as represented in the 2018 Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP), the goal of the project is to reduce aquatic weed biomass by 75% to improve water quality and recreation for beneficial use. The Lead Agency (Lahontan) is requiring full environmental review of the proposed project, due to the proposed discharge of aquatic herbicides into receiving waters of the Tahoe Keys Lagoons, a Tier III Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW Tier III) for ecological and recreational value. After designation of the Tahoe Keys Lagoons as the greatest threat to the environmental health of Lake Tahoe, the TRPA has secured federal funding through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (\$3M) to facilitate a solution to the aquatic weed problem at the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, the TKPOA has worked with regulators and stakeholders to produce a proposed project for herbicide use, and after an initial public scoping process, three additional project alternatives. The proposed project, and three alternatives underwent review by an independent third party consultants chosen by the lead agencies, and produced the DEIR/EIS. As required by the (CEQA) Process, the DEIR/EIS is not recommending a project action to the lead agencies; it is providing the necessary information for informed decision making, with the required designation of an Environmentally Superior Alternative. The DEIR/EIS has chosen a project alternative as the **Environmentally Superior Alternative, Action Alternative 1 (Testing of Non-Herbicide Methods Only)**. The Proposed Project, Action Alternative 2 (Tahoe Keys Dredge and Replace Substrate), and the No-Action Alternative would have unavoidable impacts on recreational boating that would not occur under Action Alternative 1 (Testing of Non-Herbicide Methods Only). Additionally, the permitting process for the proposed project requires an Antidegradation Analysis, to be released in the fall of 2020, as part of the Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The DEIR/EIS has found that the proposed project and the alternative actions will have **no significant impact** to Environmental Health, Aquatic Biology, Utilities, and all reviewed objectives, that cannot be avoided with mitigation measures including early treatment, real time monitoring, pretreatment surveys, and containment. The non-action alternative has been found to have **potentially significant unavoidable impact** due to the increase infestation of aquatic weeds from the Tahoe Keys Lagoons throughout greater Lake Tahoe.

TWSA TKPOA CMT Staff Summary - 1

Project Details (Proposed Project)

The proposed project is a 2 phase, 3 year Control Methods Test (CMT) with a goal of 75% plant biomass reduction. Year 1 includes the testing of Group A Methods: two herbicides, in standalone test sites plus combination UV-C & Herbicide test sites. Additionally, the proposed project will include testing of UV-C Light, LFA, and no action. Years 2/3 will include testing of mechanical methods (Group B) with no herbicide use.

Year One – 2021

Group A West Lagoon- 21 Test Sites total. Triplicate use of methods (selection condition dependent).

- 6 herbicide-only (3 sites for 2 herbicides)
- 3 UV-C Light only
- 6 combination Herbicide and UV-C Light
- 3 LFA-only
- 3 Control
- 3 (herbicides only) Lake Tallac

Proposed Group A Treatment Site Details.

Table 2-3 Proposed Test Herbicide Application Treatment Site Details. Site Number/Treatments	Application Rate (ppm)	Plot Size (acres)	Actual Herbicide/ Zone Size (acres)
1 Herbicide (Endothall)	5	1.5	1.5
2 Herbicide (Triclopyr)	0.003	1.5	1.5
3 Herbicide (Triclopyr)	0.003	2.1	2.1
5 Herbicide (Endothall)	5	2.2	2.2
8 Herbicide (Endothall)	5	1.6	1.6
9 Herbicide (Triclopyr)	0.003	1.5	1.5
10 Combo Herb/Ultraviolet (Endothall)	5	2.0	0.7
11 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (Triclopyr)	0.003	1.6	0.5
12 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (Triclopyr)	0.003	1.9	0.7
13 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (Endothall)	5	1.7	0.6
14 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (Endothall)	5	2.0	0.7
15 Combo Herb/ Ultraviolet (Triclopyr)	0.003	1.2	0.4
16 Control	N/A	1.8	0.0
17 Control	N/A	2.2	0.0
18 Control	N/A	1.5	0.0
19 Herbicide (Endothall)	2 to 5	1.0	1.0
20 Herbicide (Endothall)	2 to 5	1.0	1.0
21 Herbicide (Endothall)	2 to 5	0.9	0.9



SOURCE: DigitalGlobe, 2018

Tahoe Keys Lagoons Restoration Program EIR/EIS, D180990

Herbicide Only (10.4 acres in Lagoons, 2.9 acres in Lake Tallac)

The DEIR/EIS reviewed the environmental impacts of three aquatic herbicide, if the proposed project is executed only two herbicides will be used, Endothall and Florpyrauxifen-benzyl or Triclopyr.

Proposed Herbicides, Application Rates, and Application Methods. Herbicide* Active Ingredient (Product Name)	USEPA Reg. No.	Maximum Allowable Rate (ppm)	Application Method (s)	Target Plants per Product Labeling
Endothall (Aquathol K) Contact-type	USEPA Reg. No. 70506-176	5.0	Drop hoses	Eurasian watermilfoil Coontail Curlyleaf pondweed
Triclopyr (Renovate 3 [liquid] or OTF [granular])	USEPA Reg. No. 67690-42	2.5	Drop hoses (liquid) or granular spreader (solid)	Eurasian watermilfoil
*No adjuvants (i.e., additives to enhance herbicide activity) would be used. Only products approved for use in California would be used.				

Containment- Double Turbidity Curtains, Applicator Control, Monitoring and Reporting Program described in the 2018 Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP).

Ultraviolet Light C (UV-C) Stand Alone (4.9 acres)

“The current proposed methodology includes initial ultraviolet light treatments in May and June with the array two to three feet off the lagoon bottom, to stunt growth when the plants are small. A second treatment would occur in July and August, and in the case of curlyleaf pondweed, would target irradiating the crowns of the plants causing mortality before they drop turions. A final round of treatments could occur in September and October, as needed.” (TKPOA CMT, page 2-19)

“The total area proposed for stand-alone tests of ultraviolet light in the CMT is 4.9 acres, which represents less than three percent of the total surface area of the 172-acre lagoon system. Based on the Lakeside Marina and Beach testing and using an average time of 15 minutes for treatment and repositioning of the light array, approximately 640 square feet could be treated per hour and one acre could be treated in 68 hours, using the existing eight-foot by 20-foot array. This information was used to project how long UV light treatment might take for the proposed testing:

- Coverage using the existing ultraviolet light boat would require four to five days of operation at ultraviolet light-only test site. Continuous operations for seven days per week could accomplish a single round of treatment at all three test sites in approximately three weeks using the existing ultraviolet light boat, assuming no down time for cleaning, maintenance, and other activities.
- To complete two rounds of ultraviolet light treatment during the active growing season for target aquatic weeds at all ultraviolet light test sites, including the six ultraviolet light/herbicide test sites described in Section 2.3.5, it is assumed that a mid-sized ultraviolet boat with a 320 square-foot light array would need to be deployed in addition to the existing small ultraviolet boat.
- Working together the two boats could complete one round of treatment in approximately 270 operating hours, or about seven weeks using a normal work schedule.
- Given the plan for two or three rounds of ultraviolet light treatment, it is likely that the two boats could need to work continuously from late May until October if a third round is necessary based on results from the first two rounds.” (TKPOA CMT, Page 2-21)

Laminar Flow Aeration (LFA) – Stand Alone (12.8 acres)

“Three test sites would be treated with LFA. LFA treatment would involve the temporary installation of five to 10 ceramic air diffusers on the bottom of the channel at each treatment site, together with weighted airlines. The diffusers and airlines would be connected to a land-based electrically powered air compressor, which would be placed in a sound-reducing cabinet. TKPOA was issued permits by TRPA, the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Lahontan Water Board to install a six-acre LFA project at Site 26 in the south-central part of the West Lagoon (Figure 2-4) in April 2019. Two additional smaller test sites are planned to begin operation in the spring of 2021, for a total of 12.8 acres of LFA operation during the CMT.

The LFA test would not disrupt existing recreation uses in the Tahoe Keys since all equipment would be located on the bottom of the channel (except for air compressors that would be located within utility enclosures). No modifications to existing uses or structures are proposed, and no barriers would be used to isolate the LFA treatment areas.” (TKPOA CMT, page 2-22)

Herbicide & UV-C Light combined (10.4 acres)

TKPOA will test three combined Herbicide and UV-C light sites. The combination of the two group a methods “sites would be used to study the efficacy of combining ultraviolet light treatments applied in linear, unobstructed reaches, with herbicide treatments applied in the relatively narrow zone between the dock footprints and the shorelines. The objective of this combination is to optimize ultraviolet light exposure efficiency by combining it with the application of herbicides in generally “obstructed” areas.” (TKPOA CMT, Page 2-22)



Year 2 & 3 (2022-2023)

Group B West Lagoon – methods to be used; Diver-Assisted suction/Hand Pulling, Bottom Barriers (with or without hot water, steam or acetic acid injections), Localized spot treatment with ultraviolet light, localized suction dredging. The Group B method to be used will be dependent on the results of the Group A treatment, the size of the infestation and limitations and constraints to the method type based on lagoon morphology or physical obstructions.

“Group B methods would be implemented following the testing of Group A methods, depending on the target aquatic weeds present, size of infestation, and location of infestation. Where the target plant biovolume reduction does not achieve the 75% reduction goal for Group A methods, that site would be considered a failed test and Group B follow-up maintenance would not be performed. Group B methods are included in the CMT to evaluate their ability to provide sustainable, long-term maintenance options that preclude the need for repeated use of herbicides or other Group A methods. During the Spring of the year following Group A testing at each site, hydroacoustic and macroinvertebrate surveys would be performed to determine the size of the remaining infestation. Group B methods would be implemented during the years following Group A tests.” (TKPOA CMT, page 2- 23/24)

Alternative 1 (Testing of non-herbicide methods only):

Action Alternative 1 would proceed only with tests of non-herbicide methods of aquatic weed control. Under this alternative, no treatments with herbicides would be conducted, and other elements of the test program (i.e., ultraviolet light, LFA, and Group B methods) would be as described above for the Proposed Project. This alternative was identified as the environmentally superior alternative (Section 5.7).

Year One – (2021)

- UV-C Light – Stand Alone Test as described in the proposed project
- LFT – Stand Alone test as described in the proposed project

Year 2 & 3 (2022-2023)

- Group B maintenance as described in the proposed project

Alternative 2 (Tahoe keys dredge and replace substrate)

Action Alternative 2 responds to comments received during public scoping and would consist of hydraulic dredging (i.e., wet excavation or suction dredging) of the bottom layers of organic material and sediment to remove the roots and turions of aquatic weeds at three test sites in the Tahoe Keys lagoons, followed by placement of a new layer of bottom sediment (e.g., coarse sand or gravel). (TKPOA CMT, Page ES-7)

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative considers the long-term consequences to the Tahoe Keys lagoons and Lake Tahoe of undertaking no new weed control activities in the Tahoe Keys lagoons. Under this alternative only current control methods would be employed by TKPOA and individual property owners (e.g., voluntary use of bottom barriers, the existing LFA project, mechanical harvesting, and weed fragment control). Because herbicide and ultraviolet light applications would not be tested under this alternative, it is assumed that these methods for target aquatic weed control would not be used in the foreseeable future under a No Action Alternative. (TKPOA CMT, Page ES-7)

TWSA Staff Draft EIR/EIS Highlights for Purveyors

No Finding of significant impact to all objectives from proposed project, alt. 1, Alt. 2

- **Detectable Concentrations of Herbicides and Degradates in Receiving Waters.** The potential impact of detectable concentrations of herbicides and degradates in receiving waters will be **less than significant** for the Proposed Project, given the timing and limited extent of application. A spill response plan would also be employed, and double turbidity curtains would be used to prevent movement of herbicides toward the West Lagoon connecting channel. LFA or other aeration technology will be used at test sites to accelerate the degradation of herbicide active ingredients and degradates.
- **Protection of Drinking Water Supplies.** This issue would have **less than significant** effects for the Proposed Project, given measures to contain the herbicide applications with double turbidity curtains to prevent movement of active ingredients toward the West Lagoon connecting channel and Lake Tahoe. Dye tracing and well monitoring will document herbicide movement, and existing or mobile carbon filtration systems would be activated to remove herbicide residues if they reach wells.
- **Effects on Water Supply (Utilities).** No impact to this issue would occur under the Proposed Project or any of the alternatives. **No significant unavoidable environmental effects would occur** for this issue under the Proposed Project and Action Alternatives. Though the degree of potential significance is speculative, the No Action Alternative could result in a potentially significant turbidity-related impact if intakes are located in shallow waters where habitat could support uncontrolled growth of aquatic weeds.

Significant impact of non-action alternative

Environmental Health as aquatic weed infestations persist and grow in the Tahoe Keys lagoons, conditions may become increasingly favorable for HABs. Past detections of cyanotoxins have reached caution levels at Tahoe Keys, and continuation of the existing programs to monitor and warn people at Tahoe Keys when cyanotoxins are present may continue to be effective in protecting against any additional risks of exposure to cyanotoxins. However, the conditions that cause cyanobacteria to produce cyanotoxins are not well understood, and it is uncertain whether concentrations of these toxins would increase in the future. Given this uncertainty, the impact of HABs may present a **potentially significant unavoidable impact** of the No Action Alternative.

Aquatic Biology The No Action Alternative is expected to lead to expansion of aquatic weed growth in the lagoons and in other nearshore areas of Lake Tahoe, particularly with continued spread of curlyleaf pondweed infestations. Therefore, **significant and unavoidable** impacts would be expected (1) in aquatic macrophyte community composition, (2) in the expansion of curlyleaf pondweed, (3) to further degrade habitat conditions for the larger aquatic BMI community, similar to that for the Tahoe Keys lagoons, and (4) to further degrade habitat conditions for special status fish species and native or recreationally important game fish species, potentially blocking access to spawning habitat.

Built/Human Environment Long-term **significant unavoidable impacts** to recreational boating could accumulate for this issue under the No Action Alternative, if the continued harvesting of aquatic weeds as currently practiced by the TKPOA is ineffective in preventing the spread of the weeds to Lake Tahoe.

Mitigation Measures (Feasible, measurable and specific)

Mitigation measures for the proposed project are provided in the 2018 Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP), the draft EIR provides the following mitigation measures:

- Applicator qualifications
- Spill response plan
- Dye tracing
- Well monitoring and contingencies
- West Channel monitoring and contingencies
- Public outreach
- Carbon filtration contingency (wells only)
- Double turbidity curtain barriers
- Best management practices
- Timing and size of treatments
- Aeration

ONRW Tier III Status References

The following federal, state, and local regulatory requirements are listed in the Draft EIR for projects in an ONRW Tier III water.

Federal

- USEPA Antidegradation Policy: The Tier III designation of Lake Tahoe (including the West and East lagoons) under the State and federal Antidegradation Policies requires that states may allow some limited activities that result in temporary and short-term changes to water quality, subject to protection of beneficial uses. These changes would not be allowed to adversely affect existing uses or alter the essential character or special uses for which Lake Tahoe was designated as an ONRW. As discussed in Section 1.4.1.1, if detectable concentrations of applied aquatic herbicide active ingredients or select degradation byproducts are present longer than “weeks to months, not years” the discharges would be assessed to cause long-term water quality degradation. The LWB has discretion in determining the allowable time frames for what constitutes long-term and short-term existing water quality degradation within the “weeks to months, not years” guidance from USEPA.

State

- California’s antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution 68-16, which incorporates the requirements of the federal antidegradation policy. The requirements for an exemption to the prohibition apply both to proposed aquatic herbicide testing in the West Lagoon, which is part of the Tier Three designation of Lake Tahoe as an ONRW, and to herbicide testing in Lake Tallac, which has Tier Two protection under the antidegradation regulations. If approved for use, detectable concentrations of herbicide active ingredients and degradates above background would be allowed within treatment areas only for a short-term period (i.e., weeks to months, not years). This requirement is described in Section 1.4. In receiving waters outside of treatment areas, short-term detectable concentrations of herbicide active ingredients and degradates are only allowable if beneficial uses are protected and maintained.

Local

- **Obstruction of Direct Access to Lake Tahoe for Recreational Boating.** Lake Tahoe offers an exceptional recreational experience as a unique alpine lake known worldwide for the clarity and purity of its outstanding blue waters. The Lake was designated an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) by the State of California and the USEPA in 1980. The recreational quality of Lake Tahoe was a primary attraction in developing the Tahoe Keys, and in the ongoing use of the Lake. The Keys is a boat-oriented

TWSA TKPOA CMT Staff Summary - 7

development, and much of the recreation use enjoyed by Tahoe Keys property owners and their guests is mediated by direct access to Lake Tahoe for boat use. The primary potential impact of the Proposed Project and Action Alternatives on recreation occurs through its effects on boat access and displacement of use to nearby marinas and other facilities.

Filtration Exemption References

Issue UT-1: Effects on Water Supply. A primary concern raised by water purveyors sourcing Lake Tahoe has been the potential to affect the quality of water taken at their drinking water intakes, such that they would no longer qualify for the filtration exemption. Of the six treatment requirements listed in Table 3.4.2-1, the only one that could be affected by the Proposed Project would be turbidity. The Proposed Project has no potential to influence microbial contamination or trihalomethanes in Lake Tahoe. This analysis of potential impacts also considers the potential for herbicides or degradates to reach water intakes in detectible concentrations, such that drinking water sourced at these intakes would be rendered contaminated or unsuitable for human use.

No mitigation would be required beyond that proposed for water quality (Section 3.3.4) and designed as part of the Proposed Project, as no impacts to utilities would occur. TKPOA has proposed contingency plans, including monitoring and alert systems (TKPOA 2018e; see also the IEC/IS), that would be implemented if necessary, to remove herbicides and other chemicals to treat the potable water before distribution. The negligible potential for impact forestalls the need for other mitigation.

No significant unavoidable impacts to utilities would occur.

Environmentally Superior Alternative (Requirement & How chosen)

CEQA Guidelines 15126.6 address Alternatives to the Proposed Project, stating that *“an EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives,”* and further, *“The range of potential alternatives to the proposed project shall include those that could feasibly accomplish most of the basic objectives of the project and could avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects.”*

Sections 15126.6(a) and 15126.6e(2)) require that an EIR’s analysis of alternatives identify the “environmentally superior” alternative among all of those considered. In addition, if the No-Project Alternative is identified as the environmentally superior alternative, then the EIR must also identify the environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives. Under CEQA, the goal of identifying the environmentally superior alternative is to assist decision makers in considering project approval. CEQA does not require an agency to select the environmentally superior alternative (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15042–15043).

In this case, the No Action Alternative is not the environmental superior alternative; in fact, as shown in Table 5-1, it would have the greatest potentially significant unavoidable impacts of the four alternatives considered.

Action Alternative 1 (Testing of Non-Herbicide Methods Only) was selected as an alternative that might reduce the potentially significant effects of the Proposed Project by avoiding the application of herbicides.

Action Alternative 2 (Tahoe Key Dredge and Replace Substrate) was selected after scoping as an alternative suggested by stakeholders that also might reduce impacts by avoiding the application of herbicides.

As shown in Table 5-1, both the Proposed Project and Action Alternative 2 would have potentially significant unavoidable impacts on recreational boating. In addition, although the Proposed Project and both Action

TWSA TKPOA CMT Staff Summary - 8

Alternatives mitigate all other identified environmental issues to less than significant, both the Proposed Project and Action Alternative 2 entail activities (application of herbicides and the dredging, dewatering and disposal of sediment) that would not occur under Action Alternative 1. Although mitigated, these additional activities entail some measure of potential risk and reduced impact. For all these reasons, Action Alternative 1 is the environmentally superior alternative.

Benthic Macro Invertebrates

Effects on the Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community. Implementation of the Proposed Project or Action Alternatives would not be expected to result in a substantial change or reduction in the diversity or distribution of the aquatic BMI community and this impact would be less than significant. Continued spread of aquatic invasive weeds under the No Action Alternative has the potential to further change the plant community composition in deeper water areas of the lagoons, and also further spread in nearshore areas of Lake Tahoe proper. This would be expected to further degrade conditions for aquatic BMIs, similar to that for the Tahoe Keys lagoons. If the continued spread of aquatic invasive weeds goes unchecked under the No Action Alternative, the resulting changes to the BMI community composition could be significant.

Competiveness & Regrowth of Curlyleaf Pondweed

Competitive Exclusion of Aquatic Macrophytes Due to Increased Growth of Curlyleaf Pondweed. Given the small areas proposed for testing aquatic herbicides under the Proposed Project, and the ability to adjust test site locations to avoid areas dominated by native plant communities, changes or reduction in the diversity or distribution of the non-target macrophyte community or increased growth of curlyleaf pondweed would be less than significant.

Contingency Monitoring Locations

The following locations will be sampled **IF** Rhodamine Aquatic Dye is detected in the west channel lagoon.

Figure 8: Contingency Herbicide Monitoring Sites and Tracks for Herbicide Validation Study



NOTE: These sites will only be monitored if herbicide residues are detected in the West Channel.

Non-Chemical Control Methods currently used at Lake Tahoe that can provide long-term invasive plant control.

Diver-assisted hand removal is labor intensive, and can require a greater investment of time and money. Using this method in combination with bottom barriers is an effective way of maximizing this technology while reducing the cost.



Bottom Barriers can be used effectively in large areas with smooth substrate and no structures. They have been used successfully at Emerald Bay, Crystal Shores HOA and other locations.



Testing and analysis on the effects of deep penetrating **UltraViolet Light** on aquatic invasive weeds began in 2017. This technology showed significant plant control during the initial trials.



Other mechanical methods considered: Water Drawdowns, Dredging, Rotovating, Circulation and Aeration

TWSA Public Comments

In 2020, significant comments were submitted by the TWSA Board, and an independent review was commissioned, of the CEQA draft environmental review (DEIR/DEIS) . This correspondence is posted at: [https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/TWSA_COMMENTS_TKPOA_DEIR_2020_-_FINAL_with_WQTS_attachment_SUBMITTED_8_27_2020_\(1\).pdf](https://www.yourtahoepace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/TWSA_COMMENTS_TKPOA_DEIR_2020_-_FINAL_with_WQTS_attachment_SUBMITTED_8_27_2020_(1).pdf)

The following letters are a sampling of TWSA correspondence prior to 2020, submitted as part of the public comment and technical review processes.



1220 Sweetwater Road
Incline Village, Nevada 89451
775-832-1212

TWSA Members:

Cave Rock Water System
Edgewood Water Company
Glenbrook Water Cooperative
Incline Village GID
Kingsbury GID
Lakeside Park Association
North Tahoe PUD
Round Hill GID
Skyland Water Company
South Tahoe PUD
Tahoe City PUD
Zephyr Water Utility

July 16, 2019

To:
Mr. Russell Norman, Lahontan Water Board
Mr. Dennis Zabaglo, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

RE: CEQA Scoping Comments – Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weeds Control Methods Test

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) remains in support of the exploration of non-chemical AIS controls at Lake Tahoe such as: diver suction, hand-pulling, weed dock rollers and UVC light methodology for aquatic weed controls.

"TWSA cannot support the application of aquatic herbicides until all non-chemical methods have been fully vetted." - TWSA Board Decision recorded at TWSA Board Meeting of Thursday, June 8, 2017.

- **In this scoping process, we would ask that one of the alternatives be a 'non-chemical methods only' alternative.**

TWSA members share concerns about the potential impact of herbicides on our water intake systems and quality of the water we provide to our customers. Tahoe's municipal water treatments systems are not specifically designed to remove chemical contaminants. Six TWSA members hold "filtration exemption" status from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). This is a rare status, usually granted only to a "non-contact" watershed. The treatment processes (ultra-violet/ozone/chlorine) used by members with "filtration exemption" status is designed for the deactivation of potential biological contaminants, not chemicals. Their effectiveness and efficiency at removing chemical compounds is unknown.

- **TWSA requests a detailed analysis of the potential impacts of herbicides on drinking water supply.**
- **We also ask for some analysis of the question "What are the potential impacts to customer confidence in the DRINK TAHOE TAP® brand, from the various control methods?"**

The inflatable bladder dam was removed as a mitigation.

- **An explanation of the reasoning behind the removal of the bladder dam mitigation is requested.**

There are several other general topics that should be addressed in analysis:

- **Options for biomass removal after treatment of matured plants.**
- **Discussion on general issue of chemical adaptation/herbicide resistance and repeat application protocol as the norm.**
- **Fiscal analysis of various control methods including consultant fees, regulatory fees and mitigation measure expenditures.**
- **Discussion on algae bloom potential / cyanobacteria and control options.**

If you have questions, please contact us directly. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'Madonna Dunbar' and the signature on the right is 'Suzi Gibbons'.

Madonna Dunbar, TWSA Executive Director & Suzi Gibbons, TWSA Board Chairperson



1220 Sweetwater Road
Incline Village, Nevada 89451
775-832-1212

TWSA Members:
Cave Rock Water System
Edgewood Water Company
Glenbrook Water Cooperative
Incline Village GID
Kingsbury GID
Lakeside Park Association
North Tahoe PUD
Round Hill GID
Skyland Water Company
South Tahoe PUD
Tahoe City PUD
Zephyr Water Utility

August 22, 2017

NPDES Wastewater Unit
Attn: Gil Vazquez
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA, 95814

RE: Comments on Tahoe Keys West Lagoon Integrated Control Methods Test; Notice of Intent for the General NPDES Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association. WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005.

To the California State Water Resources Control Board:

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) Board of Directors wishes to comment on the *Notice of Intent (NOI) for the General NPDES Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association*, recently submitted to the State Board. A bi-state organization, the TWSA represents both California and Nevada public water suppliers at Lake Tahoe.

The NOI has been filed to the State Board with the understanding that the final decision is to be determined after the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's review of the *Application for Exemption to the Basin Plan Prohibition on the Use of Pesticides for the Tahoe Keys West Lagoon Integrated Control Methods Test*.

We do not support approval of this General Permit Application for the following reasons:

TWSA believes Lake Tahoe's special status as a Tier 3 Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) warrants a priority focus on non-chemical methods being thoroughly field tested before an exemption can be considered for herbicide application. The TKPOA application provided an academic evaluation of non-chemical methods, and dismissed them all as not applicable, except when used in combination with herbicides. (*"While some alternative methods can be effective in small, relatively isolated areas, their deployment as a sole means of*

1

management in the extensively and heavily vegetated Tahoe Keys lagoons is neither feasible or effective in meeting the IMP goals and has unacceptable associated risks to the environment, non-target species and to Lake Tahoe.” – Pg 7. APAP). Dismissal of the non-chemical methods is based primarily on the lower cost of herbicide use, plant selectivity and the speed of action of herbicides versus other non-chemical methods such as diver assisted suction. TWSA views the introduction and use of aquatic herbicides as an unacceptable risk to Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe’s Outstanding National Resource Water Tier 3 status is a key factor in the consideration and analysis of the application request. State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16, guides CA Anti-Degradation Policy. The Federal Antidegradation Policy establishes three tiers or types of waterbodies to guide antidegradation analysis.

- Tier 1 maintains and protects existing uses and water quality conditions to support such uses. Tier 1 requirements apply to all surface waters (USEPA 2012).
- Tier 2 is comprised of High Quality Waters. Tier 2 waterbodies have higher water quality than those required to support designated uses (USEPA 1987).
- Tier 3 is comprised of Outstanding National Resource Waters. In CA, these include Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake as the sole, interior water bodies considered Tier 3. Significant coastal areas fall under Tier 3 status as well. Tier 3 status was interpreted in 2012 by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, as allowing NO DEGREDDATION IN A TIER 3 WATERBODY. (*Evaluation of San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Water Quality Objectives and Implementation, December 2012, ICF 00427.11*).

CEQA documents are currently being prepared for the pending Lahontan Water Quality Control Board’s review of the TKPOA’s Amended Supplemental Application for Exemption to the Basin Plan Prohibition on the Use of Pesticides for the Tahoe Keys West Lagoon Integrated Control Methods Test (July 20, 2017). These documents will be critical in the analysis of any approval. Determinations should not be made, at the state or regional level, until all relevant documentation is available.

SWRCB Resolution 68-16 establishes a two-step process to determine whether a discharge complies with the state’s Antidegradation Policy.

Step One: Whenever the existing quality of water is better than the quality established in policies, such existing high quality will be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the State that any change:

- will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State;
- will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of such water, and;
- will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies.

Step Two: Any activity which produces or may produce a waste or increased volume or concentration of waste and which discharges or proposes to discharge to existing high quality waters will be required to meet waste discharge requirements which will result in the best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that:

- a pollution or nuisance will not occur, and;
- the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to people of the State will be maintained.

Discharges may only be allowed if the proposed application of aquatic pesticides is consistent with state antidegradation requirements. The decision making process for the State Water Board in consideration of this permit request requires:

Step 1: will be consistent with maximum benefit to the peoples of the State; will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of such water, and; will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies.

The State must make the decision based on maximum benefit to the peoples of the State.

Does this project provide benefit for primarily the Tahoe Keys property owners, or is it truly designed for the maximum benefit for the peoples of the State? There are non-chemical methods that have the potential for success, but would take longer to achieve control and cost more. Non-chemical methods do provide the alternatives to maximally benefit the peoples of the State, creating no new introduction of chemicals or discharges.

In the *GENERAL NPDES PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS* it is stated on page 12: "To reduce the potential impacts to water quality, Dischargers shall implement the feasible alternatives to algaecide and aquatic herbicide use that are identified in the APAP.

"Local ordinances concerning water quality or nuisance and the use of the water as a water supply may also be factors in determining maximum benefit to the people." (Q's and A's Resolution No.68-16, February 16, 1995)

"With reference to economic costs, both costs to the discharger and costs to the public must be considered. Cost savings to the discharger, standing alone, absent a demonstration of how these savings are necessary to accommodate 'important social and economic development' are not adequate justification for allowing degradation." (Q's and A's Resolution No. 68-16, February 16, 1995).

Project must be justified for social or economic reasons.

There is no argument that something must be done to control weeds in the Tahoe Keys, to reduce the risk of spreading invasive aquatic plants to other areas of Lake Tahoe, or downstream through the Truckee-Pyramid Lake watershed; and associated economic impacts to recreation. However, the use of herbicides continues to be the main method promoted, with cursory reference to the use of non-chemical methods as limited alternatives. The use of herbicides will affect present and anticipated beneficial use of such water.

The introduction of chemical controls has potential economic impact to the water providers, in two specific ways:

- a) TWSA members share great concern about the potential impact of herbicides on our water intake systems and quality of the water we provide to our customers. Tahoe's municipal water treatment systems are not specifically designed to remove chemical contaminants. Six TWSA members hold "filtration exemption" status from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). This is a rare status, usually granted only to a "non-contact" watershed. There are only 60 filtration exempt systems in the US; 10% of them are here at Lake Tahoe. Filtration exemption was granted based on the fact that Tahoe "tap water" is some of the cleanest and purest drinking water in the world. The treatment process of ultra-violet and ozone disinfection used by members with "filtration exemption" status is designed for the deactivation of potential biological contaminants, not chemicals. Their effectiveness and efficiency at removing chemical compounds is unknown. TWSA's remaining filtration plants are not designed to remove chemical contaminants. In addition to TWSA members, there are many water systems owned by private companies and individuals that also draw water from Lake Tahoe. If chemical contaminants begin to be detected near Lake Tahoe water intakes, our ratepayers and the owners of small private water systems may need to take their intakes off line to protect public health and safety and face costly infrastructure upgrades. In most of these cases, the lake intakes are their only source of potable drinking water. TWSA supports a more detailed analysis of the potential impacts of herbicides on drinking water supply.

- b) In 2010, the TWSA drinking water providers established brand recognition for the quality of Tahoe tap water, in an outreach campaign called DRINK TAHOE TAP[®]. This campaign has become regionally recognized as the TWSA "brand", and was federally trademarked in 2015. An herbicide project, and potential ongoing applications of herbicides, has a probable effect to create negative economic and social impact of water provider consumer confidence and thereby negatively affect the trademarked, DRINK TAHOE TAP[®] brand. The customer confidence we have built in "Tahoe Tap" may be impacted and cannot be repaired if consumer confidence is eroded by the use of herbicides introduced into the Tahoe Keys, which adjoins Lake Tahoe. Non-chemical projects currently mitigate standard issues (such as turbidity) occurring at Tahoe, but do not impact established water quality standards. Nationally, there is tremendous consumer concern over chemical contaminants in drinking water, so the high confidence in the quality of water we provide to ratepayers and the general public, including national and international visitors, is extremely rare and valuable within our industry.

Project must be shown to have temporary impacts if water quality decline is permitted.

Herbicide introduction - is it temporary, or long term? This NOI/APAP indicates the pilot will be an evaluation tool towards repeated use of herbicides. (*"The completion of the proposed aquatic herbicide demonstration study will provide important and relevant information on which the LRWQCB can, in part, base its review of subsequent proposed uses of aquatic herbicide in the Tahoe Keys lagoons."* – page 21, APAP). The desire to evaluate, then subsequently propose additional applications, points to a long term strategy to repeat treatment using herbicides. This can create potential long term impacts. The primary beneficial use of Lahontan

waterbodies is drinking water, any perceived adverse effect to beneficial use as drinking water can have a negative impact on our business of providing high-quality drinking water to the public.

Step 2: A pollution or nuisance will not occur, and the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to peoples of the State will be maintained.

Herbicide application and residuals should be considered discharges and pollution in Tier 3 waterbodies. "To comply with Resolution 68-18, a discharge may not cause pollution." "The term pollution is defined in the CWC to mean an alteration of the waters of the state by a waste to a degree which unreasonably affects either the waters for beneficial use or the facilities which serve these beneficial uses (CWC Section 13050(l))." (Q's and A's Resolution No. 68-16, February 16, 1995)

In the *CA-GENERAL NPDES PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES FROM NPDES NO. CAG990005 ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS*, in Attachment D – Fact Sheet states on page D-27 – D-28: Penoxsulam degrades by two different transformation mechanisms, producing 13 different identified transformation products, 11 of which meet the criteria to be classified as major degradation byproducts, six of which reached peak concentrations at study termination, indicating a greater degree of persistence than Penoxsulam and a potential to reach concentrations even greater than those reported at study termination. The results of the screening-level risk assessment suggest that Penoxsulam will not pose a threat to aquatic or terrestrial animals, however, this conclusion must be tempered by the fact that testing has not been conducted on several major degradation byproducts. The U.S. EPA defines major degradation byproducts to be BSA, 2-amino-TP, TPSA, BSTCA methyl, BSTCA, 2-amino-TCA, 5-OH-penoxsulam, SFA, sulfonamide, 5,8-di-OH and 5-OH, 2 aminoTP.

In the CA-General NPDES definition of Receiving Water Limitations:

- B. Dissolved Oxygen. There is no discussion on how herbicide application will be handled to maintain the Lahontan Water Quality Standard for Dissolved Oxygen (DO). "The discharger shall not result in any of the following: Dissolved oxygen to be below the Regional Water Board Basin Plans' dissolved oxygen objectives for the receiving water. In the LRWQCB Water Quality Objectives – Chapter 3 (pg. 3-10) it is stated that DO levels cannot be less than 7.0 mg/L "The dissolved oxygen concentration shall not be depressed by more than 10 percent, below 80 percent saturation, or below 7.0 mg/L at any time, whichever is more restrictive."
- F. Taste and Odors. Taste- or odor-producing substances to be present in concentrations that impart undesirable tastes or odors to fish flesh or other edible products of aquatic origin, or that cause nuisance, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses or domestic or municipal water supplies.

Tahoe's long standing control of discharges, including sewage, stormwater and sediment, represents billions of dollars in public and private sector investment. It should be noted that the storm drains discharging into the Tahoe Keys (operated by the City of South Lake Tahoe) have yet to be mitigated to reduce sediment and nutrient loading.

Extensive Correspondence by TWSA is archived in earlier TWSA Annual Reports.

TKPOA Application for Exemption

Multiple documents are available. The application (2018) is undergoing more revisions (as of Oct. 2019). Draft CEQA documents and draft environmental analysis documents, including anti-degradation analysis (pending), were released in 2020. All materials submitted for the current proposed application are posted on a public information page (and) on the Lahontan website.

www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan / www.Tahoekeysweeds.org / www.keysweedsmanagement.org

Tahoe Keys (TKPOA) Circulation System Operating Permit -Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2014/july/item_12.pdf

2014 Reissuance of WDR Permit:

In 1975, the Lahontan Regional Water Board issued a permit to TKPOA which allowed operation of a water treatment facility and a circulation system for the lagoons. These systems were state-of-the-art at that time and their purpose was to keep the waterways clear. By the late 1970s, a few residential homes had been constructed on the private lots, and construction of the homes significantly increased after the building moratorium was lifted in 1985. Most homes at the Keys were built in the late 1980s through the 1990s. Throughout this time, TKPOA operated the circulation and treatment facilities intermittently as needed to reduce turbidity and prevent stagnation and the Water Board updated the permit periodically. Though the treatment and circulation systems were being operated, the lagoons were experiencing exponential growth of aquatic weeds.

The treatment system has not been operated following an incident in August 1998 where TKPOA allegedly discharged alum flocculent from to the waterways. To resolve the alleged violation, the Water Board and TKPOA entered into a settlement agreement whereby TKPOA agreed to spend \$198,000 performing water quality improvement projects. These projects included a bioassessment study, installation of filters in storm drain inlets, and increased harvesting removal of aquatic weeds. By 2005, TKPOA completed all terms of the settlement agreement, yet the lagoon aquatic weeds had not been controlled. Since then, TKPOA has been exploring options for controlling the invasive aquatic weeds and has been consulting with Water Board staff on understanding the viable options. The proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) are a result of intensive collaboration over many months between TKPOA and Water Board staff. The purpose of this new WDR is to require TKPOA to develop and implement management control measures to prevent the discharge of pollutants from non-point source activities.

The WDR allows TKPOA to operate its water circulation system and place bottom barriers in the lagoons to suffocate invasive aquatic weeds. Specific orders in the WDR require TKPOA to develop and implement a Non-Point Source Management Plan for land-based activities, and an Integrated Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species for all water-based activities. Under a Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permit, the City of South Lake Tahoe (CSLT) is responsible for all stormwater within its jurisdiction, which includes TKPOA. The CSLT and TKPOA have agreed to coordinate operation and maintenance of shared stormwater facilities.

To strengthen TKPOA's involvement in stormwater management and to comply with the Lahontan Basin Plan, the WDR requires TKPOA to either document coordination with the CSLT to demonstrate

that shared stormwater treatment facilities treating private property discharges and public right-of-way stormwater are sufficient to meet the CSLT's average annual fine sediment and nutrient load reduction requirements, or meet the surface water numeric effluent limits.

The TWSA supported the required Non-Point Source Plan's strong emphasis in fertilizer and nutrient management with mandatory public education, water quality monitoring and specific goals and deadlines for a management plan for nutrient reduction. TWSA also supported the provisions of the Integrated Weed Management Plan and the nonchemical control of aquatic weeds.

Lahontan Regional Water Board Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) Changes to the Water Quality Objective for Pesticide Application to Water

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/pesticidebpa.shtml

Since 2010, TWSA has been active in drinking water quality advocacy. The potential use of herbicides remains one of chief concern and activity in the previous reporting years for TWSA member agencies. In 2014, Basin Plan Cleanup Amendments were passed by the LRWQCB.

Staff of the Lahontan Water Board proposed amendments to the Basin Plan that:

- (1) change reference to Nondegradation Objective from a water quality objective to a policy statement and implementation measure,
- (2) add mixing zone provisions,
- (3) revise certain existing waste discharge prohibitions and/or exemptions to those prohibitions, delete certain existing waste discharge prohibitions and applicable exemptions, and add certain waste discharge prohibitions and exemptions,
- (4) amend Chapter 5 for consistency with the updated Clean Water Act Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan), and
- (5) correct grammatical and punctuation errors, and address outdated policy references.

Description of the Revised Amendment

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board/LRWQCB) amended the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) by replacing the existing region-wide pesticide water quality objective - which essentially prohibits pesticide application to water - with a region-wide waste discharge prohibition on pesticides in water with exemption criteria for application of aquatic pesticides to water. Circumstances eligible for a prohibition exemption involve the use of aquatic pesticides for purposes of protecting public health and safety (e.g., vector control, drinking water protection) and ecological integrity (e.g., fisheries management, aquatic invasive species control).

Previously, addition of pesticides to water for any purpose was in conflict with the water quality objective. The proposed BPA amends the water quality objective to provide the Water Board with the discretion to approve specific aquatic pesticide applications and regulate the project under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System program.

The project, under the California Environmental Quality Act, is the amending of a water quality objective. The proposed BPA is a region wide amendment. The project area is the Lahontan Region. The Lahontan Region is defined in terms of drainage basins by Section 13200(h) of the Porter-Cologne Act. For planning purposes, the Lahontan Region has historically been divided into North and South Lahontan Basins at the boundary between the Mono Lake and East Walker River watersheds. The entire Lahontan Region is about 570 miles long and has a total area of 33,131 square miles. Specifically, the language in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan that discusses the proposed waste discharge prohibition and the exemption criteria required modification to allow for the potential use of other lower toxicity slow-release systemic aquatic pesticides in addition to allowing slow release larvicides. For pesticides other than larvicides, the previously proposed language limited the duration of the treatment event to one-week. A one-week time limitation may have precluded the potential use of slow-release pesticides, which may require presence at effective concentrations in the water column beyond a one-week duration to achieve desired project goals. The modified language allows for the potential use of these slow-release compounds, but requires that the treatment event be limited to the shortest possible time and confined to the smallest area necessary for project success.

Below is the approved LRWQCB memorandum:

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

RESOLUTION R6T-2011-0102

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE
WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION
TO REPLACE THE REGIONWIDE PESTICIDE WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVE WITH
A REGIONWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION ON PESTICIDES WITH
EXEMPTION CRITERIA FOR AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS
AND CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, (Lahontan Water Board) finds:

1. The proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) was developed in accordance with Water Code section 13240 et seq.
2. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, the Resources Agency has approved the Regional Water Boards' basin planning process as a "certified regulatory program" that adequately satisfies the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) requirements for preparing environmental documents. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15251, subd. (g); Cal Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3777.) The Substitute Environmental Documentation for this project includes the staff report; the language for the proposed amendment; the environmental checklist that identifies potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of the Basin Plan amendment, including any reasonably foreseeable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the potential methods of compliance with the exemption, and mitigation measures to reduce those potential impacts; an analysis of alternatives; findings consistent with section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines; a statement of overriding considerations consistent with section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines; responses prepared by staff to address comments provided during the public review period, and this resolution.

The project is an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region that will establish a nationwide prohibition for pesticides in water in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan. This prohibition will replace the existing nationwide water quality objective for pesticides. The amendment will give the Lahontan Water Board discretion to allow exemptions to the pesticide prohibition for aquatic pesticide treatments proposed for purposes of protecting public health or safety or ecological integrity and only if such projects satisfy specific exemption criteria.

The amendment also includes minor revisions to discussion of pesticide use throughout Chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the Basin Plan that are affected by the prohibition

language. These revisions include revising the language pertaining to rotenone use, which provides the Lahontan Water Board with discretion to allow the conditional use of rotenone by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to uses currently proposed by the Department of Fish and Game. The amendment updates the current rotenone language by (1) refining the existing control measures and monitoring requirements for fisheries management programs, and (2) providing appropriate metrics to evaluate recovery of non-target organisms.

3. In the development and adoption of the amendment, the Lahontan Water Board considered factors in Water Code section 13241, and has concluded the requirements to comply with the amendment are reasonable and necessary in order to allow aquatic pesticide use for projects meeting specific exemption criteria while maintaining protection of water quality and past, present and probable future beneficial uses of water. The waste discharge prohibition coupled with exemption criteria will preserve the ability of the Lahontan Water Board to protect water quality from pesticide discharges while allowing specific aquatic pesticide projects to be carried out under Board oversight. The amendment provides the Lahontan Water Board the discretion to approve eligible aquatic pesticide applications carried out to protect public health, public safety, or ecological integrity. Such an approval includes granting an exemption to the prohibition and subsequently regulating the aquatic pesticide discharge under an applicable permit, such as individual or general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, or a waiver of WDRs issued by the State or Regional Water Board.
4. The substitute environmental documentation concludes that the adoption of the Basin Plan amendment, which will allow the conditional use of aquatic pesticides, may have less-than-significant environmental impacts in many cases where aquatic pesticides are applied. As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the SED also acknowledges and accepts the potential for significant environmental impacts for some uses of aquatic pesticides where long-term benefits to the people and environment of California outweigh those potentially significant environmental impacts.
5. CEQA scoping meetings were conducted on July 29, 2009 in Bishop, July 30, 2009 in Victorville, and July 31, 2009 in South Lake Tahoe. A notice of the CEQA scoping meetings was provided on the Water Board's website, printed in newspapers of record and was sent to interested parties, including public and environmental health departments, mosquito abatement districts, water management officials, federal and state wildlife agencies, resource conservation districts, environmental groups, and other individuals interested in the use of aquatic pesticides.
6. A Notice of Filing, the staff report, substitute environmental documentation, including a CEQA environmental checklist, and the draft basin plan amendment were prepared and distributed to interested individuals and public agencies on March 21, 2011 for review and comment in accordance with state environmental regulations

- (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775 et seq.) and federal Clean Water Act regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 25 and 131.)
7. During the written public comment period, two public hearings were held on April 13, 2011 and May 11, 2011 to solicit public testimony regarding the proposed Basin Plan amendment.
 8. Lahontan Water Board staff considered public comments received and realized that some key changes to the proposed basin plan amendment language were necessary. On September 30, 2011, a subsequent Notice of Filing, a revised staff report, a CEQA environmental checklist, and the revised draft basin plan amendment were recirculated to interested individuals and the public. The scope of the recirculation was to solicit public input on modifications to the proposed amendment since it was last sent out for public review on March 21, 2011. This second public comment period was also conducted in accordance with state environmental regulations (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775 et seq.) and federal Clean Water Act regulations (40 CFR Parts 25 and 131.)
 9. The Lahontan Water Board heard and considered all written public comments and all testimony presented at duly noticed public hearings held at its regular meetings on April 13, 2011, May 11, 2011, and December 7, 2011.
 10. The record as whole, including the staff report and environmental checklist, indicates that this amendment is consistent with the provisions of the State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California" and the federal anti-degradation policy prescribed in 40 CFR section 131.12. The anticipated changes in water quality associated with discharges of aquatic pesticides that may be allowed under the amendment will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial uses of such water.

Lahontan Water Board staff acknowledge that projects may result in a temporary lowering of water quality. California Water Code, section 13241 recognizes that it is possible for the quality of water to be degraded to some degree without unreasonably affecting beneficial uses. While the presence of aquatic pesticides may temporarily lower water quality, control measures that are built into the project (to satisfy exemption criteria and permit requirements) will limit the temporal and spatial extent of any impacts to water quality. As such, water quality is maintained at levels that comply with water quality objectives and at levels capable of supporting beneficial uses.

The staff report analyzes emergency and vector control projects for consistency with the requirements of the state and federal anti-degradation policies. For all other aquatic pesticide projects, when filing an exemption request, project proponents must supply project-specific information that will allow the Water Board to determine

whether the project is consistent with the provisions of federal and state anti-degradation regulations.

11. Based on the entire record, including the environmental checklist and staff report, and public comments and staff's responses to comments, the Lahontan Water Board has determined that adoption of the proposed amendments to the Basin Plan may have, either individually or cumulatively, potentially significant impacts on the environment, specifically in the areas of biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, water quality, hazardous materials and indirect effects on human beings. The environmental documentation includes a Statement of Overriding Considerations in which the Lahontan Water Board finds that the anticipated long-term benefits of this Basin Plan amendment outweigh and render acceptable the potentially significant impacts that were unable to be mitigated to levels less than significant. Serious public health, safety, and economic implications could result if the amendment is delayed and uses of aquatic pesticides to protect health, safety, and maintain the integrity of the environment continue to be prohibited. In effect, the amendment will make it possible for the Lahontan Water Board to allow the conditional use of pesticides for projects vital to public health and safety and ecological preservation which benefit the people and the environment of California as a whole.
12. The Lahontan Water Board finds that the analysis contained in the staff report, the proposed amendment, the environmental checklist, the alternatives analysis, the CEQA findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the responses to public comments comply with the requirements of the State Water Board's certified regulatory CEQA process, as set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 23 section 3775 et seq.
13. The proposed amendment meets the necessity standard of the Administrative Procedures Act, Government Code section 11353, subdivision (b).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Lahontan Water Board considered the information and analysis provided in the Substitute Environmental Documentation prepared by Lahontan Water Board staff pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, and the Lahontan Water Board certifies that the Substitute Environmental Documentation reflects the independent judgment of the Lahontan Water Board and complies with all applicable requirements.
2. The Lahontan Water Board adopts the amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region to replace the existing regionwide water quality objective for pesticides with a regionwide prohibition for pesticide application to water with exemption criteria for aquatic pesticide use.

3. The Executive Officer is directed to forward copies of the Basin Plan amendment and the administrative record to the State Water Board in accordance with requirements of section 13245 of the Water Code.
4. The Lahontan Water Board requests that the State Water Board approve the Basin Plan amendment in accordance with the requirements of sections 13245 and 13246 of the Water Code and forward them to the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.
5. Following approval of the Basin Plan amendment by the State Water Board and OAL, the Executive Officer shall file a Notice of Decision with the Resources Agency. The record of the final Substitute Environmental Documentation shall be retained at the Lahontan Water Board's office at 2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California, in the custody of the Lahontan Water Board's administrative staff.
6. If, during its approval process, Lahontan Water Board staff, State Water Board or OAL determines that minor, non-substantive changes to the amendment language or supporting staff report are needed for clarity or consistency, the Executive Officer may make such changes, and shall inform the Lahontan Water Board of any such changes.

I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region on December 7, 2011.


HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's (LRWQCB) Basin Plan Amendment was adopted by the Regional Water Board and the CA State Water Board. The CA Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has reviewed and approved the amendment. It became effective after final USEPA approval (which took 3 years). Throughout this process, TWSA was heavily involved in public opposition to the LRWQCB revisions of the Basin Plan Amendment. The new regulations allow for LRWQCB review of proposed herbicide/pesticide application projects in Lake Tahoe for aquatic invasive species management. Prior regulations upheld a prohibition on chemical use. TWSA staff and members attended multiple LRWQCB meetings, special planning workshops and CA Water Board meetings, providing both written and public comment. TWSA supported an unsuccessful 5-year moratorium on these projects at Tahoe.

TWSA involvement did yield enhanced public notification measures: any proposed chemical use project now requires notification and solicitation of comments from potentially affected water providers, regardless of the distance of the provider's service area from the proposed projects.

Another result of the public comment process has been TWSA maintaining presence on the Nearshore Aquatic Invasive Weeds Working Group (NAIWWG) and the Tahoe Keys Water Quality Working Group.

Initially, Lahontan staff began rewriting the amendment in early 2010, without input from the water providers, or the Nevada drinking water and water quality regulators (Nevada Department of Environmental Protection {NDEP} and California Department of Public Health {CDPH}). By providing written and public comment, TWSA staff was successful in bringing the issue of the Tahoe drinking water purveyors' filtration exempt status and their concerns to the LRWQCB. LRWQCB staff was then given direction to work with TWSA, NDEP and CDPH on the regulatory language and review process.

In July 2009, the Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board began the scoping process for revisions to regulatory language in the Lahontan Basin Plan regarding aquatic herbicides, pesticides and other chemical controls. The revised Basin Plan was approved on Dec. 7, 2011, and received CA State Water Board approval on May 15, 2012.

This project was an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region regulating aquatic pesticide/herbicide use in Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan. The amendment replaced existing region wide water quality objectives for pesticides. The amendment will give the Lahontan Water Board discretion to allow exemptions to the pesticide prohibition for aquatic pesticide treatments proposed for purposes of protecting public health or safety or ecological integrity and only if such projects satisfy specific exemption criteria.

These revisions removed the previous blanket prohibition on direct water applications of herbicides/pesticides at Lake Tahoe.

TWSA staff and members presented public and written comments opposing the revisions throughout 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, presenting comments to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the CA State Water Board on multiple occasions.

The TWSA presented argument that Lake Tahoe's Tier 3 Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) status warranted a prohibition. TWSA staff attended meetings and voiced the concerns of the water purveyors over chemical use in Lake Tahoe; supporting a preference for maintaining the ban on such use at Lake Tahoe.

Based on public comment; meetings between TWSA staff and member agencies and LRWQCB staff were held in April & May 2011. Both the CA and NV drinking water regulatory agencies submitted mitigation language to LRWQCB in May 2011.

Final approval of the Basin Plan Amendment revisions was given on Sept. 10, 2015 by USEPA.

An herbicide test pilot was proposed for AIS weed management in the Tahoe Keys area in 2018, it has been revised and deferred to 2021, if approved.

Excerpt of Exemption Criteria and Mitigation Language relevant to drinking water intakes:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/comments111411/attachment2_revised093011.pdf

(Note: Footnote 7: page 8: The Regional Board will consult with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) when a project affects interstate waters that exist within, or flow to, the State of Nevada. The Regional Board will consult with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) when reviewing exemption requests that may affect surface drinking water intakes.)

(Page 8):

An exemption request must be submitted to the Water Board and contain the following information acceptable to the Regional Board.

- Project Information to include:
 - a. Project description including, but not limited to, proposed schedule, duration, name of pesticide, method and rate of application, spatial extent, water body, control/mitigation measures to be used, contact information.
 - b. Purpose and need for project.
 - c. The chemical composition of the pesticide to be used, including inert ingredients.
 - d. Communication and notification plan to be implemented before, during and after the project. The plan will include documented measures to notify potentially affected parties who may use the water (ground or surface) downstream for any beneficial use. The notification plan must include any associated water use restrictions or precautions. Project proponents will provide potable drinking water where necessary and shall obtain any necessary permits from CDPH and NDEP for supply of potable drinking water.
- For projects conducted in an ONRW (e.g. Lake Tahoe) that may impact surface water intakes used for drinking water located within one-half mile of the point of application, the following additional requirements apply:
 - i. Proponents will provide written response from the water purveyor(s) indicating (1) request for project modification (e.g., project design, monitoring, and/or mitigation measures) or (2) consent with the project with no continued involvement.
 - ii. An estimate of the maximum foreseeable concentrations of pesticide components in any surface water intake used for drinking water supplies.
Public notification requirements may be waived where project proponent is an agency signatory to Cooperative Agreement with DPH and evidence is provided of notification exemption.
- Spill contingency plan to address proper transport, storage, spill prevention and cleanup.

Below is the public comment offered to the CA State Water Board by TWSA staff in 2014:



1220 Sweetwater Road
Incline Village, Nevada, 89451
775-832-1212

TWSA Members:
Cave Rock Water System
Edgewood Water Company
Glenbrook Water Company
Incline Village GID
Kingsbury GID
Lakeside Park Association
North Tahoe PUD
Round Hill GID
Skyland Water Company
South Tahoe PUD
Tahoe City PUD
Zephyr Water Utility

5/23/2014

TWSA Comment Regarding Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan Amendment – for the California State Water Board comment period ending 5/30/14.

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association represents the majority of the area's municipal water purveyors whose source of drinking water is Lake Tahoe. Most of the members pull water directly from Lake Tahoe to service their customers. There are 160,000 public water systems in the United States. Only sixty systems in the entire nation hold filtration exemption status with the US EPA. This status defines special water treatment and watershed protection requirements. Six of those sixty filtration exempt systems are Tahoe Water Supplier Association members. It is unusual for the US EPA to grant filtration exemption status to a drinking water provider located in a watershed open to multiple uses, such as Tahoe. These six filtration exemption permits attest to the extremely high quality of Lake Tahoe's water. In the past 8 years, the TWSA has established an aggressive source water protection education program which includes the popular "I Drink Tahoe Tap" campaign. This campaign focuses on educating the public about source water protection and appreciation of the excellent tap water provided to our communities.

The regulatory revisions being implemented by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (potentially allowing for the direct introduction of herbicides into an open water application at Lake Tahoe) are of paramount concern to the public water suppliers. We do not concur that the Substitute Environmental Document for the Lahontan Basin Plan adequately addresses the concerns for utility services and drinking water quality. Tahoe's municipal water systems are not designed to, nor are they effective at, removing chemical contaminants. They are designed to treat biological contaminants only. Our concerns focus on the long-term implications of establishing chemical controls for aquatic invasive weeds maintenance, setting an unseen precedent at Lake Tahoe. We also question the efficacy of chemical methods, seeing the risk as too large to imperil one of the purest water bodies in the world.

For example: "No herbicides are used in the Okanagan Basin Water Board's water milfoil control program. In the late 1970s test plots of Eurasian water milfoil were treated with 2,4-D in granular form. Although 2,4-D is a systemic herbicide, taken up by the plant and capable of killing the root, repeat applications are needed, usually on an annual basis. This chemical is the same active ingredient that is found in many lawn weed killers. Another

herbicide, Diquat, was tested once in the mid 1970s. It is the chemical equivalent of mowing the top growth of the plant and does not affect root viability. All the Okanagan lakes are used as drinking water reservoirs. Aside from citizen concern about chemicals in our water supplies, neither of these herbicides provides long term control.”

(Source: <http://www.obwb.ca/milfoil/methods-of-control/>)

And

“ Milfoil species are dicots, and therefore selective herbicides can be used to control them with minimal collateral damage to the primarily monocot native plant communities. 2,4-D, a selective herbicide, and fluridone, a non-selective herbicide, have both been used to control Eurasian watermilfoil to good effect in western Washington lakes. However, 2,4-D cannot be used in waterbodies that support salmonids (salmon and trout species). Triclopyr, another selective herbicide, has been approved for control of submerged plants as of 2008 and shows promise as an alternative herbicide for milfoil control. Endothall and Diquat, which are both contact herbicides, will control existing vegetation, but will not kill the roots, so the control is temporary.”

(Source:

http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=9&ved=0CGwQFjAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fyour.kingcounty.gov%2Fdnrp%2Flibrary%2Fwater-and-land%2Fweeds%2FBMPs%2EMilfoil_Myriophyllum_control.pdf&ei=ZD5-U4_VCeac8QHY7YG4Aq&usq=AFQjCNHutjZQ_BEBvL0KR54Q5YrXW3YiDA&bvm=bv.67229260,d.b2U)

The TWSA has been a supporting member of the efforts of the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group. In the past, we have provided staff resources to support water quality monitoring needs during the Asian Clam Projects in Marla Bay. We regularly attend meeting and work sessions. While acknowledging the challenge that lies ahead in successful management of Aquatic Invasive Species at Lake Tahoe, the water providers cannot support the direct introduction of any chemical agent into Lake Tahoe as a management tool for weeds.

Lake Tahoe is a Tier 3, Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). This is the highest designation of a non-degraded water body in the nation. Lake Tahoe is not simply a California water body; but also a Nevada water body and are federally owned waters. Tahoe is a national treasure.

“Tahoe is on a world stage environmentally for how we protect both the urban and natural worlds for future generations. Few alpine lakes which claim such awe-inspiring beauty and pristine conditions also share the complexities of being a year-round vacation destination surrounded by diverse communities. Lake Tahoe is one of just three lakes on the West Coast designated an Outstanding National Resource Water and the only one outside the National Parks system with a mix of public and private property ringed by highways and a population in the tens of thousands.

These are among the reasons Tahoe’s environmental initiatives are so often used as models and drivers of environmental innovation. Our efforts to establish equilibrium between the human and natural environments provide both inspiration and instruction for communities grappling with

similar issues. When we work to protect our shores, sometimes we are serving more than our beloved lake. We are setting an example of environmental stewardship for others far and wide.”

(Source: Joanne Marchetta, the Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency from her guest column published in the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza on March 27, 2014.)

It is acknowledged that the Tahoe Keys Homeowners Association is developing an Aquatic Weeds Management Plan which will include an herbicide application project. How is Tahoe, as a Tier 3 ONRW, going to be differentiated from other water bodies and afforded the highest level of protection of any water body in the nation - if herbicides can be used to eradicate weeds in an open water situation?

Invasive aquatic weeds can be successfully managed using non-chemical methods which are now being rejected as too costly. The approval of the potential use of herbicides ‘as a tool in the toolbox’ for weed control in Lake Tahoe does not highlight innovation or stewardship. This ‘tool’ may be cheaper for the project proponent, but has the potential to induce a costly burden on all of the tax payers around the lake when the water purveyors must build filtration plants if herbicides and pesticides are introduced into Lake Tahoe.

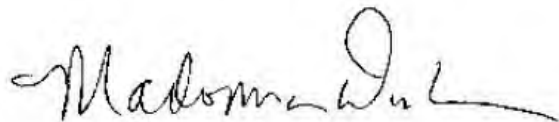
In the EPA Federal Water Quality Standards Handbook, the foundation of the water quality pollution control program mandated by the Clean Water Act – the following is written: Regulation 40 CFR.131.12(a)(3): The regulation requires water quality to be maintained and protected in ONRWs. EPA interprets this provision to mean no new or increased discharges to ONRWs and no new or increased discharge to tributaries to ONRWs that would result in lower water quality in the ONRWs. The only exception to this prohibition, as discussed in the preamble to the Water Quality Standards Regulation (48 F.R. 51402) permits States to allow some limited activities that result in temporary and short-term changes in the water quality of ONRW. Such activities must not permanently degrade water quality or result in water quality lower than that necessary to protect the existing uses in the ONRW. It is difficult to give an exact definition of "temporary" and "short-term" because of the variety of activities that might be considered. However, in rather broad terms, EPA's view of temporary is weeks and months, not years. The intent of EPA's provision clearly is to limit water quality degradation to the shortest possible time. If a construction activity is involved, for example, temporary is defined as the length of time necessary to construct the facility and make it operational. During any period of time when, after opportunity for public participation in the decision, the State allows temporary degradation, all practical means of minimizing such degradation shall be implemented.

Chemicals may dilute and degrade, but they do not disappear. The customer confidence we have built in “Tahoe Tap” cannot be replaced once chemicals are introduced into Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe's Tier 3, Outstanding National Resource Water designation demands that the innovation and stewardship be paramount in the handling of invasive weeds in the Aquatic Invasive Species Management programs at Lake Tahoe.

California Water Code section 106, considers, by law, that drinking water is the highest beneficial use of waters of the state, followed by irrigation.

Chemical methods are neither temporary, nor short-termed, nor an innovative way to handle the weed problem at Lake Tahoe, nor protective of the highest beneficial use of the waters of Lake Tahoe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madonna Dunbar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Madonna Dunbar
Executive Director, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association
Resource Conservationist, Incline Village General Improvement District
Submitted on behalf of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association
5/23/2014

The following links directly reference 2011 TWSA, NDEP and CDPH comments regarding the Basin Plan:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/comments051311/responses/twsa_wbresponse093011.pdf

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/comments051311/responses/ndep_wbresponse093011.pdf

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/comments051311/responses/cdph_dw_wbresponse093011.pdf

Tahoe Keys 2016

Aquatic Macrophyte Survey Report

<http://www.keysweedsmanagement.org/#methods>

1.3 Summary of 2016 Survey Results

(Note: 2019/2020 – There are concerns over the increased prevalence of Curlyleaf Pondweed being noted in field observations, this is creating urgency on implementing more control methods.)

Species occurring in the Tahoe Keys lagoons include *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian watermilfoil), *Potamogeton crispus* (curlyleaf pondweed), *Ceratophyllum demersum* (coontail), *Potamogeton richardsonii* (Richardson's pondweed), *Potamogeton foliosus* (leafy pondweed), *Elodea canadensis* (elodea), *Brasenia schreberi* (water-shield), *Ranunculus aquatilis* (white water-buttercup), and various species of *Nitella*., *Chara*., *Spirogyra*, and other filamentous algae. The hydroacoustic data showed that the abundance and biovolume of plants in the Tahoe Keys in 2016 was substantial and that more than 85% of the water volume was filled with plant matter. This is an increase over last year and in addition, point sampling data shows that the amount of curlyleaf pondweed has increased substantially from prior years.

Table 1. Frequency of Occurrence of Aquatic Plants in Each Basin

Species	East Basin	West Basin	Lake Tallac
Eurasian watermilfoil (<i>M. spicatum</i>)	50.5%	64.8%	60.6%
Coontail (<i>C. demersum</i>)	67.3%	69.8%	93.9%
Curlyleaf Pondweed (<i>P. crispus</i>)	12.2%	31.3%	21.2%
Leafy Pondweed (<i>P. foliosus</i>)	10.7%	27.8%	12.1%
<i>Nitella</i> (<i>Nitella</i> sp.)	9.7%	16.7%	3.0%
Elodea (<i>Elodea</i> sp.)	21.4%	47.7%	6.1%
<i>Spirogyra</i> spp.	0.5%	1.4%	0%
Richardson's Pondweed (<i>P. richardsonii</i>)	1.5%	4.6%	0%
Watershield (<i>B. schreberi</i>)	0%	0%	7.9%

2011-2020

Tahoe Resource Conservation District / Tahoe Keys Aquatic Plant Management Research Projects

<http://tahoercd.org/aquatic-invasive-species-control-projects/>

- More on information on these type of non-chemical control projects is provided in the

“Controls” and “Watershed Activities” chapters.

The Tahoe RCD is the lead implementation agency for aquatic weeds control in the Tahoe Basin. They have been the agency staffing the boat inspection program, conducting underwater surveys, monitoring, installing bottom barriers and preparing reports on projects.

Perhaps the most promising thing to occur in 2017-18 was the demonstration of a UV Light Project to kill aquatic weeds, conducted by Inventive Resources Inc. with technical support from Tahoe RCD. Initial results show plant control is possible using UV light. A full report was published, December 2018.

New UV light treatment kills invasive species in Lake Tahoe

[August 19, 2017](#) By [Kacee Johnson](#)

<https://travelkacee.wordpress.com/2017/08/19/new-uv-light-treatment-kills-invasive-species-in-lake-tahoe> by Kacee Johnson Aug. 17, 2017

Scientists at Lake Tahoe are testing a new way to eliminate invasive weeds using UV-C light. In initial tests, the light killed two harmful aquatic plants: Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. Engineer John Paoluccio invented a new UV-C light treatment on invasive species in Lake Tahoe and conducted a second trial of testing on Aug. 8. The UV-C treatment targeted Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, two aggressive plant species effecting Lake Tahoe’s ecosystem.

The initial pilot study of UV-C treatment began on June 24. Researchers tested a small area at Tahoe’s south shore and observed that the UV-C treatment killed the invasive weeds. On Aug. 8, a secondary test covered a larger area in South Lake Tahoe. The UV-C treatment shone a light on the Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed scarring the plants’ cells, said Nicole Cartwright, Aquatic Invasive Species Manager for Tahoe Resources Conservation District. The plants tried to heal the scarred area and as a result the plants ignored their remaining functions. The cells focused on healing themselves externally rather than getting nutrients to the interior of their cells. The plants cells fused together, killing the weeds.

Scientists tested the UV-C light in a closed marina as well as in open water. At the marina, Eurasian watermilfoil was targeted, and curlyleaf was targeted in open water. “This project will span over the next two years,” Cartwright said. “We don’t want to make any conclusions, but the initial results look promising.” Treating AIS with UV-C light is original to Lake Tahoe, according to Cartwright. “Nobody else is trying it,” Cartwright said.

AIS programs in Colorado, Minnesota and Canada have contacted the TRCD to learn more about the UV-C treatment, Cartwright said. But the idea for the treatment came from Paoluccio, Cartwright said. “We believed in his idea and wanted to get behind it,” she said. However, some scientists believe further studies need to be performed to assess the long-term effectiveness of the treatment. “It’s important to note that the TRCD doesn’t have any scientists working for them,” said Sudeep Chandra, hydrology professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. “Their ‘scientists’ are only there to record observational data. There hasn’t been any external validation on UV light.”

“The only proven effective way to kill invasive plants is by chemical treatment,” Chandra said. “If this UV method proves itself effective, it could completely change our ability to control weeds at Lake Tahoe.” Currently, Lake Tahoe prohibits the use of chemicals to remove invasive weeds. “The use of

chemicals on invasive plants is too risky,” said Tom Lotshaw, spokesperson for Tahoe Regional Planning Association. Lotshaw said that invasive weeds don’t harm humans. The cost of using chemicals in the lake to destroy invasive species would outweigh the benefit that it would have on the lake’s ecosystem. “We’re trying to control the problem before it gets out of our control,” Chandra said. “We don’t want this to escalate to the problem that the Great Lakes have.” More than 180 non-native species have invaded the Great Lakes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. A new invasive aquatic species is introduced into the Great Lakes every eight months [according to NOAA](#).

“Tahoe only hosts two dangerous invasive plants, but we’re seeing milfoil and curlyweed spread quickly over the lake,” Chandra said. “Eurasian milfoil started at south lake and spread up to the side until reaching the north shore. It’s moving very quickly.”

While the first invasive species came to Tahoe in the early 1800s, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed are two of the newer invaders. According to the Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species within Lake Tahoe, written by Chandra, Eurasian milfoil has been in Lake Tahoe since 1985 and curlyleaf since 2003.

“These are two entirely different plants,” Chandra said. “They need to be tested separately. While I’d like to believe that UV light would kill the weeds, nobody is validating the science. We’ve reached a point where the science hasn’t caught up,” Chandra said. “There’s no way to tell if this is the best solution. The UV light may dissipate quickly; we just do not know. We should not just be relying on one method to get rid of these invasive species; we should be using a multi-method approach.

<http://www.tahoefund.org/our-projects/active-projects/uv-light-pilot-project/>

Partners: Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Inventive Resources Inc., California Tahoe Conservancy

Total Project Cost: \$270,000 / **Tahoe Fund Grant:** \$10,000

UV-C Light Test Final Report 2018

<https://tahoercd.org/tahoe-aquatic-invasive-species-resources>

Executive Summary

This Final Monitoring Report is submitted to fulfill Contract Number CTA 16031L between the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) for the Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Pilot Project (Project). This Project tested the effectiveness of ultraviolet light, C wavelength (UV-C) on aquatic invasive plant (AIP) infestations in Lake Tahoe in two lake environments: open water and enclosed water. An interim progress report was submitted to the Conservancy in December 2017 and is available for download on Tahoe RCD's website (<https://tahoercd.org/tahoe-aquatic-invasive-species-resources/>). The 2017 progress report included:

- A summary of work completed during the 2017 treatment period;
- Draft products, reports and interim findings, including a statement of tasks and milestones and a report of the status on each, including public and agency meetings' outcomes;
- A discussion of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of the progress compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A narrative financial report comparing costs to date and the approved scope of work and budget, and
- Copies of relevant materials produced during the 2017 reporting period under the terms of the agreement.

This Final Monitoring Report builds upon the data and preliminary findings provided in the 2017 Progress Report by considering long term post-treatment results that were measured during the 2018 growing season between June and September 2018. This report includes:

- A summary of the objectives of the project and how these objectives were accomplished (**Section 3 and Section 7**);
- Summary of public and agency meeting outcomes and work completed for this project (**Table 1 and Appendix B**);
- Findings, conclusions or recommendations for follow-up or ongoing activities that could result from the successful completion of this project (**Sections 9 and 10**);
- Comparison of pre-treatment and post-treatment results for macrophytes, benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI), periphyton, phytoplankton, zooplankton and water quality parameters (**Section 8**);
- Compilation of 2017 and 2018 field photo documentation (**Appendix D**);
- Copies of news articles and educational materials produced as a result of the grant agreement (**Appendix F**); and
- An economic assessment of AIP treatment methods used in Lake Tahoe (**Section 11**).

The results from the Project support initial laboratory findings that the application of UV-C light results in observed mortality of submerged aquatic plants, both in an enclosed waterbody (i.e., marinas) and open waterbody (i.e., beach littoral) systems. Most submerged aquatic plants (i.e., macrophytes) treated with UV-C light exhibited signs of deterioration within 7 to 10 days following treatment. Complete eradication of AIP may not be achieved with only one treatment, but a decrease in plant percent cover, mean plant height, and thus plant density, was observed. For future treatment, macrophytes should be treated with UV-C light early in the growing season (e.g., typically May and June) and treatment conducted several times throughout a season or multiple seasons. This monitoring report provides quantitative information on the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of lake waters and substrate in the treatment area and comparisons to control sites, which represent comparable AIP infestation sites that were not treated with UV-C light.

The data collected from this Project serves two purposes: 1) to determine the success of the UV-C light treatment method and the efficacy of this method as a useful tool at a lake-wide scale; and 2) to provide information to support future environmental document analysis and permitting needs. Based on observations of UV-C light treatment at Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Beach, UV-C light is a good first line of defense when tackling large, dense areas of aquatic plants, ideally treating in the beginning of the growing season. This technology provides a marked cost advantage and was the least costly method reviewed however, cost should not be the main factor considered when choosing a control method. There is significant interest and support from public and private sectors to further develop this pilot Project and the utility of UV-C light as a technique to treat AIP in Lake Tahoe. It is our recommendation that UV-C light prescription treatments consider the following: project area, treatment frequency, project duration, size of light array, plant species present, desired outcomes, and cost. UV-C technology should be used along with other techniques and technologies in an appropriate and comprehensive manner to be most effective. Additional UV-C light treatment applications and projects should be implemented and monitored for a period of 2-3 years to investigate the full potential of this tool.

Possible constraints:

- Plant height and density is an initial constraint, that may predicate additional rounds of treatment
- Visibility in the water column can obstruct the precision of application to the plant crown
- Site configuration and use need to be addressed through adaptation of the treatment apparatus and treatment timing

Project Background

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) implemented four projects in 2016 for the removal of aquatic invasive plants in Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River. Below is a summary of the activities implemented.

Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Swim Area Aquatic Plant Control

From June – October 2016, a dive-team subcontractor, Marine Taxonomic Services, LLC (MTS) of Tahoe RCD installed plant control barriers and used diver-assisted suction removal to control and remove aquatic invasive plants at Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Swim Area, South Lake Tahoe, CA. Tahoe RCD staff was onsite on a daily basis to ensure the quality of the work, and to ensure compliance with permitting requirements. Prior to treatment in 2015, these plant infestations were surveyed and delineated by researchers from UNR. Tahoe RCD staff assisted with topside duties, including post-decontamination of the plant barriers at the Meyers Watercraft Inspection Station. In total, approximately 1.5 acres of plant control treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed was accomplished. Turbidity measurements did not exceed 3 NTUs within Zone 1 (25-foot perimeter of the project worksite) for the duration of the project.

Truckee River Aquatic Invasive Plant Control

Tahoe RCD contracted with University of California, Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center to provide pre and post project monitoring. UC Davis surveyed the areas previously treated and created monitoring transects in new treatment areas. In 2015, the area treated was from Tahoe City Highway 89 Bridge downstream to behind Tahoe Raft and Gas. In this section there were scattered, patchy plants that had returned. This area was then treated in 2016 with diver assisted hand removal (Figure 3). Tahoe RCD staff and field crews installed 88- 10' X 40' barriers from behind Tahoe Raft and Gas to the 64-acre walking bridge. The barriers were installed in late August and removed in early November (Figure 4 & 5). As requested by the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit we surveyed the area treated with bottom barriers for the presence of Western pearlshell mussels (*Margaritifera falcata*). We found 8 individuals that we relocated upstream prior to installing barriers. The total area surveyed was approximately 2.5 acres. A total of 2 acres was treated with .67 acres using bottom barriers (Figure 6). Continued monitoring and control in 2017 will be necessary to assess the extent of any regrowth. Turbidity measurements were taken before, during and after barriers were installed. Measurements were between 1.02-21.1 NTUs

within Zone 1 (25-foot perimeter of the project worksite) for the duration of the project (Figure 7). Due to the low water levels, there was no water flow from pool to pool, so turbidity remained localized. Methods of plant removal in 2017 will depend on the water levels and flows being released from the Tahoe City Dam.

Fleur du Lac Aquatic Invasive Plant Control

Tahoe RCD and its dive-team subcontractor, Marine Taxonomic Services installed plant control barriers in the outer harbor of Fleur du Lac on the west shore of Lake Tahoe in August 2016 (Figure 8). There has been a small but persistent Eurasian watermilfoil infestation at this location, and in 2016, it expanded to 0.1 acres in areal extent. Divers installed barriers at this location to control and eliminate all plant growth. Divers re-visited this site in September and October and used diver-assisted suction removal to eliminate any plants growing along the edges of the barriers between the outer harbor and the shoreline.

Tahoe Vista Aquatic Invasive Plant Control

This project has been initiated, but was not implemented in 2016 due to weather and contracting (Figure 9). Tahoe RCD plans to start in early 2017.

Truckee River Eurasian Water Milfoil Removal Project

The Tahoe RCD is pioneering a project on the Truckee River to control the aquatic invasive plant, Eurasian Watermilfoil, which has been growing prolifically there since the late 1990s. Made possible by strong partnerships, this project follows other successful removal projects that have targeted aquatic invasive plants in Lake Tahoe, particularly in Emerald Bay. Eurasian watermilfoil likely entered the Truckee River during the overflow of the dam in 1997 and has established a thriving population over the last 5-7 years. The goals of this project are to, create a baseline map of the infestation from the outlet at Lake Tahoe downstream to River Ranch at Alpine Meadows Rd, and systematically implement control efforts to remove this aquatic invasive plant within this reach of the Truckee River.

Asian Clam Control and Removal

Asian clam control in Lake Tahoe is a multi-agency, collaborative effort. Starting with a pilot project in Marla Bay and off shore of Lakeside Beach, researchers and managers looked at two different methods of control; rubber bottom barriers and diver assisted suction removal. Initial tests in the southeast portion of the Lake showed that covering clam populations with rubber barriers was effective in starving clams of dissolved oxygen, thus killing them. Expanding on these initial tests, in the Autumn of 2012, approximately five acres of rubber barrier material was deployed on a relatively low density clam population in the mouth of Emerald Bay.

Early Detection Monitoring (Veliger monitoring)

Since 2010, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, with assistance from the Tahoe RCD conducts veliger monitoring in Lake Tahoe, Echo Lake and Fallen Leaf Lake. Veligers are the larval stage of bivalve mollusks which includes quagga and zebra mussels, two potential invaders of Lake Tahoe. Monitoring is an essential element to ensure that the Watercraft Inspection Program has been effective in preventing quagga and zebra mussels from establishing populations in Lake Tahoe. Ten locations are surveyed monthly from late June until the end of September; eight locations in Lake Tahoe include Elks Point, Tahoe Keys, Emerald Bay, Meeks Bay, North Tahoe Marina, Sand Harbor, Obexers Marina, and Cave Rock along with Fallen Leaf Lake and Echo Lake. Sampling consists of eight vertical plankton tows at each site. The samples are then sent to a laboratory to be analyzed. All of the samples to date have returned with no zebra or quagga mussel veligers present.

An overview of Tahoe agency programs was offered in 2014. The link to the presentation is: http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/AllPresentations_May2014AIS-public-forum.pdf

2016 Dye Tracer Study in Tahoe Keys

In 2016, the earlier Rhotamine Dye study test was replicated in the Tahoe Keys. A Final Report was published in 2017. See www.TahoeKeysweeds.org for information.

Chemical Risks: Perchlorate (SLT Plume and Fireworks)

Perchlorate is of concern due to a historic groundwater plume in the City of South Lake Tahoe which is migrating and contaminating several wells. There are also potential lake impacts from community fireworks displays. South Tahoe PUD has taken a leading role in management of the investigatory process of the PCE plume. <http://stpud.us>

Fireworks

Several communities around the lake, including Incline Village, Kings Beach, Glenbrook and the City of South Lake Tahoe provide community fireworks shows annually at the 4th of July holiday and at other large events. These shows are conducted by professional fireworks providers and are staged from barges anchored several hundred yards off shore. Event organizers require the next day cleanup of any firework debris, several include underwater dive cleanups. Perchlorate as a potential drinking water contaminant has entered the discussion surrounding these events. TWSA staff has conducted research and continues to monitor the situation surrounding fireworks use. Personal use of fireworks is banned in the Tahoe Basin.

In 2014, several citizens filed a lawsuit regarding debris from the displays. The parties reached an agreement to allow the fireworks displays to continue.

<http://www.rqj.com/story/news/2014/04/01/south-tahoe-fireworks-will-continue/7162969/>

Plaintiffs Joseph and Joan Truxler sued the Visitors Authority and the company that puts on the shows, Pyro Spectaculars North, Inc., alleging the two fireworks shows pollute Lake Tahoe and violate the Clean Water Act. The couple claim to have picked up 8,000 pieces of fireworks debris left from the shows since last July. An attorney for the Visitors Authority said last week he felt the authority would prevail in court but that the risk was too great, with the lawsuit claiming fines of up to \$75 million were possible. Even an ultimate win might involve costly appeals lasting years, attorney Lew Feldman said.

Under the settlement, the authority will ratchet up post-show cleanup activities and make a hotline available for residents to report fireworks debris. Taking the lead role in permitting the show will be the Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District, whose chief Ben Sharit described required clean-up as an important component.

Joan Truxler said Tuesday the pact accomplishes the goals she and her husband sought by filing the suit in U.S. District Court. She said it was never their intent to force cancellation of the shows. "We're thrilled," Truxler said. "The residents of South Lake Tahoe really wanted their fireworks and we wanted the fireworks too."

Central to the settlement, Truxler said, was increased oversight of the fireworks displays and plans to establish a "beautification committee" to aid in cleanup, not just immediately after the shows but possibly year-round. Avoiding cancellation of the shows prevents a crushing hit to businesses large and small in the south Tahoe area, supporters said. "It would have been in the millions of dollars. It's hard to say exactly but it would affect us a great deal," said Patrick Ronan, a resort operator who chairs the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority. "It's huge for Lake Tahoe," Ronan said of events he characterized not only as vital holiday money makers but as attractants for tourism year-round."

Wildlife and Domestic Animals

The Tahoe Basin is home to many species of native, introduced, adapted and domestic animals. The significance to drinking water includes the potential of bacterial contamination from animal defecation/feces. Due to large population sizes, the main threats include: 1) domestic dogs and 2) colonies of Canadian Geese, which inhabit local beaches and defecate at the shoreline.

TWSA Dog Waste Education Campaign

TWSA staff's ongoing beach and stream monitoring points to no significant impact on drinking water quality from wildlife. Dr. Marc Walker, University of Nevada Reno faculty, conducted extensive studies on dog feces and water quality, between 2004 and 2007 at Burke Creek.

His study revealed that once feces have desiccated, there is no ongoing bacteriological impact on water quality. This report is available on request.

TWSA efforts on the *'They Drop It, You Drink It'* dog waste awareness campaign now includes a custom dog waste dispenser with biodegradable bags. These units are given to dog owners after they sign a pledge to pick up more dog waste.

TWSA provides funding for bulk waste dispensers, bags and custom signage for high use public dog areas. As of October, 2020 there were nearly 100 units installed on the east, south and north shores of Lake Tahoe including Nevada State Park, Johnson Meadows, Burke Creek, Third Creek, Bijou Meadows, Van Sickle Bi-State Park and the new Tahoe City and Tahoe Vista Dog Parks. TWSA commits funds for refill bags annually. This program seems to have a positive effect on watershed conditions but this has not been scientifically proven.



Pickup bag rolls, leash dispensers signage are provided to individuals at the IVGID Public Works offices, at events and upon request.

Excerpt from **Burke Creek Final Report 2011**

http://ntcd.org/nv_ourtaoewatershed/documents/Burke%20Creek%20Final%20Report.pdf

Dog Waste and Water Quality

Dog waste was ranked as the 5th most important concern in the community survey for the Oliver Park GID. Community residents complained of dog waste littering the trails along Burke creek and around their neighborhood. Dog waste is also a concern from a water quality perspective. Fecal Coliform bacteria which are found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, including humans, pets, livestock, beavers, and birds, can be a human health hazard. This is especially valid in the case of Burke creek which enters Lake Tahoe at Nevada Beach, one of the most popular recreation sites in the Basin.

Fecal Coliform is measured in colony forming units (CFU) counted per 100 milliliters of water (CFU/100ml). CFU are roughly equivalent to the number of bacteria cells. The Lahontan Regional



Burke Creek Community Watershed Partnership
NRCS and Partners
2011



Water Quality Control Board standard for fecal coliform is 20 counts per 100 ml for a single occurrence. In 2010, the fecal coliform at the mouth of Burke creek were measured at 49 CFU's, more than double the water quality standard and the highest level measured in any creek in the Basin. Figure 11 shows the fecal coliform measurements for 15 south shore monitoring sites from 2010. The other highly contaminated site, South Zephyr Creek, is located near a horse-back riding stable and has had numerous violations in the past.

While the fecal coliform numbers from 2010 are impressive, they are an improvement from 2009 when over 60 CFU were detected. Prior to the 2010 measurements, a dog waste station was installed near the parking lot as an Eagle Scout project. Water quality improvement for Burke Creek over the past year could be attributed to the dog waste station.

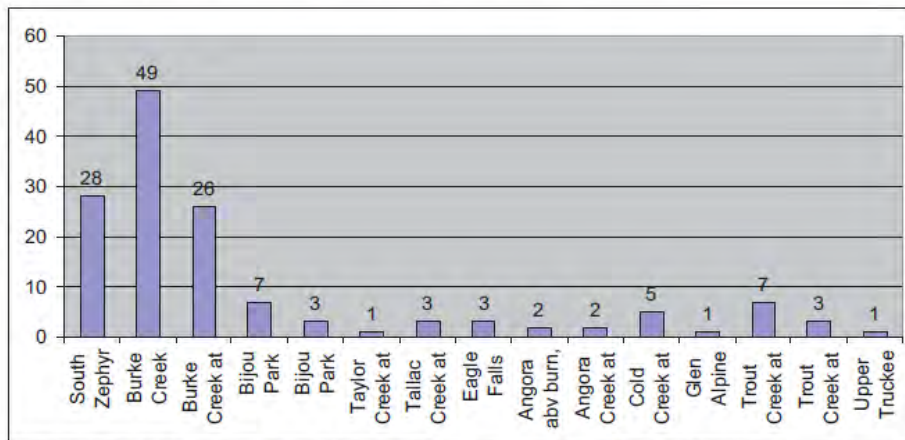


Figure 11. Fecal Coliform CFU's for 15 Monitoring Sites. Source: "Snapshot Day" 2010*.

*This figure contains incomplete labels but is un-editable.

During the CWP survey, residents of the Oliver Park GID asked for improvements in signage directing dog walkers on how to dispose of dog waste properly and greater access to waste containers. Many dog owners use the clean-up bags supplied by the dog waste station, but then leave these bags along the trail rather than disposing of them properly.

IVGID Goose Patrol Team

http://inlinerecreation.com/outdoor_recreation/beaches/geese_patrol

IVGID uses a volunteer Goose Patrol team of approximately 40 dogs and human volunteers to haze and chase geese from District property. Dogs on the Geese Patrol wear red vests and owners have

special identification authorizing them to be at the beaches. Arriving at a variety of times throughout the day, the dogs chase the geese back into the water. Because of their efforts, fewer geese come to the beaches or stay at the beaches. Cleanup from the geese droppings has been greatly reduced, hence saving labor and staff resources.

Grazing – Historical Impacts http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/ca_biomeadow.cfm

Under the Porter-Cologne Act, the USFS manages grazing allotments in accordance with a State Water Resources Control Board-certified water quality management plan. The plan sets forth an iterative process that governs the implementation, monitoring and revision (as appropriate) of BMPs used to control nonpoint source pollution. If BMPs are not effective—even after revision—the USFS can choose to mitigate the water quality impact, refine water quality standards and/or cease the activity. All resource activities are managed under the limitations provided in a USFS site-specific environmental assessment developed by an interdisciplinary team of experts. The USFS-LTBMU develops allotment-specific management plans in cooperation with its grazing permittees.

In the decade prior to the grazing ban (1999), USFS-LTBMU tried to mitigate the impacts on water quality from cattle grazing by installing BMPs such as cattle stream crossings and cattle exclusion fencing upstream of the crossings. Within the protected stream areas, the USFS-LTBMU planted vegetation and stabilized streambanks using cobbles and erosion control cloth. The USFS-LTBMU conducted its own water quality monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the various BMPs.

In the areas where cattle weren't excluded, the USFS implemented the following BMPs: off-stream water sources, rest rotation, reduced herd size and shortened grazing season. Despite these efforts, water quality continued to violate the FC bacteria objective. In 1999, the USFS-LTBMU informed the permittees who grazed the Meiss Meadows area that "a viable grazing strategy cannot be developed that would likely meet the state-mandated water quality standards..." As a result, the USFS permanently ceased all grazing on the Meiss Meadows area, which includes the Big Meadow Creek and Upper Truckee River basins.

Results

Removing livestock from the area allowed the waterbodies to recover. The USFS collected and analyzed approximately 43 samples at three separate locations in Big Meadow Creek during 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2008. FC levels have declined and now meet the water quality objective of less than a log mean of 20 units/100 mL (Figure 2). Similarly, the USFS collected and analyzed approximately 103 surface water samples from the Upper Truckee River (above Christmas Valley) during the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2008. Like Big Meadow Creek, FC levels in the Upper Truckee River have declined steadily since 1999 and now meet the water quality objective.

These significant reductions in FC bacteria counts restored the water contact recreation use, prompting the Lahontan Water Board to remove 4.5 river miles of Upper Truckee River and 1.4 river miles of Big Meadow Creek from California's CWA section 303(d) list of impaired waters in 2010.

Grazing - 2013 U.C. Davis Study

http://news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=10636

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0068127>

Limited livestock grazing is available seasonally in the Tahoe Basin. A new study released in 2013 by U.C Davis states cattle grazing and clean water can coexist on national forest lands, according to research by the University of California, Davis. The study, published today in the journal PLOS ONE, is the most comprehensive examination of water quality on National Forest public grazing lands to date. “There’s been a lot of concern about public lands and water quality, especially with cattle grazing,” said lead author Leslie Roche, a postdoctoral scholar in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences. “We’re able to show that livestock grazing, public recreation and the provisioning of clean water can be compatible goals.”

Grazing Animals: Baldwin Grazing Allotment - Site Closed to Grazing

http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/documents/projects/BGAMP/FINAL_Baldwin_Allotment_EA_20090723.pdf

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) permanently ended authorized livestock grazing on the Baldwin Allotment in order to meet state and federal resource standards and achieve desired conditions. The proposal included an amendment to the 1988 LTBMU Land and Resource Management Plan to close the Baldwin Grazing Allotment to eliminate grazing in the future.

The Baldwin Grazing Allotment was located in El Dorado County on the south shore of Lake Tahoe in the Fallen Leaf Management Area. The U. S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) managed the Baldwin Grazing Allotment in the Tallac Creek watershed. The allotment was approximately 200 acres and the only grazing allotment on the lakeshore of Lake Tahoe. The allotment is dissected by Tallac Creek, which provides inflow to Lake Tahoe and supports native and introduced fish species. Wetland and riparian areas provide habitat for wildlife species, such as willow flycatcher and sensitive plant taxa, including *Botricium spp.* and *Epilobium spp.* The beach pasture was also adjacent to a known Tahoe yellow cress population, which is identified in the conservation plan as a medium priority restoration site, and a population recreational beach facility.

Logging

There are no commercial logging operations in the Tahoe Basin. Tree removal is restricted (permit required) by TRPA for trees greater than 12” in diameter. Most logging is conducted by one of the designated Fire Districts, in relation to forest fuels reduction projects. These operations are mitigated through measures such as special operational and equipment requirements for work on steep slopes and in Stream Environment Zones (SEZs). Most work is conducted in late fall, early winter and early spring. On-site prescribed burns are currently the main method for removal of forest biomass.

Interactive story book released to highlight the 59,000-acre Lake Tahoe West restoration project

<http://southtahoenow.com/story/08/23/2020/interactive-story-book-released-highlight-59000-acre-lake-tahoe-west-restoration-pr>

Lake Tahoe West partners have released an interactive “story map” to explain ongoing and proposed actions to restore forests and watersheds across 59,000 acres of Lake Tahoe’s west shore. ([StoryMap Here](#))

Community members and visitors can use the story map to learn more about the threats to the west shore landscape, and how science is informing a landscape-scale restoration approach to addressing those threats. Through the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership, land management agencies, local partners, and other stakeholders are working together to increase resilience to high-severity wildfire, drought, climate change, and insect and disease outbreaks. Multiple restoration efforts are already underway. The story map highlights current projects on the west shore to reduce fire hazards near communities, restore meadows, and create healthier, more resilient forests. The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership is a collaborative, multiple-stakeholder effort led by the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, California Tahoe Conservancy, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, California State Parks, Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, and National Forest Foundation.

Cabin Creek Biomass Facility Project

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/2900/Cabin-Creek-Biomass-Energy-Facility>

A hi-tech biomass burning facility is under consideration by Placer County, CA, but the preferred location of Kings Beach, CA was rejected in July 2011 due to community opposition. The Biomass Plant Facility is slated for placement next to Placer County's Cabin Creek MRF Facility, between Tahoe City and Truckee, CA. This would allow both the processing/grinding of forest debris at close proximity to the facility using the material for energy production.

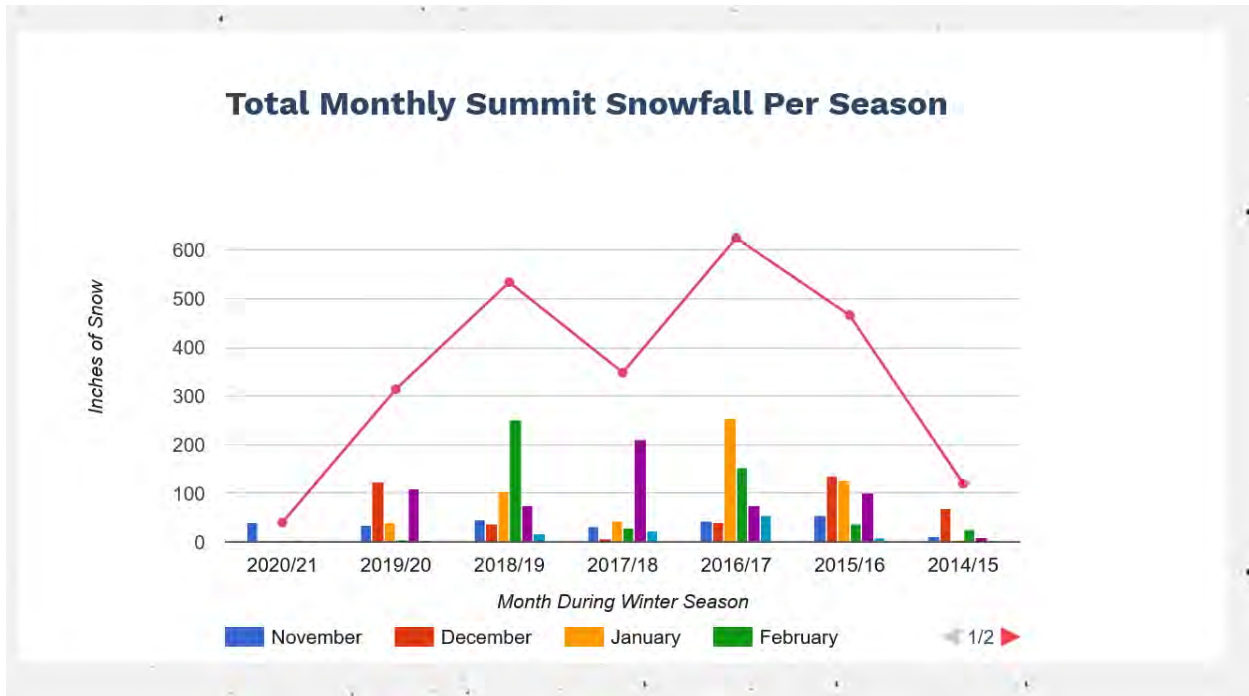
Early on in implementation of the Biomass Utilization Program, it was recognized that having a market for woody biomass would provide economic assistance and incentive for completing the kinds of forest management and fuels reduction projects that are needed to reduce the threat and impacts of high intensity wildfire. Further, it was recognized that biomass energy facilities represent a viable and proven option for providing such a market for biomass. That led to the planning for a biomass energy facility that would create a market for woody biomass being created in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Planning is now complete, and the County is developing an approach to finance and install a new small-scale combined heat and power facility at the "Cabin Creek" site on land owned by Placer County near the Town of Truckee in eastern Placer County. This facility will utilize technology that is powered entirely by woody biomass - a green renewable fuel generated as a byproduct of forest management and hazardous forest fuels reduction activities-to generate electricity 24/7 for distribution in eastern Placer County. The facility will also provide an opportunity to demonstrate the use of excess heat in the facility building and to melt snow on the roof, road, and sidewalks of the site.

VII. ANNUAL WATERSHED ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

This chapter provides a summary of the major findings or changes within the watershed related to: lake biology, invasive species, recreation, landownership or zoning changes, water quality monitoring programs, research and wildfires.

Tahoe Regional Precipitation. Most of Tahoe's annual precipitation falls in the winter months.



<https://www.sierraattahoe.com/season-snow-totals/>

2019-20 was an average year for precipitation.

2018-19 saw record setting precipitation. For the Lake Tahoe Basin, this winter ranked as 4th-largest.

<https://squawalpine.com/skiing-riding/weather-conditions-webcams/squaw-valley-snowfall-tracker>

<https://www.rgi.com/story/news/2019/04/01/lake-tahoe-basin-winter-ranks-4th-largest/3336895002/>

If you shoveled snow in the Lake Tahoe or Truckee area in the past few months, you don't need to be told this has been a big winter. But Jeff Anderson, hydrologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, can confirm what you already knew: This was a notably large winter, particularly for the cities and communities that dot the shore of Lake Tahoe and surrounding mountains. For the Lake Tahoe Basin, this winter ranks as the fourth largest since consistent record keeping began in 1981 and in the Truckee River Basin, it's the fifth largest. "This is one of the big ones," Anderson said. This year's big snow totals are partially thanks to a string of strong and sometimes dangerous series of winter storms that pounded the Tahoe area and surrounding Sierra through February. Scientists like Anderson measure snowfall by the amount of liquid water contained in the snowpack, as opposed to measuring it in inches. They also keep track of snow depth, but consider

that measurement much less reliable because snow depth can change rapidly due to things like compression and evaporation.

2017-18 was an average year for precipitation.

Drought conditions from 2013 to 2017

From 2013 to 2017, extreme drought conditions were seen on much of the U.S. West Coast. In 2015, the lowest snowpack ever was recorded for the Sierra Nevada in 500 years. In 2016, precipitation levels returned to a normal year, however drought conditions remained throughout CA. Then, in a turnaround, the 2016-2017 winter was record setting for precipitation. When California facing one of the most severe droughts on record, Governor Brown declared a drought State of Emergency in January 2014 and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages.

Some emergency measures have remained in place to address long-term conservation and efficiency. The California Water Board maintains a Water Conservation Portal:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal

California Water Conservation and Drought Planning Statutes

Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 and Senate Bill (SB) 606 - May 31, 2018

AB 1668 and SB 606 build on Governor Brown's ongoing efforts to [make water conservation a way of life in California](#). SB 606 and AB 1668 establish guidelines for efficient water use and a framework for the implementation and oversight of the new standards, which must be in place by 2022. The two bills strengthen the state's water resiliency in the face of future droughts with provisions that include:

- Establishing water use objectives and long-term standards for efficient water use that apply to urban retail water suppliers; comprised of indoor residential water use, outdoor residential water use, commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) irrigation with dedicated meters, water loss, and other unique local uses.
- Providing incentives for water suppliers to recycle water.
- Identifying small water suppliers and rural communities that may be at risk of drought and water shortage vulnerability and provide recommendations for drought planning.
- Requiring both urban and agricultural water suppliers to set annual water budgets and prepare for drought.

At Lake Tahoe, in 2014/15, the California water purveyors enacted emergency ordinances and water use restrictions based on Executive Order from the California Governor. In 2015-16, some restrictions were eased as the area water providers were able to predict adequate supply for 3 years. In 2017, drought restrictions were lifted, but the State maintained focus on the 20% by 2020 conservation goals.

The State of California relaxed its mandatory water conservation measures and is allowing water providers to self-certify their individual water supplies, demands, and conservation levels.

<http://ca.gov/drought>

TWSA member agency actions are noted in the earlier chapter (Action Highlights).

The State of Nevada did not declare drought emergency, but encouraged voluntary reductions and the Governor convened the Nevada State Drought Forum in 2015. <http://drought.nv.gov>

2017 Record Precipitation: Atmospheric Rivers Pushed Precipitation Totals

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2017/04/13/this-just-in-northern-sierra-precipitation-sets-water-year-record> April 13, 2017

Never in nearly a century of Department of Water Resources (DWR) recordkeeping has so much precipitation fallen in the northern Sierra in a water year. DWR reported today that 89.7 inches of precipitation – rain and snowmelt – has been recorded by the eight weather stations it has monitored continuously since 1920 from Shasta Lake to the American River basin. Today’s total surpassed the previous record of 88.5 inches recorded in the entirety of Water Year 1983. The region’s annual average is 50 inches.

California traditionally receives 30 to 50 percent of its annual precipitation from atmospheric rivers (ARs), long and relatively narrow “rivers in the sky” laden with moisture that blow in from the Pacific. The West Coast experienced 46 ARs between October 1 and March 31, the first six months of Water Year 2017. Nearly one-third of the total were “strong” (13) or “extreme” (3) ARs.

The snow water equivalent of California’s snowpack is far above average throughout the Sierra Nevada – 176 percent of the April 13 average. DWR will conduct its final snow survey of the season on May 1 at Phillips Station in the Sierra 90 miles east of Sacramento.

University of California-Davis’ “State of the Lake Report (SOTL) 2020”

<https://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake>

2020: Turning out-of-control shrimp into dog treats, learning the lake physics of safe paddleboarding and maintaining a long-term data set during a pandemic are just some of the activities that have made for a unique year at Lake Tahoe.

Today, the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center released its annual **Tahoe: State of the Lake Report**. The report informs nonscientists about important factors affecting the health of Lake Tahoe.



It also intends to provide the scientific underpinnings for ecosystem restoration and management decisions within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The report summarizes data collected in 2019 as part of the center's ongoing, decades-long measurement programs, while also presenting current research on emerging issues.

Highlights of the 2020 report include:

Weather and climate change

Climate change at Lake Tahoe is evident in long-term trends, which show rising air temperatures and less precipitation falling as snow. But weatherwise, 2019 was a cold year. The average air temperature in February was 4.4 degrees Fahrenheit lower than the long-term average, making it the coldest February since 1956. In July, the average surface water temperature of 68 F was about 4 degrees cooler in 2019 than in 2017. In 2019, precipitation was a foot higher than the average for the past 110 years, with February also being the wettest month of the year. Despite the cooler year, the long-term climate trends are increasing the length of the warmer months and impacting clarity.

Clarity

Clarity at Lake Tahoe, [as reported earlier this summer](#), was mixed in 2019. Lake clarity decreased nearly 8 feet from the previous year's dramatic 10-foot improvement. The average annual value in 2019 was 62.7 feet. The lowest value was recorded in 2017, when clarity was 60 feet.

Nutrients and algae

Along with above-average precipitation, nitrogen and phosphorus loads from the Upper Truckee River were above average, yet well below the record loads from 2017. Attached algae (periphyton) on rocks around the lake were heavy in 2019, especially on the California side of the lake. Notably, Nevada's Zephyr Cove showed its second-highest value on record. TERC and its partners are exploring remote sensing techniques to track both periphyton and free-floating metaphyton algae, an effort the public can help with through the [Citizen Science Tahoe App](#).

Mysis shrimp and dog treats

A clearer picture of the impact of invasive *Mysis* shrimp on lake health and clarity is emerging, the report says. While research is underway, the available data suggest that tiny shrimp introduced to the lake in the 1960s were responsible for the removal of *Daphnia*, native zooplankton that helped clean the lake. Without *Daphnia*, tiny algae called *Cyclotella* grew unchecked, and fine sediments accumulated. Climate change exacerbates the problem, as a warmer lake surface encourages tiny particles to stay afloat and reduce Tahoe's famed clarity. The report emphasizes that past and current restoration activities to prevent additional nitrogen, phosphorus and fine particles from entering the lake are also critically important for preserving Lake Tahoe. "We have learned that we now have two very powerful, science-based approaches for clarity and ecosystem restoration," said Geoffrey Schladow, TERC director and a professor in the UC Davis Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

TERC is working with the UC Davis Graduate School of Management and UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to launch a venture that [harvests *Mysis* shrimp, which are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, to make dog treats](#). This is part of exploratory efforts to remove *Mysis* in a cost-sustainable manner, restore native zooplankton and enhance lake clarity.

Lake physics and safe paddleboarding

This year's report also has tips for paddleboarders based on physics: Be wary of the day after strong wind events, as there may be strong currents and icy water on the side of the lake where the wind came from. Computer simulations show how warm surface waters are pushed downwind during upwelling events while cold water rises from the depths, posing a risky situation for paddleboarders suddenly caught in what can be 42 F water.

Beyond Tahoe: Patagonia and Clear Lake

TERC is taking lessons from Tahoe to help inform the management of other lakes. This includes California's Clear Lake, where scientists are investigating harmful algal blooms using an autonomous underwater vehicle, aerial drones and satellite images. TERC scientists are also working with sister lakes in Chile, where pressure for holiday homes, tourism and agriculture is increasing around lakes in Patagonia. Lake Tahoe was in a similar position following a period of development and growth after the 1960s, sparking the long-term monitoring effort still occurring today.

Science goes on during the pandemic

Long-term data sets exist because they are consistently maintained. The report describes how TERC researchers and staff revamped their process for conducting science, as well as moving much of their educational outreach online, during state stay-at-home directives to slow the spread of COVID-19. Find more details about innovative research underway at Lake Tahoe — including sugar pine genetics and reforestation, ice physics, and microplastic pollution — at www.tahoe.ucdavis.edu.

The report's production was funded by the California Environmental Protection Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Tahoe Conservancy, Tahoe Fund, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Lakefront Owners' Association, Lake Tahoe Marina Association, Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, TruePoint Solutions and Incline Village Waste Not program. In 2015, TWSA became a sponsor at the \$2500 level for the production of this report.

Researchers studying impact of microplastics

Campaign urges residents and visitors to ditch plastic bottles in favor of pure tap water

Have you visited one of the exquisite beaches at Lake Tahoe only to find plastic trash left behind? Maybe you've seen a public trash enclosure with litter piled up around it and scattering in the wind? Over time, sunlight, heat, wave action, and chemicals break up plastic litter into smaller and smaller pieces known as microplastics. Microplastics are smaller than 5 millimeters.

"Because plastics do not biodegrade or decompose, every piece of plastic ever made still exists," said Heather Segale, education and outreach director at UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC). "When they end up in our environment, those everlasting microplastics threaten the health of our ecosystems."

Microplastics have been found in many of the sediment and water samples collected around the lake.

Teams researching plastic

Scientists from the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) and Desert Research Institute (DRI) are collaborating to study the complete picture of the threat microplastics pose to the health of Lake Tahoe. Both teams are studying microplastics at Lake Tahoe, but they are looking at different aspects of the problem. While TERC is researching the fate of deposited microplastics to determine where they end up in the lake, DRI is studying the inputs – inflowing streams, accumulation on snow, storm drains, and even dryer vents.



Photo: Tahoe Environmental Research Center
Researcher Katie Smith sorts plastic litter as part of a research project to measure the impact of microplastics on the Tahoe environment.



The plastic reduction team partnered with local grocer Raley's to encourage the use of Drink Tahoe Tap reusable water bottles instead of single-use plastics.

methodologies that will enhance our understanding of microplastics in freshwater environments. Throughout the spring, the DRI team used a system of pumps, funnels, tubing, and filters to collect water samples 20 feet from the water's edge at eight diverse locations, including areas of both high and low human activity. The sampling was conducted at the Tahoe Keys, a popular boating resort; Emerald Bay State Park, where boat access is limited; and at other

locations around Lake Tahoe. In addition, DRI is collaborating with the nonprofit League to Save Lake Tahoe's citizen science "Tippycappers" program to study stormwater drainages as a source of microplastics to Lake Tahoe. This program was conducted in 2019 and 2020 and has found microplastics in the water from stormwater drainages. DRI's research includes determining the sources of microplastics into Lake Tahoe to inform mitigation strategies based on scientific findings.

Campaign to reduce plastic pollution

Reducing plastic pollution and educating residents and visitors about its impacts has never been more important. Numerous efforts are underway to help with this initiative.

Clean Up the Lake, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, removed trash from Lake Tahoe in summer 2020. Five teams covering depths up to 25 feet worked along the shoreline, removing all the smaller trash they could find, and marking other items for later removal. A recent 6-mile clean-up of Nevada's Lake

Continued on page 9

Tahoe

UC DAVIS TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER
WINTER 2020-21

The Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) is dedicated to interdisciplinary research and education to advance the knowledge of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and their interactions within natural and developed Earth systems, and to communicate science-informed solutions worldwide.

TERC educates the next generation of leaders and inspires environmental stewardship in thousands of students, community members, and visitors annually through its outreach centers.



Research Associate Jackelyn Lang analyzes microplastic samples with Raman microspectroscopy in the Gjeltema lab.

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TERC Tahoe City Field Station
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Tahoe City, CA 96145
Phone: (530) 583-3279
<http://tahoedePTH.org>

RESEARCH UPDATES

MICROPLASTIC RESEARCH

TERC scientists are sampling throughout the water column and the sediments of Lake Tahoe to investigate the fate of microplastics in the iconic lake. Microplastics are smaller than five millimeters, and pose a threat to aquatic ecosystems and potentially to human health.

The researchers will also sample municipal water treatment facilities to assess the

potential for human health impacts. The team is also looking into Kokanee salmon stomach contents and Asian clam tissue to determine the impacts of microplastics on the lake's biota.

The samples taken in the field are processed in the laboratory, first by TERC chemist Steven Seama, to separate the plastics by size class then by UC Davis scientist Dr. Jenessa Gjeltema, who uses Raman microspectroscopy to determine the composition of the very smallest

Researchers, nonprofit sorting a ton of trash

Continued from page 8

Tahoe's subalpine shoreline, yielded over a ton of trash from areas like Nevada Beach, Zephyr Cove, Secret Beach, and areas near Incline Village.

"Other than surface runoff and stormwater, Lake Tahoe does not receive any wastewater, which is domestic, industrial, commercial, or agricultural water that has been contaminated by human use," Seiff said. "This means that much of the plastic entering Lake Tahoe is the result of litter."



The clean-up was funded by the LICENSE Plate Grant from the Nevada Division of State Lands and a subgrant by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency. Clean Up the Lake, UC Davis TERC, and DRI are sorting and categorizing the 2,248 pounds of trash. The data will be used to develop educational programs, better inform policy makers, and generate public awareness about microplastics so they do not make it back into the lake.



In another effort to reduce plastic litter in the region, a collaborative pilot project to reduce source water plastic pollution at Lake Tahoe was funded by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection with the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, NVCEI Waste Not, UC Davis TERC, and Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships.

"Through education and public outreach, our goals are to change behavior, raise awareness about the impacts of plastic pollution, increase understanding of the different types of plastics and the impacts of consumer choices, reduce the use of single-use plastic, and ultimately reduce the presence of plastic in Lake Tahoe's waters and beaches," Segale said.

To begin the public education process, a microplastics exhibit was installed at the Tahoe Science Center in Incline Village over the summer. It features lesson topics, including sources of plastic at Lake Tahoe, how plastics break down, quantifying them, and identifying where they end up around the lake.

Partnership with Raley's

The plastic reduction team partnered with local grocer Raley's to encourage the use of Drink Tahoe Tap reusable water bottles instead of single-use plastics. The bottles launched on July 3 at the Raley's

Drink Tahoe Tap®

Tap water is better than bottled water when it comes to people's health, wallets, and the environment. Municipal water systems are much more rigorously tested and monitored than the bottled water industry.

Tahoe Tap is sourced from rain and snowmelt, then minimally treated using state-of-the-art disinfection processes. Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) water purveyors deliver this award-winning drinking water to your home or business, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, for less than a penny per gallon.

To find water bottle refill stations in the Tahoe-Truckee region, visit www.drinktap.org.

store in Incline Village and has been well received. The color-coded Klean Kanteen bottles and in-store displays use thought-provoking Take Care messaging, such as "less plastic, more good," and "one less plastic bottle. Well, probably thousands" to get people to think about their consumption.

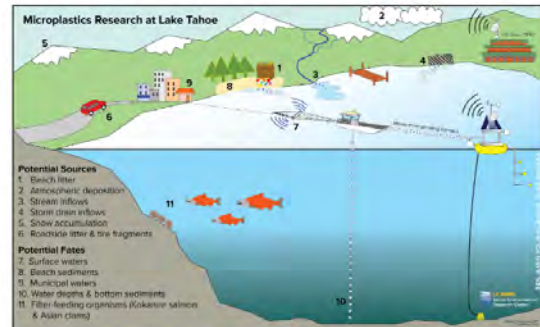
Based on the success of the pilot, Raley's expanded the sale of the Drink Tahoe Tap reusable water bottles to six additional stores in October 2020. The water bottles can now be found at participating Raley's stores in Incline Village, Truckee, South Lake Tahoe, and Reno, with plans to expand to an additional 80 stores in spring 2021.

"Raley's has taken an active stance on sustainability because it creates value for our customers, and it's the right thing to do," said Mark Kerpens, director of sustainability at Raley's. "We are continuously looking for new technologies and strategies to reduce our impact on the environment. Partnering with Drink Tahoe Tap was a natural fit."

Learn more about how to reduce microplastics in Lake Tahoe at tahoedePTH.org/tahoe-action/microplastics.

The Tahoe's Microplastics Solutions Team includes researchers from UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, UC Davis Microplastics Research Lab, and Desert Research Institute; educators from UC Davis, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, and Sierra Watershed Education Partnership; and members of the Take Care Tahoe outreach team.

RESEARCH UPDATES (Continued from Page 7)



DRI and TERC sampling sites around the lake. DRI is sampling items 3, 4, 5, and 8. TERC is responsible for sampling items 7, 9, 10, and 11.

microplastic particles. Scientists from Desert Research Institute (DRI) are collaborating with TERC to study the threat microplastics pose to the entire Lake Tahoe Basin. DRI is studying the inputs – inflowing streams, accumulation on snow, storm drains, and even dryer vents, while TERC is researching the distribution and fate of microplastics once they have entered the lake. See the infographic above to see the different sampling methods used for these projects.

The collaboration of efforts will ultimately provide a more complete picture of the sources of microplastics and their impacts. This

is one of the first investigations of microplastics in lakes and it will also inform future pollution mitigation strategies. See page 8 to learn how TERC is leading the way to create behavior change in the community to reduce plastic pollution.

Learn more at tahoedePTH.org/microplastics.



Katie Smith holds plastics found in the lake during sampling.

The long-term data set collected on the Lake Tahoe ecosystem by U-C Davis and its research collaborators is a valuable tool for understanding ecosystem function and change. *Tahoe: State of the Lake Report* presents the most recent year's data in the context of the long-term record.

Lake Tahoe, with its iconic blue waters straddling the borders of Nevada and California, continues to face a litany of threats related to climate change. But a promising new project to remove tiny invasive shrimp could be a big step toward climate-proofing its famed lake clarity.

Previous year: for some parameters means data collated in terms of the water year, which runs from October 1 through September 30; for other parameters, it means data for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Archived SOTL Reports are available on the TERC website: (<http://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake>).

TERC Education Programs

2020 in-person activities restricted in response to Covid-19. Multiple online resources are available.

TERC and TWSA partner on micro-plastics reduction education campaign in 2020-2021. See executive summary. www.drinktahoetap.org

Through TERC's education and outreach programs, the goal is to provide science-based information about the Lake Tahoe region in order to foster responsible action and stewardship. We provide engaging exhibits, interactive hands-on education activities, and conduct effective outreach to draw student groups, residents, and visitors to our facilities. Our education programs inspire an interest in environmental science, stimulate curiosity, and motivate active conservation and preservation of freshwater resources.

Tahoe Science Center and Green Building Tours are offered Tuesday through Friday from 1 - 5 p.m. year-round; and on Saturdays from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. during peak summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Green Building tours are by appointment only. We are closed on observed holidays.

The UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) Monthly lecture Series provides a forum for community members to hear from scientific experts. Speakers include authorities on various environmental issues, scientific research, regional subjects, and topics of general interest.

Citizen Science is a stewardship program to monitor water quality and plant phenology at the Tahoe City Field Station on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. during peak summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day). It is also something anyone can do at any beach in Tahoe. Just download the free Citizen Science Tahoe app (<http://CitizenScienceTahoe.com>)

Help us protect Lake Tahoe with Citizen Science

Share your observations of Lake Tahoe - whether at the beach, out on the water, or up on the mountain - with scientists to help researchers better understand conditions around the lake. Observations of water color, clarity, algae growth, aquatic species, litter, and winter weather can be submitted through the Citizen Science Tahoe app. Each observation automatically records the user's location, date, and time. Users can also add their own photos and comments.



About Citizen Science With online platforms, citizen scientists can act as volunteers monitoring their surrounding environment. Citizen scientists can help researchers at Lake Tahoe by taking a few minutes to enter what they see around the lake - whether it's an algal bloom, cloudy water, invasive species, or litter on the beach. Science needs both sides of the story, so users are encouraged to report both the positive and negative things they see.

The Citizen Science Tahoe App is available for Apple and Android phones. Users do not need to utilize their cellular data and can wait to upload images when connected to Wi-Fi. This makes the app easy to use in even the most remote locations!

Why crowd-source water quality data?

Data from various locations around the lake (spatial data) and from multiple dates throughout the year (temporal data) helps scientists to better understand the nearshore environment - the location where most visitors see the lake. The observational data collected by citizen scientists will be used by researchers to better understand conditions around the lake and to compare observations with sensor readings.

How data gets used:

Data and pictures will be on display at the "Lake Tahoe in Depth" touch-screen exhibit located at the UC Davis Tahoe Science Center, Tahoe City Visitor Center, Tahoe Maritime Museum, and eventually other

locations around the lake. Lake conditions data from underwater sensors (wave height, water temperature, measured algae, and turbidity) are available for comparison at these exhibits. Come visit one of these places to see your scientific observations at work!

What you can report:

- **Water Quality** : How does the water look? When the water is not clear, this can be an indication of localized erosion or other problems that may require more investigation.
- **Algae Watch** : Do you see any algae? Understanding the location and timing of algae growth may help us better control it.
- **Litter-Trash Report** : Do you see any litter or trash? Beach locations with excessive reports of litter can motivate community clean up days.
- **Eyes on the Lake** : Have you seen these two plants? Report aquatic invasive plant sightings and protect while you play.
- **Pipe Keepers** : Lake Tahoe's clarity is being degraded by fine sediment particles found in stormwater runoff. Protect Lake Tahoe by reporting stormwater pollution.
- **Tahoe. Rain or Snow?** : Send us updates in real-time whenever it is raining, snowing, or a wintry-mix.
- **Stories in the Snow** : Share your snow crystal images.

Demo Gardens: UC Davis TERC partners with Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners, the Truckee Community Garden, and the North Tahoe Demonstration Garden to bring family-friendly garden workshops that will encourage people to build beautiful and sustainable gardens that enhance the environment and foster an interest in citizen science.

K-12 Programs: UC Davis provides students with an opportunity to learn about science at Lake Tahoe with the following thematic programs: Water on Earth, Ecology, Tahoe Food Web, Landforms, Earthquakes and Plate Tectonics, and Lakes of the World. Activities align with state science curriculum.

UC Davis TERC offers a 15-week (January through May) Youth Science Institute afterschool program for high school students. They offer the Trout in the Classroom program each year. Along with partner organizations, UC Davis provides training and support for participating teachers.

The annual Science Expo event is designed to increase student excitement and interest in science through interactive, hands-on activities, games, and demonstrations. Science Expo is hosted by UC Davis TERC, with support from the Rotary Club. Science Expo includes five days of hands-on science activities in North Lake Tahoe and four days in South Lake Tahoe for third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students from the greater Lake Tahoe and Truckee Region. There is also an evening public event for all families and lovers of science at both locations.

Teacher Programs: Project WET, Project Learning Tree, Project WILD Workshops are held each year for teachers and informal educators in the region. Hosted in collaboration with other partners such as the US Forest Service and Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships.

Summer "Tahoe Teacher Institute" - We partner with various school districts to host a summer Tahoe Teacher Institute focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

Volunteer Docent Program: The volunteer docent training program is currently offered once a year in the spring. The training program consists of three to four sessions. Docents can also join the program by meeting with our staff, reading the Docent Manual, and shadowing tours until they are comfortable hosting tours.

The Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center (TERC) at Incline Village, averages 12,000+ contacts annually. In addition, TERC hosts monthly public lectures and workshops, makes presentations to local organizations and takes a limited number of visitors out on research vessels. TERC organizes and hosts annual events and programs including Children's Environmental Science Day, Science Expo, Youth Science Institute, Trout in the Classroom program, Project WET workshops, Summer Tahoe Teacher Institute and a volunteer docent training program. Several new exhibits were developed including upgrades to the interpretive signage located in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden outside the Tahoe City Field Station; addition of two aquariums at the Eriksson Education Center in Tahoe City; the Microplastics Display, Virtual Watershed Sandbox and Clarity Model Interactive exhibit in Incline Village; and the 3D movie "Lake Tahoe in Depth" for viewing in the Otellini 3D Visualization Lab in Incline Village.

About Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Basin

<http://www.trpa.org/tahoe-facts> (and) <https://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake>

Lake Tahoe Fast Facts

- Lake Tahoe is 2 million years old
- Holds 39 trillion gallons of water
- Size of watershed: 501 sq. miles
- Lake surface area: 192 sq. miles
- 12 miles wide
- 22 miles long
- 72 miles of shoreline
- 2nd deepest lake in the United States
- Average depth: 1,000 feet (305 meters)
- Lake surface area: 191 square miles (495 square kilometers)
- Watershed area: 312 square miles (800 square kilometers)
- 1,645 ft. deep, one of the deepest lakes in the world
- 6,223 ft. elevation (natural rim)
- Trees in the basin: 17 million
- 2 states: CA, NV
- 5 counties, 1 city
- 55,000 Tahoe Basin year-round residents
- Tourist population: 15 + million
- Majority of private property owners are part-time residents
- U.S. Forest Service and state agencies manage almost 90% of land area
- 43,470 developed parcels in the basin
- Assessed property values in the basin total = \$15.5 billion

- Average surface water temperatures are 68° Fahrenheit in the summer and 41° in the winter
- 63 streams feed into Lake Tahoe but only one, the Truckee River, flows out
- Approximately 15 million people visit Lake Tahoe every year
- Nearly 10 million vehicles drive into the basin annually
- The lake is designated as an Outstanding National Resource Water (Tier 3) under the Federal Clean Water Act
- Lake Tahoe is the second deepest lake in the United States
- Lake Tahoe is so deep that a single drop of water entering the Lake today will take about 650 years to find its way out.
- Length of time it would take to refill the lake: about 600 years
- Number of large lakes worldwide with annual clarity exceeding Tahoe's: 0
- Highest peaks in the Tahoe Basin: Freel Peak at 10,891 ft.; Mt. Rose at 10,776 ft.
- The daily evaporation from Lake Tahoe (half a billion gallons) would meet the daily water needs of 5 million Americans. Evaporation from the lake surface during the year equals approximately 52 inches of water, with August being the month of maximum evaporation. One inch of evaporation is equivalent to 3.5 billion gallons.
- The number of algal cells in Lake Tahoe is approximately 30 million trillion
- Outflow from Lake Tahoe into the Truckee River stopped for 364 days in 2015.
- Latitude: 39 degrees North
- Longitude: 120 degrees West

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):

“A non-indigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural or recreational activities dependent on such waters.” (NANPCA 1990).

Tahoe AIS prevention efforts are working. 2018 marked the 10 year anniversary of the Tahoe Boat Inspection Program, and 10 years of front-line defense against new invasive species.

<https://tahoeboatinspections.com/>

Lake Tahoe continues to test negative for the presence of Quagga or Zebra mussels.

Species of Concern:

Present in Lake Tahoe:

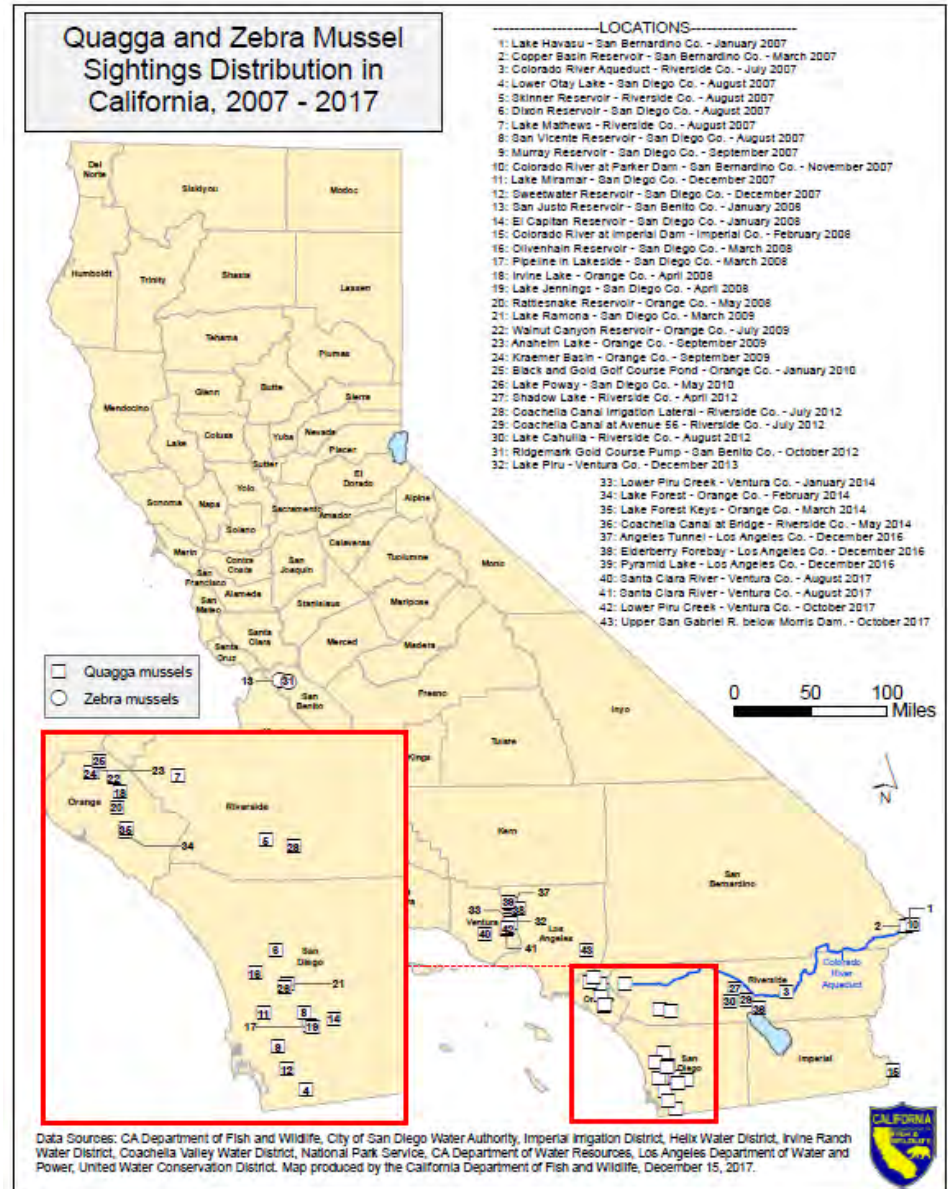
- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Curlyleaf pondweed
- Asian clam
- Largemouth bass
- Smallmouth bass
- Bluegill sunfish
- Black crappie
- Bullhead catfish
- Bullfrog

NOT Present in Lake Tahoe:

- Zebra mussel
- Quagga mussel
- New Zealand mudsnail
- Spiny water flea
- Didymo (rock snot)

Not Detected in Lake Tahoe but

- Detected in the Lower Truckee River:**
- New Zealand Mud Snails



<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=140819&inline>

10th Anniversary of Tahoe Boat Inspection Program

<https://tahoeboatinspections.com/ten-years-of-fighting-aquatic-invasive-species-at-lake-tahoe/>

2018 marked the tenth anniversary of Lake Tahoe’s Watercraft Inspection Program. Under the program, every motorized watercraft is inspected to ensure it is clean, drained, and dry and not carrying aquatic invasive species before launching at Tahoe. Thanks to diligent boaters and watercraft inspectors, no new aquatic invasive species have been detected in Lake Tahoe since the program began 10 years ago.

Of the nearly 8,000 vessels watercraft inspectors examined this boating season, 44 percent of them arrived clean, drained, and dry. Eleven watercraft were found carrying invasive mussels and 40 were

harboring other species. This exemplifies the excellent work by the inspectors, but also that watercraft continue to be a vector of aquatic invasive species. Each fouled vessel was decontaminated prior to launching in Lake Tahoe. The largest number of decontaminations occur on vessels containing standing water, which may contain unwanted seeds, plant fragments, or microscopic larvae.

Boaters are encouraged to continue to be a part of the solution by cleaning, draining, and drying their vessel before launching in any waterbody. This includes both motorized and non-motorized watercraft.

This July, Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) watercraft inspectors intercepted a pontoon boat harboring multiple aquatic invasive species of concern. An inconspicuous crack in the pontoon allowed water and vegetation to enter, and several invasive species then grew within.

The boat came from Eastern United States and was inspected at the Alpine Meadows watercraft inspection station on Highway 89 in California. Staff discovered standing water, adult quagga and zebra mussels, aquatic vegetation, New Zealand mudsnails, and multiple other species inside the pontoon system. After discovery of the invasive species, inspectors coordinated with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and performed a full decontamination of the vessel to kill and remove all invasive species.

“This incident is the perfect example of how boats are the number one transport mechanism for aquatic invasive species,” said Christopher Kilian, program manager at the Tahoe RCD. “This is a good reminder that you could unknowingly transport invasive species and highlights the importance of being diligent when practicing Clean, Drain, and Dry techniques before travelling to a new location.”



The reverse bucket of the personal watercraft was found to have attached adult quagga mussels.

“They may hide on the hull, in your bilge, on your anchor, in your ballast system, or in this case: inside a pontoon. We’d like everyone to keep this in mind as they travel to other waterbodies or prepare for inspections.” All watercraft are required to be inspected prior to launching in Tahoe.

When quagga mussels are found on board a boat, the decontamination process includes a hot water (140 degrees Fahrenheit) wash of all toys, life jackets, skis, wakeboards, anchors, and lines.

All boats without an intact Tahoe inspection seal are required to get an inspection during daylight hours. Boats with intact inspection seals are permitted to launch at all open launch facilities; however, inspections are only available at Cave Rock and Lake Forest boat launch ramps. Boaters are encouraged to confirm hours and inspection locations at TahoeBoatInspections.com or by calling 888-824-6267.



Quagga mussel size scale in inches. Adult quagga to the far right has smaller mussels attached to exterior of shell.

A new invasive species introduction in Lake Tahoe could have devastating impacts. Without natural predators, invasive species multiply quickly and can colonize the lake, as well as docks, water pipes, filtration systems, piers, ramps, and boats. They destroy fish habitat, impair boat engines, and negatively impact water quality and recreation, thus posing serious threats to the ecology, recreation, infrastructure, and economy of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

To learn how to clean, drain, and dry your vessel and prepare for a watercraft inspection, please visit www.TahoeBoatInspections.com. For non-motorized watercraft preparing to boat in the Lake Tahoe Region, please visit www.TahoeKeepers.org to learn more.

2013 Detection of New Zealand Mud Snails in lower Truckee River

New Zealand mud snails (NZMS) were detected near Reno in the lower Truckee River in spring 2013. <http://www.ktvn.com/story/22410534/new-zealand-mud-snails-invading-truckee-river>

After the initial detection in 2013 of New Zealand Mudsnaileds in the Truckee River, Nevada Department of Wildlife (Chris Crookshanks) conducted a survey of the river from the CA/NV state line to some point east of Reno. Unfortunately, they found quite a few of the invasive mudsnails. In some locations, the densities were relatively high; however, it should be noted that they were not doing formal counts, just noting presence or absence. (Source: Pers. comm. T. Crimmens, TAHOE RCD)

In Nevada, NZMS occur in the Salmon Falls Creek drainage, Beaver Dam State Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the Lower Colorado River, Maggie Creek and a small portion of the Humboldt River near Carlin, NV.

2017: The AIS Challenge at Lake Tahoe

http://www.keeptahoeblue.org/download/document/634/2017_ais_challenge.pdf



AUGUST 2017

Photos: League to Save Lake Tahoe (left), peterspain.com (right)

A brief history of aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe

In 2008, with some of the most destructive aquatic invasive species (AIS) known, quagga and zebra mussels, approaching Lake Tahoe's doorstep, Lake Tahoe Basin partners jumped into action to launch the nation's most comprehensive boat inspection program. Now nine years later and with no invasions, the Lake Tahoe AIS Program is widely considered a national model for how to effectively keep new AIS from entering a water body.

However, prior to shutting the door on new AIS in 2008, nearly 30 non-native species had already made their way into the lake. Documentation of these species and their locations around the lake began in the mid-1990s even though many were introduced (both intentionally and accidentally) many decades prior. Since their introduction, they have established into infestations and are spreading rapidly, altering the environment in ways that could change Tahoe forever.

Aquatic invasive plants, warm water fish and invertebrates have the adaptive ability to make their surroundings more hospitable for themselves and other invasives, while simultaneously threatening the well-being of Tahoe's native species. These AIS are thriving in the lake right now. By cycling nutrients, altering food webs, preying on native species and covering pristine beaches with clam shells and mats of weeds, they threaten a \$5 billion economy while destroying the unique clarity that makes Lake Tahoe an annual destination for over 24 million visitors. The good news is that Tahoe agencies have a plan in place to systematically control these species and take back the lake.

Plan for the control of aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe

In 2015, researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno, completed a comprehensive plan to control AIS already established in the waters of Lake Tahoe. This ecologically-based approach to prioritizing species and infestation sites identified two aquatic plants, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, and warm water fish, as the primary targets for control work in the immediate future. Emphasis also remains on early detection and rapid response to any new satellite infestations of aquatic invasive plants and Asian clams.

Coupled with other factors such as feasibility, permitting and project cost, a five year action list was developed to aid in the search for funding needed to complete the job.

A Eurasian watermilfoil infestation in one of three Crystal Shores marinas. Photo on left taken July 2015 prior to the placement of bottom barriers. Photo on right taken 2016 after control treatment was complete. Photos: Tahoe Resource Conservation District



Tahoe Taking Action - 2017

Control of AIS is a multi-year endeavor that seeks to reduce the impacts from aquatic invaders to a point of insignificance. An integrated approach using numerous techniques is essential to success. Work taking place in 2017 is fueled by public/private partnerships and funding sources including California Tahoe Conservancy (SB630 and Prop 1), League to Save Lake Tahoe, Nevada Division of State Lands, Proposition 84, Tahoe Fund, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Truckee River Fund, and numerous private contributions. Below are some projects underway in Lake Tahoe today.



Tahoe Using New Innovative Technology

Lead: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Tahoe RCD and Inventive Resources, Inc. are embarking on a project using ultraviolet light to treat aquatic invasive plants in Lake Tahoe. Ultraviolet-C light works by damaging the DNA and cellular structure of invasive plant life that currently threatens the health of the lake. While this technology needs further field testing to determine its full potential, ultraviolet light could augment Tahoe RCD's methods, especially in low-water years, in tight spaces within marinas, or in river systems.



Success at Crystal Shores

Lead: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Crystal Shores marinas are now weed-free. After three years of treatment using bottom barriers and diver-assisted suction removal, surveys show no new plants sprouting this season. Moving forward, this site will receive annual surveys to maintain the success and catch any new potential infestations early. Early detection of the infestation and the rapid response by public and private partners to begin treatment was critical for the success of this project.



Asian Clams at Sand Harbor State Park

Lead: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency/Nevada Division of State Lands

A control project began in mid-June at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Sand Harbor, to treat a small, isolated population of Asian clams before it spread to an unmanageable level. The project consists of covering approximately 4 acres of the lake bottom near the boat ramp with thin rubber barriers which is intended to suffocate the clams. While boating in the area, please do not anchor within the project to avoid ripping or tearing the barriers.



Tahoe Keys Passes Special Assessment to Combat Weeds

Lead: Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) is proud to announce a nearly 2/3 "FOR" vote was achieved in April 2017 authorizing up to \$2.4 million over 4 years to test various ways to control the invasive weeds in the Tahoe Keys lagoons, including bottom barriers, plant fragment control methods, laminar flow aeration and other innovative approaches. The "FOR" vote also authorizes the TKPOA to propose a small-scale, pilot test to assess the effectiveness of aquatic herbicides on the invasive plants, if permitted.



Eyes on the Lake Volunteers Take Action

Lead: League to Save Lake Tahoe

Tahoe's citizen science monitoring program, Eyes on the Lake, is comprised of volunteers reporting presence and absence of aquatic invasive plants. In 2016, volunteers identified two new invasive weed infestations and reported them to resource managers. Both locations are receiving control work this season because of these dedicated volunteers.



2015 - Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Implementation Plan

http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Implementation-Plan-AIS-Final-7_31_2015.pdf

Additional AIS Resources at: <http://tahoercd.org/tahoe-aquatic-invasive-species-resources/>

In July 2015, the *Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species within Lake Tahoe* by Marion E. Wittmann, Ph.D. & Sudeep Chandra, Ph.D. (University of Nevada Reno), written in collaboration with the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee, was released.

Excerpts from the Summary are below:

Substantial changes to the economy, water quality, aesthetic value, and recreational pursuits are currently occurring in part due to the unwanted impacts of aquatic invasive species (AIS). In 2009 and again in 2014, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANS Task Force), an intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species, approved a Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Interstate Management Plan (LTAIS Management Plan). The LTAIS Management Plan identifies threats and quantifies economic damages posed by AIS, develops management strategies for AIS in the Tahoe Basin, and supports one of the nation's most rigorous recreational boat inspection programs.

This current document, referred to as "the implementation plan" is intended as an extension of the LTAIS Management Plan and should be used as a guide for resource managers at Lake Tahoe to identify and prioritize species, specific locations and strategies for the implementation of AIS removal and control. The information provided here is intended to guide the prioritization of control strategies and is not intended to be a comprehensive treatment of all issues related to AIS in the Lake Tahoe region.

The implementation plan supports the goals of the LTAIS Management plan by providing the following:

1. Identification of AIS that are candidates for control in Lake Tahoe,
2. A comprehensive description of the history of aquatic invasions and control activities in Lake Tahoe or elsewhere. Based on this information, an assessment of feasible control or management options are identified by species group,
3. An ecologically based framework to prioritize (a) species and (b) specific sites for control or removal efforts in Lake Tahoe over 3-5 year period,
4. Efficacy monitoring recommendations,
5. Identification of key knowledge gaps, and
6. Next steps related to research and management of AIS.

This implementation plan was formally reviewed by an external expert panel comprised of individuals with extensive academic, management or regulatory backgrounds concerning AIS. This implementation plan was also reviewed by members of the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (LTAISCC). The LTAISCC is a bi-state collaborative of local, state and federal agencies, research institutions and stakeholder groups which developed the LTAIS Management Plan and manages AIS issues in the Tahoe Basin.

Through the development of this implementation plan, seven aquatic invasive species groups were determined under guidance from the LTAIS Management Plan and the AISCC. These groups include: warm water fishes (various species), plants (Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed), invertebrates (Asian clam, mysid shrimp, signal crayfish), and an amphibian (American Bullfrog).

A comprehensive history of the invasion of each of these species and the control actions taken to date within the Tahoe Basin and elsewhere was provided. Using this information, as well as information from the peer-reviewed published literature, an assessment of the feasibility of management actions for each of species group was provided. Feasible management actions were qualified into three classifications:

Feasible control actions

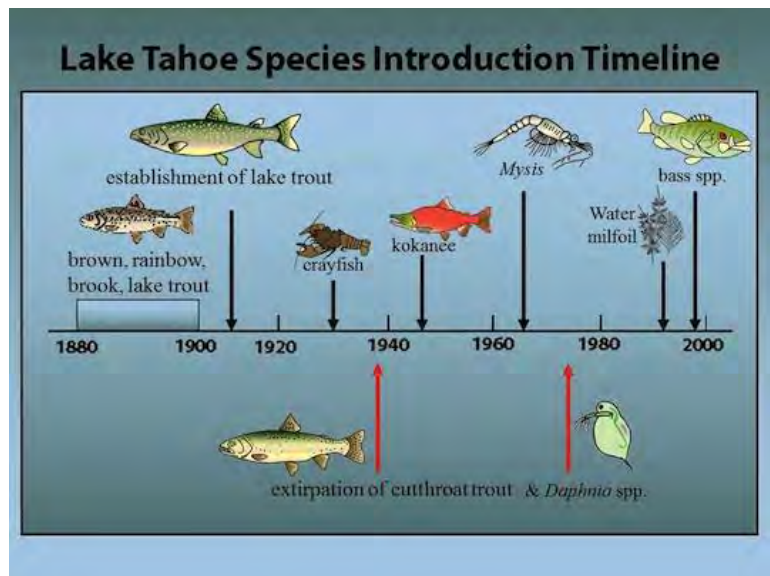
- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Curlyleaf pondweed
- Warm water fish

Potential control actions

- Signal crayfish
- American bullfrog

No feasible control options at this time

- Mysid shrimp
- Asian clam



An ecologically-based framework was used to determine a site prioritization for aquatic invasive plants and warm water fish in the Tahoe Basin.

The metrics used in the prioritization model included:

- (1) fish-plant interactions,
- (2) size of infestation,
- (3) human use (by recreational boaters), and
- (4) location of infestation.

Other factors of major significance concerning the control of AIS such as suitability of the receiving habitat, proximity to sensitive native species, or potential impact of control actions on the surrounding environment are vital components of site selection, but are not included in this model due to lack of available data. Sites with the highest prioritization included the Tahoe Keys (East and West). These sites received the highest priority largely as a result of the immensity of nuisance aquatic plant infestations, as well as the intensity or recreational boater visitation. Other highly prioritized sites included Meeks Bay, Ski Run Marina and Channel, and Lakeside Marina and swim area.

Emerald Bay was not highly prioritized for immediate control action because of recent successful efforts to remove all Eurasian watermilfoil biomass. This site is indicated as a priority

for post-treatment surveillance monitoring. At present, only non-chemical methods are allowed for the control of all AIS in Lake Tahoe. This is due to the special status designation for Lake Tahoe and States of California and Nevada with rules* prohibiting the use of chemical additions to the watershed.

*(*2017 Editor Note: The statement was as of publication in July 2015. As of Sept. 2015, Lahontan RWQCB regulatory review and approval of a Waste Discharge Exemption, could allow herbicide use. There is an active proposal under consideration by LRWQCB for a pilot test of herbicides at the Tahoe Keys. A decision is anticipated early 2021.)*

Suggestions are provided for all AIS considered in this document for immediate implementation actions, the development of future control strategies or technologies, and the consideration of chemical control methods, where appropriate.

Major knowledge gaps identified include the need for:

- A consistent lake-wide surveillance program with central data storage,
- Efficacy monitoring associated with each management action taken,
- Development of specific metrics to quantify the success of the overall AIS management/implementation program at Tahoe, and
- As a majority of the AIS considered here are nearshore species, an integration of the Tahoe AIS management program with the Lake Tahoe Nearshore Management plan.

Recommendations for "next steps" include a call for the development of: a nearshore surveillance and monitoring program, metrics to evaluate the progress of AIS control actions carried out in the lake, a research plan to address data gaps, the exploration or development of new strategies or technologies for the control of AIS in Lake Tahoe, and an alignment of available resources with the priorities recommended in this implementation plan.

Background and Aquatic Invasive Species Problem Statement

Lake Tahoe is well known for its remarkable clarity and aesthetic beauty. Since the 1960s, the clarity has declined due to progressive cultural eutrophication and the loading of fine sediments from an increasingly urbanized and developed watershed. As a result of this clarity loss, a significant amount of public and private funding has been utilized to implement conservation programs to improve lake water quality.

Along with changes to Tahoe's clarity, there have been alterations to the lake's biological community over time (Figure 1). Biological organisms can play a very important role in maintaining ecosystem integrity and function. Lake Tahoe's biological organisms can live both in the open water, where clarity has been measured over time, but also in both the lake's deep and nearshore waters where there has been significant degradation measured in recent years (Heyvaert et al. 2013).

Today nearly 30 non-native aquatic species are established in the Lake Tahoe watershed, including plants, fish, invertebrates, and an amphibian. An analysis of potential AIS economic impacts to both recreation/ tourism/property values, and increased boat/pier maintenance costs in the Lake Tahoe Region was estimated to be \$22.4 and \$78 million per year respectively (TRPA 2014). However, these estimates do not, and were not intended to capture the potential economic effects on ecological function for the sensitive and unique biological community in Lake Tahoe.

Of particular recent concern, and the result of the development of this implementation plan, is the establishment and within-lake spread of a number of unintentionally introduced species. Lake Tahoe's water quality, aesthetic value, and recreational pursuits are currently threatened by the unwanted effects of non-native aquatic plants, fish, invertebrates, and other species. These non-native aquatic organisms are considered 'invasive' when they threaten the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural or recreational activities dependent upon such waters (ANSTF 2012).

Boating: Aquatic Invasive Species - Potential Importation of Quagga/Zebra Mussels & Spread of Existing AIS

Watercraft are the largest source for spreading Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into new waterways. Inspections are an essential part of preventing this inadvertent transport of alien species into the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe. Invasive species have devastating environmental and economic impacts on industries, communities and native species populations. Most invasive species do not have predators to keep their populations in balance and, once introduced, are difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate.

Mandatory watercraft inspections can stop aquatic invasive species, such as Quagga mussels, BEFORE they enter the water. Inspectors are looking for any plant or animal, dead or alive, that may pose a risk to Lake Tahoe and the surrounding waters. Tahoe has one of the strictest programs in the nation. Primary species of concern include:

- Zebra and Quagga mussels
- New Zealand mudsnails
- Spiny waterflea
- Hydrilla and other highly invasive plants, some of which are already present in California and/or Nevada waters

Boat transport is one method of transport for aquatic invasive weeds within Tahoe. The Tahoe Keys is attempting education and control of fragment transport with a boat backup station installed onsite. Compliance is sporadic however.

There is new information that the spread of Asian Clams is affected by ballast water draw and release at Tahoe. A very small, new population at Sand Harbor receive bottom barrier treatment in summer 2017. There is new outreach to boaters to fill up ballast water at least a mile from shore, to mitigate the transport of Asian Clam veligers in the ballast water.

From the State of the Lake Report 2017 (pg.6.17):

The Nevada Division of State Lands has commenced a project to control the emergence of a satellite population of Asian clams adjacent to the boat ramp at Sand Harbor State Park, Nevada. While Asian clams are now widespread along the southern shore of Lake Tahoe, their recent appearance at one of the most scenic locations on the north shore would seem puzzling. A multi-agency boat inspection program prevents new invasive species from entering the lake from outside. The currents in the lake are such that the rapid transport from south to north is inconceivable.

The most likely scenario is that Asian clams are now being transported within Lake Tahoe by boats. The boating activity that seems to have the greatest potential for this is wakeboarding. A boat outfitted for

wakeboarding would typically fill its ballast tanks with up to 600 gallons of water. If this water happened to be drawn from a clam infested area in summer, it is very possible that veligers (the larval offspring) would also be drawn in. At the end of a fun day, if the ballast tanks were emptied at a different, clam-free area, then in-lake transport would have occurred.

Two obvious actions can prevent this accelerated spread from occurring. First, all filling and emptying of ballast tanks should take place at least one mile from shore. The deep waters there are less likely to contain veligers, and any would invariably sink to the cold depths where they cannot reproduce. Secondly, it would be extremely prudent to require that all ballast tanks be equipped with filters that can effectively remove all particulate material.

What are Quagga and Zebra mussels & how many waterbodies are known to be infested with them?

Quagga (*Dreissena bugensis*) and Zebra (*Dreissena polymorpha*) mussels are destructive aquatic invasive species that grow to about 1 inch in diameter. They can be larger than 1 inch or they can even be microscopic. They reproduce quickly and in large numbers. Once established, eradication is often difficult or impossible.

The small, freshwater bivalve mollusks are triangular with a ridge between the side and bottom. It has black, cream or white bands, and often features dark rings on its shell almost like stripes. Quagga and Zebra mussels are native to the Ukraine and Russia. Zebra mussels were first discovered in the Great Lakes in 1988, and a year later, Quagga mussels were discovered in the same area. It is believed they arrived in America via ballast water discharge that contained their free swimming larva called veligers. Since 2007, these species have been found in Lake Mead, Lake Havasu, the Colorado River drainage and other significant and also small western U.S. water bodies.

What is the environmental impact of the Quagga and Zebra mussel?

Quagga and Zebra mussels will upset the food chain by consuming phytoplankton that other species need to survive. They are filter feeders that consume large portions of the microscopic plants and animals that form the base of the food web. One adult mussel can filter up to 1 liter of water per day. Their consumption of significant amounts of phytoplankton from the water decreases zooplankton and can cause a shift in native species and a disruption of the ecological balance of entire bodies of water. In addition, they can displace native species, further upsetting the natural food web. Quagga and Zebra mussels have few natural predators in North America. It has been documented that several species of fish and diving ducks have been known to eat them, but these species are not an effective control. In some cases, the mussels concentrate botulism toxin causing bird die offs.

What is the economic impact of the Quagga and Zebra mussel?

A recent study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates a mussel invasion could cost Tahoe's tourism economy more than \$22 million per year. Quagga and Zebra mussels can colonize on hulls, engines and steering components of boats and other recreational equipment. If left unchecked, the mussels can damage boat motors and restrict cooling. They also attach to aquatic plants and submerged sediment and surfaces such as piers, pilings, water intakes and fish screens. In doing this they can clog water intake structures hampering the flow of water. They frequently settle in massive colonies that can block water intake and threaten municipal water supply, agricultural irrigation and power plant operations. U.S. Congressional researchers estimated that an infestation of the Zebra mussel in the Great Lakes area cost the power industry \$3.1 billion in the 1993-1999 period, with an economic impact

to industries, businesses and communities of more than \$5 billion. California could spend hundreds of millions of dollars protecting the state's water system from a Quagga/Zebra infestation.

Quagga Mussel and AIS Impacts to Nevada's Waters

http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/Boat/Aquatic_Invasive_Species/AIS-Threats-Nevada-Waters.pdf

Nevada currently has a variety of AIS inhabiting waterways. Other species of concern are purple loosestrife, tamarisk, Eurasian milfoil, curlyleaf pond weed, didymo (alga), Asian clams, Asian carp, common carp, New Zealand mud snail, tilapia, and various aquarium fish.

Some economic impacts for Nevada AIS include:

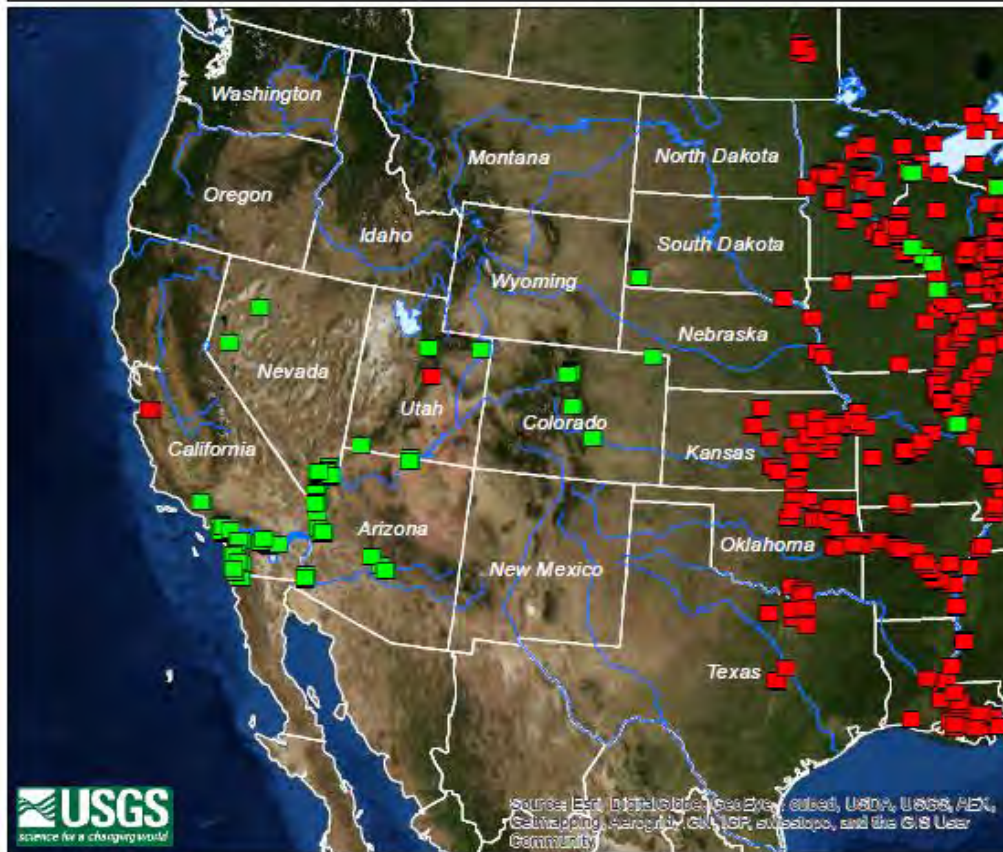
- \$1 million year Hoover Dam annual budget for Quagga mussel control (BOR Per. Comm. 2011)
- \$172,600 annually for chlorination additions at Southern Nevada Water Authority: removal of Quagga's from one drinking water intake tunnel \$340,000: routine maintenance and removal \$6,000: proposed chemical control \$560,000: research on the invasion \$300,000 (SNWA Per. Comm. 2011).
- \$3-5 million to retrofit the water filtration system at NDOW's Lake Mead Fish Hatchery due to Quagga infestation.

The discovery of Quagga mussel contamination in Lake Havasu, Lake Mead, and the Colorado River Basin created an emergency need in 2008 for the Tahoe area to address prevention. Recent studies (by researchers at TERC/UC Davis/UNR) indicate the survivability potential is real for these species if introduced to Lake Tahoe. If established at Lake Tahoe; Quagga mussels or Zebra mussels could cause profound changes to the alpine lake's sensitive ecosystem. The mussels could clog water intakes, cover boats and piers, and litter pristine beaches with sharp shells and decaying, reeking biomass.

A map of mussel detections is available at:

http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/Zebramussel/maps/southwest_Quagga.pdf

QUAGGA AND ZEBRA MUSSEL SIGHTINGS DISTRIBUTION IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES, 2007 - 2015



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar (USA), USGS, Aero, Calmapping, AeroGRID, IGN, SDF, Esri, Mapbox, and the GIS User Community

■ Quagga mussel sightings ■ Zebra mussel sightings

CALIFORNIA

- Parker Dam - 2007
- Colorado River Aqueduct - 2007
- Colorado RA at Hayfield - 2007
- Lake Matthews - 2007
- Lake Skinner - 2007
- Dixon Reservoir - 2007
- Lower Otay Reservoir - 2007
- San Vicente Reservoir - 2007
- Murray Reservoir - 2007
- Lake Miramar - 2007
- Sweetwater Reservoir - 2007
- San Justo Lake - 2008
- El Capitan Reservoir - 2008
- Lake Jennings - 2008
- Olivehain Reservoir - 2008
- Irvine Lake - 2008
- Rattlesnake Reservoir - 2008
- Lake Ramona - 2009
- Walnut Canyon Reservoir - 2009
- Kraemer Basin - 2009
- Anaheim Lake - 2009
- Black and Gold Golf Course pond - 2010
- Lake Poway - 2010

CALIFORNIA (continued)

- Shadow Lake Estates lake - 2012
- Coachella Canal - 2012
- Ridgemark Golf Course - 2012
- Lake Piru - 2013
- Lake Forest 1 - 2014
- Lake Forest Keys - 2014

ARIZONA

- Lake Havasu - 2007
- Central Arizona Project Canal - 2007
- Lake Pleasant - 2007
- Imperial Dam - 2008
- Salt River - 2008
- Lake Powell - 2012

COLORADO

- Pueblo Reservoir - 2008 (Both Species)
- Lake Granby - 2008
- Grand Lake - 2008 (Both Species)
- Willow Creek Reservoir - 2008
- Shadow Mountain Reservoir - 2008
- Jumbo Lake - 2008
- Tarryall Reservoir - 2008

NEVADA

- Lake Mead - 2007
- Lake Mohave - 2007
- Lahontan Reservoir - 2011
- Rye Patch Reservoir - 2011

UTAH

- Electric Lake - 2008
- Red Fleet Reservoir - 2009
- Sand Hollow Reservoir - 2010
- Deer Creek Reservoir - 2015

TEXAS

- Lake Texoma - 2009
- Lake Ray Hubbard - 2011
- Ray Roberts Reservoir - 2012
- Lake Bridgeport - 2013
- Lewisville Lake - 2013
- Belton Lake - 2013
- Lake Lavon - 2013

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Angostura Reservoir - 2014

Map produced by the U.S. Geological Survey, Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database, March 12, 2015
http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramussel/maps/Southwest_quagga.jpg

KEEP INVASIVE MOLLUSKS OUT OF LAKE TAHOE: CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY YOUR BOAT EVERY TIME

Invasive Aquatic Mollusks:



Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)

Size: 1 to 1 1/2 inches (25 to 40 mm)

Food: These clams filter particles suspended in water, including bacteria, algae, and detritus.

Preferred Habitat: silt, sand, and gravel in near-shore areas from approximately 10 to 30 feet (4 to 10 m)

Primary Means of Introduction: intentional release of aquarium clams, angler bait dumping, microscopic larvae transferred via un-drained boats

Already present in South Lake Tahoe

Photo Credit: U.S. Geological Survey, Florida Integrated Science Center

ZEBRA MUSSEL



QUAGGA MUSSEL



Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and Quagga Mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*)

Size: 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches (5 to 40 mm)

Food: These mussels filter particles suspended in water, including bacteria, algae, and detritus.

Preferred Habitat: hard substrate from 10 to 200 feet (4 to 60 m)

Primary Means of Introduction: Adults attach to watercraft and fishing gear, and microscopic larvae are transferred in water of un-drained boats.

Currently **not present in Lake Tahoe**; however, quagga mussels were recently discovered in Lake Mead. Please **clean, drain, and dry** your fishing gear and watercraft. **Both mussels have devastating impacts on aquatic ecosystems.**



New Zealand Mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

Size: Small! 1/10 to 1/5 inch (2 to 6 mm)

Food: periphyton (algae)

Preferred Habitat: silt, sand, cobble, and aquatic vegetation at depths from 13 to 130 feet (4 to 40 m)

Primary Means of Introduction: attached to watercraft and fishing gear, larvae in water of un-drained watercraft

Currently **not present in Lake Tahoe**, but have invaded many areas of the West. Please help to keep these invaders out of Lake Tahoe! More information on how to prevent the spread of New Zealand Mudsnails is available from the California Department of Fish and Game:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/mudsnail/>

Photo Credits: R. Draheim, Portland State University Center for Lakes and Reservoirs

Invasive species cause serious economic and ecological damage to aquatic ecosystems.

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG) is currently working to prevent invasions in Lake Tahoe. The public is invited to attend meetings and encouraged to volunteer!

For more information, please go to <http://www.tahoercd.org/AquaticInvasives.php>, or contact the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) at 530-543-1501, ext. 113

CLEAN ! DRAIN ! DRY ! – Aquatic Invasive Species Education/Control Programs

LAKE TAHOE BOAT INSPECTORS FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

<http://tahoebotinspections.com/new-weapons-available-to-lake-tahoe-boat-inspectors-in-fight-against-invasive-species>



Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV / August 29, 2016 — Smartphones became Lake Tahoe’s first line of defense against the introduction of new aquatic invasive species this summer. As part of recently launched partnerships with agencies around the West, the *Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program* receives real-time updates from other land managers about vessels traveling to Lake Tahoe from waters with a high risk of containing invasive species. The data-sharing app used by partner agencies acts as an early warning system for Tahoe’s watercraft inspectors.

Since 2009, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has enforced mandatory watercraft inspections at Lake Tahoe, which has prevented the introduction of new aquatic invasive species. Aquatic invasive species can damage Tahoe’s ecosystem and degrade recreational experiences for residents and visitors.

“We continue to find several boats each year with various aquatic invasive species, and the watercraft inspection program is poised to discover what the next threat could be,” said Dennis Zabaglo, aquatic resources program manager at TRPA. “We’re using every weapon at our disposal, and these regional partnerships are a critical link to conserving the health of Lake Tahoe.”

In 2016, Lake Tahoe watercraft inspectors have prevented four boats containing quagga mussels from launching on the lake. The most recent discovery took place this month at the boat inspection station in Meyers. Quagga mussels have caused significant environmental damage in U.S. waterways, including the Great Lakes and Lake Mead. In addition, 20 boats have been found with other invasive species, including New Zealand mudsnails, during the inspection process at Lake Tahoe.

“Our inspection staff work hard to prevent new introductions of aquatic invasive species into Lake Tahoe, Fallen Leaf Lake, Echo Lake, and now Donner Lake,” said Nicole Cartwright, AIS program coordinator with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), “with over 20 vessels found harvesting invasive species, this validates their efforts and the importance of our program.”

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) have the lead roles in a region-wide management plan for the prevention of the introduction of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) to the Lake Tahoe Basin.

In 2008, TRPA and Tahoe RCD began a large-scale, mandatory, lake-wide campaign to educate and boaters on the AIS threat to Lake Tahoe and provide mandatory inspection of boats by trained inspectors before launching at public and private ramps.

Boat inspections are conducted at off-site locations in the summer at key entrance points to the Tahoe Basin. It is mandatory to undergo inspection off-site, then proceed with an intact seal from the inspection site before launching from a ramp at Lake Tahoe. Ramps are gated and locked when inspectors are not present. Boaters pay a sliding scale fee annually, based on boat size and type, to defray costs on the inspection program.

Decontamination is provided off-site if the inspector determines a high level of risk. Boats are cleaned with 140 degree F water and chlorine solution. Significant federal and state grant funding has supported the inspection program to date.

Fallen Leaf Lake, located adjacent to Lake Tahoe, maintains its own inspection program. Any trailered boat wanting to launch at the Fallen Leaf Lake Marina must have a green Fallen Leaf Lake inspection seal in order to launch. Boats without an inspection seal or those with a Lake Tahoe inspection seal will be required to get an inspection and decontamination from the Meyers, Homewood or Spooner Summit inspection station prior to arriving at the marina; fees for the decontamination process will apply. All boats with an intact green Fallen Leaf Lake inspection seal can go directly to the marina to launch and do not need to get an inspection at a roadside inspection station. If you have any questions, you can call the Hotline at 888-824-6267.

In 2011, voluntary inspections were more stringently implemented in California areas just outside the Tahoe Basin, at Donner Lake and Boca/Stampede Reservoirs. This program is coordinated and staffed by Tahoe RCD.

Nevada Boat Inspections

http://www.ndow.org/Boat/Aquatic_Invasive_Species

Under the direction provided in Assembly Bill 167 by the Nevada State Legislature in 2011, NDOW was provided authority to implement an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program.

The goals of the program are to prevent the spread of AIS threatening Nevada's waterways and to prevent new introductions of AIS. Implementation of the program includes the development and approval of AIS regulations, seasonal inspection and decontamination stations, monitoring, coordination with stakeholders and government entities, and AIS prevention education and outreach for the public. The program is funded through collection of an AIS watercraft decal and federal assistance grants. In 2014, NDOW began watercraft inspection stations seasonally at Lahontan Reservoir, Rye Patch Reservoir, and Wildhorse Reservoir.

In Nevada, Zebra mussels are not currently present; however, Lake Mead National Recreation Area discovered Quagga mussels in Boulder Basin in 2007. Since that time, the mussels have spread throughout the lower Colorado River system. With the exception of Lake Mead National Recreation Area

and the lower Colorado River, adult mussels have not been found in Nevada, however, in April 2011, Lahontan and Rye Patch Reservoirs in Northern Nevada tested positive for the presence of Quagga mussel veligers (larvae). Subsequent sampling since that time has not found any veligers or adult mussels. These water-bodies are within a few hours' drive of Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe Boat Inspection Program Highlights

<https://tahoeboatinspections.com/ten-years-of-fighting-aquatic-invasive-species-at-lake-tahoe>

2018 marked the 10 year anniversary of the Tahoe Boat Inspection Program. Watercraft are the largest source for spreading aquatic invasive species (AIS) into new waterways. Mandatory inspections stop aquatic invasive species, such as quagga mussels, BEFORE they enter the water. Please do your part to protect Lake Tahoe and plan ahead for mandatory boat inspections. Invasive species have devastating environmental and economic impacts on industries, communities, and native species populations. Most invasive species do not have predators to keep their populations in balance and, once introduced, are difficult if not impossible to eradicate. Of the nearly 8,000 vessels watercraft inspectors examined this boating season, 44 percent of them arrived clean, drained, and dry. 11 watercraft were found carrying invasive mussels and 40 were harboring other species. This exemplifies the excellent work by the inspectors, but also that watercraft continue to be a vector of aquatic invasive species. Each fouled vessel was decontaminated prior to launching in Lake Tahoe. The largest number of decontaminations occur on vessels containing standing water, which may contain unwanted seeds, plant fragments, or microscopic larvae.

TWSA Involvement

TWSA has been involved in the Aquatic Invasive Species and Boat Inspection process/working group since the threat of AIS emerged in the region as a major concern in 2007. TWSA staff provides ongoing education and outreach to the public at local events, on the threat these species pose to drinking water quality. In summer 2009, 25 large format aluminum signs with Quagga mussel information were sponsored by TWSA for installation at public access points. These signs are still on location.

The **Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG)** is a diverse group of agencies, community members and scientists dedicated to early detection and rapid response, prevention and control of aquatic invasive species in the Tahoe Basin. TWSA staff became actively involved in working with TRPA and Tahoe RCD as a member of the working group, focusing on the AIS inspection program protocols, public education and outreach.

This group conducts research in the Tahoe Keys, Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe. More information about these projects is included later in this report.

Lake-wide AIS Active Projects 2020

3.21.1 Cumulative Setting

Table 3.20-1 provides a list of cumulative projects that could occur simultaneously with implementation of the proposed program.

Table 3.20-1 Cumulative Projects List

Project Name	Location	Description	Project Status
UV Light Pilot Control Project	Tahoe Keys, Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Beach	Involves use of ultraviolet-C light to damage the DNA and cellular structure of invasive plants.	2019–2020
2014 Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Implementation Project	Lake Tahoe, marinas, Truckee River	Uses various control methods to treat aquatic invasive plants.	Ongoing, funding dependent
Lake-wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plant Project Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada with new methods proposed	Lake Tahoe, marinas, Truckee River	Uses various control methods to treat aquatic invasive plants.	Environmental review currently in progress
Truckee River Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal	Truckee River	Map and implement control efforts to remove Eurasian watermilfoil.	Ongoing, funding dependent
Asian Clam Control and Removal	Sand Harbor	Includes installation of rubber bottom barriers and use of diver assisted suction removal.	Ongoing, funding dependent
Veliger monitoring	Fallen Leaf Lake, Elks Point, Tahoe Keys, Emerald Bay, Meeks Bay, North Tahoe Marina, Sand Harbor, Obexers Marina, Cave Rock, and Echo Lake.	Involves monitoring for larva of bivalve mollusks using plankton tows.	Ongoing, seasonal annual monitoring
Ski Run Marina Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Pilot Project	Ski Run Marina	Uses laminar flow aeration to determine efficacy of aquatic invasive plant control.	Ongoing

Tahoe Resource Conservation District/Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Target Invasive Fish Control Program at Lake Tahoe IS/ND and IEC/FONSE

3-103

Project Name	Location	Description	Project Status
Tahoe Keys Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test	Tahoe Keys Lagoons and Marina	Would involve use of three different types of herbicides followed by a maintenance period using non-chemical control methods. It would also involve use of laminar flow aeration.	Environmental review in progress.
General Creek Aquatic Plant Control Project	General Creek	Surveillance monitoring and removal of Eurasian watermilfoil.	Ongoing
Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control and Monitoring Project	Meeks Bay Marina	Removal of Eurasian watermilfoil and monitoring.	Ongoing
Taylor and Tallac Ecosystem Restoration Project, Phase 1	Tallac and Taylor Creek	Restore ecological processes and functions by eradicating/controlling aquatic invasive species.	No current activities
Baldwin Beach Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal Project	Offshore Baldwin Beach	Surveillance monitoring and removal of Eurasian watermilfoil.	Ongoing
Pope Marsh Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal Project	Pope Marsh	Surveillance monitoring and removal of Eurasian watermilfoil.	Ongoing
Camp Richardson Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal Project	Camp Richardson	Surveillance monitoring and removal of Eurasian watermilfoil.	Ongoing
Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project	Upper Truckee River and Marsh	Restore Upper Truckee Marsh and remove the sailing lagoon. Invasive species control for Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed will be implemented.	Ongoing
Timber Cove Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal Project	Timber Cove	Surveillance monitoring and removal of Eurasian watermilfoil.	Ongoing
Nevada Shoreline Aquatic Invasive Plant Control	Wavoka Estates rock crib	Removal of Eurasian watermilfoil followed by surveillance monitoring.	Ongoing
	Tahoe Beach Club	Removal of Eurasian watermilfoil followed by surveillance monitoring.	Ongoing
	Burke Creek	Removal of Eurasian watermilfoil followed by surveillance monitoring.	Ongoing
Elk Point Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal Project	Elk Point Rock Crib	Removal of Eurasian watermilfoil followed by surveillance monitoring.	Ongoing
Elk Point Marina Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	Elk Point Marina	Removal of Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed populations in Elk Point Marina followed by surveillance monitoring.	Ongoing

Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental 2019

TRPA Ordinances Regarding Invasive Species

In October 2008, the TRPA Governing Board revised the TRPA Code of Ordinances to prohibit the transportation of invasive species. TRPA Code of Ordinances, Chapter 79.3 contains regulations relating to the prevention of invasion by aquatic invasive species.

Invasive species are defined in the TRPA Code as:

*...species, both aquatic and terrestrial, that establish and reproduce rapidly outside of their native range and may threaten the diversity or abundance of native species through competition for resources, predation, parasitism, hybridization with native populations, introduction of pathogens, or physical or chemical alteration of the invaded habitat. Through their impacts on natural ecosystems, agricultural and other developed lands, water delivery and flood protection systems, invasive species may also negatively affect human health and/or the economy. Aquatic invasive species shall include but not be limited to: Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*), Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.), curlyleaf pond weed (*Potamogeton crispus* L.), and large mouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*).*

TRPA Code of Ordinances, Chapter 79.3 A - Relates to the transport, introduction and launching of watercraft that is contaminated with aquatic invasive species: *Prohibition: The transport or introduction of aquatic Invasive Species into the Lake Tahoe Region is prohibited. Further, the launching of any watercraft contaminated with Aquatic Invasive Species into the waters of the Tahoe Region is prohibited.*

TRPA Code of Ordinances, Chapter 79.3. B - Makes it mandatory to submit to the inspection of watercraft prior to launching when an inspector is present, makes decontamination mandatory when the watercraft is judged by an inspector to be contaminated, and closes boat launching facilities when an AIS inspector is not present:

(1) An owner operator of a Boat Ramp or other Boat Launch Facility (exclusive of single family residences) shall close the ramp or facility to launching of watercraft at all times when the provisions of subsection (2) have not been or cannot otherwise be provided or met.

(2) All watercraft, motorized and non-motorized, including but not limited to boats, personal watercraft, kayaks, canoes and rafts, shall be subject to an inspection prior to launching into the waters of the Lake Tahoe Region to detect the presence, and prevent the introduction, of Aquatic Invasive Species. An inspection under this section is valid only if performed by a trained inspector pursuant to Tahoe Regional Planning Agency standards and requirements for Aquatic Invasive Species inspections.

(3) All watercraft inspected in subsection (2) shall be subject to decontamination if determined necessary by an inspection under 79.3 B (2). A watercraft shall launch only if the required decontamination is performed and completed by a trained individual pursuant to TRPA standards and requirements for Aquatic Invasive Species decontamination and launch is authorized by a trained inspector pursuant to TRPA's standards and requirements for Aquatic Invasive Species Inspections.

(4) All watercraft inspected in compliance with subsection (2) and decontaminated in compliance with subsection (3) are subject to a fee to pay for the inspection and/or decontamination and other program costs.

Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) Invasive Species Program

The Invasive Species Program at the Tahoe Resource Conservation District is divided into the Terrestrial Invasive Weed and Aquatic Invasive Species sub-programs, which focus on the removal and abatement of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. The Tahoe RCD is the coordinator for the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group and the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group. These working groups are comprised of diverse agencies and community members dedicated to protecting the Lake Tahoe Basin from invasive species through education, research, prevention, early detection, rapid response, and control.

Aquatic Invasive Species Sub-Program

The Tahoe RCD Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program was formed after the January 2007 discovery of Quagga mussels in Lake Mead, Lake Havasu, and the Colorado River Basin. The AIS Program serves as chair for the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG). Funding received from the Bureau of Reclamation for the removal and monitoring of aquatic weeds in Emerald Bay and Ski Run Marina supported some of the program's first efforts.

The AIS Program has grown extensively since 2007, following the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group mission. The group is working to prevent new introductions into Lake Tahoe such as Quagga and Zebra mussels, and performs monitoring, research, control, and removal of existing invasive species. This requirement has put the Tahoe RCD in the spotlight for coordination of the Watercraft Inspection Program at Lake Tahoe. LTAISWG partners are continuing research of aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe to better support resource management decisions in the Tahoe Basin.

Lake Tahoe's Boater APP 2019

<https://tahoeboatinspections.com/trpa-releases-app-designed-to-help-boaters-paddlers-navigate-lake-tahoe/>

<https://tahoeboatinspections.com/news-updates>

Boaters and paddlers trying to navigate Lake Tahoe's expansive blue waters have a new tool to help in their travels. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency recently announced the release of the new Tahoe Boating app designed to inform boaters and paddlers about Lake Tahoe, no-wake zone boundaries, area attractions, and responsible recreation. The app, according to TRPA, includes interactive mapping, giving boaters real-time location and direction of travel on the lake. Location information allows boaters to see their position in proximity to Lake Tahoe's no-wake zones which requires boaters to stay under 5 mph within Emerald Bay, 600 feet of shore, 100 feet of swimmers and paddlers, and 200 feet of structures.



Boaters and paddlers can download the free Tahoe Boating app from either the Apple or Android stores or at tahoeboating.org. The app includes:

- An interactive map that shows a boat's location relative to no-wake zones.
- Information about boating safety, aquatic invasive species, and emergency contacts.
- Locations of fuel stations and bathrooms.
- Lake Tahoe points of interest including detailed information and photos.

Tahoe RCD coordinates Lake Tahoe's Watercraft Inspection Program by providing qualified inspectors at designated inspection stations, offering technical support for private launches, trainings, and decontamination of watercraft. The Watercraft Inspection Program was implemented in 2008.

In 2014, Tahoe RCD finalized the CEQA lakewide permit for invasive species projects.

http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CEQA_Final_Env_Doc_Lakewide_AIS_Project_SIGNED.wAttachments.pdf

In 2020, this was updated. TWSA had no significant comments on the plan.

https://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/TRCD_AIP_NOI_Availability.pdf

**LAKE-WIDE CONTROL OF AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS PROJECT
LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA**

CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist / Mitigated Finding of No Significant Effect

NEPA Environmental Assessment / Finding of No Significant Impact



Prepared for:
Tahoe Resource Conservation District
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
USDA Forest Service -
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Prepared by:
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August 2020



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www.tahoercd.org

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION/OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

August 14, 2020

To: California State Clearinghouse Nevada State Clearinghouse
 California Responsible and Trustee Agencies Cooperating Agencies
 Interested Parties and Organizations

Action: Tahoe Resource Conservation District Lake-Wide Control of Aquatic Invasive
 Plants Project – Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada

Project Summary: The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) have directed the preparation of a joint environmental document for the Lake-Wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plants (AIP) Project. The document is an Initial Study (IS) for Tahoe RCD pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); an Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC) for TRPA pursuant to the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, Code of Ordinances, and Rules of Procedure; and an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the LTBMU prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Tahoe RCD, on behalf of the Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (AISCC), and in coordination with the TRPA, is proposing to conduct aquatic plant control and management throughout suitable habitat areas within the Lake Tahoe Region including the Lake itself, tributaries, and adjacent marshes of Lake Tahoe and the Upper Truckee River and Truckee River as they flow into and out of Lake Tahoe. The Project intends to continue aquatic invasive plant control efforts in locations where previous efforts have been successful, expand control efforts to include known infestation areas, expand available methods/techniques, and to allow for rapid response to detections of new aquatic invasive plant (AIP) infestations.

Suitable habitat is present in Lake Tahoe within the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado and Placer counties in California and Carson City, Washoe, and Douglas counties in Nevada. Within this large project area, several control sites have been identified for potential control methods based on existing knowledge of AIP presence.

Public Review and Comment: The Draft IS/IEC/EA is available for public review and comment until September 16, 2020. The document is available for review at the following agency websites:

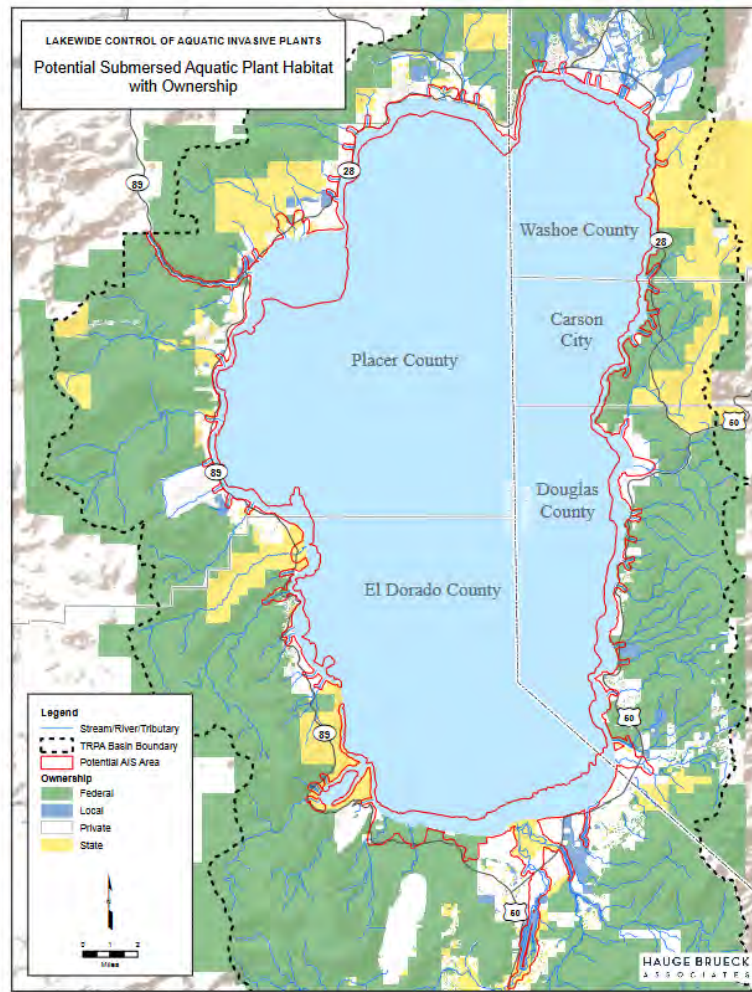
- <https://www.trpa.org/document/projects-plans/>
- <https://go.usa.gov/xmgxT>
- <https://tahoercd.org/tahoe-aquatic-invasive-species-resources/>

Tahoe RCD will maintain and be responsible for the handling of public comments submitted in connection with this notice. Written comments may be mailed to Tahoe RCD, Attn: Mollie Hurt, 870 Emerald Bay Road, #108, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 or emailed to mhurt@tahoercd.org. Personal contact information is optional. However, only individuals or entities who have submitted their name, address, email and phone number (if available) with their substantive comments will be eligible to file an objection later regarding this project with the USDA Forest Service LTBMU (36 CFR 218.5). Please also note your comments and contact information will be considered part of the USDA Forest Service's public record and may be available for public inspection.

NEPA Comment

Process: This project will be subject to 36 CFR 218 Project-level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (Parts A and B). Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25, comments on the Lake-Wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plants Project will be accepted for 30 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of the legal notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune newspaper.

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection later in the process. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments (36 CFR 218.25). Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25.



Veliger Monitoring Program

In 2010, a veliger monitoring program was initiated by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, with assistance from the Tahoe RCD. Veligers are the larval stage of bivalve mollusks which includes Quagga and Zebra mussels, two potential invaders of Lake Tahoe. Monitoring is an essential element to ensure that the Watercraft Inspection Program has been effective in preventing Quagga and Zebra mussels from establishing populations in Lake Tahoe. Ten locations are surveyed biweekly from late June until the end of September; the eight locations in Lake Tahoe include Elks Point, Tahoe Keys, Emerald Bay, Meeks Bay, North Tahoe Marina, Sand Harbor, Obexers Marina, and Cave Rock along with Fallen Leaf Lake and Echo Lake. Sampling consists of eight vertical plankton tows at each site. The samples are then sent to a laboratory to be analyzed. All of the samples to date have returned with no Zebra or Quagga mussel veligers present.

Tahoe RCD Boat Inspection Program – other lakes, other programs

The Tahoe RCD's Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program had another successful season of protecting Lake Tahoe, Fallen Leaf and Echo Lake from the introduction of new aquatic invasive species. Inspections were performed at our five inspections locations. Approximately 15,000 boats are inspected annually. Since the addition of convenient off-highway locations enabled boaters to receive their watercraft inspections and decontaminations when entering the Lake Tahoe Basin, marinas and boat launches were freed up from being the busiest locations for inspections. This prevention effort also includes a more rigorous non-motorized watercraft inspection and education (The Tahoe Keepers Program) process at ramp facilities, US Forest Service kiosks and Fallen Leaf Lake. Paddlers were also educated about self-inspecting and decontaminating canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.

Tahoe RCD Aquatic Invasive Weeds Control Program

<http://tahoercd.org/aquatic-invasive-species-control-projects/>

Beginning in 2005, the Tahoe RCD has been directly involved with over 30 non-chemical, aquatic invasive weed control projects. These projects represent treatment of almost 30 acres of invasive weeds.

Emerald Bay weed eradication

After several years of manual treatments, in 2013, weeds were completely eradicated from California State Parks' Emerald Bay. Intensive treatment always included use of all three control methods (barriers, suction removal, and hand removal) in combination to remove all visible plants in a discrete treatment site. Maintenance treatment involved follow-up removal of all recolonizing plants in a discrete treatment site after initial intensive treatment. Barriers were not necessary for maintenance removal. No maintenance removal was necessary in 2015; there were no NI plants detected in Emerald Bay.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Vikingsholm</i>	<i>Parson's Rock</i>	<i>Avalanche</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>Intensive</i>	<i>Limited</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Intensive</i>	<i>Limited</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Intensive</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Intensive</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Maintenan</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>No plants</i>	<i>No plants</i>	<i>No plants</i>

Summaries of the Lake Tahoe AIS Plant Projects is provided below:

2005-2014 Summary of Tahoe AIS Sites and Associated Treatment

(Source: <http://tahoercd.org/aquatic-invasive-species-control-projects>)

Year	Location	Biomass (gallons)	Biomass (Cubic Yards)	Suction Removal Area (sf)	Barrier Area (sf)	Total Treatment (sf)	Total Treatment (acres)	Treatment Density Class
2005	Emerald Bay - Avalanche Beach	238	1.18	2,000		2,000	0.05	high
2006	Emerald Bay - Avalanche Beach	1258	6.23	12,000		12,000	0.28	high
2007	No Weed Removal	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	very low
2008	Emerald Bay - Parson's Rock		0.00		500	500	0.01	high
2009	Emerald Bay - Avalanche Beach		0.00		400	400	0.01	high
2009	Emerald Bay - Parson's Rock		0.00		10,000	10,000	0.23	high
2009	Emerald Bay - Vikingsholm Swim Beach	360	1.78	3,600	0	3,600	0.08	high
2010	Elk Point Marina	60	0.30	14,000	0	14,000	0.32	high
2010	Emerald Bay - Vikingsholm Swim Beach	303	1.50	4,000	8,500	12,500	0.29	moderate
2010	Emerald Bay - Parson's Rock	101	0.50	2,000	0	2,000	0.05	high
2010	Lakeside Marina	2020	10.00	40,000	0	40,000	0.92	high
2011	Emerald Bay - Avalanche Beach	217.5	1.08	132,000	13,200	145,200	3.33	moderate
2011	Emerald Bay - Parson's Rock	262.5	1.30	34,000	7,000	41,000	0.94	high
2011	Emerald Bay - Vikingsholm Swim Beach	150	0.74	96,250	1,200	97,450	2.24	low
2011	Tahoe Keys	0	0.00	0	17,200	17,200	0.39	high
2012	Emerald Bay - Avalanche Beach	560	2.77	82,000	44,000	126,000	2.89	moderate
2012	Emerald Bay - Parson's Rock	30	0.15	8,700	0	8,700	0.20	low
2012	Emerald Bay - Vikingsholm Swim Beach	2	0.01	1,750	0	1,750	0.04	very low
2012	Tahoe Keys	0	0.00	0	14,075	14,075	0.32	high
2012	Lakeside Beach	277	1.37	12,200	68,400	80,600	1.85	high
2012	Lakeside Marina	2890	14.31	0	35,720	35,720	0.82	high
2012	Ski Run Channel	11527	57.07	71,840	65,360	137,200	3.15	high
2013	Emerald Bay - Avalanche Beach	146.25	0.72	20,075	28,800	48,875	1.12	moderate
2013	Emerald Bay - Mouth of Eagle Creek	26.25	0.13	14,000	0	14,000	0.32	moderate
2013	Emerald Bay - Parson's Rock	5	0.02	36,750	0	36,750	0.84	very low
2013	Emerald Bay - Parson's Rock North	7	0.03	1,000	0	1,000	0.02	moderate
2013	Emerald Bay - Vikingsholm Swim Beach	2.5	0.01	31,500	0	31,500	0.72	very low
2013	Lakeside Beach		0.00	29,550	43,200	72,750	1.67	moderate
2013	Ski Run Channel	6831	33.82	115,956	19,080	135,036	3.10	high
2013	Tahoe City Dam	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	high
2013	Truckee River	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	high
2013	Mouth of Taylor Creek	200	0.99	0	0	90,000	2.07	moderate
2013	Mouth of Tallac Creek	990	4.90	0	0	26,000	0.60	moderate
2014	Emerald Bay	15	0.07	450	0	450	0.01	low
2014	Truckee River	3200	15.84	6,425	0	6,425	0.15	high
2014	Dam- Truckee River	0	0.00	0	18,400	18,400	0.42	high
2014	Crystal Shores East	0	0.00	0	10,400	10,400	0.24	moderate
	Totals	31679.00	156.85	772,046	405,435	1,293,481	29.69	

Native Aquatic Plants of Lake Tahoe



Andean Milfoil (*Myriophyllum quintense*)

Characteristics: feather-like submersed leaves in whorls of two to four, blue-green emergent leaves, tiny flowers (0.7mm-1.2mm long) with four petals located at base of emergent leaves, may form multiple flower stalks, often flowers in August or September (later than most other milfoils)

Importance: provides habitat of aquatic animals and stabilizes sediment

Photo credit: Jennifer Parsons, Washington State Department of Ecology



Canadian Waterweed commonly known as Elodea (*Elodea canadensis*)

Characteristics: submersed leaves are bright green, translucent, oblong, 6-17 mm long and 1-4 mm broad; small white or pale purple flowers float at the surface

Importance: provides good habitat for many aquatic invertebrates and cover for young fish and amphibians

Photo credit: Christian Fischer



Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Characteristics: floats freely below the surface, no roots, 0.5-4 cm long leaves are forked into 2 flattened segments, leaves often somewhat stiff, leaves arranged in whorls of 5 to 12, tiny submersed green flowers present from June through September

Importance: provides habitat plant for young fish, small aquatic animals, and aquatic insects

Photo credit: Clayton Antieau, Washington State Department of Ecology



Leafy Pondweed (*Potamogeton foliosus*)

Characteristics: linear leaves that are 2-10 cm long and 1-2.5 mm wide, fibrous roots emerging from threadlike rhizomes, flowers have 2-4 whorls on an initially crowded spike (1 cm)

Importance: seeds and vegetation provide cover and food for aquatic animals

Photo credit: Clayton Antieau, Washington State Department of Ecology

Invasive Aquatic Plants of Lake Tahoe



Eurasian Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.)

Characteristics: long underwater stems, feathery foliage, tolerant to shallow and deep waters, distinguished from native milfoil by threadlike leaflets usually found in pairs of more than 14

Primary Means of Introduction: native to Europe and Asia, present in much of the United States and Canada, spread from lake to lake by boat trailers and aquarium dumping, has been spreading around Lake Tahoe for 15-20 years

Problems: impedes water flow, disrupts navigation, inhibits recreational activities, decreases water quality, reduces plant diversity

Management: physical (hand pulling, harvesting, cutting) and mechanical control

Prevention: clean all vegetation off boats and equipment

Established communities present in Lake Tahoe. Current management techniques controlling populations; eradication is not achievable.

Photo credit: Robert Johnson, Cornell University; Ruthanna Hawkins, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network



Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Pontamogeton crispus* L.)

Characteristics: submersed aquatic plant with oblong blue-green leaves that have very wavy margin, reproduces by turions (see inset)

Primary Means of Introduction: native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia; has begun to expand rapidly in Lake Tahoe over the past three years; primarily has spread in warm, shallow waters (such as marinas)

Problems: impedes water flow, disrupts navigation, inhibits recreational activities, decreases water quality, reduces plant diversity

Management: physical (hand pulling, harvesting, cutting) and mechanical control

Prevention: clean all vegetation off boats and equipment

Established communities present in Lake Tahoe. Current management techniques controlling populations; eradication is not achievable.

Photo credit: Three Lakes Council, South Salem, New York

Photo credit (inset): Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut

Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed populations are highly concentrated in the South basin, near the Tahoe Keys area, with smaller populations throughout the lake. Both plants currently dominate the submersed aquatic plant community, causing increased nutrient pumping from sediment (a cause of decreased water clarity).

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG) is currently working to prevent the spread of invasive species in Lake Tahoe. The public is invited to attend LTAISWG meetings and is encouraged to volunteer!

For more information about aquatic invasive species, please go to <http://www.tahoercd.org/index.php/ISP/aquatic>

2020-2030 Summary of Tahoe AIS Sites and Associated Treatment

(Source: https://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/TahoeAISActionAgenda_Final.pdf)

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Aquatic Invasive Plants

Aquatic invasive plant strategies (Table 1) are focused on implementing a full suite of control actions using an integrated management approach to reduce the abundance and distribution of AIS in regional waters. These strategies will also ensure no new AI plant populations become established in the Region, and while establishing a baseline for AI plant infestations in upstream portions of Lake Tahoe.

Phase I: \$22,250,000 | Phase II: \$24,700,000

Table 1. Aquatic invasive plant strategies, performance metrics, desired outcomes, lead, budget, and timeline, 2021–2030.

Strategies	Performance Metrics	Desired Outcomes	Lead	Phase I Costs (2021–2025)	Phase II Costs (2026–2030)
Non-Tahoe Keys Locations: 1A. Establish the baseline for AI plant infestations in upstream portions of the lake. 1B. Implement a full suite of control actions, using an integrated management approach, to reduce the abundance and distribution of AIS in regional waters.	% increase or decrease in infested area (acres) per species # of AIS-infested acres	By 2030, reduce by 90% the acreage of AI plant populations in priority areas (and their upstream components) identified in the Implementation Plan as well as any additional areas that have been identified since plan creation (excluding Tahoe Keys).	TRPA	\$2.5 million annually = \$12.5 million total	Maintenance of an estimated 25 acres annually x \$50,000/acre = \$1.25 million annually x 5 years = \$6.25 million total
1C. Implement a full suite of control actions, using an integrated management approach, to reduce the abundance and distribution of AIS in the Tahoe Keys.	% increase or decrease in infested area (acres) per species # of AIS-infested acres	Tahoe Keys* By 2030, reduce from 90% to full eradication, AI plant populations in the Tahoe Keys.**		\$1 million annually (2021–2023), then \$4 million*** for 2024–2025 = \$7 million total	Estimated \$100,000/acre x 172 acres = \$17.2 million total
1D. Implement EDRR control actions to ensure no new AI plant populations become established in the Region.	Annually, no new AI plant populations become established in the Region			\$250,000 annually x 5 years = \$1.25 million total	\$250,000 annually x 5 years = \$1.25 million total
1E. Environmental documentation for the Tahoe Keys – 2nd round for stakeholder engagement	Conduct round two of environmental documentation			\$1.5 million in 2023	
TOTALS					\$22,250,000

*2021–2025 includes actions to contain AIS in the Tahoe Keys during the development of environmental documents and testing potential controls. Years 2026–2030 include control actions intended to eradicate invasive plants in the Tahoe Keys.
 ** \$4M includes \$3 million to test the outcomes of the 2nd environmental assessment in 2023 and \$1 million for annual AIS containment measures.
 *** An Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) will inform an AIS control program in the Tahoe Keys. The first EIS/EIR is estimated to be completed by 2023, followed by the development of a 2nd EIS/IR.

Table 1A. Categories and priorities of AIS locations and species for control efforts, 2019–2030. Sites in Tiers 1 and 2 in which no active treatment is occurring are undergoing planning for future treatments as well as containment to avoid spread. The species listed were documented as present, not necessarily locations where controls/treatments are ongoing, or have occurred.

Habitat Categories: M = Marsh; MR = Marina; E = Embayment; O = Open Water; T = Tributary; U = Upland Ponds
 Species Categories: EWM = Eurasian Watermilfoil, CLP = Curlyleaf Pondweed, IF = Invasive fishes, AC = Asian Clams

▶ Table 1A. Aquatic Invasive Plants										
Category	Location	Habitat	2015 IP Priority	2019 Action Agenda Category	Species	Status of Infestation	Estimated Acreage of Infestation	% Cover	Acreage of Infestation Prior to Treatment	Area Surveyed (Acres)
Tier 1	Meeks Creek	T	3	A	EWM, IF	Active treatment 2019	3		3	3.5
	Pope Marsh	M		A	EWM	Active treatment 2019	<1		<1	125
	Tahoe Keys Main Lagoon (CA)	MR, E	1,2	A	EWM, CLP, IF	Planning, testing, containment	172		172	172
	Tahoe Keys Channels Complex	O	1,2	A	EWM, CLP, IF	Planning, testing, containment	10		Unknown	175
	Taylor and Tallac Creeks (CA)	M	8	A	EWM, CLP, IF	Planning, containment	8		n/a	10
	Upper Truckee Marsh (CA)	M		A	EWM, IF	Planning, containment	3		3	5
	Upper Truckee River	T	18	A	EWM, CLP, IF	Planning, containment	1.25 (0.25 CLP, 1 EWM)		n/a	11
	Edgewood Creek and Pond Complex (NV)	U		B	EWM, CLP, IF	Planning, containment	10		n/a	20
	Lakeside Beach (CA)	O	12	B	IF	Active treatment 2019	1.5			2
	Lakeside Marina (CA)	MR	6	B	EWM, CLP, IF	Active treatment 2019	1		3	1
	Ski Run Marina (CA)	MR	4	B	EWM, CLP, IF	Planning, containment	0.5		n/a	0.5
	Ski Run Channel (CA)	O	4	B	EWM, CLP, IF	Planning, containment	3.5		n/a	5

► Table 1A. Aquatic Invasive Plants (continued)

Category	Location	Habitat	2015 IP Priority	2019 Action Agenda Category	Species	Status of Infestation	Estimated Acreage of Infestation	% Cover	Acreage of Infestation Prior to Treatment	Area Surveyed (Acres)
Tier 1	Baldwin Beach (offshore)	O		C	EWM, CLP, IF	Active treatment 2019	0.25		0.25	20
	Camp Richardson Pier	O	18	C	EWM, IF	Active treatment 2019	0.25		0.25	6
	Elk Point Marina	MR	15	C	EWM, CLP, IF	Active treatment 2019	0.5		0.5	0.75
	Timber Cove Pier	O	14	C	EWM, CLP, IF	Active treatment 2019	0.25		0.25	1
Tier 2	Burke Creek (NV Beach)	T			EWM	Active treatment 2019	0.1		0.1	0.5
	Elk Point and Round Hill shoreline structures	E			EWM	Active treatment 2019	3		3	18
	General Creek	T			EWM	Active treatment 2019	0.1		.1	.25
	Logan Shoals Marina	MR	17		EWM	Planning, containment	1.75		1.75	2
	Lower Truckee River below dam	T			EWM	Active treatment 2019	17		20	25
	Regan Beach	O	7			?—not surveyed in 2018	0.1		0.1	10
	Sand Harbor	E			AC	Active treatment 2019	22		6	25
	Tahoe Beach Club (NV beach)	T			EWM	Active treatment 2019	0.3		0.3	0.5
	Wavoka Estate Marina	MR			EWM	Active treatment 2019	0.1		0.1	0.25

▶ Table 1A. Aquatic Invasive Plants (continued)

Category	Location	Habitat	2015 IP Priority	2019 Action Agenda Category	Species	Status of Infestation	Estimated Acreage of Infestation	% Cover	Acreage of Infestation Prior to Treatment	Area Surveyed (Acres)
EDRR Sites	Boatworks/Tahoe City Marina	MR	18	All of these sites are priority sites for EDRR.	IF	no plants present 2018	0		unknown	15
	Crystal Shores East (NV)	MR			EWM, IF	surveillance mode	0		0.5	0.5
	Crystal Shores Villas (NV)	MR			EWM, IF	surveillance mode	0		0.5	0.5
	Crystal Shores West (NV)	MR	9		EWM, IF	surveillance mode	0		n/a	0.5
	Emerald Bay, Avalanche Beach, Vikingsholm, and Parson's Rock	O			EWM, CLP, IF	surveillance mode	<0,1		6	12
	Fleur du Lac Marina	MR			EWM	surveillance mode	0		0.5	2.5
	Glenbrook	O			EWM	surveillance mode	0		0.1	7
	Nevada Beach	O	16			no plants present 2018	0		unknown	15
	Star Harbor	MR/E				surveillance mode	0		unknown	2
	Sunnyside Marina	MR	18		IF	no plants present 2018	0		unknown	1
	Tahoe City Dam	O/T			EWM, IF	surveillance mode	<0,1		0.2	2
	Tahoe Tavern	O	13			no plants present 2018	0		unknown	0.25
	Tahoe Vista boat ramp	MR			EWM	surveillance mode	0		0.2	0.5
Zephyr Cove	O			surveillance mode	0		unknown			

Table 1B includes more detailed information about the AIS treatments that will be occurring in the two years prior to the launch of the Action Agenda. Note: Sites treated in 2019 either are treated again in 2020, or are designated as EDRR sites if they have received treatments the prior two years.

► Table 1B. 2019–2020 AIS Treatments.

Tier	Location	2019 Treatment Acreage	2020 Treatment Acreage	Species	Notes:
1	Pope Marsh	<1	<1	EWM	
	Lakeside Marina	1	1	EWM, CLP	
	Lakeside Beach		1	EWM, CLP	
	Meeks Marina and Creek	3	3	EWM	
	Baldwin Beach	0.25	EDRR	EWM, CLP	
	Camp Richardson Pier	0.25	EDRR	EWM, CLP	
	Elk Point Marina	0.5	0.5	EWM, CLP	
	Timber Cove Pier	0.25	EDRR	EWM, CLP	
	Ski Run Marina		Planning treatment	EWM, CLP, IF	
2	Elk Point and Round Hill rock cribs shoreline	3	EDRR	EWM	
	General Creek	0.1	EDRR	EWM	
	Lower Truckee River below dam	17	17	EWM	Funding to treat after 2020 currently does not exist.
	Sand Harbor			Treatment for Asian Clams	
	Tahoe Beach Club (NV beach)	0.3	EDRR	EWM	
	Burke Creek (NV beach)	0.1	EDRR	EWM	
	Wavoka Estate Marina	0.1	0.1	EWM	

2015 Truckee River Aquatic Plant Control Project

<http://tahoeboatinspections.com/wp>

content/uploads/2015/08/2015_08_14_TruckeeRiverAISControl.pdf



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 14, 2015

Innovation Applied to Tackle Invasive Plants in Truckee River

Truckee River, Tahoe City, CA – The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) has piloted a project on the Truckee River to control the aquatic invasive plant, Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), which has been growing in Lake Tahoe since the late 1980s, and likely entered the Truckee River following the overflow of the dam in 1997.

Tahoe RCD is a leader in developing highly-effective control strategies for open-water aquatic plant removal in collaboration with the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program. In 2010, approximately 6 acres of aquatic invasive plants covered the nearshore near Vikingsholm in the iconic Emerald Bay. Control strategies used in Emerald Bay included laying down bottom barriers to kill the plants by eliminating light, and using diver-assisted suction removal to physically remove plants and roots. After four years of comprehensive treatment, Emerald Bay is free of aquatic invasive plants.

Tahoe RCD is now taking this strategic deployment of both methods to the Truckee River, from the lakeside of the Tahoe City Dam downstream to Alpine Meadows Road. Eurasian watermilfoil is growing in large dense patches along this stretch of the river. These patches of vegetation can alter water quality by raising pH, decreasing oxygen, and increasing water temperature, as well as causing a decrease in water clarity, all of which ultimately alters the ecosystem and causes negative impacts to recreation and public safety.

In 2014, 10,000 square feet of benthic bottom barriers were laid lake-ward of the Tahoe City Dam. In 2015, fewer than twenty plants have been detected at this site and subsequently removed. Also in 2014, 427 cubic feet of invasive plants were removed downstream from the dam using diver-assisted suction removal. In August of 2015, Tahoe RCD is working with A.C.E. Diving to install bottom barriers in the river system below the dam the same team successfully treated the Eurasian watermilfoil infestation at Emerald Bay. While bottom barriers have been successful in open water lake environments, using them within a river system will be a new application of this method.

"With the drought conditions, many people have asked how the lack of water at the Dam and down the Truckee River will impact efforts to remove invasive plants," said Kim Boyd, District Manager at Tahoe RCD. "With the low waters this creates a unique opportunity to use bottom barriers which provides a cost-effective technique for plant removal."

Tahoe RCD anticipates the need to continue efforts to control aquatic plants in the Truckee River for several years to come as the population is dense in some locations and environmental conditions such as water levels will continue to fluctuate.

"From our efforts in Emerald Bay, we know that invasive plant populations can be reduced and with continued treatments we will be able to better manage the populations in the future." Boyd continues.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Community Foundation of Western Nevada/Truckee River Fund, California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Tahoe Fund, and the Rotary Club of Tahoe City.

Crystal Shores (Incline Village, NV) East Milfoil Barrier Project 2014-2017

2017 update: all weeds have been eradicated using bottom barriers and hand removal.

The homeowners association of Crystal Shores East in Incline Village stepped up in 2014, to remove invasive weeds from their marina by partnering with local experts. An infestation of approximately 10,000 square feet of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was crowding out their marina. Eurasian watermilfoil is a submerged aquatic plant that grows in still or slow-moving water and reproduces mainly by fragmentation. It was first discovered in Lake Tahoe in the late 1990's on the South shore of Lake Tahoe. Over the years, small fragments of this plant have made their way across the 22 miles of famous blue waters and established new colonies.

The Tahoe RCD and Crystal Shores East Homeowners Association are combining public and private dollars to treat this satellite population of aquatic invasive weeds, with financial support from the Nevada Division of State Lands. This new partnership is providing Crystal Shores access to weed-removal materials and technical expertise of the Tahoe RCD and members of the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

Treatment for this location includes a combination of bottom barriers and diver assisted hand removal. "Bottom barriers," sheets of synthetic material, are used to block sunlight and inhibit the plants from photosynthesis, were placed on the infestation early in September and removed in October. Divers will follow up with hand pulling to treat outlier plants. There have been some challenges with low water levels, but we are making adjustments as conditions change. Follow up surveys and treatment was conducted in the spring of 2015. Later in 2015, bottom barriers were placed again, removed in 2016.

The Tahoe RCD hopes to continue the partnership with Crystal Shores East homeowners and use it as a model for other invasive species removal projects on private property. "It was eye-opening to see how involved it was to deploy the barriers," said Ann Schofield, representative from Crystal Shores East homeowners, "The Tahoe RCD has been great to work with." Lake Tahoe's clarity will benefit from the combination of private industry combining forces with public organizations to tackle invasive species.

Tahoe RCD Truckee Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program 2012 Final Report

http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/TRAISPP_Annual_Report_2012.pdf

Since 2010, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TAHOE RCD) has coordinated with local partners in the Middle Truckee River Watershed (outlet of Lake Tahoe to the California state line) to implement the Truckee Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (TRAISPP).

The principle objectives of this pilot program were to better understand invasive species issues in the region, provide outreach and education on invasive species, organize regional resource managers, evaluate usage patterns, and evaluate the feasibility of watercraft inspections and decontaminations. Since the program began in 2010, it has benefited from broad support amongst resource managers, county representatives, utility managers and boaters as well as funding from the Truckee River Fund. In 2011, federal, state and local agencies and stakeholders completed a risk analysis for the program area, which showed moderate to high risk of introduction, establishment and transport of Truckee AIS. As a result, project partners began working toward the creation of mandatory inspection programs within each of the jurisdictions in the program area – Placer County, Nevada County, Sierra County and the Town of Truckee. Coordination efforts have resulted in a formal Memorandum of Understanding and

letters of support, as well as, funding and in-kind contributions from partner agencies. The geographical scope of coordination has extended through the entire Truckee River watershed, from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. The degree of coordination and cooperation among partner agencies underscores the importance and need for regional management efforts.

Program waterbodies: Donner Lake / Stampede Reservoir / Independence Lake / Boca Reservoir / Webber Lake Prosser Reservoir / Martis Creek Lake / Lake of the Woods.

Tahoe Keepers

<http://tahokeepers.org>

<http://tahoeboatinspections.com/tahoe-keepers/>

In 2011, this online, non-motorized boat education/inspection program was launched. Tahoe Keepers, the outreach initiative targeted at paddlers, has been able to raise awareness to approximately 1500 people annually.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe helped to plan and implement the outreach and education portions of the Tahoe Keepers stewardship program. Funds came from the Lake Tahoe Quagga Mussel Prevention Fund, which the League formed in conjunction with the Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association.

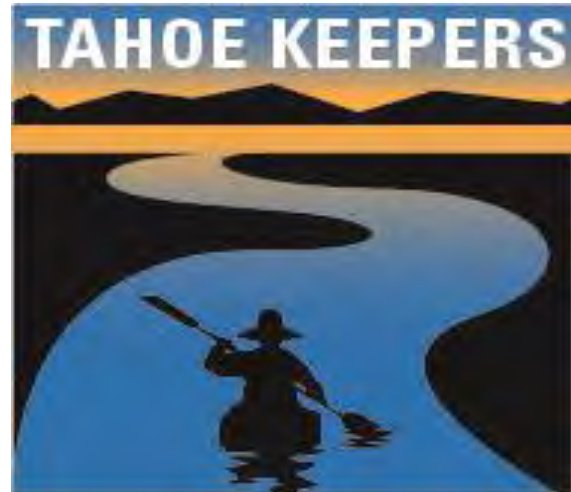
TahoeKeepers.org provides video training on how to properly clean, drain and dry watercraft and gear after each use, and dispose of any plants or debris away from lakes and streams. Preventing invasive species is an important part of protecting Lake Tahoe's shoreline beauty.

Eyes on the Lake (EOL)

<http://keptahoeblue.org/our-work/eyes/>

In 2015, TWSA sponsored a training session for 15 new EOL volunteers. Eyes on the Lake is the League to Save Lake Tahoe's newest volunteer program helping to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants in Tahoe's waters. If you are a water lover at Tahoe (SCUBA diver, paddler, swimmer, beachgoer, or boater) and want to help ensure Tahoe's waters stay clear and pristine, then Eyes on the Lake is for you. Volunteers will learn how to identify plants in the classroom and in the field.

The two main targets of our Eyes on the Lake program are curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, which are already established in several locations throughout the lake and are difficult and expensive to control. These weeds clog recreation equipment, degrade shoreline beauty, and impede views of the



The image is a poster for 'Eyes on the Lake'. It features a central graphic of a lake with a person in a kayak. The text on the poster includes: 'Join EYES ON THE LAKE and protect while you play', 'Calling all Lake Tahoe water lovers to help identify and report aquatic invasive plants. We need your help to stop their assault and KEEP TAHOE BLUE.', 'WHICH LAKE TAHOE DO YOU WANT TO ENJOY?', 'swimmers | paddlers | boaters | SCUBA | snorkelers | beachgoers', 'KEEP TAHOE BLUE', 'advocate | educate | collaborate', 'Learn more at keptahoeblue.org or protect@keptahoeblue.org.', 'Upcoming FREE training sessions:', 'June 17 | South Lake Tahoe | 5:30 - 8pm', 'June 18 | Tahoe City | 5:30 - 8pm', 'More sessions coming in July and August', and 'INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM LAKE TAHOE EIP'.

lake's bottom. Milfoil is a common aquarium plant that was first introduced to the Tahoe Keys decades ago. It has now spread to dozens of locations throughout Tahoe by hitching a ride on boats.

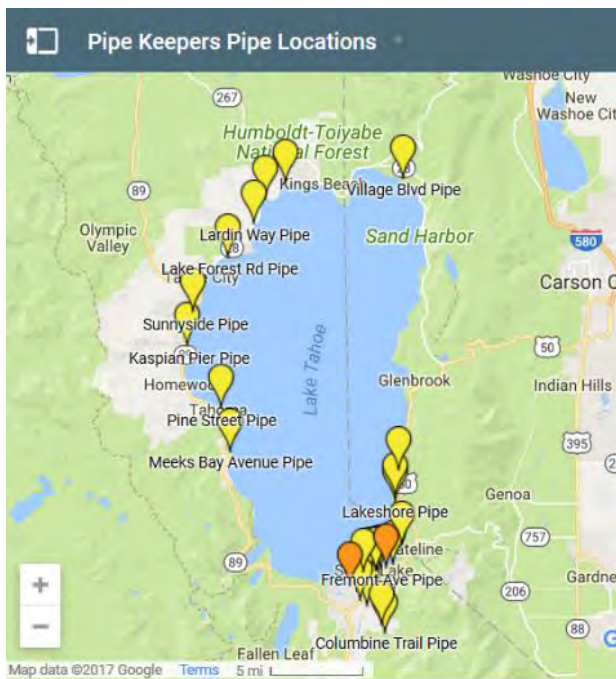
A certified Eyes on the Lake volunteer receives training to:

- Identify aquatic invasive plants;
- Complete simple surveys while you are enjoying Tahoe's waters, and report what you find;
- Provide information to the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program that can result in early detection of new infestations and more effective treatment.
- If you see something suspicious while out on the water report what you find to the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline at (888) 824-6267.

Tahoe Pipe Keepers

<http://keptahoebblue.org/our-work/Pipekeepers>

Tahoe Pipe Keepers is a volunteer based water quality monitoring program that examines the turbidity (clarity) of the water being released from storm drains into Lake Tahoe and tributaries. Since the program's launch in October 2012, a dedicated group of volunteers have braved the elements, during and after storm events to collect water samples, take photos and raise awareness about the impact of storm drains on lake and river waters. 2016/17 saw a large push in program expansion. To date, Pipe Keepers volunteers have collected over 2,000 water samples from 33 pipes around Lake Tahoe.



What is fine sediment and why is it a problem?

Fine sediment particles are smaller than the width of a human hair and can remain suspended in Lake Tahoe for years, even decades, degrading its deepwater clarity. Sources of fine sediment include road traction abrasives (road sands) that are applied to our streets and highways in the winter; dirt and pollutants from streets, parking lots and neighborhoods; and even degradation of roads and other surfaces. All this material washes into storm drains during rain storms and snowmelt and pollutes the Lake.

Lake Tahoe Hazardous Algae Bloom (HABs) Outbreaks

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/swamp/harmful_algal_blooms.html

July 2020

<https://www.tkpoa.com/blog/321-harmful-algae-bloom-hab-3>

TKPOA Water Quality Committee and the Water Quality (WQ) Staff have been proactive in the planning and preparation of our waterways since our 2017 Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB). This season, water quality sampling and monitoring has been ongoing since April. Unfortunately, the TKPOA is at the infancy stages of experiencing another algae bloom for this season in the West Channel, East Channel and Lake Tallac.

Our sampling results show that the bloom is a type of cyanobacteria that is primarily composed of Dolichospermum. This cyanobacteria is capable of producing toxins, but only low levels of Anotoxin-A have been detected. TKPOA has contacted the appropriate authorities, including Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB).

The Water Quality Staff has placed caution signs (attached) at the Tahoe Keys entrances and around the waterways that have easy access from the street. We will continue to conduct regular monitoring of the waterways.

2019: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board received several report in the Tahoe region of potential blue-green algae outbreaks. Sampling and monitoring yielded no detection of toxic algae.

No visible or laboratory evidence of toxic algae in Lake Tahoe

<http://southtahoenow.com/story/08/30/2019/no-visible-or-laboratory-evidence-toxic-algae-lake-tahoe>

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. - The tests are back and there is no visible or laboratory evidence of toxic blue-green algae in Lake Tahoe. [On August 21 it came to the attention of authorities that the owner of a dog said his pet died after swimming in water behind the Tallac Historic Site on Kiva Beach in South Lake Tahoe.](#) Even though there was no evidence of toxic blue-green algae, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board took samples and submitted them for testing. Results were returned today and they show no quantifiable toxins and came back as non-detect for bacteria, Lahontan Assistant Executive Officer Doug Smith told South Tahoe Now. The US Forest Service placed cautions sign on trees in the area and are in the process of removing them.

In May 2019, TWSA, Lahontan Water Board and TERC staff co-hosted a ½ day instructional workshop on field identification of HABs. More than 20 area agency personnel attended.

2018: (August 14, 2018) www.tkpoa.com

The TKPOA Water Quality Committee and the Water Quality Staff have been proactive in the planning and preparation of our waterways since last year's Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB). Water quality sampling and monitoring has been ongoing for the duration of the season. Unfortunately, the TKPOA is at the infancy stages of experiencing another algae bloom for this season in the West Channel, East Channel and Lake Tallac. Our sampling results show that the bloom is a type of cyanobacteria that is primarily composed of Dolichospermum. This cyanobacterium is capable of producing toxins, but only low levels of Anotoxin-A have been detected. TKPOA has contacted the appropriate authorities, including Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB). LRWQCB has recommended the placement of caution signs around the Tahoe Keys (attached) and regular monitoring.

Key precautions:

- Avoid contact with algae or scum in the water
- Keep children away from algae or scum
- Fish caught in these waters should be cleaned with tap or bottled water. Guts should be thrown away.
- Do not let pets come into contact with algae / scum, drink the water or eat the scum on the shore
- Do not drink lagoon water or use for cooking
- Do not eat shellfish from the lagoons

2017: Toxic algae detected in some Tahoe Keys waterways

<https://www.tahoedailytribune.com/news/toxic-algae-detected-in-some-tahoe-keys-waterways>

August 26, 2017

Signs warning of potentially harmful algae blooms were posted in certain areas within the Tahoe Keys earlier this week. Residents and visitors in certain areas of the Tahoe Keys are being warned of the presence of potentially poisonous algae.

Warnings were posted earlier this week along specific waterways, including off Aloha Drive. The signs say harmful algae may be present in the water. As of Friday, all the samplings tested so far indicated the lowest possible level of toxins, Greg Hoover, water quality manager and aquatic invasive species management coordinator for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA), told the Tribune Friday. However, toxin levels can fluctuate up and down for many reasons, some unknown to water managers. "The toxin level can go up and down based on all sorts of factors, a lot based on factors we don't even understand," Doug Smith, supervising engineering geologist with the Lahontan Water Board, told the Tribune Friday.

The caution signs posted in areas of the Keys recommend staying away from algae and scum if swimming in the water and keeping children away from the algae altogether. The water should not be used for cooking or drinking, and pets should be kept away from the water and any algae that may wash onto land.

Blue-green algae is naturally occurring and its presence has been increasingly noticed in bodies of water throughout California. Back in July water officials issued a warning telling people in Los Angeles County to avoid contact with water in Pyramid Lake due to a bloom of toxic blue-green algae.

Only certain forms of the algae produce toxins, Smith said. As far as the level of risk posed to people in the Keys, Smith added, "They should be aware of this because it's happening all across the state, and they should exercise caution ... and try not to drink gobs [of the water]."

Reports of potentially harmful blue-green algae first came in on Aug. 19, according to Lahontan.

In the normal process, the water board would act as the first responders and take water tests and send them to a lab. However, Smith said TKPOA expressed a desire to fast-track the process.

Staff from the TKPOA collected three water samples from the main lagoon on Monday, Aug. 21, and paid to have those samples sent to the lab faster than would normally be the case, Smith said.

Those lab results, which were received Thursday, Aug. 24, showed low levels of Anatoxin-A and microcystins were present in some of the water samples.

Lahontan Water Board staff conducted a site visit throughout the main channel and collected water samples from lagoon waters adjacent to properties on Aloha, Lido and Morro drives on Tuesday, Aug. 22. Those sample results are expected sometime this coming week.

From there, water board staff and other officials will work together to monitor the situation. Representatives from other agencies, including El Dorado County Public Health, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and others, have been alerted of the situation.

"TRPA is aware of this concerning development and working closely with the Lahontan Water Board, who has jurisdiction on this matter, to monitor the situation and make sure that appropriate steps are taken to protect public health, safety, and the environment," Tom Lotshaw, public information officer for TRPA, said in an emailed statement.

Continued assessment of the situation will likely involve daily visual monitoring and sampling once per week, especially if favorable conditions continue, according to Lahontan.

See also 2017: <http://www.laketahoenews.net/2017/08/toxic-algae-bloom-tahoe-keys-lagoons>

Lake Tahoe Water Quality Investigations

http://terc.ucdavis.edu/publications/2013_LakeTahoeWaterQualityInvestigations.pdf

Algal Bioassay • Phytoplankton • Atmospheric Nutrient Deposition • Periphyton •

Final Report: July 1, 2010– June 30, 2013 Agreement No. 10-031-160

Submitted to: State Water Resources Control Board Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Submitted by: Tahoe Environmental Research Center University of California

The primary research and monitoring tasks addressed in this project include:

- Algal growth bioassay tests to assess nutrient limitation.

- Enumeration and identification of phytoplankton and collection of zooplankton samples.
- Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and phosphorus
- Monitoring of attached algae or periphyton along the shoreline.

Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group (LTAISWG) is a diverse group of agencies, community members and scientists dedicated to early detection and rapid response, prevention and control of aquatic invasive species in the Tahoe Basin. TWSA staff became actively involved in working with TRPA and Tahoe RCD as a member of the working group, focusing on the AIS inspection program protocols, public education and outreach.

Asian Clams

- **If any single factor had to be identified as the most important change in the state of Lake Tahoe since 2008 - it would be the dramatic increase of Asian clams and other Aquatic Invasive Species.**

In spring 2008, UC Davis researchers discovered extensive beds of an invasive bivalve, the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), in the nearshore of Lake Tahoe along the southeastern edge of Lake Tahoe. Clam densities reach over 6,000 per square meter and are among the highest anywhere in the world. In Lake Tahoe Asian clams can affect plankton levels and food webs, out-compete native species, and cause attached algae to form nuisance blooms. More information on TERC Asian Clam research is presented later in this chapter.

Studying Circulation Patterns / Water Current Drifters

<http://terc.ucdavis.edu/research/lake-tahoe/drifters.html>

Measuring the water current at a single point provides valuable data – but only at that point. What is often important to know is how water moves all around the lake, and where it would carry pollutants or invasive species once they were in the lake. Water current drifters do that. TERC has used surface drifters attached to underwater sails (or drogues) to measure the paths that they take when carried solely by currents. A GPS unit in the drifter keeps track of the ever changing position, and in recent versions that data is sent to us in real-time via satellite.

The drifter studies to date have revealed a lot of new information about Lake Tahoe. We know that the circulation is dominated by two main eddies or gyres. The one in north travels counterclockwise, while the one in the south moves clockwise. Smaller gyres occur at the edges of these major gyres, and they disappear and reappear depending on the winds. The first hint that Asian clams could travel across the lake from east to west in less than a day was revealed by a drogue study. Our interest is now on understanding the small gyres that run along the nearshore regions of the lake.

Funding for this research has spanned many years, with numerous sources. Funders include the US EPA, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), SNPLMA, the UC CITRIS Program and private donors. Our newest collaboration is with the students of the Tahoe Expedition Academy in King's Beach. Together we will be monitoring the currents off the north shore of Lake Tahoe and developing a web application to show the current movements.

Crystal Shores East Milfoil Barrier Project 2014-17

Full eradication was accomplished in 2017. The homeowners association of Crystal Shores East in Incline Village stepped up in 2014, to remove invasive weeds from their marina by partnering with local experts. Rubber bottom barriers were placed in 2014-2017. An infestation of approximately 10,000 square feet of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was crowding out their marina.

Asian Clam Removal Projects 2011-14

In 2011-13 the majority of work on AIS was located much farther away from TWSA member intakes; focused on the Emerald Bay, Tahoe Keys and Ski Run areas in South Lake Tahoe.

In 2011, the project expanded to Emerald Bay where a small population of Asian clams has colonized at the mouth of the bay. Tahoe RCD continued to manage and coordinate these efforts in collaboration with our partners and funders: UNR, UC Davis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, CA State Parks, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, Lahontan WQCB, and Lake Tahoe Water Purveyors.

Asian Clam Population in Lake Tahoe – Experimental Controls 2009-2013



10-foot by 10-foot rubber bottom barriers were tested as a strategy for managing Asian clam populations



Researchers sampled Asian clam densities before and after rubber bottom barrier experiment



Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) is used to map clam beds around Lake Tahoe

In 2012, the AIS group began a larger scale Asian clam control project in the mouth of Emerald Bay. TWSA involvement in these projects was reduced since the barrier projects were not in proximity to drinking water intakes.

2012: UC Davis scientists assemble 5 acres of mats for Tahoe Asian Clam Project

http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=10368

Oct. 16, 2012

Rubber barriers bound for the lakebed of Lake Tahoe's Emerald Bay were assembled at the University of California, Davis as part of the biggest Asian clam control project in the lake's history.

The invasive clams threaten the lake's health and famed clarity. UC Davis scientists, staff and students are unfolding the long, black mats and enhancing them with rebar, brass grommets and valves that will hold the barriers in place underwater and enable scientific analysis of the project. The barriers were trucked to Lake Tahoe and beginning Monday, Oct. 22 (weather permitting) placed by divers onto a 5-acre area on the floor of Emerald Bay.



← View from mouth of Emerald Bay



Google Earth view, 2011
with mat plan
approximately
superimposed

“This is the engineering that happens behind the scenes, before the barriers are deployed,” said Geoffrey Schladow, director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center. “The purpose is to make the barriers physically sound, but also to minimize the amount of time divers have to spend underwater.”

The valves being built into the material will serve as a port, allowing divers to insert a syringe and collect water samples from under the mat without disturbing the project.

Assembling the barrier material involves:

- 238 rolls of rubber barrier, each 100 feet long and weighing 300 pounds
- 10 miles of rebar
- 16,000 grommets

Scientists from UC Davis and the University of Nevada, Reno first devised and tested the concept of using rubber barriers to smother Asian clams in 2010, when they placed an acre of the barriers on the lake bottom. This first-of-its-kind method killed 100 percent of the clams. The success of those efforts and additional research led to this bigger project, which involves a team of interagency partners. The goal of the Emerald Bay Asian clam control project was to treat a relatively small, isolated population of Asian clams before they spread to an unmanageable level. Currently, the clams live on a shallow, gravel sill roughly 15 feet below the surface that partially separates Emerald Bay from Lake Tahoe. Treatment will be accomplished by covering the infested lake bottom with the thin rubber barriers, augmented with organic material, that reduce the available oxygen and smother the clams.

The UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center provide provide scientific oversight as the barriers are being deployed and when the barriers are removed. TERC and collaborators from the University of

Nevada, Reno, will also analyze the project over the next 12 months, taking sediment samples, measuring nutrients and oxygen levels under the mats, and monitoring the project's overall effect on the Asian clams.

Controlling the Asian clam population in Lake Tahoe is critical as the clams have a variety of negative impacts. The clams could increase the potential for other species, such as Quagga mussels, to establish in Lake Tahoe. They also promote the growth of algae by releasing highly concentrated nutrients. Increases in algae impact the scenic beauty of the shoreline by changing the water color, reducing water quality, and washing rotting materials onto the beaches. Perhaps most significant, Asian clams compete with native animals for habitat and food, which causes a disruption in the food web.

By treating the Emerald Bay infestation in the early stage, impacts can be minimized or avoided. The treatment will also help prevent the spread of these invasive clams to other areas of Lake Tahoe. The project cost is about \$810,000 and is funded by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station.

Marla Bay Asian Clam Removal Asian Clams: 2010 experiment

In the summer of 2010, two sets of half-acre barriers were installed to test whether large-scale application of this experimental method is a feasible option. The bottom barriers were installed in Marla Bay, NV, and Lakeside, CA, and consisted of 20 rolls of 10 foot wide and 100 foot long high density polyethylene. Both of these larger scale project areas were again located within proximity to TWSA member agency water intakes. The project team worked closely with the water providers to plan the project to avoid potential impacts to drinking water quality. TWSA staff, Rebecca Williams, served as a member of the project team, conducting the water quality monitoring sampling and consulting with the team on mitigation requirements for the permits.

The Control of Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) in Lake Tahoe with Benthic Barriers: The Influence of Water Temperature on Mortality

<http://terc.ucdavis.edu/publications/documents/marlabayfinalreport.pdf>

Final report for the Marla Bay Asian Clam Project published 2011.

Water Supplier Needs - Asian Clam Project Mitigation Measures

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) has been in attendance for Working Group meetings since 2009 and was part of the development of this project and the monitoring plan and mitigations. TWSA staff have been actively conducting water quality sampling during experiments as needed. Mitigation measures applied to all aspects of the project except the initial pre-installation background monitoring. The water purveyors were to be contacted within 72 hours of any work commencing. Bacteria results were to be obtained within 24 hours of time sampled, reviewed and methodology will be amended accordingly. If E. coli counts were detected or at the request of any TWSA member, a raw water sample can be taken at all the 5 TWSA intakes in the vicinity to insure no migration of microbial waste associated with barrier removal. The ultimate mitigation for the water supplier is to rely on storage and turn off pumpage for some period of time. In addition, if at any time during project activities, a spill or release of fuel from boats or operations occurred spill procedures were to be instituted and a sample for total petroleum hydrocarbons taken and sent to the lab. Spill information, emergency contact list, procedures, and forms were on hand for any project activity.

Executive Summary

Lake Tahoe is an Outstanding National Resource Water renowned for its extraordinary clarity and blue color. Climate change effects, the three million people that visit the Lake Tahoe Region annually, and aquatic invasive species (AIS) amplify existing and predicted stressors on Lake Tahoe aquatic ecosystems. Enhancing resilience to these and other stressors is needed to mitigate detrimental effects to ecosystems, the local economy, and the public.

To address the introduction and expansion of AIS to Lake Tahoe, the California Tahoe Conservancy initiated an effort to develop short- and long-term management targets and a set of specific actions to control AIS in the Lake Tahoe Region.

This Action Agenda implements a well-funded, comprehensive, robust, simultaneous, science-based, and aggressive suite of AIS control actions through the next decade to reduce the economic, environmental, and social effects of AIS in the Lake Tahoe Region.

The Agenda describes a 10-year (2021–2030) two-phased effort. Phase I (2021–2025) aggressively treats and controls AIS throughout the Region for five consecutive years while containing AIS and completing AIS control planning for the Tahoe Keys. Phase II (2026–2030) focuses efforts on reducing aquatic invasive plants and invasive fish in the Tahoe Keys while continuing to maintain, reduce, or eradicate AIS in other parts of the Lake Tahoe Region.

The Action Agenda reflects a 272% increase in pace and scale relative to current efforts at a cost of \$7.4 million annually for ten years. Implementation will result in:

- 90% reduction to eradication of invasive plants in nearshore and upstream areas and the Tahoe Keys;
- 90% reduction in invasive fish biomass in priority areas;
- Reduction of aquatic invasive invertebrates and amphibians in regions of the lake and upstream areas;
- Effective Early Detection Rapid Response actions through the creation of an emergency invasive species fund;
- Strategic investment in new technologies and methodologies to monitor and control AIS; and
- Enhanced likelihood of recovering the Endangered Species Act-listed Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

Background and Purpose

The *Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan* (2014) and *Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species within Lake Tahoe* (Wittman and Chandra 2015) include goals, priority locations, and priority species for management of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Lake Tahoe Region. These plans provide a solid platform for developing this Action Agenda—a framework that defines:

1. A suite of outcome-based measurable performance metrics that assess progress in managing AIS through time;
2. Refined strategies and actions to address existing and emerging AIS issues in the Region, particularly in the context of increasing climate change stressors;
3. Research and technology needed to address complex AIS management challenges and the unique life histories of Lake Tahoe Region AIS;
4. Adequate and comprehensive monitoring to accurately assess the distribution and abundance of AIS in the Region;
5. The need to monitor and maintain sites previously treated for AIS in perpetuity to ensure these sites remain free from future AIS invasions;
6. Timelines for implementation;
7. The operational and staffing resources needed to achieve AIS management goals from 2021–2030; and
8. Potential sources of funding to support the Agenda as well as the permits likely needed to fully implement this Agenda.

This Agenda builds on the accomplishments to date in controlling and managing AIS in the Region. It differs from past efforts in that it outlines a significant increase in both pace and scale to more comprehensively address existing and emerging AIS issues.

This Agenda focuses on reducing biomass of AIS in priority locations and suppressing the spread of AIS in the Region by simultaneously treating established and new introductions of AIS populations simultaneously and with unprecedented effort. Systematic and strategic control using this approach will best inform the potential for AIS eradication in the Region (Wittman and Chandra 2015).

The Lake Tahoe AIS Coordinating Committee (LTAISCC) was foundational to developing this plan, and will play an instrumental role in its implementation and in protecting and enhancing the biological integrity of Lake Tahoe's natural resources.

EFFORT AND OUTCOME-BASED AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PERFORMANCE METRICS

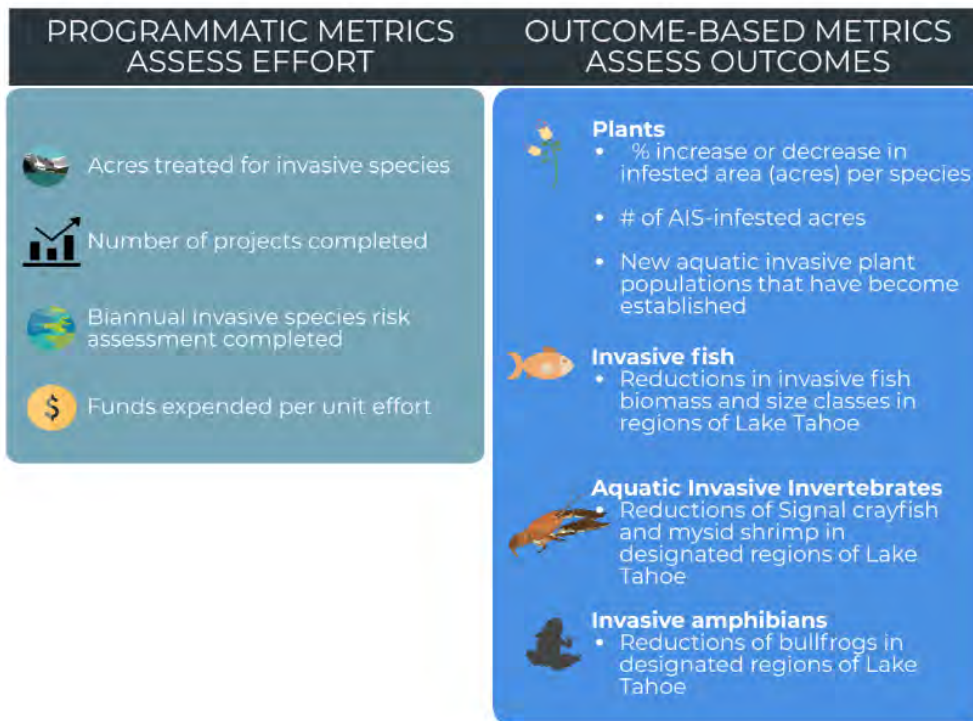


Figure 2. Programmatic and outcome-based metrics to evaluate progress of AIS control efforts in the Region.

Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan for California and Nevada - Sept. 2009
http://www.anstaskforce.gov/State%20Plans/Lake_Tahoe_Region_AIS_Management_Plan.pdf
<http://www.trpa.org/default.aspx?tabindex=0&tabid=378>

2014 UPDATE

Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan CALIFORNIA – NEVADA
http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/01_Updated_Lake-Tahoe-AIS-Management-Plan_Final_July-2014.pdf

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (LTAISMP) is part of a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort to minimize the deleterious effects of nuisance and invasive aquatic species in the Lake Tahoe Region. This specific product is authorized pursuant to Section 108 of Division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, Public Law 108-447 and an interagency agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Tahoe Conservancy; report was prepared by Tetrattech.

The focus of the 2014 Plan revision was to revise and update the content of the Plan taking into account changes in the implementation of AIS efforts in the Tahoe Region that have occurred in the previous four years, and the accomplishments during that time. In addition to the content update, there was also a focus on changes that were needed to make the Plan as useful as possible to inform management, policy, and funding decisions related to AIS issues in the Region. This was accomplished by changing the format of the Plan to make the body robust enough to guide the program, while the appendices were expanded and intended to be “living” documents. With the format changes, future revisions to the body of the document will require major technical rewriting; the more frequent changes to appendices will require a simpler process of minor technical revisions.

Excerpts follow:

Executive Summary

Lake Tahoe is designated an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) under the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 106) due to its extraordinary clarity. Substantial changes to the Lake Tahoe Region’s economy, pristine water quality, aesthetic value, and recreational pursuits are occurring, partly due to the harmful impacts of non-native aquatic plants, fish, invertebrates, and other invaders. These non-native aquatic organisms are considered ‘invasive’ (or aquatic invasive species [AIS] in water) when they threaten the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural or recreational activities dependent upon such waters (NANPCA 1990). AIS are commonly spread by activities such as boating, fishing, hatchery releases, and aquarium dumping.

Table 6. Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan Objectives

Objective	Title	Description
A	Oversight and Internal Coordination	Continue plan oversight and coordination within the Region, and coordinate with other AIS plans and programs outside of the Region.
B	Prevention	Prevent the spread of existing AIS and the introduction of new AIS to the Tahoe Region
C	Monitoring, Detection, and Response	Develop and maintain programs that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the early detection of new AIS introductions • Monitor existing AIS populations • Establish and manage systems to rapidly respond to new AIS introductions
D	Long-Term Control	Establish and maintain funding sources to support activities that minimize impacts of AIS to native species and protect water quality and environmental health

The Lake Tahoe Region is not only threatened by new introductions of AIS to Lake Tahoe from other waterbodies, but also the expansion of existing populations within the lake and even as a source of AIS to nearby waterbodies.

Nearly 30 non-native species are established in the Lake Tahoe Region, including aquatic plants, fishes, invertebrates, and an amphibian. As examples, Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*; an aquatic plant) has been spreading around Lake Tahoe over the last 15-20 years, and curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*; another aquatic plant) has begun to expand dramatically over the last seven years. Beds of Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) are larger and more common than previously known, and populations of warm water fishes such as largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) are expanding.

Moreover, global climate change has resulted in warmer water temperatures, likely facilitating the establishment of non-native plants in the nearshore environment and providing increased spawning areas for warm water fishes that compete with desirable species.

The potential economic impact to the Lake Tahoe Region caused by new AIS introductions, or expanding populations of existing AIS could be substantial. The combined economic impacts to recreation value, tourism spending, property values, and increased boat/pier maintenance, when evaluated over a 50-year period, is estimated at between \$417.5 million and \$3.9 billion, with an average annual equivalent value of between \$22.4 and \$78 million per year. The largest estimated impacts would be to property values and lost tourism spending. Spending on prevention and early eradication typically produces a higher benefit to cost ratio than post- infestation control programs such that maximum benefits are realized through early and preemptive action.

This is the first update of the original Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan (the Plan) that was approved in 2009. This update to the Plan seeks to revise the Plan taking into account changes in the implementation of AIS efforts in the Tahoe Region that have occurred in the previous four years, and the accomplishments during that time. In addition to the content update, the primary focus of the update is on changes that were needed to make the Plan as useful as possible to inform management, policy and funding decisions related to AIS issues in the region.

This has been accomplished by changing the format of the Plan to make the body of the Plan robust enough to guide the program, while the appendices were expanded and intended to be “living” documents. The format changes were intended to lead to future revisions where changes to the body of the document would require major technical revisions, and the more frequent changes to appendices would require the simpler process of minor technical revisions.

These changes seek to enhance coordination of regional, bi-state, state, and federal programs and to guide implementation of AIS prevention, monitoring, control, education, and research in the Lake Tahoe region.

The goals of the Plan are to:

- Prevent new introductions of AIS to the Lake Tahoe Region
- Limit the spread of existing AIS populations in the Lake Tahoe Region, by employing strategies that minimize threats to native species, and extirpate existing AIS populations when possible
- Abate harmful ecological, economic, social and public health impacts resulting from AIS

To achieve these goals, the Plan is structured around four objectives associated with:

- Oversight and internal coordination
- Prevention
- Monitoring, detection and response
- Long-term control

To meet these objectives, strategies are identified with respective action items detailing how that objective will be met. These strategies and actions will be frequently updated to illustrate program changes, accomplishments, and any emerging threats. The intent of the Plan is to provide more localized guidance for prevention and long term control of AIS in the Lake Tahoe Region and will not be in conflict with the California AIS Management Plan (CAISMP), administered by the California Department and Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or the anticipated plan from the State of Nevada. Review of the Plan will be directed by the LTAISCC. The breadth of experience and representation on the LTAISCC allows for comprehensive guidance for subsequent Plan review.

From the 2009 Plan:

The 2007 discovery of Quagga mussels in Lake Havasu, Lake Mead, and the Colorado River Basin have prompted rapid cooperation and action by regional, bi-state, and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations in the Lake Tahoe Region. These new threats, coupled with recent studies showing high incidence of boat traffic to Lake Tahoe from these areas, have prompted a tremendous ramping up of education and outreach campaigns, new regulations to prevent accidental introduction, and increased control efforts and research on the biology and distribution of existing AIS populations.

Examples of these activities include:

- Formation of the Lake Tahoe AIS Working Group (LTAISWG).
- Formation of the Lake Tahoe AIS Coordination Committee (LTAISCC).
- Yearly workshops organized by the LTAISWG to prioritize AIS prevention, monitoring, control, education, and research efforts.
- Development and implementation of a Vessel Inspection Program at Lake Tahoe.
- Deployment of portable boat washing stations.
- Full-time AIS Coordinator hired by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

- Increased monitoring for invasive aquatic plants, invertebrates, warm water fishes.
- Use of diver-operated suction and benthic barriers to control invasive aquatic plants
- Evaluation of diver-operated suction and bottom barriers to control Asian clams
- Measurement of warm water fish behavior and diets in and around the Tahoe Keys
- Increased education and outreach activities.
- Quagga mussel survivability studies.

The purpose of the *Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan* (the Plan) is to facilitate coordination of regional, bi-state, state, and federal programs and to guide implementation of AIS prevention, monitoring, control, education, and research in the Lake Tahoe Region.

Summarized in the Plan is the background of non-native species introductions to the Lake Tahoe Region, the pathways for existing and potential AIS introductions, the types of existing and potential AIS in the Lake Tahoe Region, and short- and long-term priorities for action. Also included (as appendices) is an overview of regulations and programs, the Vessel Inspection Plan, the Small Watercraft Screening Process, an estimate of potential economic impacts from a mussel infestation at Lake Tahoe, and an overview of existing and potential AIS life histories, environmental requirements, distributions, and control methods.

Table 2. Federal, State, and Regional Agencies, Regulations and Programs in the Lake Tahoe Region and Associated AIS Activities

	Control	Coordination	Environmental Documentation	Education/Outreach	Eradication	Exportation	Financial Assistance	Importation	Possession	Prevention	Quarantine	Research	Technical Assistance
Federal													
Endangered Species Act of 1973	x				x								
Executive Order 13057		x											
Executive Order 13112		x		x			x			x			x
Lacey Act of 1990 (amended 1998)								x	x				
Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (1990) and National Invasive Species Act (1996)	x	x		x			x			x		x	x
National Environmental Policy Act of 1970			x										
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers		x					x					x	x
U.S. Department of Agriculture	x	x		x	x		x			x		x	x
U.S. Department of Interior	x	x		x	x		x			x		x	x
State and Regional													
California Department of Parks and Recreation	x	x		x	x					x	x	x	x
California Department of Food and Agriculture	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
California Environmental Quality Act	x		x		x					x			
California State Lands Commission	x	x					x						
California Tahoe Conservancy				x			x			x			
Environmental Improvement Program		x					x					x	

Table 1. cont.

	Control	Coordination	Documentation	Education/Outreach	Eradication	Exportation	Financial Assistance	Importation	Possession	Prevention	Quarantine	Research	Technical Assistance
State and Regional cont.													
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	x	x		x			x			x			
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee	x	x	x	x	x					x		x	x
League to Save Lake Tahoe				x			x			x			
Nevada Department of Wildlife	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x
Nevada Division of State Lands		x					x						
Nevada Division of State Parks		x		x						x			
Tahoe Area Sierra Club Group				x						x			
Tahoe Science Advisory Group		x											
Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association	x												
Tahoe Resource Conservation District	x	x		x	x		x			x			x
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x
Tahoe Science Consortium		x		x								x	x
University of California, Davis - Tahoe Environmental Research Center	x			x	x					x		x	x
University of Nevada, Reno	x				x					x		x	x

Potential Effects of AIS on the Regional Economy

As the regional economy of Lake Tahoe developed, local concerns grew that the Tahoe Region could become overcrowded and lose its scenic appeal. In 1968, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency was formed to achieve and maintain defined environmental threshold carrying capacities (thresholds). Significant resources have been channeled into the simultaneous regulation of development while moving toward achievement of thresholds (LTVA 2008). A challenge lies in minimizing adverse impacts of the recreation industry, including introduction of AIS, on the lake's natural environment, which in turn is the major draw for the recreational visitation. Sustainable recreation is vital to the local economy.

In 2011, the Lake Tahoe Region's natural and recreational amenities were estimated to draw between 3 and 5 million visitors annually. These estimates have shot to 15-20 million in 2019. The 1999 Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment reported that visitors spend an average of around \$114 dollars per visitor day (Nechodom *et al.* 1999). This spending translates to local employment and income. In addition to supporting local jobs and generating income, the natural beauty and recreational utility at Lake Tahoe is reflected in property values within the region. Shoreline properties, in particular, are especially valuable and sensitive to AIS impacts. The lake also provides drinking water for the residents and thousands of visitors in the region.

Potential Impacts to Water Supply

Some Nevada water suppliers have been granted filtration avoidance status from the NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (NDEP-BSDW); based on ongoing compliance: source water quality remains within specified required limits for turbidity and coliform and an annual Watershed Control program update (TWSA Annual Report) indicates the watershed is at low risk for pathogens.

Recent efforts to use aquatic herbicides for aquatic weed control are of concern to the water suppliers due to the filtration exemption status of six of the water purveyors in the TWSA. Tahoe's status as an ONRW Tier 3 waterbody warrants special consideration in regulatory review of a potential herbicide application.

The main concern that with regard to water supply is the tendency of Quagga and Zebra mussels (if introduced) is that the mussels biofoul freshwater intake pipes. This invasion not only requires costly maintenance or periodic replacement of pipes, but it can result in the loss of filtration exemption due to the presence of mussels and plants in the water intake systems that raise human health concerns. Plants and invertebrates may colonize in large numbers near intakes, depositing organic contaminants into the water. If water suppliers cannot rely on the water drawn from the lake to be free of microbial contaminants, then further purification infrastructure might be necessary, raising unit costs for suppliers, and ultimately consumers.

The table below provides estimates of the necessary infrastructure spending to maintain current production levels without sacrificing drinking water quality in the event of a serious mussel and plant infestation near, on, or in the intake system. The redundant intake system would allow suppliers to take intakes offline in rotation for cleaning and maintenance without interrupting service. The presence of organic material in supply water can result in taste and odor problems that require another level of purification.

In 1990, \$1 million, per million gallons per day (MGD) was estimated in capital costs for design and construction of tertiary treatment. The estimate includes a chlorine injection system to prevent mussels from colonizing the inside of intake pipes. (Source: Pers. Comm. Perri Standish Lee/Black and Veatch)

In total, a conservative infrastructure cost of approximately \$25 million could be borne by the region's water suppliers if invasive mussels infest the lake. The low and median estimates are presented in the table below. Operation and maintenance costs will contribute to this total. For example, according to the recommended chlorine levels for injection systems by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Zebra Mussel Chemical Control Guide, Lake Tahoe Region suppliers as a whole will need to use about 147 pounds of liquid chlorine per day, or 27 tons per year (Sprecher and Getsinger 2000). At a price of around \$500 per ton (City of Lewisville 2008), water suppliers would need to spend more than \$250,000 per year on chlorine alone.

Estimated Water Supply Infrastructure Costs (source: LTAISMP)

Cost Category	\$ 2008 Low	\$ 2008 Median	Justification
Redundant Intake System	3,100,685	4,429,549	Continued operation while performing maintenance
Taste & Odor Control System	20,326,710	29,038,157	Maintains clean taste and odor
Chlorine Intake Injection System	252,000	360,000	Prevents mussel colonization on inside of intakes
Annual Cleaning & Maintenance	1,219,603	1,742,289	Defoul intake on rotation; regular O&M
Annual Liquid Chlorine Supply	175,000	250,000	One year supply chemical cost
Total	\$ 24,898,997	\$ 35,819,996	

Lake Tahoe Basin Interagency Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Plan

http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/01_Updated_Lake-Tahoe-AIS-Management-Plan_Final_July-2014.pdf

Updated 2014. Interagency Response Plan Practice Exercise conducted Sept. 12 & 13, 2012.

Prepared for the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For further information about this Interagency Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin, please contact Steve Chilton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (775-589-5265; steve_chilton@fws.gov).

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for an effective rapid response to the discovery of any Dreissenid mussel (mussel) aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Lake Tahoe. In this document, "rapid response" means that soon after a detection of a Dreissenid mussel (veliger or adult) in Lake Tahoe is discovered, 1) the responsible agency will make a determination of whether it is potentially significant and/or detrimental and 2) if that is the case, the responsible agency will develop and implement a course of action. This also would apply to mussels that are discovered in an adjacent waterway or lake that ultimately enters Lake Tahoe.

Possible courses of action for newly discovered mussels may include an effort to eradicate the species, control its spread, prevent future introductions, minimize or mitigate the damage it causes or study it further before any other action is taken. Rapid response is the second line of defense after prevention to minimize the negative impacts of AIS on the environment and economy of Lake Tahoe. Once non-native invasive species become widespread, efforts to control them are typically more expensive and less successful than rapid response measures. The damage caused by an AIS that becomes widespread, and the actions that are taken to control it, may be more harmful to the environment than a successful rapid response.

Rapid Response Procedure

The initial steps in this procedure result in the determination of whether an active response is immediately necessary after a potential mussel detection is reported. If immediate action is necessary, and requires more than simple, highly localized measures, resource management staff may decide to implement an incident command system (ICS) response. A set of criteria will be developed to help in this decision making process. Many of the steps listed below are likely to take place simultaneously or overlap to some degree. Examples of these include outreach, rapid assessment, and containment activities.

In an ICS response, participants are assigned specific roles in a well-defined hierarchical system that can be expanded or collapsed based on the size and complexity of the incident. The ICS was developed to allow staff from different government agencies and organizations to work effectively and efficiently together to respond to a natural disaster. Participants essentially check their individual agency identities at the door and participate as members of the ICS organization, dedicated to responding to a particular incident. The system's success relies on participants understanding their role, a clear chain of command and communication, managers having an appropriate span of control, and a standardized process for identifying and communicating objectives, strategies, tasks and deadlines. Because of its proven effectiveness, the ICS has recently been integrated into the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

CHANGES IN LANDOWNERSHIP, ZONING, OR LAND ACTIVITIES

<http://www.tahodailytribune.com/news/8110033-113/lake-tahoe-crawfish-commercial>

Revised Land Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Forest Plan & Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) - Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, August 2015 for Alpine, El Dorado, and Placer Counties, California and Douglas and Washoe Counties, and Carson City, Nevada

https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3844951.pdf

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ltbmu/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fsm9_046482

Introduction to the Land Management Plan - Purpose

The purpose of this Land Management Plan (also known as the Forest Plan) is to provide strategic guidance to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) for forest management over approximately the next 15 years. This plan guides the restoration or maintenance of the health of the land, to promote a sustainable flow of uses, benefits, products, services, and visitor opportunities. The plan provides a framework for informed decision making, while guiding resource management programs, practices, uses, and projects. It does not include specific project and activity decisions. Those decisions are made separately, after more detailed analysis and public involvement. The Forest Plan is adaptive in that it can be amended when appropriate, to update the management direction based on new knowledge and information. The Forest Plan is strategic in nature and does not attempt to prescribe detailed management direction to cover every possible situation. While all components necessary for resource protection and restoration are included, the plan also provides flexibility needed for the responsible official to respond to uncertain or unknown future events and conditions such as fires, floods, climate change, changing economies, and social changes that may be important to consider at the time decisions are made for projects or activities.

The Lake Tahoe Basin is situated on the eastern side of the Sierra Crest and extends across the state line between California and Nevada. Lake Tahoe is 12 miles wide and 22 miles long, with a maximum depth of 1,645 feet. The lake is fed by 63 streams, but only one stream, the Truckee River, flows out. Elevation ranges from approximately 6,225 feet at lake level to 10,881 feet at Freel Peak. The basin topography is dominated by steep mountainsides with smaller areas of relatively flat land near the lake. The LTBMU was established in 1973, to facilitate consistent management of National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin watershed. These lands were previously managed by three separate national forests: Tahoe, Eldorado, and Toiyabe.

While the LTBMU is small in comparison to most National Forests, as the Tahoe Basin's largest land manager, its issues, resources and values are (in comparison) very large. The Forest Service manages 78% of all lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin; National Forest ownership in the Lake Tahoe Basin has grown from 35,000 acres in the 1950s to 154,850 acres. NFS lands include 3,366 urban forest parcels on sensitive lands acquired through the Santini-Burton Act.

The Lake Tahoe Basin is a mix of forested landscapes and urban communities surrounding the deep clear waters of Lake Tahoe. The work of the Forest Service is accomplished in conjunction with many partners. Other federal, state, and local agencies, and members of the public, work together with the LTBMU to conserve and restore natural and cultural resources, and enhance the recreational values of Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe is a destination of regional, national and international significance, with over 5.7 million annual visits. Visitors are primarily from California and Nevada (76%), with the remaining 24% from other parts of the United States and abroad. Recreation and sightseeing opportunities are available in a wide range of alpine settings, from highly urbanized to remote Wilderness environments. But while it is possible to find solitude, the LTBMU as a whole is far from isolated –approximately 5 million people live within a 4-hour drive, 25 million live within a 1-day drive, and public air and ground transportation is also available.

The recreation-based economy of the Tahoe Basin relies on the setting of snow-covered mountains, forests, streams, lakes, meadows, wetlands, and beaches managed by the LTBMU. Approximately 56,000 permanent residents choose to live at Tahoe because of the breathtaking scenery and wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities. The LTBMU contributes to the tourist-based economy through provision of recreation opportunities including downhill skiing, cross-country/backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, beach access, camping, and sightseeing. Ongoing conservation education programs inform residents and visitors of all ages about the natural environment in which they live, work, and play. Partnerships continue to be important. Numerous groups provide their assistance in such activities as trail maintenance and construction, historic building maintenance, and interpretive programs. Many of the resorts, campgrounds, and the Tallac Historic Site are operated by private enterprises under special use permits –these partnerships support the local economy by providing jobs.

Natural values and benefits provided by the lands and waters under LTBMU management include clean water that flows to Lake Tahoe, clean fresh air, and habitat for a multitude of plant and animal species. Although extensive timber harvest, stream channel alteration, and other land uses in the late 19th and early 20th centuries disturbed the natural balance of the Tahoe Basin, much restoration work has already been accomplished. Nonetheless, most of our natural resource management activities focus on restoring and enhancing forest health, watershed processes and water quality, and a diversity of wildlife habitats, as well as providing community wildfire protection. Restoring the balance of natural systems will help them adjust more easily to a changing climate. Management activities are undertaken to benefit both humans and the many other species that share these mountains. Many common forest activities such as mining, grazing, and timber harvesting are either not a part of LTBMU management or play a small role.

Over 75% of the area around Lake Tahoe is public land managed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. Totalling over 150,000 acres, this land includes beaches, hiking and biking trails, wilderness areas, historic estates and developed recreation areas such as campgrounds and day use areas. The forest is managed to provide access for the public and to protect the natural resources of the area. The Forest Service manages the land in the Lake Tahoe Basin as a unique kind of National Forest, called the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, or LTBMU for short.

The LTBMU is managed in many ways like other National Forests, but because of the needs of the lake and the relationship it has with the forests that surround it, the LTBMU has special focus areas, including:

- Erosion Control Management
- Watershed Restoration
- Fire and Fuels Management
- Forest Management

- Recreation Management

In many ways, the LTBMU can be described as a Restoration Forest, because of the strong ecosystem restoration roles.

National Forest Lands at Lake Tahoe

Through acquisition and land exchanges since the 1950s, National Forest land ownership has grown from 35,000 acres to 154,830 acres, including 3,366 Santini-Burton parcels.

Approximate land ownership in the Lake Tahoe Basin is:

- **National Forest 75%**
- **States and Local Government 10%**
- **Private 15%**

Since 1997, more than 3,064 acres have been acquired by state and federal agencies. Significant acquisitions during this period include more than 300 acres and 2,600 feet of lakefront at the Upper Truckee Marsh, nearly 1,800 acres associated with High Meadows and recently the additional 777 acreage surrounding Incline Lake in Nevada. The majority of National Forest lands encompass most of the non-urban wetlands, meadows and Stream Environment Zones (SEZ); important fish and wildlife habitat; and the available open space for recreation and environmental interpretation opportunities.

2018 Johnson Meadow Acquisition



Partner: Tahoe Resource Conservation District; California Tahoe Conservancy, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Barton Health, Heavenly Resort

Total Project Cost: \$8,315,000

Tahoe Fund Contribution: \$100,000

Johnson Meadow, 206 acres of beautiful meadow in South Lake Tahoe and the largest privately-owned section of the Upper Truckee River, is now publicly owned. This is a major milestone for the health of Lake Tahoe. The Upper Truckee River has been identified as the most impaired watershed in the Tahoe Basin and the highest contributor of fine sediment impacting the clarity of the Lake.

The river discharges about 2,200 metric tons of fine sediment per year and delivers approximately 60 percent of the fine sediment that enters Lake Tahoe annually from stream erosion.

Acquisition of this property will allow for future restoration of the river that will have a dramatic impact on the Lake's famed clarity. The acquisition will also improve wildlife habitat, climate change resiliency and recreation connectivity. The purchase of the 206-acre property was made possible through a collaboration between Tahoe Resource Conservation District, the California Tahoe Conservancy, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Tahoe Fund, and the former property owners, who owned Johnson Meadow for almost a century.

Over the next several years, the Tahoe RCD and their partners will need to identify \$10-15 million in funding to begin restoration efforts for Johnson Meadow and \$60 million for the entire Upper Truckee River Watershed. The campaign to acquire Johnson Meadow was made possible by the generous support of Barton Health and the dollar donations collected at Heavenly Ski Resort. These private donations of \$50,000 each were used to secure more than \$8 million in public funds through Prop 1 funding. *(Editor Note: TWSA sponsored 8 dog waste bag stations for this property, in partnership with Tahoe RCD.)*

2008 Purchase of Incline Lake, Nevada

In July 2008, 777 acres around Incline Lake was removed from private land holding and seasonal occupancy, by purchase through the National Forest Service with funds from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA). The property is a significant watershed resource, a prime recreational resource for the surrounding communities and visitors to the Lake Tahoe region, and host to a variety of plants and wildlife. The property represents approximately 25% of the watershed for Third Creek, a significant source of water for Lake Tahoe, and is located within IVGID's boundaries. The land is adjacent to the Tahoe Meadows and the Mt. Rose Wilderness on Highway 431 outside Reno, NV. Purchase of this area provides significant watershed protection for the Incline Village GID. Incline Lake was drained in 2008 with the removal of the man-made earthen dam which created the lake, from safety concerns.

2018 Update: The [USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit \(LTBMU\)](#) has issued a draft decision for management of 1,083 acres of National Forest System lands off the Mt. Rose Highway (SR 431) above Incline Village, Nev. The draft decision incorporates Alternative 2 - "The Incline Plan is a huge step toward improving National Forest recreation opportunities and public access on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe," said Jeff Marsolais, LTBMU Forest Supervisor, in a press release. "I am confident this plan provides for restoration of this important ecosystem as well as sustainable recreational benefits for current and futures generations in the Incline area."

Project-specific activities in the draft decision includes a series of management actions related to roads and trails projects, hydrology and habitat restoration and vegetation management activities. The project also proposes a Forest Plan amendment to modify a portion of the project area from a general conservation management area to a back-country management area.

Project-specific roads and trails proposals include adopting and rerouting of existing trails; replacing and/or upgrading road and trail stream crossings; installing Best Management Practices (BMPs), interpretive and wayfinding signs; creating a new trail near the former Incline Lake bed and resource protection barriers.

Restoration activities would include: removing the dam diversion ditch that connects Third Creek to the former Incline Lake bed; restoring stream channels and aquatic species habitat throughout the area; revegetating degraded areas with native vegetation species; restoring damaged wetlands, which resulted from previous water diversion activities; repairing erosion along the Franktown Ditch; developing a plan for future white bark pine management; and reducing tree density in meadow and wetland areas through forest thinning and restoration of aspen communities.

The purpose of the Forest Plan amendment is to change the management area designation of approximately 400 acres of the project area (west of Third Creek) from general conservation (general forest) to back country.

The draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact is available at fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/InclineMgmt.

Historical Activity

Public acquisition and restoration of sensitive lands directly support achievement of all nine environmental thresholds. Since 1982, USFS, California Tahoe Conservancy, and Nevada Division of State Lands acquisition programs have acquired and protected more than 20,000 acres of sensitive lands, comprised of more than 10,000 subdivided lots.

Program Highlights:

- Reduced the development potential within the Lake Tahoe Basin by approximately 20 percent.
- Protected thousands of acres of wetlands, meadows, and steep slopes prone to erosion.
- Protected miles of rivers and streams.
- Provided a land base for stormwater quality projects to achieve further water quality improvement.
- Protected valuable soil, vegetation, wildlife, and fisheries resources from further degradation.
- Enhanced public ownership and access to Lake shoreline.
- Protected and enhanced scenic resources.
- Improved air quality by retaining vegetation.
- Reduced vehicle miles traveled associated with residential and commercial development.

By acquiring many of the sensitive lands adjacent to rivers, creeks, meadows, and the lake, public agencies have protected and preserved the integrity of cultural and historic resources of the indigenous people who occupied the Tahoe Basin in years past.

Commercial Crawfish Harvesting Approved in Nevada and California Tahoe Waters

In December 2011, the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Division of State Lands approved for the first time, a commercial fishing operation at Lake Tahoe. This project did not focus on fish extraction, rather it allowed for the first time commercial crawfish harvesting. The project received approval based on support from TERC researchers that it may serve well as a control method on the naturalized invasive species (Signal Crawfish). Harvest operations began in the summer 2012, with the launch of the Tahoe Lobster Company.

In 2013, California removed a prohibition on commercial harvesting.

BASIN MONITORING PROGRAMS

More information also available in the “Controls” section of this report.

The Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC)

<http://tahoescience.org>

Lake Tahoe is a renowned area for scientific study. In 1999, three Tahoe research groups, the University of California-Davis, University of Nevada Reno, and the Desert Research Institute, signed the Tahoe Environmental Science System (TESS), a plan for scientific cooperation in the Basin. During the same year the Lake Tahoe Science Advisory Group was established. Other local projects include volunteer-based monitoring programs and studies on the affects of recreation on water quality.

The Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC) includes representatives from the Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada Reno, University of California, Davis, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Forest Service. In 2001, the Lake Tahoe Science Advisory Group identified key research and monitoring needs for the Lake Tahoe Basin. In coordination with local non-profits, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board host collaborative monthly meetings and an annual forum to disseminate scientific information. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency has completing an online database, the Tahoe Integrated Information Management System (TIIMS), to organize basin research projects.

The TSC provides recommendations for the funding of public projects funded by the Southern Nevada Public lands Management Act (SNPLMA). A searchable database of the many projects funded at Tahoe is available at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/snplma/snplma_prephase_1.html

TAHOE SCIENCE CONSORTIUM - SCIENCE SYNTHESIS REPORT 2016

<http://tahoescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/TSC-Exec-Summary-Web.pdf>

This report summarizes the progress that has been made linking science and management with resources through an applied science program, the SNPLMA Science, and coordinated by the Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC) (<http://tahoescience.org>). The TSC SNPLMA Science Program was as an integral part of the basin-wide Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), led by management agency executives from federal, state, and bi-state agencies including U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Environmental Protection Agency(EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), Lahontan Water Quality Board, and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection(NDEP), Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL), and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)

This report represents the contributions of over 200 researchers, students, and technical experts from academia, private sector organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies who conducted scientific studies for nearly 10 years on projects supported by the SNPLMA Science Program. Their hard work provided the scientific basis to preserve, protect and restore the unique aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Environmental managers from federal, state, and local agencies worked closely with the research community as part of the SNPLMA Science Program. Their leadership and commitment to implementing science-based decision making will ensure that Lake Tahoe is a

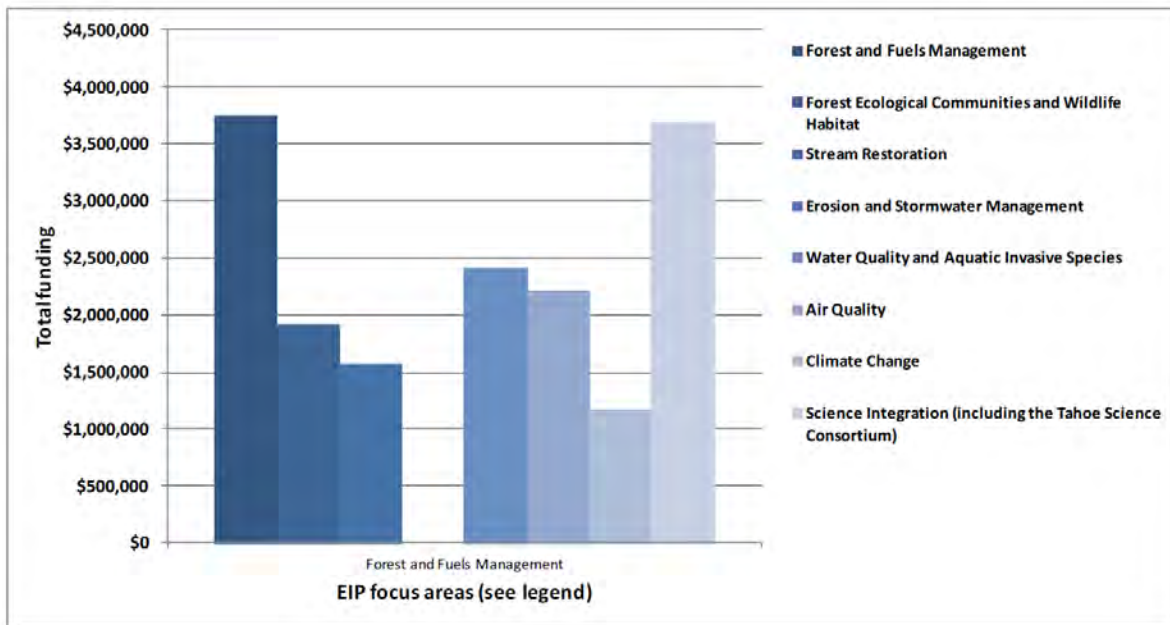
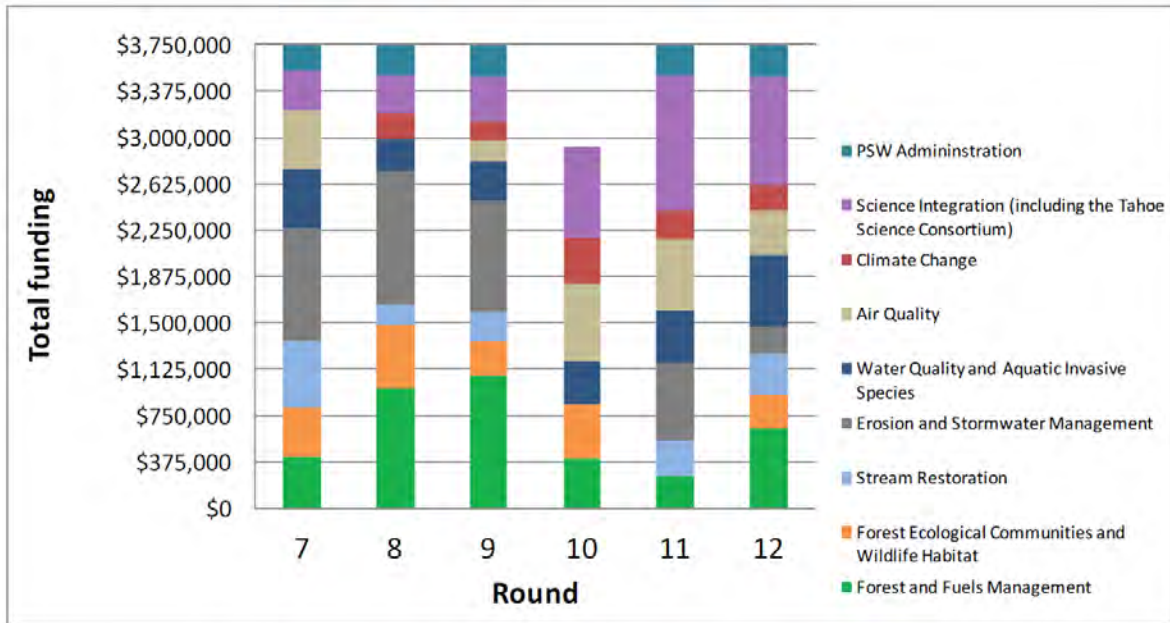
vibrant, beautiful and unique national treasure for generations to come. All of the research projects covered in this report were supported through funding provided by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The SNPLMA Science Program was administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research. The authors and research community gratefully acknowledge their support and commitment to sustaining science funding in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The TSC and research community is also grateful to Jonathan Long and Tiff van Huysen for their diligent work and technical leadership as USFS/PSW SNPLMA Science Program Coordinators.

The Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC) represents a unique public-private partnership among major research organizations working in the Lake Tahoe Basin – Desert Research Institute, University of California, Davis, University of Nevada, Reno, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, U.S. Geological Survey. Many scientists and administrators from these organizations served on the TSC Committee of Scientists and TSC Executive Committee over the years. Their support, guidance, and leadership was essential to building a strong network of technical experts across many disciplines whose research, education and outreach has stimulated a culture of science-supported environmental management in the basin. Representatives from TSC partner agencies in the Lake Tahoe Basin include the California Tahoe Conservancy, California State Parks, Environmental Protection Agency, Lahontan Water Quality Board, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection and the Nevada Division of State Lands, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, worked with the TSC to prioritize the science themes and research areas, serve as agency experts on the proposal peer-review committee, and actively participate in TSC workshops, conferences and technical meetings.

SNPLMA SCIENCE INVESTMENTS (2007- 2012)

<http://tahoescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/TSC-Exec-Summary-Web.pdf>

The portfolio of projects supported through the SNPLMA Science Program are illustrated below in the Tables below. A total of 100 projects (95 research and 5 TSC operations) projects were funded in SNPLMA Rounds 7-12. The TSC SNPLMA Science Program was as an integral part of the basin-wide Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), led by management Agency executives from federal, state, and bi-state agencies.



Tahoe Science Conferences

<http://tahoescience.org/events/conferences>

September 21-23, 2015 - "Tahoe Science in a Changing Climate"

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS:

- Real-world Applications of Remote Sensing, Data Visualization and GIS – a Workshop on Data, Platforms, and Analysis Techniques for Natural Resource Management Professionals
- Air Quality in the Tahoe Basin and Sierra Nevada: Implications for People and Ecosystems
- Lessons in Paleoclimates from Sierra Nevada to the Great Basin
- Extreme Tahoe—Droughts, Floods and other Natural Experiments
- New Goals, New Science: The Future of Environmental Restoration in the Lake Tahoe Basin
- Monitoring for Extremes
- Forest Ecology and the Role of Fire
- A Tahoe Without Snow? Predicting and Adapting to Less Snow in the Tahoe Basin
- Protecting Lake Tahoe: Aquatic Ecosystem Science Informing Management Decisions

Partners

- [Desert Research Institute \(DRI\)](#)
- [Tahoe Environmental Research Center-UCDavis](#)
- [University of Nevada, Reno](#)
- [USDA Pacific Southwest Research Station](#)
- [USGS](#)

Nevada Researchers Collaborate to Preserve Lake Tahoe

<http://newsroom.unr.edu/2013/08/14/nevada-researchers-collaborate-to-preserve-lake-tahoe/>

From Tahoe's mountaintops to the lake's sandy bottom, scientists from the University of Nevada, Reno continue to study and find solutions to the breadth of issues that face the entire Lake Tahoe Basin. Their research is making a tangible contribution to the decisions, policies and practices that guide the basin's environmental health.



University of Nevada, Reno researcher, center, scoops invasive fish from the Lake Tahoe Keys in a pilot project to determine the effectiveness of mechanical removal methods for management of non-native fish and the restoration of native fish in Lake Tahoe. Her project, based in the University's Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory, received international attention when her team, including personnel from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, found a monster goldfish in the Tahoe Keys while electrofishing. Photo by Mike Wolterbeek.

From the first rustic snow survey by a University professor in 1906 – an advancement still in use today – to the latest technology using sonar and rocket guidance systems, University scientists continue to take the pulse of Tahoe’s climate and environment. “While clarity is improving in the offshore this year, things are not as positive on the nearshore, which is where most of the public engages the lake,” Sudeep Chandra, University of Nevada, Reno researcher and long-time limnologist at Lake Tahoe, said. Chandra, director of the University’s [Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory](#), is collaborating with other scientists to study the nearshore – among other issues – and how ultraviolet light levels, which are affected by particulates, help invasive species to thrive and cause native species to decline. Working in collaboration with other research institutions and management agencies, the University’s scientists have taken an expansive view of the lake and its environs. Their research on the lake is extensive; they have looked at the Basin as a whole to learn how its health relates to the clarity and health of the water.

Current Tahoe Research Projects

(excerpts from the “2020 and 2019 Tahoe Summit Reports/UC Davis State of the Lake Reports”)
https://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk4286/files/inline-files/6_RecentResearch_2_1.pdf

Current Research Synthesis

Since 1959, UC Davis has been engaged in monitoring the status and health of Lake Tahoe and its watershed. The monitoring data are an invaluable resource for assessing the impact of changes that have occurred due to anthropogenic factors and natural variability. Additionally, we engage in shorter-term research that seeks to answer specific questions or to gain understanding of processes and events. This research relies on the long-term monitoring data to provide a context, but it is distinctly separate. The results of this research—conducted by TERC students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty, and staff, and often in collaboration with other institutions, companies, and agencies—has made Lake Tahoe the smartest lake in the world, and arguably the most influential.

This year, our current research synthesis covers a broad range of areas. Much of it is the result of work conducted over the last several years. Some of the research is now complete and the results are just starting to influence management and decision-making. Many of the research projects are still underway or in initial stages.

The topics we are focusing on this year are:

- The examination of the historic monitoring data has connected the introduction of Mysis shrimp to lake clarity. Combined with the results of a pilot project in Emerald Bay, we are launching a new private-public venture to commercially remove the Mysis and develop a new line of Tahoe dog treats high in protein and rich in one of the purest forms of Omega-3 fatty acids. This approach has the potential to restore lake clarity, even in the face of climate change, and be a sustainable model for environmental management.
- Metaphyton and periphyton are the nuisance algae that coat the shoreline of the lake at different times of year. Using our Citizen Science Tahoe App, we can all keep track of its spread.
- Metaphyton, which are believed to be proliferating due to the presence of Asian clams, have never been systematically monitored before. Using a combination of helicopter and drone flights, TERC has developed a very efficient methodology to track and quantify their spread.
- In fall 2019, TERC partnered with the California Conservation Corps to replant over 4,000 sugar pine seedlings around the Lake Tahoe Basin. Over 72,000 sugar pines were lost between 2012 and 2016 due to drought and bark beetle infestations.

Sugar pine genetics are being studied through a common garden, where the traits of over 2,100 seedlings are being evaluated.

- Robotic instruments are increasingly being used in TERC’s research around the world. They are being used to study harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Clear Lake, California at a much finer scale than can be achieved by satellite remote sensing.
- Ice-covered lakes are of increasing interest to scientists around the world. TERC is studying these in both the Sierra and Canada.
- Plastic pollution is garnering much attention. Both our research and education teams are starting new projects to identify microplastics in Lake Tahoe and to increase awareness of the over-use of single-use plastic.
- COVID-19 has wrought huge changes across the globe. At Tahoe it has forced major changes in how we conduct essential research and provide public education in a safe and responsible manner.
- The lessons learned at Lake Tahoe are being exported to Patagonia, Chile. TERC is a key partner in a large collaborative effort with a Chilean foundation, industry leaders, local and national governments, and private citizens to help plan the future of Patagonia’s lakes.

Plastics in Lake Tahoe

Microplastics, tiny pieces of plastic smaller than five millimeters, are impacting ecosystems worldwide. Microplastics have also been found at Lake Tahoe, despite efforts to clean up beaches and prevent litter.

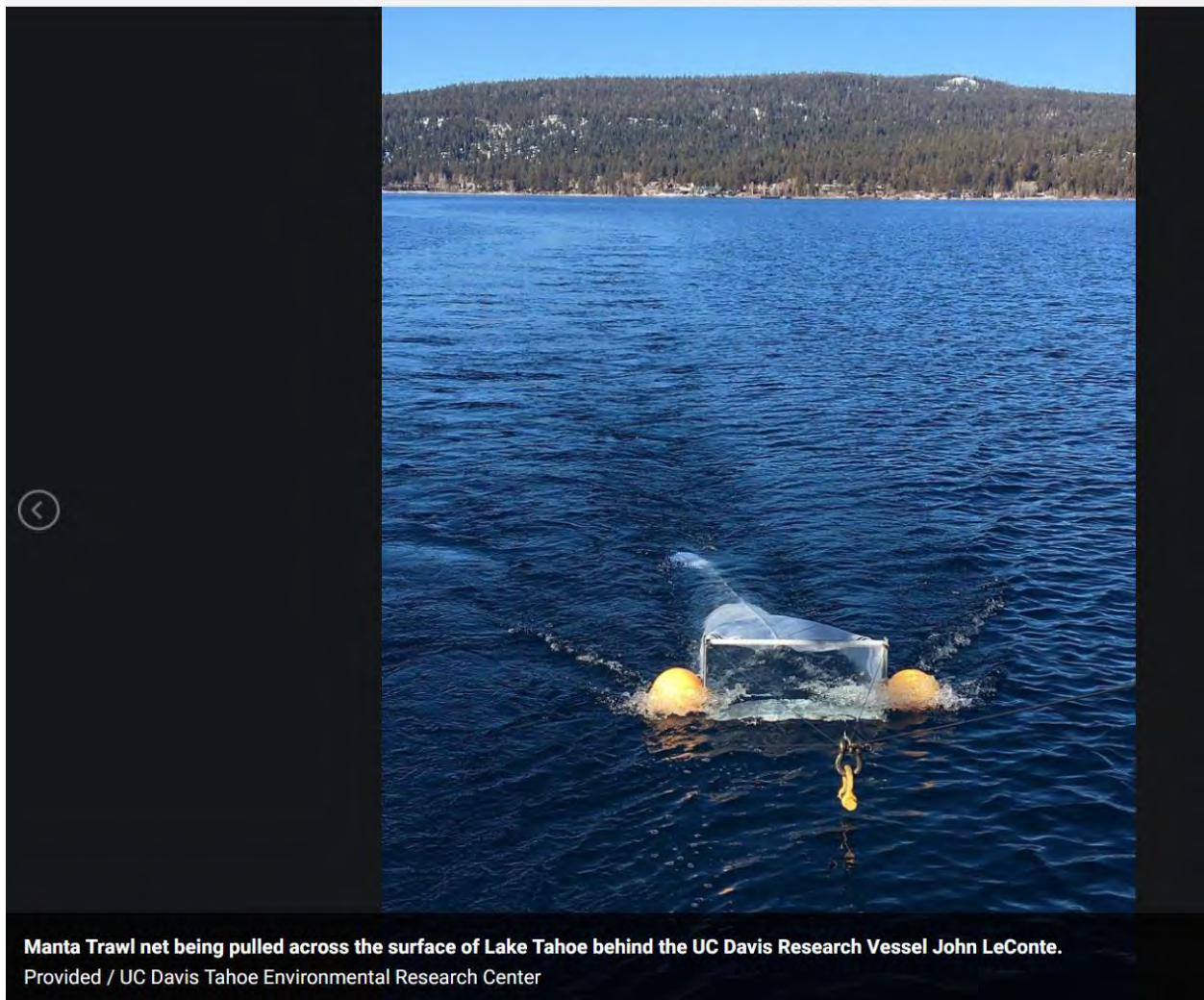
TERC has been studying the location and extent of microplastic pollution in the lake and has launched efforts to educate visitors and change local consumers’ plastic habits as part of the Drink Tahoe Tap® and Take Care Tahoe campaigns. With funding from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the microplastics work is a collaboration between TERC researchers, educators, and several local partners.



A day at the beach (top) goes awry when plastic that is left behind ends up in the lake. Many of those plastics are broken apart and become microplastics. Photos: A. Toy



Photo: B. Wynne



Tahoe: State of the Lake Report 2019 Current Research Synthesis:

The topics we are focusing on are:

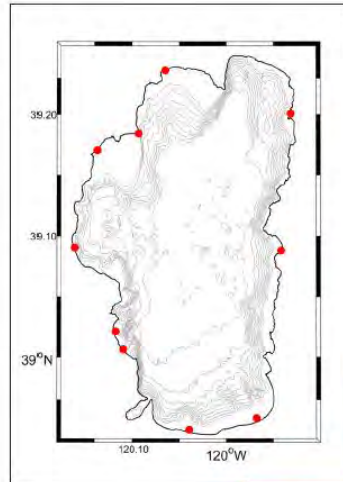
- The future climate of the Tahoe basin and the huge changes in store for the basin's hydrology.
- The continuing impact of the tiny algal cell, *Cylo tell a* on the summer clarity at Lake Tahoe in 2018.
- The linkages between the nearshore and the mid-lake regions. This work is the culmination of five years of development of the Nearshore Water Quality Network. Three specific findings are described. These findings include the variations in nearshore turbidity; the detection of lake upwellings and the "Tahoe Wave"; new revelations about the influence of climate change on stream water entering the lake.
- The emerging threat to the aspens of the Tahoe basin posed by the white satin moth.
- Lakes and other water bodies are sometimes the final resting place of vessels from a previous era. TERC students are actively searching for these wrecks using advanced technologies at Tahoe and elsewhere.
- The California Mountain Lake Observatory Network that monitors over 15 lakes throughout the Sierra Nevada. These data can be compared with the long-term Tahoe data.

Three New Insights from the Nearshore Network

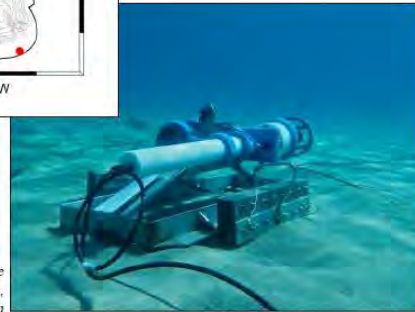
In 2014, TERC installed the first Nearshore Water Station at Homewood, California. Since then, an additional ten Stations have been added all around Lake Tahoe and in adjacent Cascade Lake. The idea was simple – work with property owners who have direct access to the lake, install underwater cables from their docks to an instrument located in seven feet of water, and monitor water quality every 30 seconds. The measurements provide the data needed to distinguish water quality around the lake.

That has been achieved, but more importantly the data have revealed a new understanding of processes that occur lake-wide and in the nearshore. The following pages will highlight some of this new knowledge.

We thank those who have financially supported this project and/or provided access to their docks, the Glenbrook Homeowners Association, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.



The red dots indicate locations of Nearshore Stations around Lake Tahoe



A Nearshore Station on the sandy bottom at Rubicon, CA. Photo: E. Allen

Nearshore Monitoring Network

<https://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/nearshore-network>

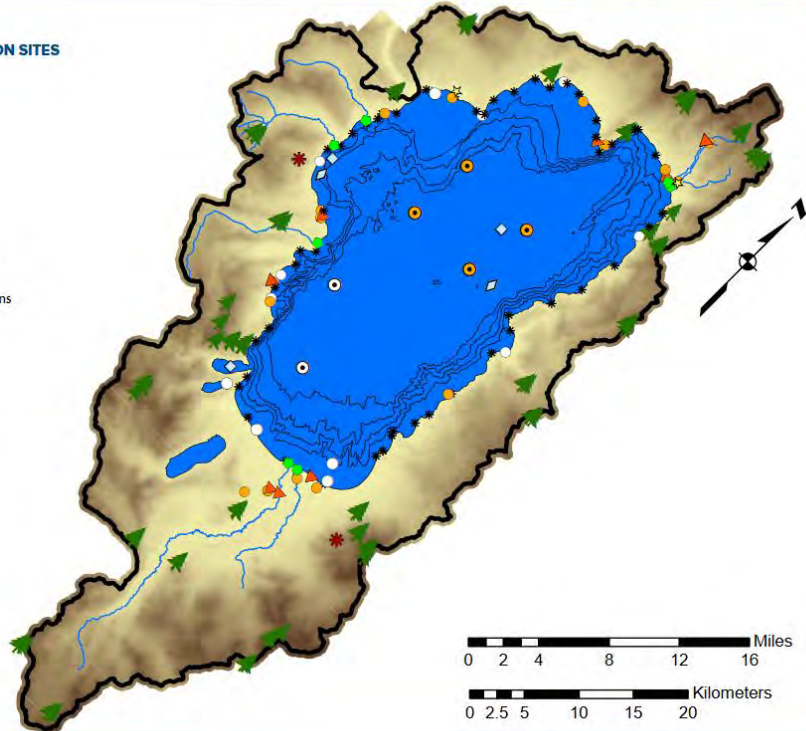
In 2014, TERC established a network of water quality monitoring stations at the perimeter of Lake Tahoe. The program aims to improve understanding of water quality variability in the nearshore zone. This system provides the essential data needed to guide restoration and future stewardship.

As of December 2018, there are 10 stations installed around Lake Tahoe, and an additional station on Cascade Lake, which feeds into Lake Tahoe. Each station consists of an optical instrument - measuring turbidity (clarity), algal concentration, and dissolved organic matter concentrations - along with a CTD, measuring water temperature, conductivity, lake level, and wave height. An underwater cable enables a real-time data feed.

TAHOE BASIN DATA COLLECTION SITES

Legend

- ◇ Continuous Water Quality
- ☆ TERC Facility
- TERC Lake Monitoring Station
- ★ TERC Alert Tahoe Camera
- LTIMP Stream Monitoring Stations
- ⊙ TERC Buoy
- Periphyton Stations
- NASA/TERC Buoy
- ▼ Stormwater Stations
- MET Stations
- TERC Nearshore Stations
- ▲ Forestry Plots
- ▭ Watershed Boundary
- 100 m Depth Contours
- LTIMP Streams



The Lake Tahoe Nearshore Evaluation and Monitoring Framework

https://www.dri.edu/images/stories/centers/cwes/Lake_Tahoe_Nearshore_Evaluation_and_Monitoring_Framework.pdf

Lake Tahoe Nearshore Evaluation Report

October 24, 2013 – The Desert Research Institute of Nevada (DRI) released its Final Nearshore Evaluation Report (Report) as approved by the US Forest Service – Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW). Executive Summary found as Enclosure 1. The full report can be found at <http://www.dri.edu/cwes>. Click on “Download the Full Report.”

The Lake Tahoe Nearshore Evaluation and Monitoring Framework, a project funded during Round 10 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act in 2010, was prepared for the USDA Forest Service by more than a dozen scientists and technical advisors from the Desert Research Institute, the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of California, Davis. In addition, a Nearshore Agency Working Group compiled of key staff from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board), the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency participated throughout the process, communicating agency needs and supporting the scientists with relevant information.

“This represents the initial collaborative step between the science community and the resource management agencies to develop a comprehensive approach for assessing and managing the nearshore ecology and aesthetics of Lake Tahoe,” said Alan Heyvaert, Ph.D., principal investigator on the multi-year project and acting senior director of the Center for Watersheds and Environmental Sustainability at DRI. The report does not recommend changes to existing state and TRPA legal or statutory definitions or standards affecting the Lake Tahoe nearshore. Rather, it explains, for the first time in one report, the unique aspects of this important zone; evaluates existing California, Nevada and TRPA standards and thresholds related to this region; presents a new conceptual model for evaluating nearshore environmental health; and proposes a monitoring strategy intended to help resource managers identify the most meaningful physical, chemical and biological indicators of healthy nearshore conditions.

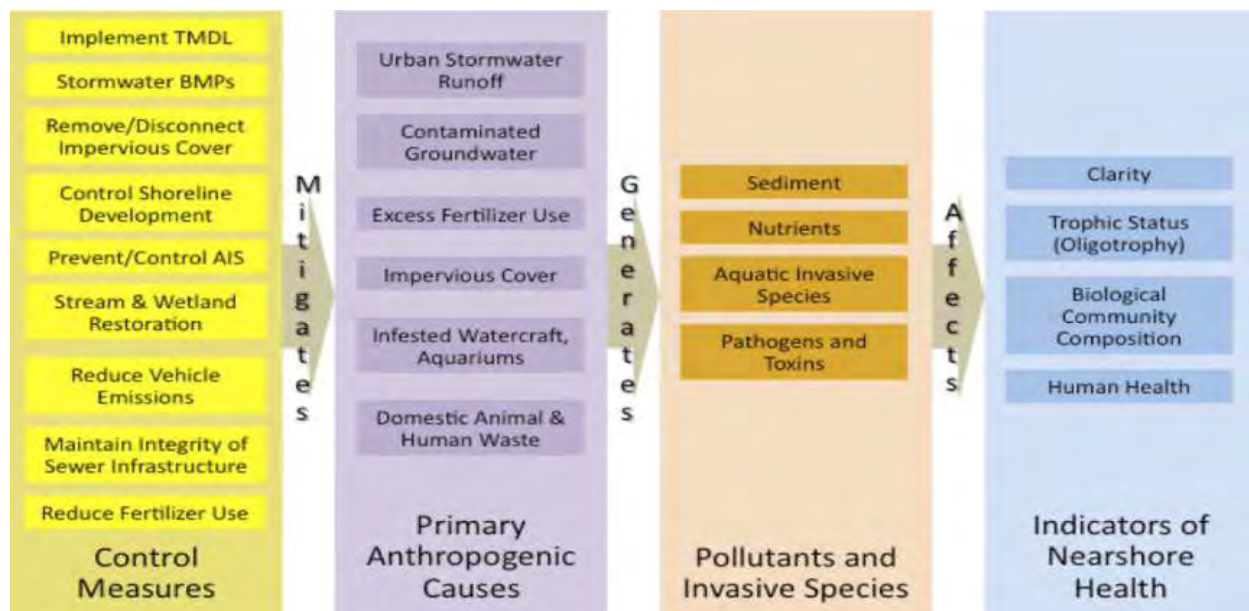
“For monitoring and assessment purposes, the report defines “nearshore” as the zone from the low water elevation (6,223 feet), or the current shoreline, to the mid-summer thermocline, which has a depth of approximately 69 feet, and at minimum a distance of 350-feet from shore,” Heyvaert explains. “It is in the nearshore region that most people experience the lake,” said report co-author Geoffrey Schladow, director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center. “This report is an important step as it establishes the scientific underpinnings of a successful nearshore restoration program.” Results from the report’s widespread literature review and data summary indicate that conditions can differ widely around the lake’s nearshore and create more localized effects as compared to the open-waters of Lake Tahoe, which tend to be more uniform.

The report also emphasizes that pollutants entering the lake from watershed or groundwater can be temporarily concentrated in the nearshore, before eventually being mixed and diluted in the open-water, resulting in biological responses not observed or recorded in Lake Tahoe’s deep water.

The report also summarizes the proposed and targeted research needs related to monitoring and management of the nearshore. “The introduction of aquatic invasive species has already produced some profound changes in the nearshore,” said co-author Sudeep Chandra, limnologist and director of University of Nevada Reno’s Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory. “Further establishment of aquatic invasive species in the nearshore has the potential to unravel the tremendous progress made toward protecting Lake Tahoe’s clarity.” Chandra added that very little data exist on the nearshore community structure. “We do not know the composition, distribution or abundance of most macro-organisms that inhabit the nearshore,” he said. “Base data are urgently needed to describe these conditions before they change any further.”

The findings and recommendations of the report are expected to support several agency statutory and programmatic needs by:

1. Providing baseline information that could assist in developing data collection and analysis needed to inform any revisions or assessments of relevant state and TRPA standards;
2. Supporting the development of products for the Tahoe Monitoring and Evaluation Program;
3. Tracking the effectiveness of the Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Program and other Environmental Improvement Program efforts related to nearshore conditions and contributing to detection and management of aquatic invasive species in the nearshore.



Examples from the nearshore conceptual model of progression from relevant control measures to indicators of nearshore health.

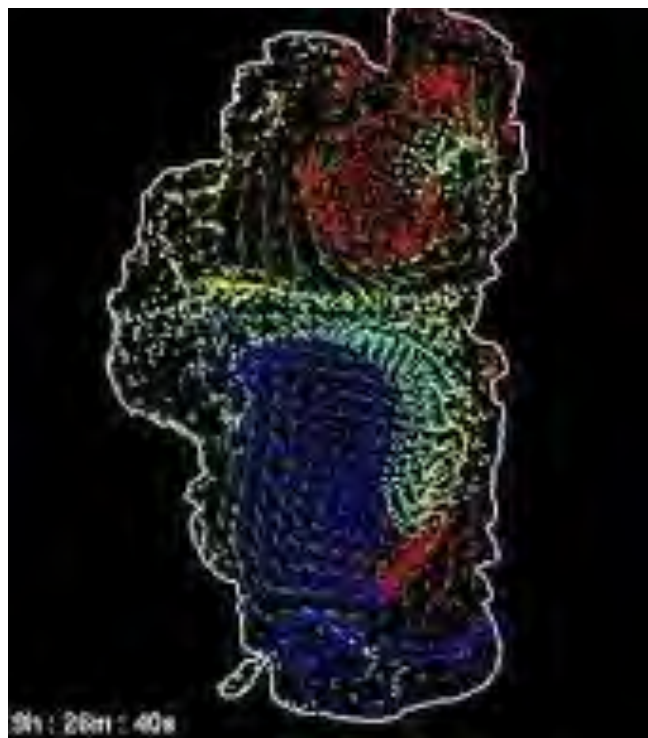
Researchers study Lake Tahoe water movements

<http://www.recordcourier.com/news/13714581-113/lake-tahoe-schladow-wind>

The Tahoe Environmental Research Center recently installed five stations like the one shown here as part of a nearshore network. The instrument measures things like water temperature, turbidity and algal concentration near the edges of Lake Tahoe.

It may look calm and peaceful to the human eye, but research shows Lake Tahoe is anything but placid underneath the surface. Its waters are constantly rocking up and down and shifting from side to side. Sometimes they're churning clockwise — in other areas, counter-clockwise.

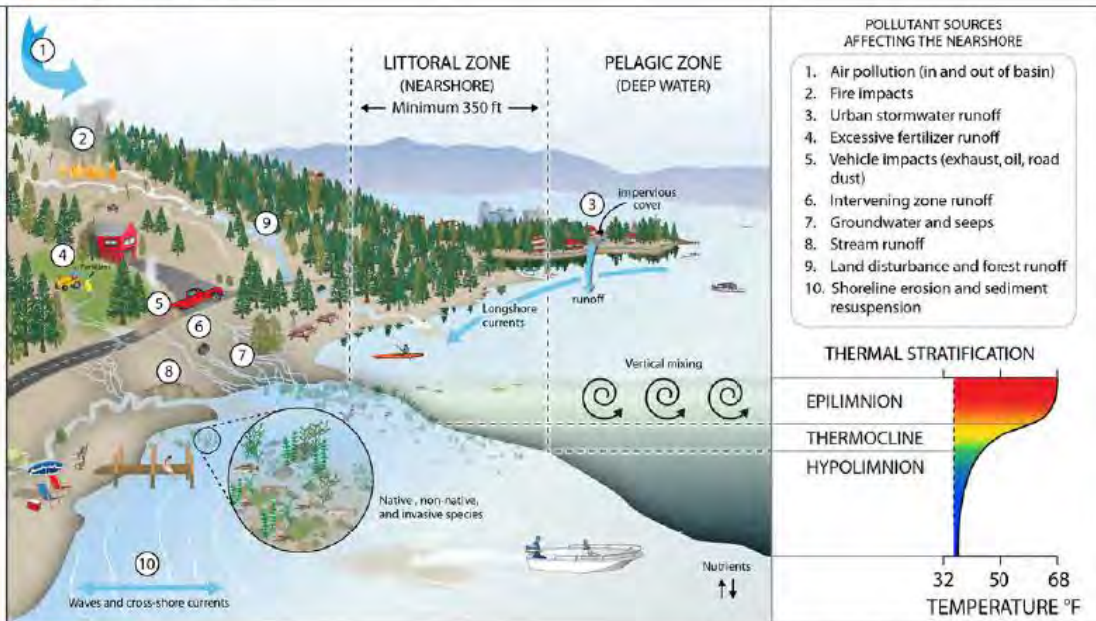
The lake is an extremely variable and complex environment, and one of the few things scientists do know about it is that they know very little about water movements, said Dr. Geoff Schladow, director of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center.



That was one of the things discussed in a TERC presentation Thursday that shared new research on water circulation patterns in Lake Tahoe. “Lake motions are important,” Schladow said to a group of about 30 people at Round Hill’s Elks Point Fire Station. He added, “It’s the currents, it’s the motions, that transport everything in the water.” Understanding the movement of water in Lake Tahoe is important for a variety of reasons, Schladow pointed out. It helps researchers better identify the potential paths of harmful pathogens and substances in the lake, as well as the spread of invasive species. He said there are several factors that effect the lake’s movement, but wind is the main one. “We all think, ‘Oh, Tahoe, wind comes from the southwest,’” he said. “It does a lot of the time, but it comes from the southwest when you measure it at the airport.”

Schladow presented several models of wind patterns showing pockets of swirling air currents around the lake. Some were traveling in different directions than others. Other data showed how wind pushes one side of the warmer, and lighter, surface water down deeper —the colder layers beneath it also get pushed down as a result — to begin a rocking motion throughout the lake. “There are motions everywhere,” he said, “not just next to where the wind is blowing.”

Showing this a little more clearly, another model separated the lake into small grids — which were then separated into even finer grids in the nearshore — to get a better idea of water movement at the lake. The idea is that these models can be used as tools to help protect drinking water quality at Lake Tahoe by better recognizing the pathways of pathogens. Additionally, TERC has launched a nearshore network of monitoring stations to further measure water quality at the edges of the lake — an area researchers no little about. “It’s the idea that we can monitor the nearshore in real-time,” Schladow said. “It’s not that hard to do. It’s the data we’re interested in, and we think it’s the data that’s needed.” The nearshore network instruments sit at the bottom of about 2 meters of water and measure things like water temperature, turbidity and algal concentration.



Illustration, L.J. Wieble and A. Heyvaert (Desert Research Institute), with additional clip art contributions courtesy of the Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (ian.umces.edu/symbols/).

The report indicates that a finer scale of evaluation and monitoring is needed in the nearshore zone, especially, for the nuisance blooms of attached algae found on rocks and other hard surfaces in the nearshore.

The report also points out that the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a restoration plan for Tahoe's mid-lake clarity approved in 2011, will provide benefits for nearshore conditions as well. While the Tahoe's mid-lake clarity is expected to improve from implementation of watershed best management practices, environmental improvement projects, and other actions, the monitoring and evaluation of nearshore conditions will be needed to fully understand why some areas of the nearshore zone have deteriorated and what strategies are the most effective to address the problem.

"The introduction of aquatic invasive species has already produced some profound changes in the nearshore," said co-author Sudeep Chandra, limnologist and director of University of Nevada Reno's Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory. "Further establishment of aquatic invasive species in the nearshore has the potential to unravel the tremendous progress made toward protecting Lake Tahoe's clarity."

Chandra added that very little data currently exist on the nearshore community structure.

"We do not know the composition, distribution or abundance of most macro-organisms that inhabit the nearshore," he said. "Baseline data are urgently needed to describe these conditions before they change any further."



Photograph by E.S. Levy

The Monitoring Framework

Researchers said they would like to see relevant nearshore assessments done in various areas around the Lake. In addition to existing sampling for attached and free-floating algae, new measurements would focus on nearshore water clarity, attached algae, and the status of insects, fish, and crayfish. Monitors also test for toxins and pathogens. The findings and recommendations of the report are expected to support several needs by:

- Providing baseline data and analysis to inform revisions or assessments of relevant state and TRPA standards;
- Supporting the development of products for the Tahoe Monitoring and Evaluation Program on status and trends in nearshore conditions; and
- Tracking the effectiveness of the Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Program and other Environmental Improvement Program efforts related to nearshore conditions, including the detection and management of aquatic invasive species in the nearshore.

Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) launches Citizen Science App

To download (version 3) of the app for the iPhone or Android phones visit www.citizensciencetahoe.org.
<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/environment/article31589879.html>

The UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center has launched a student-programmed app that can turn Lake Tahoe beachgoers into researchers. Citizen Science Tahoe is a free smartphone app through which the public can log information about what they see on the 71-mile shore of Lake Tahoe. The app logs the date, time and location of every user's input and combines it with data acquired from real-time sensors put up in conjunction with lakefront property owners. "It's pretty unique that the general public is teaming up to gather this information," said Geoff Schladow, director of the University of California, Davis, Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Researchers are asking the public for input on four categories: algae, local species, water quality and beach conditions. For more keen observers, the "Pipe Keepers" and "Eyes on the Lake" categories examine water inflow to the lake and the spotting of invasive species, respectively. Once the data are gathered, the center will arrange an interactive exhibit. Displays with data will also be put up in Lake Tahoe and other select areas late this year, where they will remain for many years, Schladow said.

The project was funded with help from the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association and a \$150,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The project's specific aim is to analyze the impact that the physical and chemical interactions that form Lake Tahoe have on its nearshore in order to help preserve it and other lakeshores. The nearshore is the area that Lake Tahoe visitors most often come in contact with, but it is also one that researchers know the least about. "The nearshore is an area that has undergone a lot of degradation in the last 10 or 20 years, but it hasn't been monitored thoroughly," Schladow said.

UC Davis researchers and students hope the crowdsourcing of nearshore observations will help change that. "There's a whole lot more (beachgoers) than there are of us. There are more people on the shore on any given day. But also, when people look at things critically, it makes them think of the degradation and of how to protect lakeshores," Schladow said.



Annual Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake Snapshot Day

<http://tahoetruckeesnapshotday.org>

Snapshot Day is an event which has grown over the past 20 years, between local partners within the Tahoe Basin, Truckee River and Pyramid Lake watersheds. The Snapshot Day event provides a picture of regional watershed water quality during a specific 3 hour time frame, on a single day during the month of May. Annually, over 300 volunteers collect water quality data from 90 to 100 locations within the watersheds. Snapshot Day is a collaborative effort from multiple agencies, covering the North Shore Lake Tahoe, South Shore Lake Tahoe, Middle Truckee River near the town of Truckee and Lower Truckee River from the Nevada Stateline to Pyramid Lake

In spring 2008, TWSA staff accepted a leadership role in this event, serving as the North Lake Tahoe Coordinator. TWSA staff provides staff support, some event funding, grant fund management and other leadership roles for this event.

Fecal coliform sampling on Snapshot Day attempts to locate ‘hot spots’ or areas of potential microbial sources. Over the years Snapshot Day leaders have changed the locations where fecal coliform sampling occurs, which has helped them determine which sites will continue to be monitored annually and which sites do not pose a microbial threat (Source: R. Whitney pers. comm. 2006).

Snapshot Day Event Summary

In 2020, Snapshot Day reached its 20th anniversary. It remains one of the longest running citizen watershed monitoring events on the West Coast of the United States. Snapshot Day continues to highlight successful engagement with the public in active watershed stewardship, while providing valuable data to the responsible agencies. Covid 19’s impacts restricted this event to staff sampling efforts.

As previous data sets are compiled and data storage is improved, this program can show long-term trends and better assist agencies in watershed conditions analysis. Snapshot Day sampling encompasses the North Shore Lake Tahoe, South Shore Lake Tahoe, Middle Truckee River near the town of Truckee and Lower Truckee River from the Nevada Stateline to Pyramid Lake.

This collaborative effort is sponsored by the Incline Village General Improvement District, the League to Save Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Snapshot Day is a bi-state event and as such falls under two statewide citizen monitoring programs: the California State Regional Water Quality Control Board’s (SWQCB) Clean Water Team and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection water and education outreach activities. Annually, volunteers gathered data at a total of 82 locations throughout the Truckee River watershed.

Incline Village Clean Water Team (Volunteer Monitoring)

The Incline Village Clean Water Team has ended due to low participation. It is under consideration for re-establishment as an ‘Adopt-A-Stream program’ in order to offer volunteers more participatory tracks such as photo documentation of stream conditions and litter removal, in addition to water sample grabs. Past history on the program: The streams in Incline Village discharge directly into Lake Tahoe. To protect their drinking water source, the Incline Village Clean Water Team (IVCWT) monitoring helped identify existing problems and helps prevent future water quality issues. Bi-monthly, volunteers monitored 11 different sites in Incline Village, on Deer, Incline, Third, and Rosewood Creeks and on an unnamed tributary on Diamond Peak. Volunteers collect: habitat information, physical and chemical characteristics of the water quality, and water samples for lab analysis. The data collected is available to state and local agencies as well as anyone who may have an interest in a specific area.

IVGID/ TWSA Staff Beach Sampling Program

IVGID/TWSA staff has collected regularly scheduled water samples from Incline beaches and stream mouths since 2003. The database is used to track potential contamination locations or trends. Long-term data sets are available upon request to wastenot@ivgid.org.

South Lake Tahoe Water Citizen Quality Monitoring

<http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org>

The South Lake Tahoe Monitoring Project (SLTMP) began in 2007 and was a volunteer water quality monitoring project coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Alliance for the purposes of data collection and watershed education. The project area is the Upper Truckee River Watershed which contains the largest tributary to Lake Tahoe, the Upper Truckee River, as well as other major tributaries, including Trout Creek, Taylor Creek, Angora Creek, and Cascade Creek.

The focus of the project was monitoring areas where past and current land use practices and issues are affecting water quality in the Upper Truckee River watershed. Monitoring includes water quality field readings and water quality sample collection for chemical parameters.

The Alliance worked with six watershed councils in the Sierra to establish citizen-volunteer water quality monitoring programs to assess the impacts of common land uses on Sierra watersheds. Some of the impacts that were assessed were connected to development in sensitive ecosystems, historic logging and mining, dams and impacts from historic stream channel alteration.

Tahoe Integrated Information Management System (TIIMS) becomes TRPA EIP Tracker Database

<http://www.tiims.org> www.trpa.org

Editor note: TIIMS website has been closed and a new website serves as the data portal for EIP projects. **New EIP tracker database:** <https://eip.laketahoeinfo.org>

TRPA launched the EIP in an effort to better implement the Regional Plan and highlighted it at the Presidential Forum at Lake Tahoe in 1997. Recognizing that capital investments, research, and monitoring were essential components of the Regional Plan, the EIP called for an initial investment of \$908 million in capital projects and \$58 million in research and monitoring over 10 years. The EIP also identified hundreds of specific projects and programs to be undertaken by more than 50 funding partners including federal, state, and local agencies, and the private sector. The projects were focused on improving air, water, and scenic quality, forest health, fish and wildlife, and public access to the Lake and other recreation areas. The prime directive of the EIP was to move the Tahoe Basin closer to environmental threshold attainment. Today, over 400 EIP projects have been completed and hundreds more are in progress, with over \$1.8

EIP FUTURE FUNDING TARGETS
IN MILLIONS



EIP INVESTMENT BY SECTOR: 1997-2016

- Federal: \$655.2 million
- State of California: \$813 million
- State of Nevada: \$131 million
- Local Government: \$108.5 million
- Private: \$353.9 million

billion of investment in the highest priority environmental improvement projects.

The Tahoe Integrated Information Management System (TIIMS) was previously used to house and disseminate information about the Lake Tahoe Basin's planning and restoration efforts. TIIMS contains tools to meet the needs of all stakeholders within the Basin. Citizens, research scientists, and resource managers can use TIIMS as a one-stop site for information about Lake Tahoe. TIIMS represented a complete information management solution. TIIMS Partners include Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies within the Lake Tahoe Basin which are involved in a myriad of planning and restoration efforts throughout the watershed ranging from permitting to regulatory enforcement to maintaining and improving the quality of surface and groundwater resources.

Lake Tahoe Status and Trend Monitoring Evaluation Program

<http://tahoemonitoring.org>

Tahoemonitoring.org is the public reporting website for the Lake Tahoe Status and Trend Monitoring and Evaluation Program (M&E Program) in beta development. It is not fully live as of publication.

Water Category: The purpose of the Water Overarching Category is to provide a portal to information related to water quality and conditions of aquatic ecosystems in the Lake Tahoe region.

The following reporting categories are included in this overarching category:

- The *Lake Tahoe* reporting category is used to report on the status and trends of indicators that measure deep water and nearshore conditions of Lake Tahoe in terms of water quality, clarity and biological integrity.
- The *Small Lakes* reporting category is used to report on the status and trends of indicators associated with biological, physical and chemical integrity of small lakes in the Tahoe Region.
- The *Streams and Wetlands* reporting category is used to report on the status and trends of various indicators of biological, chemical and physical conditions of Lake Tahoe tributaries and riparian habitats.
- The *Stormwater Quality* reporting category is used to report on the status and trends of indicators the measure runoff water quality.
- The *Aquatic Invasive Species* reporting category is used to report on the status and trends of indicators that measure the extent and distribution of invasive plant and animal species associated with aquatic habitats.
- The *Aquatic Species and Communities* reporting category is used to report on the status and trends of indicators that measure special status wildlife, fish and rare plants as well as unique communities found in aquatic habitats.

Lahontan Water Board and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Total Maximum Daily Load Study (TMDL)

<http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/tahoe3.htm>.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved NDEP's Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Report (TMDL) submittal at the 15th annual Lake Tahoe Summit on August 16, 2011. This Final EPA approved version has been revised from the California adopted version for which EPA approval was gained the same day. The revisions were necessary to correct errors, clarify Nevada's regulatory structure

and approach to implementation and emphasize that the proposed implementation timelines may need to be adjusted for a variety of reasons, but particularly the availability of future funding. The errata sheet indicates all the differences between these versions. However, it is important to emphasize that despite the submittal and approval of distinct reports, the Lake Tahoe TMDL effort represents a common and consistent plan between the States of Nevada and California to address the clarity decline within Lake Tahoe.

Final TMDL

Under the Clean Water Act and California law, final TMDLs must contain all the elements addressed during Phase One and Two of the Lake Tahoe TMDL. The Lake Tahoe TMDL implementation plan presents a detailed process for achieving load reductions over a specified time frame. Several expectations have emerged among Lake Tahoe TMDL collaborating agencies. The Lake Tahoe TMDL will integrate with the Pathway efforts to update resource management plans by providing load reduction targets that can be incorporated into the TRPA Regional Plan, the Environmental Improvement Program, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan. The Lahontan Water Board and NDEP will incorporate the Lake Tahoe TMDL implementation needs into the Lahontan Basin Plan and NDEP Continuous Planning Process documents.

The Lake Tahoe TMDL monitoring plan describes procedures for tracking load reductions and documenting progress toward achieving milestones. It also describes how project effectiveness measurements and ongoing research will refine the understanding of factors driving loading to the Lake. The monitoring plan will become the scientific basis for the formal cycles of continual improvement and adaptive management that will be initiated during Phase Three of the Lake Tahoe TMDL. All elements from Phases One and Two will be packaged in a Final TMDL document that will complete Phase Two.

Note that the implementation and operation phase of the Lake Tahoe TMDL is expected to continue for a period of decades beyond 2009. Current discussions of likely time frames for achievement of the Lake Tahoe TMDL load reductions range from 30 to 100 years.

Charting the Course to Clarity

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/tmdl/lake_tahoe/docs/cac_208_09_final.pdf

This report presents highlights of the strategy for restoring Lake Tahoe's clarity. For the first time since researchers began continuously measuring Lake Tahoe's famed water clarity 40 years ago, UC Davis scientists reported today that the historical rate of decline in the lake's clarity has slowed considerably in recent years. Scientists at the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center say that by using new, more sophisticated models for detecting trends and, by factoring out the effects of annual precipitation, they have concluded that the historic rate of decline in the lake's clarity has slowed since 2001.

Climate Change

Global climate change is projected to have unprecedented impacts on the health of the environment and economy in the Lake Tahoe Basin. As temperatures rise and more precipitation falls as rain rather than snow, management efforts to protect the Basin's forests, fish and wildlife, and fabled water clarity will face unique challenges.

To address these impacts, the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) partner agencies are formulating a Basin-wide strategy to address climate change. The strategy is intended to ensure that all

major planning and regulatory programs at Lake Tahoe are designed to take into account the projected impacts of climate change.

For example, future EIP water quality and erosion control projects will need to be designed for larger peak flows in the winter, and habitat improvement projects will need to take into account potential changes in the type, location, and distribution of vegetation communities. The climate change strategy will provide a starting point for sustainable decision making in the Tahoe Basin. These actions will be addressed in a combination of plans and programs, including the EIP, the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan Update, the Regional Transportation Plan, Community Plans, and local actions.

As part of this comprehensive strategy, the EIP broadly focuses on maintaining healthy forest ecosystems and watersheds and on improving mobility and access with environmentally-friendly transit. Mandates and incentives to develop sustainably-designed communities, projects, and green infrastructure will be developed as part of the update of the TRPA Regional Plan.

The most significant impacts of a future, modeled climate change at Lake Tahoe are changes in hydrologic conditions and reduced frequency of complete vertical mixing of the lake. Hydrology output from the downscaled climate modeling suggests a significant reduction in the amount of precipitation falling as snow in the Tahoe basin. This could have consequences for water supply as well as winter recreational sports. Should the lake's deep mixing be restricted to the extent the models suggest, internal loading of nutrients from the sediments will be very significant and will drive a fundamental change in the biological productivity status of both the pelagic and littoral regions of the lake. These nutrients, particularly phosphorus, will be available to drive algal growth. Reducing the load of external nutrients entering the lake in the coming decades may be the only possible mitigation measure to reduce the impact of climate change on lake clarity and trophic status.

The meteorologic and geographic conditions in the Tahoe basin combine to create a vulnerable ecosystem. Temperatures in the Basin are increasing faster than in the surrounding region. This may be due to the influence of the lake and its heat (energy) budget on local air temperature, although a decrease in the reflectivity of the snowpack from deposition of soot (black carbon) may also play a role. Second, under historic and current conditions the lake mixes to the bottom on the average of only once every four years. Continued warming will increase the lake's thermal stability, and likely shut down its vertical mixing altogether. Third, on occasion, the lake historically has fallen below its natural outlet elevation during prolonged dry years. Lake level modeling in our study suggests that under some greenhouse gas emission scenarios, outflow from Lake Tahoe could cease by the end of the 21st Century.

Sierra Nevada Alliance (SNA) Community and Resource Protection Programs

<https://sierranevadaalliance.org/>

Since 1993, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife, and communities. The Sierra Nevada Alliance exists to elevate and support Sierra ecosystems and communities. We are a hub for stewardship of the Sierra Nevada, which we achieve by empowering and collaborating with our partners. Every Sierra ecosystem and community is healthy, resilient, and collectively cared for through thriving partnerships, as a legacy for future generations.

Sierra Climate Change Program

<https://sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/regional-climate-change/>

We provide technical and grassroots support to communities throughout the Sierra in mitigating climate change and building resilience to its impacts. The Alliance's Climate Resiliency Program goals consider both climate action planning and climate adaptation. We aid communities that are taking action on climate change by assisting in the development and implementation of climate action and adaptation plans. Similarly, we work to meet or exceed local renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. The Sierra Climate Change Program alerts the public and decision makers to the impacts of climate change in the Sierra and ensure that smart local resource management plans (watershed plans, general plans, hydropower relicensing, integrated regional water management, forestry, etc.) are adopted that protect natural resources by reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. Climate change is presently impacting the Sierra and future impacts could be catastrophic.

The Sierra Nevada supplies 55% of California's developed water rights plus most of the water for Northwestern Nevada through a vast water delivery system that is highly dependent on the Sierra snowpack. Over the past 100 years, there has been a 25% reduction in runoff from April to July in the central Sierra –Sacramento region, and a 10% reduction in the southern Sierra. Leading scientists agree that temperatures will rise even under the best emission reduction scenarios. This increase in temperature results in a projected decline of 25 -40% of the snowpack between years 2025-2050; by 2100 losses could reach 75-90%. The Sierra Nevada Alliance is working with conservation representatives, resource managers, and community leaders to ensure they have cutting edge tools to adapt resource plans and projects that protect Sierra waters, wildlife, and rural communities.

Desert Research Institute (DRI) Center for Watersheds and Environmental Sustainability

The Desert Research Institute and the University of Nevada, Reno have worked together for decades to provide comprehensive studies that have led to a better understanding of threats to Lake Tahoe's air and water quality and the health of the forest. This report was jointly issued to highlight some of the collaborative scientific research that is conducted by both institutions at the Lake Tahoe Summit. The summary of most recent projects, including Aquatic Invasive species and nearshore water quality projects, is available at: <http://www.dri.edu>

Lake Tahoe Nearshore Evaluation Report

October 24, 2013 – The Desert Research Institute of Nevada (DRI) released its Final Nearshore Evaluation Report (Report) as approved by the US Forest Service – Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW). The full report can be found at <http://www.dri.edu/cwes>.

Lake Tahoe's nearshore is the zone of relatively shallow water around the lake's perimeter that is valued for its recreational and aesthetic qualities, as well as for the biological community it supports. The nearshore is the part of the lake that visitors and residents interact with most. Changes in the nearshore over time have increased interest in managing the nearshore and the factors responsible for its progressively reduced condition. Lahontan and the other member agencies (TRPA, NDEP, US EPA) of the Nearshore Agency Working Group have received public criticism for focusing on Lake Tahoe's mid-lake water quality and transparency, as represented by the Lake Tahoe TMDL, to the perceived paucity of attention paid the nearshore. In 2010, with funding managed by the US Forest Service PSW, the Nearshore Science Team and the Nearshore Agency Working Group set out to comprehensively evaluate

the Lake Tahoe nearshore. The purpose of the project was to summarize the results of past research and monitoring efforts to improve our understanding of factors and activities affecting nearshore conditions. The Nearshore Science Team was tasked with evaluating the applicability of existing water quality standards to the nearshore and its desired condition, identifying the most meaningful indicators of nearshore conditions, and proposing a strategy for monitoring these indicators.

Desert Research Institute of Nevada (DRI) Lake Tahoe Watershed Projects

<https://www.dri.edu/?s=tahoe>

Some of the ongoing DRI projects that deal with nutrient and fine sediment loading to Lake Tahoe and the health of the watershed include:

- <https://www.dri.edu/new-study-investigates-link-between-clothes-dryers-and-microplastic-pollution-in-lake-tahoe/>
- <https://www.dri.edu/people-powered-research-citizen-science-makes-microplastics-discovery-at-lake-tahoe-possible/>

Past work includes:

- Identifying atmospheric sources of dust and nutrients in the Tahoe basin
- Determining atmospheric dust and nutrient deposition rates on the lake surface
- Measuring and modeling fugitive dust emissions from roads in the Basin
- Characterizing stormwater runoff fine sediment and nutrient loads
- Evaluating nutrient and fine sediment loading for different land uses
- Determining groundwater nutrient loading to the lake
- Conducting near-shore lake clarity surveys to identify areas of high nutrient and fine sediment loading from surface water, stormwater, and groundwater inflows
- Determining shoreline erosion contributions of fine sediment and nutrients to the lake
- Identifying and quantifying microbiological communities in the lake
- Evaluating restoration project effectiveness in removing fine sediment and nutrients from surface water runoff
- Evaluating BMP structures effectiveness in removing fine sediment and nutrients from surface water runoff
- Determining the amount of impervious cover, such as roads, parking lots, and roofs that produce increased stormwater runoff in the Lake Tahoe watershed
- Evaluating the effects of fire on atmospheric sources of nutrients entering the lake
- Identifying the sources of fine sediment that enter the lake
- Developing bio-engineer systems for removal for nutrients and fine sediment in stormwater runoff
- Evaluating the efficiency of highway runoff structures for removal of nutrients and fine sediment
- Evaluating the health of the American Martin population in the watershed
- Help structure adaptive management, so that as new information is gained in the Basin management practices can include this information
- Develop a stormwater monitoring program for the Lake Tahoe watershed

Impacts of Land Use on Water Quality in Lake Tahoe Watersheds

Prepared by Desert Research Institute for NDEP by Gayle L. Dana, Richard B. Susfalk, Paul Verburg

<http://www.dri.edu>

The goal of this study was to conduct a source assessment of nutrients and sediments in the Third and Incline Creek Watersheds in support of the Lake Tahoe TMDL. The primary objectives were to characterize sediment and nutrient loading from specific land uses and understand nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) transport pathways.

Suspended sediment loading was greatest from both watersheds during snowmelt events and was typically dominated by sediment originating from the undeveloped land use accounting for 41-45% of the total sediment exiting the Incline Creek watershed. The ski area and urbanized land uses each contributed between 25 to 32% of the whole watershed sediment load. The undeveloped land use also dominated Third Creek, contributing up to 72% of sediment load delivered directly to Third Creek. In addition to this 27,000 to 356,000 kg of suspended sediment delivered by Third Creek during yearly snowmelt, Rosewood Creek delivered another 45,000 to 109,000 kg to Third Creek just upstream of its discharge to Lake Tahoe. However, on a relative flux basis, suspended sediment delivery from the undeveloped land use was the lowest of all land uses studied. For example, suspended sediment fluxes from the undeveloped land use were between 38 to 73% lower than that from urban and ski area land uses within Incline Creek.

When normalized by the water flux, sediment mobilization from the urbanized land use during rain or snow events was typically five times greater than that from the undeveloped land use, compared to 15 times greater during rain events, on average. Nitrogen fluxes were decoupled from phosphorus fluxes in the Third Creek urbanized land use, as the highest total N fluxes occurred during the lower water year of 2005. This was in contrast to total P in both watersheds and total N in the Incline Creek urbanized area that had the greatest total nutrient fluxes in conjunction greater water fluxes.

Tahoe Stormwater Particle Assessment and Management for Urban and Roadway Runoff

Heyvaert, Alan C., DRI, Project period 09/02/2010 - 10/31/2012 Funded by USDA - Forest Service

Project Description

<http://www.dri.edu/dhs-research-themes/3164-tahoe-stormwater-particle-assessment-and-management-for-urban-and-roadway-runoff>

The urban portion of the watershed contributes about 70% of the fine sediment that is delivered to Lake Tahoe. These fine particles significantly affect water clarity in this otherwise pristine lake. Current pollutant reduction strategies are targeting their removal through erosion control and stormwater treatment projects. The investment of significant financial resources to improve the Lake's clarity requires that our understanding of the sources, transport and potential for removal of these particles from urban stormwater be accelerated. The intent of this project is to add to our current, yet incomplete knowledge concerning fine particles. Specifically, this project will provide information to (1) help establish reliable, calibrated relationship(s) between turbidity, the mass of size fractionated suspended solids, and the number of <16 um micron particles in stormwater runoff, (2) provide details on mechanisms involved in the removal of fine particles in vegetated BMP treatment basins and (3)

provide data on the efficiency of this type of commonly used BMP while giving recommendations for design characteristics to increase fine particle removal. The Lake Tahoe TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) program and associated efforts to improve lake clarity (e.g. EIP) will greatly benefit from increasing our understanding of fine sediment removal and how to measure success.

Lake Tahoe Divers Conservancy

<http://www.alpengroup.org/tahoe-divers-conservancy>

The Tahoe Divers' Conservancy (TDC) is a grassroots, community based, organization advocating for the protection of Lake Tahoe and other marine environments of the Sierra Nevada. The mission of the TDC is to document, study and conserve the complex marine environment that defines Lake Tahoe. Scientific research divers conduct on-going research and long term monitoring programs. TCD's advisory board is comprised of marine science experts who provide guidance and assistance on research projects. The TDC has been an active partner in the aquatic invasive species pilot removal projects. The group also conducts community underwater and beach cleanups, and maintains an active education and outreach schedule.

FIRES - Securing Funding for Fire Flow Needs

Since 2008, more than \$3,000,000 in federal funds have been matched (50/50) by from partnership members. In 2016, Sustainable Community Advocates brought forth on behalf of TWSA and individual water suppliers, an initiative to Secure TRPA approval to add Specific Water Supply and Transmission Projects that Improve Firefighting Capability to the adopted list of Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Projects (Expand Focus Area 02 – Forest Management).

The purpose of this request from the Tahoe Basin Fire Chiefs and members of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) that TRPA formally add specific water supply and transmission projects that improve firefighting capability to the list of projects adopted in the Lake Tahoe EIP (Expand Focus Area 02 - Forest Management). Consistent with the provisions of TRPA Code Chapter 15, the TRPA Governing Board delegates to its Executive Director the authority to approve this request, so long as it meets the eligibility criteria set forth in Chapter 15.

As a result of the Angora Fire in 2007, emphasis was placed in the Tahoe Basin on developing adequate water supply and services to address fire flow needs. Public water systems in the Tahoe Basin were designed for daily, community water use needs; they were not designed to provide the continuous, high volume output of water needed for firefighting in the "wildland urban interface" which characterizes many Tahoe neighborhoods. TWSA members have been actively working to secure funding for infrastructure upgrades including: storage tank replacements, booster stations, interties between separate water systems, and emergency power systems to provide additional water supply in case of emergency.

Tahoe Douglas Fire Boat

<https://www.tahoefire.org/news/entry/tdfpd-fire-flow-initiative-program>

FIRE FLOW INITIATIVE - NEW FIRE BOAT



As part of the Fire Engineer's recommendation, the District has ordered a new fire boat, which is currently being built to our specifications in Wisconsin. The new boat will be equipped with a Skyhook digital anchoring system and joystick steering in the wheelhouse and on the bow, which are safety features that make piloting the boat easier during an emergency response. It will be capable of pumping 1,500 gallons per minute,

is designed to allow anchoring on the beach and connection to standpipes. The boat will have a fast response time, as it will be powered by twin 350HP Mercury Verados capable of traveling up to 45 mph. Other features are GPS, sonar, search lights, and Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR). Fallen Leaf Lake Fire has FLIR on their boat which they have used to assist Search and Rescue efforts in the water and on land by locating missing hikers from the water with the infrared. It will also have a landing-craft door, which lowers into the water for safer rescue of victims.

A project team of firefighters reviewed specifications for the design, will continue to monitor the construction, and will coordinate training when the boat is delivered in November. The cost of the boat is approximately \$500,000 and has been paid for by donations and fees from homeowners opting to participate in the FFI program. The manufacturer, Lake Assault, said that the boat will be well-built and if properly maintained, should last 20 years.

Below is an example of recent projects and cost share of TWSA Members on fire flow projects.
(Source: Lake Tahoe Fire Prevention Partnership: L. Nolan)

USFS Funding
Lake Tahoe Fire Prevention Partnership

NOTE: In some cases, actual project costs are estimates and rounded

2016 Funding (Local Match still pending but minimum of \$800,000)

Agency	Total Budget Amount including 50% match	Actual Project Costs
STPUD - 2016/2017 Fire Hydrant Service Expansion Project	\$ 636,734.00	
NTPUD -2016/2017 Dolly Varden Water Main Replacement Project	\$ 175,742.00	
TCPUD - 2016/2017 The Bunker Tank Replacement Project	\$ 215,786.00	
IVGID - 2017 Watermain Replacement & Fireflow Enhancement Project	\$ 266,058.00	
IVGID - 2016 Watermain Replacement & Fireflow Enhancement PH II	\$ 100,000.00	
KGID - 2016/2017 Standby Generator Installation Project	\$ 114,136.00	
RHGID - 2016/2017 Fire Hydrant Replacement	\$ 21,746.00	
Douglas -Cave Rock Lake Intake Improvements Project	\$ 47,806.00	
Lakeside - Cedar/Park/Manzanita Water Line Extension	\$ 5,992.00	
Admin	\$ 16,000.00	
Totals	\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ -

2015 (some projects have not been implemented as yet) Local Cost Match \$1,427,000

Agency/Project	Total Budget Amount including 50% match	Actual project costs
STPUD - Fire Hydrant Service Expansion Project	\$ 797,048.00	\$ 1,000,000
NTPUD - Dolly Varden Water Main Replacement Project	\$ 222,280.00	\$ 1,400,000
TCPUD - The Bunker Tank Replacement Project	\$ 268,372.00	
IVGID - 2015 Watermain Replacement and Fireflow Enhancement Project	\$ 457,744.00	
KGID - Waterline Replacements Project	\$ 142,654.00	
RHGID - New Pump Soft Starts at Office Booster Station	\$ 27,224.00	
Douglas - Lake Water System Improvements	\$ 57,176.00	
Lakeside - Fire Hydrant Installation Project	\$ 7,502.00	\$ 27,000
Admin	\$ 20,000.00	
Totals	\$ 2,000,000.00	

2014 Local Cost Match \$1,811,414

Agency/Project	Total Budget Amount including 50% match	Actual project costs
STPUD - Saddle/Keller Waterline Replacement	\$ 526,556.00	\$ 658,000.00
NTPUD - Canterbury Water Main Replacement Project	\$ 146,134.00	\$ 400,414.00
TCPUD - Upper Ellis Road Waterline Replacement Project	\$ 158,224.00	\$ 600,000.00
IVGID - 2014 Watermain Replacement & Fireflow Enhancement Project	\$ 302,066.00	\$ 600,000.00
KGID - Beverly Road & Virginia Drive Waterline Replacement Project	\$ 94,244.00	\$ 150,000.00
RHGID - New Upper Pressure Zone Water Storage Tank	\$ 17,948.00	\$ 35,000.00
Douglas - Cave Rock Water System-Upper Cave Rock Tank Rehab	\$ 37,022.00	\$ 65,000.00
Lakeside - Fire Hydrant Installation Project 2014	\$ 4,806.00	\$ 27,000.00
Admin	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 26,000.00
Totals	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 2,561,414.00

2013 Local Cost Match \$3,878,351

Agency/Project	Total Budget Amount including 50% match	Actual project costs
STPUD (State Street Waterline Replacement)	\$ 625,066.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
NTPUD (Canterbury Water Main Replacement)	\$ 172,578.00	\$ 400,414.00
TCPUD (Tahoma Meadows Transmission Line Repl Ph2)	\$ 174,272.00	\$ 846,762.00
IVGID (2012 Watermain and Fireflow Enhancement Ph 2)	\$ 358,038.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
KGID (Beverly Rd & Virginia Dr Waterline Replacements)	\$ 111,784.00	\$ 224,175.87
RHGID (New Upper Pressure Zone Wtr Storage Tank Rplc)	\$ 21,304.00	\$ 50,000.00
Douglas (Upper Cave Rock Tank Rehab)	\$ 45,952.00	\$ 75,000.00
Lakeside (Fire Hydrant Installation Project 2013)	\$ 5,706.00	\$ 27,000.00
Admin	\$ 15,300.00	\$ 20,000.00
Totals	\$ 1,530,000.00	\$ 4,643,351.87

2012 Local Cost Match \$3,671,208

Agency/Project	Total Budget Amount including 50% match	Actual project costs
STPUD (Wildwood Waterline)	\$ 735,370.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
NTPUD (Minnow Ave. Waterline Replacement)	\$ 203,034.00	\$ 326,409.00
TCPUD (Bunker Tank Replacement)	\$ 102,513.00	\$ 500,000.00
TCPUD (Grouse Waterline Replacement)	\$ 102,513.00	\$ 500,000.00
IVGID (2012 Watermain and Fireflow Enhancement Ph 1)	\$ 421,222.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
KGID (Jeff Lane and Linda Way Waterline Replacements)	\$ 131,510.00	\$ 341,799.78
RHGID (Zone 1 Water Storage Tank)	\$ 25,064.00	\$ 200,000.00
Douglas (Zephyr Knolls Waterline)	\$ 54,062.00	\$ 150,000.00
Lakeside (Sunrise & Hill Water Improvements Phase 2)	\$ 6,712.00	\$ 25,000.00
Admin	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Totals	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 4,571,208.78

Fuels Reduction Plans for the Lake Tahoe Basin

Updated Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan

<http://www.nltfpd.net/whats-new/updated-lake-tahoe-basin-community-wilfire-protectin-plan/>

Contact: John Pickett (775) 220-7675, Forester, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

South Lake Tahoe, Calif. – An updated Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan was presented to the public during the Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit on Monday, August 24, 2015. This new Community Wildfire Protection Plan was collaboratively developed by the 18 member organizations of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) and is the culmination of a three-year planning effort.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 created the concept of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Prior to that time, fire planning was done by federal and state land managers, generally without a partner in the local community, because few community groups addressed fire hazard specifically. At that same time, federal and state agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE, were under increasing budgetary pressures. Fire suppression costs began consuming increasingly large percentages of budgets, but home losses and acres burned continued to increase dramatically. The president and Congress worked together in a bipartisan manner to change course and give communities the tools and authority to take charge of their local risk and plan and implement projects to address that risk.

Since the original Community Wildfire Protection Plans were written, wildland fires have resulted in catastrophic losses from South Lake Tahoe to Austin, Texas – but there were also successes. In fact, many communities that had taken steps to mitigate fire hazard have been entirely successful. The updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan incorporates the elements common to successful programs from across the country. Its goals are to:

- **Create fire-adapted communities:** The plan provides mitigation strategies and community-driven action plans to help create communities where citizens are engaged and active in preparing for wildfire. It facilitates interagency cooperation and strengthens communication and support between agencies and the public.
- **Restore and maintain fire-resilient landscapes:** The plan provides prioritized locations for fuel reduction treatments to enable land managers to effectively work across jurisdictions and address risks to ecosystems and communities at a landscape scale.
- **Provide effective and efficient wildfire response:** The plan provides strategic treatments on the landscape that will facilitate safer and more successful suppression. This plan provides for tracking, reporting, and sharing of both fuel reduction accomplishments and homeowner/community initiatives.

Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10-Year Plan

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm9_046334.pdf

The USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is lead agency for the *Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10-Year Plan*.

This strategic Comprehensive Fuels Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin incorporates approximately 208,800 acres. The plan was developed to comply with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act Of 2006; Public Law 109-432 (H.R. 6111).

The plan facilitates the strategic decisions that must be made by land management, fire and regulatory agencies to reduce the probability of a catastrophic fire in the Basin. It combines all existing fuel treatment plans that have been developed within the basin and provides a communication framework for participating agencies to identify priority areas and to work collaboratively on accomplishing those priorities. In addition, it builds upon current and past fuel reduction projects that have already occurred on nearly 13,000 acres and the efforts of community-based fire departments and fire safe councils that are actively treating fuels around residences.

Two fire councils, the Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council and Nevada Fire Safe Council, provide resources to California and Nevada homeowners, respectively, to protect their property. Many of the participating local fire departments offer tree removal and thinning services to local residents. Education materials are also provided (TRPA 2005). The states, public land managers (excluding the US Forest Service) and local jurisdictions currently invest significant funding to the fuel reduction effort in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

During the term of the current situation, the communities of the Lake Tahoe Basin must undertake maximum efforts to secure long term funding to support ongoing maintenance. Until the current need for fuel reduction on state, municipal, and private lands is accomplished, the communities of the Lake Tahoe Basin, the environment, and lives of the Basin's residents and guests remain at risk. Significant and reliable funding is needed to complete fuel reduction projects on state, municipal and private property identified in the *Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10-Year Plan* for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU)

Most of the communities in the Lake Tahoe Basin are listed on the national federal registrar for communities at risk of catastrophic fire (LTEEC 2004). A majority of the land in the Tahoe Basin is owned by the US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). LTBMU actively completes control burns annually to reduce the risk of a catastrophic fire in the Basin.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit prescribed burns are updated regularly at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/fire/current.shtml>.

Angora Fire 2007

The Angora Fire began on June 24, 2007 in the North Upper Truckee area in South Lake Tahoe, California and was fully contained on July 2, 2007. It burned in a particularly sensitive area: a watershed that provides a quarter of the water that runs into the lake. About 10 percent of the watershed was destroyed. The Angora Fire burned approximately 3,100 acres of land area in the southwest portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, California. Undeveloped montane, mixed conifer forest habitat was the dominant land type within the burn area, but significant areas of urban development were also affected.

Angora Fire Effect on Water Supply

TWSA water purveyors have indicated no changes in raw water intake turbidity readings due to the Angora Fire. Unlike the east and north shores, the majority of South Lake Tahoe water supplies are fed from groundwater sources, which are less affected by erosion than the lake source intakes.

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) Monitoring Strategy for the Angora Burn Area

http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/documents/angora-fire/angora_restoration/2009_Docs/Angora_Restoration_Prop_Action_02_11_2009_FINAL.pdf

In the immediate aftermath of the Angora Fire, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit moved quickly to determine monitoring and assessment needs related to impacts on US Forest Service lands, as well as

consequent effects to downslope and downstream resources. Monitoring questions and strategies were identified which would provide essential information to evaluate the impacts of the fire on forest resources and establish a baseline for evaluation of natural recovery and restoration efforts. These monitoring strategies are currently being evaluated as part of planning for the Angora Phase III Restoration Project. The current monitoring strategy is described in this document.

In addition to the studies undertaken by the Forest Service, a small number of studies by other organizations have been granted area access permits to allow researchers and other agencies' staffs to conduct their own research and monitoring efforts and/or to assist the USFS in its data collection efforts. The long term monitoring strategy will be defined as part of the environmental analysis conducted for the Angora Fire Restoration Project.

Formation of the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission

http://www.nltfpd.net/pdfs/TahoeBasinFireRpt_Findings.pdf

As a result of the Angora Fire, the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission was formed as a bi-state management planning committee, tasked with streamlining defensible space planning and fuels reduction projects, in the fall of 2007. The California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission completed a comprehensive review of the laws, policies, and practices that affect the vulnerability of the Tahoe Basin to wildfires. The Commission also looked at the myriad of natural and human factors that make this Basin so unique, but also render it uniquely susceptible to the occurrence and deleterious impacts of wildfires.

Commission's findings relative to water quality

The unique water quality and clarity of Lake Tahoe is a natural resource of global significance and is dependent on protection from catastrophic wildfires in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Lake Tahoe is one of the three clearest lakes of its size in the world. The water quality of the Lake and its tributaries is fundamental to the scenic quality and global significance of the Lake Tahoe Basin, yet water quality depends on a fragile balance among soil, vegetation, and human impact. The focus of water quality protection in the Basin is to minimize human disturbance, and to reduce or eliminate the addition of pollutants that result from development or other disturbance. There is perhaps no single disturbance event with greater potential deleterious impact on the Lake than a catastrophic wildfire.

VIII. POLLUTION CONTROLS

General methods for controlling pollution in watersheds include: obtaining written agreements with public landowners; participation in regional planning efforts; public education; collaboration between watershed stakeholders and regulators, emergency response programs, and securing funding for watershed programs (EPA 2003). The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) designs programs to meet EPA guidelines and local regulations.

This chapter is a summary of TWSA and Tahoe Basin regional agency control activities during the reporting year including: regulatory changes, environmental improvement projects, public education, mapping and spill reporting projects.

CA Drinking Water Program transferred from the Department of Public Health to State Water Board
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml

2014 Reorganization Summary

CA State policy declares that every human being has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes [AB 685 (Eng, Chapter 524, Statutes of 2012)].

The Administration had evaluated the current governance structure of the state's drinking water and water quality activities and concluded that aligning the state's drinking water and water quality programs in an integrated organizational structure would best position the state to both effectively protect water quality and the public health as it relates to water quality, while meeting current needs and future demands on water supplies.

With the Legislature's approval and appropriate legislation, this alignment was achieved by moving the Drinking Water Program from the Department of Public Health to the State Water Board on July 1, 2014.

The Administration's goal in transferring the Drinking Water Program is to align the state's water quality programs in an organizational structure that:

- 1) Consolidates all water quality regulation throughout the hydrologic cycle to protect public health and promote comprehensive water quality protection for drinking water, irrigation, industrial, and other beneficial uses;

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM / ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING AT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	
Drinking Water Program Staffing	Number of Staff
Executive Division	15
Operator Certification	7
Drinking Water Technical (SRF)	40.5
Regulatory - Northern CA	77.5
Regulatory - Southern CA	104
ELAP	25
TOTAL Drinking Water Program	269
Administrative Staffing	Number of Staff
Administrative Staff	6
Legal Division	5
Legislation/Public Affairs	1
Information Technology	10
TOTAL Administrative Staff	22
TOTAL Permanent Staff	291

NOTE: The total number of Drinking Water Program staff includes 291 permanent staff positions as well as temporary help.

- 2) Maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of drinking water, groundwater, and water quality programs by organizing them in a single agency whose primary mission is to protect water quality for beneficial uses including the protection and preservation of public and environmental health;
- 3) Continues focused attention on providing technical and financial assistance to small, disadvantaged communities to address their drinking water needs;
- 4) Consolidates financial assistance programs into a single state agency that is focused on protecting and restoring California water quality, protecting public health, and supporting communities in meeting their water infrastructure needs;
- 5) Establishes a one-stop agency for financing water quality and supply infrastructure projects;
- 6) Enhances water recycling, a state goal, through integrated water quality management; and
- 7) Promotes a comprehensive approach to communities' strategies for drinking water, wastewater, water recycling, pollution prevention, desalination, and storm water.

US EPA Regulatory Changes

Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 rule/ LT2ESWTR)

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/lt2/index.cfm>

The deadline for compliance was October 1, 2014. All TWSA members have achieved compliance or were exempted due to existing treatment processes. Information on TWSA member compliance is available in "Chapter V - Description of the Water Supply".

The USEPA developed the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 rule/LT2ESWTR) to improve drinking water quality and provide additional protection from disease-causing microorganisms and contaminants that can form during drinking water treatment. Pathogens, such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, are often found in water, and can cause gastrointestinal illness (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting and cramps) and other health risks. In many cases, water needs to be disinfected through the use of additives such as chlorine to inactivate (or kill) microbial pathogens.

Existing regulations did not require unfiltered systems to provide any treatment for *Cryptosporidium*. Although unfiltered systems maintain watershed control programs to protect water quality, recent national surveys have shown *Cryptosporidium* to be present in the sources of unfiltered systems. Without treatment, these *Cryptosporidium* will pass into the water distributed to consumers. Available data indicate that the average risk from *Cryptosporidium* in unfiltered systems is higher than in filtered systems, so that treatment by unfiltered systems is required to achieve comparable public health protection. Further, with available technologies like UV and ozone, treatment for *Cryptosporidium* is feasible for all unfiltered systems. Consequently, EPA is establishing requirements under the LT2ESWTR for all unfiltered systems to treat for *Cryptosporidium*, with the required degree of treatment depending on the source water contamination level.

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) – Final Rule

http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/tcr/regulation_revisions.cfm

Public water systems (PWSs) and primacy agencies must comply with the revised requirements by April, 2016. Until then, PWSs and primacy agencies must continue complying with the [1989 TCR](#). On February 13, 2013, EPA published in the Federal Register the revisions to the 1989 TCR. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). The RTCR:

- Requires public water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems; and
- Establishes criteria for systems to qualify for and stay on reduced monitoring, which could reduce water system burden and provide incentives for better system operation.

[Revised Total Coliform Rule: A Quick Reference Guide \(PDF\)](#)

EPA 815-B-13- 001, September 2013

The RTCR establishes a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for *E. coli* and uses *E. coli* and total coliforms to initiate a “find and fix” approach to address fecal contamination that could enter into the distribution system. It requires public water systems (PWSs) to perform assessments to identify sanitary defects and subsequently take action to correct them.

The Revised Total Coliform Rule

Date of Implementation: April 1, 2016 / Date of Regulation: February 13, 2013

EPA finalized the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). The RTCR maintains the purpose of the 1989 Total Coliform Rule (TCR) to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the RTCR, as it requires public water systems (PWSs) that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems, and it establishes criteria for systems to qualify for and stay on reduced monitoring, thereby providing incentives for improved water system operation.

The RTCR, as with the 1989 TCR, is the only microbial drinking water regulation that applies to all PWSs. Systems are required to meet a legal limit (i.e., maximum contaminant level (MCL)) for *E. coli*, as demonstrated by required monitoring. The RTCR specifies the frequency and timing of the microbial testing by water systems based on population served, system type, and source water type. The rule also requires public notification when there is a potential health threat as indicated by monitoring results, and when the system fails to identify and fix problems as required.

The entities potentially affected by the RTCR are PWSs that are classified as community water systems (CWSs) (e.g., systems that provide water to year round residents in places like homes or apartment buildings) or non-community water systems (NCWSs) (e.g., systems that provide water to people in locations such as schools, office buildings, restaurants, etc.); State primacy agencies; and local and tribal governments. The RTCR applies to approximately 155,000 PWSs that serve approximately 310 million (M) individuals.

The RTCR establishes a health goal (maximum contaminant level goal, or MCLG) and an MCL for *E. coli*, a more specific indicator of fecal contamination and potential harmful pathogens than total coliforms. EPA replaces the MCLG and MCL for total coliforms with a treatment

technique for coliforms that requires assessment and corrective action. Many of the organisms detected by total coliform methods are not of fecal origin and do not have any direct public health implication.

Under the treatment technique for coliforms, total coliforms serve as an indicator of a potential pathway of contamination into the distribution system. A PWS that exceeds a specified frequency of total coliform occurrence must conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist (a sanitary defect is defined by the RTCR as a “defect that could provide a pathway of entry for microbial contamination into the distribution system or that is indicative of a failure or imminent failure of a barrier that is already in place”); if any are found, the system must correct them.

What are the key provisions PWSs must comply with under the RTCR?

Provision Category	Key Provisions
Contaminant Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses the presence of total coliforms and E. coli in drinking water. • For E. coli (EC), the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is set at zero and the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is based on the occurrence of a condition that includes routine and repeat samples. • For total coliforms (TC), PWSs must conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment of their system when they exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrence. Other events such as an MCL violation or failure to take repeat samples following a routine total coliform-positive sample will also trigger an assessment. Any sanitary defects identified during an assessment must be corrected by the PWS. These are the treatment technique requirements of the RTCR.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and follow a sample siting plan that designates the PWS's collection schedule and location of routine and repeat water samples. • Collect routine water samples on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, annually) and have them tested for the presence of total coliforms by a state certified laboratory. • Analyze all routine or repeat samples that are total coliform positive (TC+) for E. coli. • Collect repeat samples (at least 3) for each TC+ positive routine sample. • For PWSs on quarterly or annual routine sampling, collect additional routine samples (at least 3) in the month after a TC+ routine or repeat sample. • Seasonal systems must monitor and certify the completion of a state-approved start-up procedures.
Level 1 and Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWSs are required to conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment if certain conditions indicate that they might be vulnerable to contamination, and fix any sanitary defects within a required timeframe.
Reporting and Recordkeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWSs are required to report certain items to their states. These reporting and recordkeeping requirements are essentially the same as under TCR with the addition of Level 1 and Level 2 requirements.
Violations, Public Notification (PN) and Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWSs incur violations if they do not comply with the requirements of the RTCR. The violation types are essentially the same as under the TCR with few changes. The biggest change is no acute or monthly MCL violation for total coliform positive samples only.

- PN is required for violations incurred. Within required timeframes, the PWS must use the required health effects language and notify the public if they did not comply with certain requirements of the RTCR. The type of PN depends on the severity of the violation.
- Community water systems (CWSs) must use specific language in their CCRs when they must conduct an assessment or if they incur an E. coli MCL violation.

Lead and Copper Rule

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/lcr/index.cfm>

Lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through plumbing materials. Exposure to lead and copper may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage. On June 7, 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation is known as the Lead and Copper Rule (also referred to as the LCR or 1991 Rule). The treatment technique for the rule requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 ppb or copper concentrations exceed an action level of 1.3 ppm in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. If the action level for lead is exceeded, the system must also inform the public about steps they should take to protect their health and may have to replace lead service lines under their control.

Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

Date of implementation: January 4, 2014 / Date of Regulation: January 4, 2011

Summary:

Amends Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Section 1417 – Prohibition on Use and Introduction into Commerce of Lead Pipes, Solder and Flux.

- Modifies the applicability of the prohibitions by creating exemptions.
- Changes the definition of “lead free” by reducing lead content from 8% to a weighted average of not more than 0.25% in the wetted surface material (primarily affects brass/bronze).
- Eliminated provision that required certain products comply with “voluntary” standards for lead leaching.
- Establishes statutory requirement for calculating lead content.

Electronic Delivery of the CCR

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ccr/upload/ccrdeliveryoptionsmemo.pdf>

EPA evaluated several electronic delivery methods to determine which forms meet existing CCR Rule requirements as a part of the CCR Rule Retrospective Review. The EPA interpretive memorandum SDWA – Consumer Confidence Report Rule Delivery Options, dated January 2013, clarifies the requirements of the CCR Rule associated with the delivery of the CCR. The memorandum’s attachment, Consumer Confidence Report Electronic Delivery Options and Considerations, provides an overview of electronic delivery methods and describes approaches for community water systems that may want to implement electronic delivery.

Electronic Delivery

The EPA's CCR Rule Retrospective Review evaluated several electronic delivery methods and discusses in the attachment a framework for electronic delivery methods that meet existing CCR Rule requirements. The EPA has identified two different approaches allowable under the current rule that a CWS could use in providing electronic delivery of CCRs to its bill-paying customers: 1) paper CCR delivery with a customer option to request an electronic CCR, or 2) electronic CCR delivery with a customer option to request a paper CCR. CWSs should consider a combination of delivery methods (described in the memorandum's attachment) for their CCRs based on available technology and the preferences of their customer base. The attachment to this memorandum provides important considerations for CWSs that choose to implement CCR electronic delivery. The EPA recommends that CWSs provide options for their customers that are cost-effective and practicable for the CWS, as well as convenient and understandable for their customers. Because this is a new and rapidly changing environment, the EPA recommends that primacy agencies reach out to their CWSs and provide assistance to ensure that methods of electronic delivery being considered by CWSs meet CCR Rule requirements.

California Emerging Contaminants Regulations

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/

California has ongoing, regulatory requirements for testing, monitoring and reporting on emerging contaminants of concern, beyond USEPA regulations. There are now requirements for testing a variety of potential contaminants, including chemicals and micro-plastics.

2019: Microplastics

TWSA staff are actively engaged on this topic.

As stated in [Health and Safety Code section 116350 et seq.](#), California Safe Drinking Water Act (Act) requires the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to administer provisions related to drinking water to protect public health. The Act allows the State Water Board to conduct research, studies, and demonstration programs to ensure provision of a dependable, safe supply of drinking water, which may include improving methods to identify and measure the existence of contaminants in drinking water and to identify the source of the contaminants. The Act also grants the State Water Board the authority to implement regulations that may include monitoring of contaminants, and requirements for notifying the public of the quality of the water delivered to customers. On September 28, 2018, [Senate Bill No. 1422](#) was filed with the Secretary of State, adding [section 116376 to the Health and Safety Code](#), and requiring the State Water Board to adopt a definition of microplastics in drinking water on or before **July 1, 2020**, and on or before **July 1, 2021**, to adopt a standard methodology to be used in the testing of drinking water for microplastics and requirements for four years of testing and reporting of microplastics in drinking water, including public disclosure of those results.

Proposed Action - Consistent with [Health and Safety Code section 116376](#) and within its authority, the State Water Board is reviewing existing research and studies to accomplish the following tasks:

- On or before July 1, 2020: Adopt a definition of microplastics in drinking water;
- On or before July 1, 2021:
 - Adopt a standard methodology for testing of microplastics in drinking water;
 - Adopt requirements for four years of testing and reporting of microplastics in drinking water, including public disclosure of those results;

- Consider issuing quantitative guidelines (e.g., notification level) to aid consumer interpretations of the testing results, if appropriate;
- Accredited qualified laboratories in California to analyze microplastics in drinking water.

[Health and Safety Code section 116376](#) allows the State Water Board to implement these tasks through the adoption of a Policy Handbook that is not subject to the Administrative Regulations and Rulemaking requirements of [Government Code section 11340 et seq.](#)

Shifting / Reduced Economic Funding for Restoration Projects

Projects and studies used to understand, analyze and mitigate environmental problems such as storm water runoff and aquatic invasive species requires large amounts of funding. Prior to 2011, Lake Tahoe had a significant influx of federal money (often matched with state and local government funds) coming in to support an array of research projects, environmental improvement and capital improvement projects. Although not immediately apparent, since several large projects were being completed from prior funding. Loss of federal funding signaled a drastic slowdown in water quality improvements for the region. Some funding was reinstated in 2016-present, with the passage of another round of the multi-year the Tahoe Restoration Act. Much of that allocation so far fuels reduction.

This influx of funding had decreased drastically, with a major loss being Tahoe Restoration Act funding for multiple years. Funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) has greatly reduced with the economic downturns of 2008-2011 and drop in real estate process and transactions. There is now an increased emphasis on private-public partnerships to accomplish restoration goals.

2016: Tahoe Restoration Act is Funded Again

<http://www.keeptahoeblue.org/news/opinion-pieces/Congress-passes-the-Lake-Tahoe-Restoration-Act>

In December of 2016, President Obama signed legislation that included the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, authorizing \$415 million for restoration, research and aquatic invasive species and wildfire prevention at Lake Tahoe. The Act has been a keystone of the effort to protect and restore Lake Tahoe's clarity.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe strongly supported this legislation, which follows [action by California and Nevada to renew their commitment to cooperation on Lake Tahoe's environmental goals](#), without which continued public funding may have been impossible.

The U.S. Senate joined the U.S. House of Representatives in passing the Water Resources Development Act, which included the reauthorization of the [Lake Tahoe Restoration Act](#). The following is a statement by Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD, the executive director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe: "This is a great day for Lake Tahoe. We are thrilled that Congress has passed the full Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, intact with the protections we supported. We are grateful for the hard work of our Senate delegation under the sponsorship of Nevada Senators Dean Heller and Harry Reid and California's Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. This landmark legislation will provide over \$400 million in critical public funds for environmental restoration projects, the control of aquatic invasive species and to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Once signed by President Obama, this legislation will allow essential actions to protect Lake Tahoe to move ahead, increasing the likelihood that we'll be able to Keep Tahoe Blue now and for future generations."

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act Priority Projects

Under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act was amended. Within the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill, Division G includes: Lake Tahoe - The Committees are encouraged by the work conducted in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and expect the Service to prioritize funding the implementation of Public Law 106-506, as amended, and to do so in consultation with affected States, local governments, and other stakeholders. Within 60 days of enactment of this Act, the Service shall report to the Committees on these activities and the funding that will be allocated in FY 2018.

Current Status:

The Forest Service is spending \$3 million in FY 2018 on Lake Tahoe projects and activities, primarily for forest health restoration and fire protection. These include:

- \$500,000 to support National Environmental Policy Act work with the Lake Tahoe West Landscape-Scale Partnership;
- \$1,000,000 to prepare for FY 2019 work on hazardous fuels reduction and healthy forest restoration on 190 acres of land. These funds will be invested in a Good Neighbor Agreement with Nevada Division of Forestry;
- \$1,000,000 for Westshore Wildland-Urban Interface hazardous fuels reduction work on 400 acres of land. This will include harvesting 3 million board feet in FY 2019. This work will be completed using a stewardship agreement with the National Forest Foundation;
- \$360,000 to prepare all of the Westshore Wildland Urban Interface hazardous fuels reduction units in FY 2018; and
- \$140,000–160,000 for early support in the form of staff time for the following projects:
 - Lake Tahoe West Landscape-Scale Partnership
 - Incline Hazardous Fuels Reduction & Healthy Forest Restoration
 - Westshore Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction
 - Meeks Bay Ecosystem Restoration
 - Upper Truckee River & Marsh Restoration
 - Marlette Creek SR 28 Crossing Realignment & Water Quality Improvement.

The Tahoe Fund

www.tahoefund.org

The Tahoe Fund, established in 2010, has stepped up as a public-private partnership proponent; seeking to raise funds from private donations and investors, in order to keep to fund critical environmental, recreation and improvement projects going in the Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe-based organization's goal is providing funding for conservation, recreation and stewardship education projects at Lake Tahoe. TWSA partnered with the Tahoe Fund on a Bottom Barrier Challenge to raise the funds to complete the Tahoe RCD bottom barrier inventory for 5 acres of lakewide treatment use. In 2019, TWSA partnered with the Tahoe Fund on a water bottle filling station grant program, awarding \$500 grants to up to 40 local businesses and organizations, who put in a water filling station in public area.

Tahoe Beach Apps

Looking for a public beach in Tahoe? Now there is an app for that! The Tahoe Fund, in partnership with the California Tahoe Conservancy's Tahoe License Plate Program, funded the creation and development of the [Tahoe Beaches App](#) to help residents and visitors find their way to more than 50 public beaches around Lake Tahoe. The Lake Tahoe Beaches app uses GPS to help you find nearby beaches and driving directions. You can search for beaches by beach features, including: Accessibility, Barbecues, Boat Rentals, Campfires, Campsites Nearby, Fishing Nearby, Food Concessions, Group Facilities, Overnight Parking, Paddleboard/Kayak, Jet Ski Rentals, Pets OK, Picnic Tables, Playground, Public Bathrooms, Public Transit Nearby, Shade Available, Showers and Volleyball Courts. Each beach has its own profile with helpful information such as: photos, hours of operation, parking info, contact info, nearby transit, directions, ways to help take care of the environment and a full description.

Tahoe Fund Project Portfolio

The Project Portfolio contains projects selected by the Tahoe Fund Board of Directors for funding. The Tahoe Fund is dedicated to educating the general public on the environmental issues facing restoration efforts at Lake Tahoe and to raising funds to support EIP (Environmental Improvement Program) projects that protect the natural environment. The Tahoe Fund provides support for projects in all EIP program areas, but generally focuses its efforts in three areas: Conservation, Recreation, and Education. A full inventory of projects has been developed and is available on the website:

<http://www.tahoefund.org>

In 2016 The Tahoe Fund introduced the Tahoe Fund Environmental Venture Trust, a new approach to philanthropy in Tahoe. Like a traditional venture capital fund, the Tahoe Fund Environmental Venture Trust will provide seed funding for a variety of innovative early-stage environmental projects that will help solve the environmental challenges facing Lake Tahoe. The returns will be purely philanthropic. By providing early-stage funding we can help kick start innovative pilot projects and get new projects off the ground.

Risk is inherently involved in venture funding, but the rewards can be incredible. Through our Projects Committee, we will closely vet new project ideas utilizing the following principals:

- The greatest possibility to improve the Tahoe environment and to attract significantly more funds in the future.
- Projects deemed to have good potential that have no other source of funding for this early-stage.
- To avoid projects that could be perceived as controversial or that duplicate any other project resources in the Tahoe Basin.

The seed investments will be modest in size. We will look for projects with great capacity for leverage of the initial seed funds through future public funding sources. It is possible as the projects advance they could also be considered for greater fundraising efforts by the Tahoe Fund.

TWSA/Tahoe Fund Projects:

DRINK TAHOE TAP ® Water Refill Stations

<https://www.tahoefund.org/projects/active-projects/drink-tahoe-tap-water-refill-stations/>

Project Partner: Tahoe Water Suppliers Association

Total Project Cost: \$20,000

Tahoe Fund Grant: \$10,000

With 99.994% purity, Tahoe tap water was voted the best tasting water in the country. The Tahoe Fund is partnering with the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association to encourage businesses in the Tahoe Basin to install more water bottle refill stations so more people can DRINK TAHOE TAP.

This will encourage environmental stewardship and reduce the use of single-use plastics by providing a way to easily refill reusable water bottles.

Available on a first-come basis, grants will be offered to Basin businesses who fill out the application, install the water bottle refill stations and submit proof of installation and payment between August 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021. Visit www.drinktahoetap.org to download the application.



Covid-19 impacts have affected water fountain use, but bottle fill stations (with no or low contact operation) are considered safe for use with regular sanitation best practices.

2018 Aquatic Invasive Bottom Barrier Challenge

<http://www.tahoefund.org/our-projects/active-projects>

Partner: Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association

Total Project Cost: \$52,500 / **Tahoe Fund Goal:** \$26,250 / **TWSA Match = 1/1 to Tahoe Fund**

In 2017, the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association collaborated with the Tahoe Fund on a “Bottom Barrier Challenge”, offering up to \$26,000 of matching funds to private donations. The joint fundraising project for bottom barrier mats was launched in June 2017 as a Tahoe Fund Project, closing on Dec. 31, 2017. Aquatic invasive plants are affecting water quality around the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. Through a well-coordinated program, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District has been able to remove aquatic invasive weeds with the use of bottom barriers and diver-assisted hand pulling. The current inventory of bottom barriers is 1.6 acres short of the maximum 5 acres of coverage permitted for Tahoe. The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association has issued a matching challenge to purchase the remaining 175 barriers that would bring the inventory to the full 5 acres. They will match every dollar that Tahoe Fund raises between now and the end of 2017. With the full inventory of mats, we can ensure more aquatic invasive weeds are removed from the Lake and water quality is improved.”

Other Recent Tahoe Fund Projects:

UV Light Pilot Project

<http://www.tahoefund.org/our-projects/active-projects/uv-light-pilot-project/>

Partners: Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Inventive Resources Inc., California Tahoe Conservancy
Total Project Cost: \$270,000 / Tahoe Fund Grant: \$10,000

In an effort to spur innovation in Tahoe, the Tahoe Fund provided the initial funds for a project that will evaluate UV light as a new method to remove aquatic invasive weeds. This innovative approach will be used in a pilot program at Lakeside Marina & Beach and could change the way aquatic invasive weeds are controlled in Tahoe's watershed and beyond if successful. Aquatic invasive weeds are a serious threat to the crystal clear waters of Lake Tahoe. Aquatic invaders such as Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed have already established in the Lake. These non-native species change the natural make-up of the waters and threaten to significantly reduce the recreational use of the Lake and surrounding rivers.

A \$5,000 grant to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District from the Tahoe Fund's Environmental Venture Trust helped secure \$260,000 in public funding from the California Tahoe Conservancy to get the project started this year. An additional \$5,000 grant will provide underwater cameras to monitor the effectiveness of the UV light.

Tahoe East Shore Trail

Partners: Tahoe Transportation District, Nevada Division of State Parks, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Nevada Division of State Lands, US Forest Service, Incline Village General, Improvement District, Washoe County, Nevada Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
Funds Raised: \$1,000,000+

The Tahoe East Shore Trail (formerly the Incline to Sand Harbor Bike Path) is a spectacular three-mile paved path that will provide a new opportunity for the community to experience the natural beauty of the eastern shore of Tahoe. The path will significantly improve the safety of those traveling down the Highway 28 corridor, while creating an exceptional recreational amenity with added environmental benefits. With a 10-foot wide path, it meets the American Disability Act standards to ensure it is accessible to everyone to ride, walk or stroll. The new path begins at the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and Highway 28, expanding the current Lakeshore bike path for three more miles down to the Sand Harbor State Park. Along the way it provides access to Hidden Beach, Memorial Point and various other scenic vistas. It is a major component of the Tahoe Trail that will one day go all the way around the Lake.

Led by the Tahoe Transportation District, the project team identified more than \$12 million dollars in public funding from various federal, state and Washoe County sources for construction. Through the generosity of our donors, the Tahoe Fund met the original goal of \$750,000 to act as a match to access and leverage these public funds. The match triggered a cascade of public funding to fund the path and safety and stormwater improvements along the entire Rt 28 corridor from Incline Village to Spooner Summit. The Tahoe Fund also created a long-term maintenance fund for the project that currently holds more than \$600,000. Construction of the new path and Rt. 28 safety improvements is now complete.

The Smartest Forest Fund

Partners: U.S. Forest Service, California Tahoe Conservancy, Nevada Department of Forestry, Tahoe Forest & Fuels Team, Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative

Fundraising Goal: \$5,000,000

Last year California and Nevada both experienced their biggest wildfires in history. The Sierra Nevada forest is now home to more than 100 million dead trees. In the Tahoe Basin, we have seen tree mortality explode to over 160,000 trees in just the past few years. Many feel it is not a matter of if, but when we will face a catastrophic wildfire. We know the Camp Fire in Paradise, California could happen here. For all of these reasons, the Tahoe Fund has identified forest health as our number one priority.

The Tahoe Fund is launching the Smartest Forest Fund, a sub-fund of our Environmental Venture Trust, designed to use philanthropy to drive innovation through seed funding. With this Fund, we plan to invest in new ideas and pilot projects. Some will work; some may not. We know our efforts will help bolster the great work already underway by the US Forest Service, California and Nevada to accelerate the pace and scale of fixing our forest. The Tahoe Fund wants to make Tahoe's forest the Smartest Forest on the Planet, because we believe through innovation and technology we can significantly increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in the Tahoe Basin and beyond.

Supporting these efforts is the Tahoe Fund's highest priority. Working together with our public agency partners, we know there is an opportunity to harness the power of philanthropy and the private sector to increase the innovation and technology needed to significantly increase the pace and scale of the restoration.

To get started, we are supporting three projects:

-With a \$30,000 grant to the US Forest Service to develop an acoustic monitoring protocol and system to more effectively determine the value of habitat and the occurrence of the California spotted owl in project areas, and combined with automated recording device deployment, more efficiently detect individual owls and thereby shorten the existing process from two years to one year.

-A \$35,000 grant will join the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's support of Salo Sciences and Planet's efforts to build the California Forest Observatory, an interoperable, aggregated data platform that will support dynamic, real-time wildfire risk mapping. If successful, it could significantly reduce the time needed for forest restoration planning, and also support emergency operations.

-With a grant of \$35,000 the Tahoe Fund will support the efforts of the Nevada Division of Forestry to begin the process of re-starting the Carson City Biomass facility that is co-located at the Carson Prison. Once re-started, it will create a new off-taker of excess timber less than 20 miles from the Tahoe Basin.

We know there are still many barriers. Forest restoration permitting in the Tahoe Basin takes 5 to 7 years due to Federal permitting requirements. The projects are very labor-intensive and expensive. We lack a good market for excess fuel in our forest. The Smartest Forest Fund hopes to remove these barriers and others through technology and innovation. The Smartest Forest will dramatically decrease the time it takes to plan and approve restoration work. The Smartest Forest will use technology to enhance wildlife studies and harvesting plans. The Smartest Forest will find new outlets for the excess

fuel in the forest. The Smartest Forest will prepare our community for wildfire evacuation. The Smartest Forest will find new financial tools to do more work more quickly.

Previous and Ongoing Tahoe Fund Projects:

“Tahoe In Depth”

Tahoe Fund is proud to sponsor “Tahoe In Depth”, an award winning environmental newspaper that reports on environmental improvement projects around the Basin. Published twice a year, Tahoe In Depth reaches over 40,000 homeowners with information from some of the 50 partners working to restore the health of the Tahoe environment. (Editor Note: TWSA is also a sponsor.)

“Take Care” Campaign

Litter. Dog poop. Unsafe fires. Bear safety. Drink Tahoe Tap. These are just some of the issues impacting our region. The Tahoe Fund, in partnership with the Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee, developed the Take Care™ campaign to help reduce these impacts and promote a more responsible use of our great outdoors.

In 2020, and 2015, TWSA commissioned “Drink Tahoe Tap” graphics for this campaign. See Action Plan Highlights/Executive Summary for details.

The campaign was designed for use in outreach efforts by public agencies, private businesses and nonprofit organizations in the Region. Aimed at residents and visitors. The initial launch includes messages for: general litter, cigarette butts and beer bottle litter, dog waste, fire safety, bear awareness, and aquatic invasive species prevention. A Take Care Toolkit featuring the digital files for all of the messages is available to download for free at takecaretahoe.org.

“We held a workshop in September 2013 with more than 60 regional stakeholders to address these issues,” said Amy Berry, Tahoe Fund CEO and member of the Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee. “We heard loud and clear that a unified stewardship brand was needed to bring the region together to elevate our messages and see the biggest impact. We are thrilled to finally make the materials available to our regional partners for use in their outreach efforts.”

Tahoe City Aquatic Invasive Weed Removal

Lead: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Partners: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Truckee River Watershed Council Goal: \$50,000

This project includes control and removal efforts for aquatic invasive plants (Eurasian Watermilfoil) to restore the near shore environment back to its original pristine manner. Aquatic plant removal occurred on public lands along the north shore of Tahoe, specifically at the mouth of the Tahoe City Dam and down the Truckee River.

Ski Run Channel Invasive Weed Removal

Lead: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Partners: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Tahoe Conservancy Goal: \$15,000

The Ski Run Channel in South Lake Tahoe is infested with Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, aquatic invasive plants that threaten the clarity of the Lake. The high volume of traffic through the channel, notably commercial daily cruises to Emerald Bay, spread the invasive plants to other pristine

areas of the Lake. This project will treat and remove these hazardous weeds to restore the near shore clarity around the Lake.

Tahoe Fund Environmental Education Fund

Partners: Environmental stewardship programs and organizations in the Tahoe Basin Goal: \$25,000
The Tahoe Fund believes strongly in the need for environmental stewardship of the Lake Tahoe Region to help ensure the long-term preservation of the Lake among our current and next generations. The magnificent environment of Tahoe creates a wonderful opportunity to create lifelong environmental stewards in the Basin and beyond. Through the Environmental Education Fund, the Tahoe Fund will provide grants to projects and programs that educate and inspire both children and adults to take care of Tahoe's environment.

2013 Tahoe Fund Projects:

Emerald Bay Asian Clam Control Project

Tahoe Fund Goal: \$30,000 / Total Project Cost: \$75,000

Project Partners: California State Parks, UC Davis, Lahontan Water Quality Control Board, Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Lead Agency: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Within Emerald Bay, a small, fast-multiplying invader known as the Asian clam threatened to overwhelm the near shore ecosystem of this world-famous inlet. In 2012, a team of scientists and divers covered approximately 5 acres of the lake bottom with black rubber matting to smother the clams by cutting off their oxygen supply. It was the largest Asian clam control project in the lake's history and the first time the technique, developed by UC Davis researchers, has ever been tried on this scale. Because the clam population was still small and isolated, the project could completely remove the remaining population from Emerald Bay and help control its spread to other areas of Lake Tahoe.

West Shore Bike Trail

Tahoe Fund Goal: \$25,000 / Total Project Cost: \$1,557,900

Project Partners: North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, Placer County Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy

Lead Agency: Tahoe City Public Utility District

The West Shore Bike Trail Project was the critical "missing link" in the popular west shore network of bike and pedestrian trails connecting Squaw Valley, Tahoe City, and Tahoma. The trail now ends in the Homewood area, where bikers and runners are forced onto the narrow shoulders of Highway 89. The Tahoe City Public Utility District and the California Tahoe Conservancy built this one mile segment in coordination with Caltrans' plans to install new stormwater improvements along the highway. Once this segment is completed, visitors and residents will be able to enjoy a continuous 20-mile network on the west shore, linking parks, stores, restaurants, and neighborhoods along Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River.

Angora Creek Bridge Replacement

Tahoe Fund Goal: \$15,000 / Total Project Cost: \$30,000

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA State Parks)

Angora Creek, a tributary of the Upper Truckee River, flows through the high meadows and conifer forests of Washoe Meadows State Park near Meyers, CA. The creek has been the site of several recent projects to restore damage caused by historic grazing practices, road and sewer construction, and the 2007 Angora fire. A new meandering channel now supports thriving fish and plant communities. The new bridge protects the river and lake and serves as a hub for hikers, bikers, birders, and other visitors to this jewel of Tahoe's south shore.

Sand Harbor Beach Improvements

Tahoe Fund Goal: \$35,000 / Total Project Cost: \$207,507

Project Partners: Nevada Division of State Parks Recreation Trails Program, Nevada Div. of State Lands

Lead Agency: Nevada Tahoe Resource Team/Nevada State Parks

Situated within Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Sand Harbor is perennially the most popular summer recreation destination amongst all of Nevada's State Parks. Each year, nearly one million visitors will enjoy Sand Harbor and its spectacular surroundings. Some will use the Park as a launch spot for a day of boating or kayaking, while others may choose a family day at the beach or an evening of entertainment at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare festival. The unique beauty of Sand Harbor – and its stunning views to the Lake – makes it one of the most photographed locations at Tahoe. Protecting the fragile beach environment, while providing a high quality recreational experience, is a constant priority and challenge for Nevada State Parks. The Sand Harbor Beach Improvements Project was designed to do both. The project replaced antiquated infrastructure and provides three new access points that will connect the parking area to the beach and eliminate erosion issues along the sand bluffs. Newly designed overlooks will provide ADA access to allow those with certain abilities to enjoy views of the beach and Lake Tahoe, and a new ADA accessible path approved access to the shores of Tahoe itself.

2012 Tahoe Fund Projects:

Blackwood Creek Restoration/Eagle Rock Trail, West Shore

Raised: \$30,100

Lead Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy

The Lower Blackwood Creek and Eagle Rock Restoration Project restores one of Tahoe's most impaired watersheds and created a spectacular new trail on the lake's west shore, just five miles south of Tahoe City. The project is the final piece of a comprehensive interagency effort to restore the watershed.

Blackwood Creek contributes over 1900 tons of fine sediment per year to Lake Tahoe, more per unit of area than any other watershed in the Tahoe Basin. Through a collaborative effort led by the California Tahoe Conservancy, the creek and its riparian areas was restored, fish and wildlife habitat improved, and an interpretive kiosk installed. A new trail was also built to the summit of Eagle Rock, providing a 20-minute walk to stunning views of nearly all of Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe Summits

Nevada and California federal representatives gather at the shores of Lake Tahoe annually every August, to discuss ongoing progress in restoration efforts. The Lake Tahoe Summit is now in its 20th+ years. The Lake Tahoe Summit is an occasion to reinvigorate problem solving efforts and to build pragmatic, strategic partnerships. TWSA is a sponsor of this event- providing water stations and refillable bottles to all attendees.

2020 Lake Tahoe Summit: Resilient Tahoe

The (first-ever virtual) 24th annual Lake Tahoe Summit on August 25, 2020, was hosted by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. The theme for this year's Summit was "Resilient Tahoe" reflecting the legacy of 50 years of bi-state cooperation through the interstate compact and 24 years of bipartisan collaboration at the Summit while looking ahead to future environmental, infrastructure and economic challenges.

2019 Lake Tahoe Summit: Climate Change

<https://www.courthousenews.com/lake-tahoe-summit-boasts-bipartisan-rhetoric-but-division-simmers/>

For a moment as columns of sunlight drifted through the pines with the cobalt surface of Lake Tahoe in the background, it seemed as though the partisan rancor so characteristic of this political moment might temporarily evaporate. But such congeniality was short lived, if it ever lived at all. Senator Dianne Feinstein hosted the 23rd annual Lake Tahoe Summit on Tuesday to call attention to pressing environmental concerns like a warming planet and worsening wildfire conditions in California and the rest of the American West.

"The problem we are dealing with now is climate change," California's senior senator said during remarks delivered from the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. "There's no denying global warming, it's already here."

Feinstein drew a contrast between the current summit and the first one, held in 1997 and featuring then-President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. During that event, leaders talked about how the famed clarity of the crystal blue lake in the Sierra Nevada was declining due to overdevelopment, vehicle emissions, fertilizers leaking into the lake and other ecological issues unique to the Lake Tahoe Basin.

But in 2019, the overarching issues of climate change have superseded local concerns. And officials acknowledge Lake Tahoe serves as a thermometer for a dynamically changing climate. "There is no greater effort to keep this lake clear," said California Governor Gavin Newsom during the keynote speech at his first ever Lake Tahoe Summit. "This place is a proxy for all our efforts."

Newsom's predecessor Jerry Brown often came to the summit to discuss the pressing environmental concerns both specific to the lake and applicable to the entire state and by extension the rest of the world. Newsom was no different, but unlike Brown he has a Democrat running the state of Nevada, which shares responsibility with California in helping to fund and administer Lake Tahoe's unique governing body the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

But Newsom harkened back to the creation of that agency, formed in 1969 through an agreement cemented by California Governor Ronald Reagan and Nevada Governor Paul Laxalt. "People like me come and go, but this commitment continues, the partnerships continue," Newsom said. "We see Democrats and Republicans working together."

But the spirit of bipartisanship was not a constant during the event.

Republican Congressman Tom McClintock of California's 4th Congressional District used his speaking time to rail against "well-intentioned environmental laws" that have rendered the forests of California overgrown and more susceptible to wildfire. "A generation ago we actively managed our forests to ensure tree density matched the ability of the land to support it," he said. "And lest we forget, our burning forests make a mockery of all of our laws aimed at reducing carbon emissions." McClintock supports a revival of the timber industry in forests of the West as an economically efficient way to thin forests.

Newsom was not impressed. "I've heard the exact same comments on seven or eight different occasions," Newsom deadpanned after the event. "California just put a billion dollars into our vegetation management or fuels reduction forest management, so we're doing as much if not more than we've done in the past. It's ironic that the federal government is not," he added, noting budget cuts to the U.S. Forest Service thinning projects.

Newsom was also critical of President Donald Trump and his persistent denial of climate change. "Not in the White House," was the governor's retort to a question about whether he had partners to fight climate change. "Quite the contrary. It's a full-fledged assault on our environmental rules, regulations and standards."

Newsom touted his ability to fight the Trump administration, noting California has sued the federal government – as of Tuesday – 56 times since Trump took office. But Feinstein continued to insist on an across-the-aisle approach, praising McClintock for his focus on wildfire issues while saying the country needs Republicans as well as Democrats to make progress on climate change. "You need a yes on both sides of the aisle," she said.

2018 Lake Tahoe Summit: Recommitting to collaboration

<https://carsonnow.org/story/07/19/2018/lake-tahoe-summit-2018-recommitting-collaboration>

By Joanne S. Marchetta

Nearly 25 years ago, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and dozens of partners embarked on an unprecedented mission to conserve and restore the Lake Tahoe Basin's treasured natural resources through the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program.

That partnership has continued to grow. Today, the EIP is one of America's most ambitious and successful landscape-scale restoration programs, with more than 50 local, state, federal, nonprofit, and private sector partners completing projects that improve Lake Tahoe's forests, streams, wildlife habitat, water quality, and public recreation opportunities.

As the annual Lake Tahoe Summit approaches on Aug. 7, hosted this year by U.S. Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV), now is the time to reflect on the challenges and successes of this "epic" collaboration and recommit to working together to face the most difficult issues like climate change. This year's summit follows the news that Tahoe's famous water clarity in 2017 fell to the lowest levels ever recorded. The end of the most severe drought in a millennium followed by the wettest winter on record and record summer temperatures all combined to reduce the lake's average annual water clarity to 59.7 feet.

But one bad year does not make a trend. We continue to make major progress on restoring Tahoe's clarity to its historic level of nearly 100 feet by reducing stormwater pollution from roads and urban areas and restoring streams, meadows, and wetlands that play a critical role in the watershed's health.

There are many challenges in front of us. But heading into this year's summit the Lake Tahoe Region can take stock of what we have accomplished together.

This summer marks the 10th anniversary of Lake Tahoe's Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Over the last decade, watercraft inspections have successfully prevented the introduction of any new aquatic invasive species in the lake. With the inspection program keeping new invasive species out of the lake, collaborating partners are completing more projects to control populations of aquatic invasive species that found their way into the lake decades ago.

Last year, partners treated 14.5 acres of the lake for Asian clams and aquatic invasive plants — a new record for the number of treatments in one year at Lake Tahoe. And we are working with both the public and private sectors to expand Tahoe's aquatic invasive species control program, testing new treatment technologies like ultraviolet light and securing funding to make continued headway on this important issue.

Over the last two decades, basin fire agencies have treated more than 70,000 acres of forest to thin out brush and other hazardous fuels in the wildland urban interface areas that surround Lake Tahoe communities, with more than 50,000 acres of forest treated since the devastating Angora Fire in 2007.

Fire management partners are working to complete the first round of fuel reduction in all 117,000 acres of wildland urban interface at Tahoe within the next 10 years and working with communities to create defensible space and improve wildfire preparedness through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities Program.

TRPA and partners on the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team are also working to expand this forest health work into the broader landscape through the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership. This groundbreaking project is focused on restoring forest resilience to drought, insect attacks, and climate change in 60,000 acres of Tahoe's West Shore, an area spanning from Emerald Bay to Squaw Valley. Last summer, project partners completed a resilience assessment of West Shore forests. We are now working on a restoration strategy to accelerate forest health and fuel reduction projects in this area and incorporate water quality and recreation improvements to restore one of Lake Tahoe's most iconic landscapes and create a model we can use for other parts of the basin.

Much more progress is on the horizon for the Lake Tahoe Region. TRPA and its transportation and recreation partners are working on a corridor management plan for state Route 89 to improve traffic congestion, parking, and public recreation access in the heavily visited Emerald Bay area and to develop a Tahoe Basin Sustainable Recreation Strategy.

Partners have brought new bike share and micro-transit services to Lake Tahoe and started construction on several major transportation projects, including the Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project in Tahoe City, the Incline to Sand Harbor Bike Path, and new bike paths at Dollar Point and Meeks Bay. With the recent public acquisition of Johnson Meadow, we are looking forward to vastly expanded restoration of Lake Tahoe's largest tributary, the Upper Truckee River.

With continued collaboration, Lake Tahoe can meet its major challenges head on in the next quarter century, from a changing climate to continued population growth in neighboring metropolitan areas and increased visitation from those areas.

2017 Tahoe Summit - Combatting the effects of climate change in the Lake Tahoe Basin

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2017/08/22/tahoe-summit-points-up-new-environmental-challenges-at-lake/>

LAKE TAHOE (KPIX 5) — 20 years after the first Tahoe Summit, a new meeting to evaluate the environmental state of the lake and region around it has resulted in a mixed report card. On one hand, visitors are doing a better job of keeping pollution and sediment out of the lake, finally halting that long-term decline in lake clarity. “So Tahoe today is healthier and more resilient because we never shied away from a challenge,” said Joanne Marchetta of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. But now Lake Tahoe faces a new challenge staying blue.

“It is warming 10 times faster than it did in history. Global warming is affecting this lake,” said Sen. Dianne Feinstein. That warmer water makes it easier for algae to grow. And with the warm summer season having increased by 26 days over the last 50 years, there is also evidence of greater threats on land. “The fill-in of our forest — and the fire potential — and the actual fires that take place,” said Feinstein.

On that front, multiple agencies will start tackling the some 136,000 dead trees in the Tahoe Basin and get more aggressive with forest management. That is something Republicans have wanted for years. “We’ve certainly turned the corner, the management tools are now in place, and we must use them with the urgency that our forest conditions demand, and pray that we’re not too late.”

But the real focus Tuesday was on climate change, a challenge that extends far beyond Tahoe’s shoreline. “The proverbial ground on which we stand continues to shift, and the change we confront today is in fact much larger than Tahoe. This change quite literally is global,” said Marchetta.

One threat officials have managed to control pretty well so far is invasive species like weeds, clams and mussels. That’s why they’ve inspected and decontaminated tens of thousands of boats. But one species that is coming in greater numbers is humans. Three million people now visit Tahoe every year. That number is expected to surge and will require management as well.

Opinion: Addressing the challenges of climate change at 2017 Tahoe Summit

Sen. Dianne Feinstein & Joanne Marchetta

August 24, 2017

<http://www.sierrasun.com/news/opinion/opinion-addressing-the-challenges-of-climate-change-at-2017-tahoe-summit/>

Twenty-one years ago, President Clinton came to Lake Tahoe to announce a major environmental restoration effort. That first Lake Tahoe Summit launched an unprecedented public-private partnership that has since invested more than \$2 billion to save the lake. Over two decades, through the Environmental Improvement Program, the Tahoe Partnership has created one of the nation's most ambitious and successful environmental restoration and conservation programs. In fact, according to Lake Tahoe scientists, had this partnership not formed, lake clarity could be nearly 20 feet worse than it is today.

While the lake and its forests are healthier now from this work, we must double-down on our effort in the face of threats from climate change. Earlier this month, the Tahoe Environmental Research Center at UC Davis released its annual report on the state of Lake Tahoe. The report is a clarion call-to-action for all who love this lake.

While the report makes it clear our investments are having a positive effect, climate change is having a profound impact on the Lake Tahoe Basin. Climate change is also making the existing challenges in the Tahoe Basin harder to address. One of the most notable effects of climate change is the rising temperature of the lake. Surface temperatures are rising at half a degree each year — 14 times faster than the historical average. We know that rising temperatures make it easier for algae to grow.

Partners around Tahoe are reducing stormwater pollution that harms lake clarity and helps fuel algae growth. Over the last five years, we have reduced clarity-harming fine sediment pollution by 12 percent, and reduced phosphorus and nitrogen pollution, nutrients that spur algae growth, by 8.5 percent and 6 percent, respectively. That's more than 268,500 pounds of fine sediment that is no longer washing into the lake each year. This important work to protect and restore Lake Tahoe's clarity and Keep Tahoe Blue must not only continue, it must accelerate to protect the lake's water quality from climate change.

The problems aren't only in the water. Lake Tahoe is experiencing longer summer seasons, affecting the delicate ecosystems around the lake. The hot summer season has increased by 26 days over the last 50 years. Longer, hotter summers and more severe droughts are killing trees around the lake at an alarming rate. The U.S. Forest Service estimates there are 136,000 dead trees in the Tahoe Basin. While we've made progress thinning forests and removing the overabundance of fuel for forest fires, drought and climate change continue to stress Tahoe's forests. We must do more to improve the health and resilience of Tahoe's forests and prepare our communities for wildfire.

Climate change is happening now, and we must act. Facing a seemingly impossible challenge 20 years ago, this community came together to save the lake. We believe we can again.

Of course, addressing climate change will require a global effort. But with all our success over the last two decades, the world already looks to Lake Tahoe as proof that environmental change for the better is possible. This is our opportunity to continue to lead on an international stage.

We must keep working together to solve the problems of climate change — not just globally but right here in Lake Tahoe. We must strike at the heart of the issues detrimental to the lake. This is going to require continued and increased focus on forest management and wildfire preparedness, the control — if not eradication — of invasive species, and finding more ways of reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into the lake.

Transportation is another key issue we must address. Car emissions threaten both air and water quality. We can reduce that traffic by expanding public transportation and biking options. Just like two decades ago, the federal government is ready to help with those efforts. Last year, we passed the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which reauthorizes \$415 million of federal funding over the next seven years to fund programs vital to the lake's health.

This is an important commitment, but only one piece of the puzzle. On Tuesday, Aug. 22, we held the 21st Lake Tahoe Summit at the Tallac historic site in South Lake Tahoe. All four senators from California and Nevada were joined by supporters of the lake from the public and private sector, including

representatives from the federal, state and local levels of government. A keynote address was delivered by former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, who served under President Clinton during the first summit.

The summit was a chance to celebrate all we've accomplished to restore Lake Tahoe. It was also a chance for the public-private partnership formed 20 years ago to recommit its efforts toward solving the problems created by climate change. Tahoe is ready to meet this new challenge. We hope you will join us.

2016 Lake Tahoe Summit: A Time to Reflect

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/08/31/492177267/obama-at-lake-tahoe-praises-conservation-efforts>

This year's summit was hosted by retiring Nevada Sen. Harry Reid and Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein of California were also in attendance. The summit brings together lawmakers on all levels that are committed to protecting North America's largest alpine lake, according to the summit website. The Obama administration announced a number of Lake Tahoe-centric conservation efforts ahead of his remarks, including private-public investments and a recommitment to the Salton Sea. During his remarks, Obama noted that both he and Reid will soon be parting ways with their offices in Washington, though he said both would remain committed to the cause. Against the backdrop of the picturesque Lake Tahoe, President Obama said environmental conservation is a key part of fighting the impact of global warming. Obama spoke on the first of a two-day environmental tour at an annual summit designed to keep the health of Lake Tahoe a priority for the federal government and the states it borders, Nevada and California. "We embrace conservation because healthy and diverse lands and waters help us build resilience to climate change," the president said. "We do it to free more of our communities and plants and animals and species from wildfires, and droughts, and displacement. We do it because when most of the 4.5 million people who come to Lake Tahoe every year are tourists, economies like this one live or die by the health of our natural resources."

The president [then quoted](#) an unnamed former leader of the Washoe Tribe (which has called Lake Tahoe home for thousands of years): "The health of the land and the health of the people are tied together, and what happens to the land also happens to the people."

Development, storm water runoff, pollution, warming water and algae, to name but a handful of factors, have all combined to reduce Tahoe's fabled clarity. In 1968, researchers could see a disk lowered into the water at a depth of 102.4 feet. By 1997, they could see only down to 68 feet.

That was the year President Bill Clinton visited to inaugurate the Lake Tahoe Summit, which annually draws national, state, and local leaders, researchers, and residents together to discuss ways to "[Keep Tahoe Blue](#)." The federal government has since spent about \$2 billion on the health of the lake and the surrounding environment. Obama announced that the Department of Interior [will spend](#) nearly \$30 million on wildfire prevention at Tahoe this year.

Federal Funding Announcement at Tahoe Summit

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-sac-essential-politics-updates-white-house-promises-more-federal-aid-1472666674-htmstory.html>

The White House on Wednesday announced a series of new funding and environmental programs to address the deteriorating health of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding forests caused in part by the increasing temperatures brought about by climate change.

The announcement came just hours before President Obama was scheduled to address the Lake Tahoe Summit, an annual environmental conference that California and Nevada leaders began two decades ago because of concerns about the declining water clarity in the once crystal-clear Sierra lake.

Tahoe's surface water temperature in 2015 was the highest ever recorded, while annual snowfall levels have been on the decline. The increasing air temperatures in the Lake Tahoe region also have stressed the surrounding forests, causing an alarming increase in tree mortality and fire danger, according to the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

In response, the Obama administration announced the following assistance:

- The Department of the Interior will provide \$29.5 million to reduce dead trees and other hazardous fuels to improve forest health and decrease the threat of catastrophic wildfires.
- The Environmental Protection Agency will provide \$230,000 to manage and reduce storm water runoff in the Tahoe region.
- The National Forest Foundation, working with the U.S. Forest Service and local communities, announced it has raised over \$4 million for creek restoration projects, for sustainable recreation and to improve forest health throughout the nearby Truckee River watershed.

Along with assistance for the Lake Tahoe region, the White House also announced a new partnership between California and the Department of the Interior to assess the future of the Salton Sea.

More media coverage:

<http://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2016/20th-anniversary-of-lake-tahoe-summit>

President Barack Obama talked about "riding off into the sunset" soon with the man behind the annual Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit, Nevada Sen. Harry Reid.

Both Obama and Reid will be leaving office following the November elections. Yet, if there was a theme to Wednesday's 20th Lake Tahoe Summit - which was highlighted by Obama's keynote address, before a standing-room-only crowd of about 9,000 in the sun-splashed Harvey's Outdoor Arena at Stateline - it was one of celebration, mixed with the realization that there is still work to be done at Tahoe.

"Lake Tahoe is better today than when we started two decades ago," said Reid, whose invitation to President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore led to the first Tahoe Summit and brought unprecedented attention to the Tahoe's declining clarity in 1997. Since then, about \$2 billion in federal, state, local, individual and private funding has reversed Tahoe's ecological decline. "We've had the best scientific research in the world here," Reid added, "the best minds at the universities in Nevada and California are working on this 12 months of the year. ... Today's Lake Tahoe Summit is a celebration of progress, of unity, though there is much more work to be done."

Obama, who was visiting Lake Tahoe for the first time, cast the effort to save Lake Tahoe against the much broader backdrop of the issues associated with global climate change. Obama said global climate

change is being felt at Lake Tahoe through rapidly warming waters and air temperatures that will lead to new challenges in the management of the lake and the science and innovation developed to save it.

UNR/DRI Tahoe Summit Research Reports

<https://tahoe.blogs.unr.edu/2015/08/2015-tahoe-summit>

In conjunction with the annual Tahoe Summit, the University of Nevada, Reno and the Desert Research Institute publishes a report highlighting their collective research and outreach efforts in the Tahoe Basin.

Lake Tahoe Restoration Acts

\$415 million Lake Tahoe Restoration Act signed by Obama in December 2016

<http://www.tahodailytribune.com/news/senate-approves-415-million-lake-tahoe-restoration-act>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Senate approved the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015, which was included as part of a \$10-billion water projects bill. The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015 allocates \$415 million over 10 years to environmental restoration and preservation projects in the Basin. The legislation authorizes \$415 million over 10 years for forest management, environmental and watershed restoration, storm water management and other environmental projects in Lake Tahoe. It has now moved on to the House of Representatives.

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act was included as underlying text in the national Water Resources Development Act, which allocates funds for other projects like the replacement of lead-contaminated pipes in Flint, Michigan, and the restoration of Florida’s Everglades. The Senate measure sanctions 29 projects in 18 states for dredging, flood control and other such projects overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Nevada Senator Harry Reid — who sponsored the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act alongside California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and Nevada Senator Dean Heller—said that the bill’s passage in the Senate is an important step, but meaningless unless it gets through the House of Representatives and onto the president’s desk. “Last month, at my invitation, President Obama visited Lake Tahoe for the very first time to speak at the 20th anniversary of the Lake Tahoe Summit,” said Reid in a statement. “At that event the federal government, the states of Nevada and California, local businesses, residents and philanthropists all rededicated ourselves to the work of protecting this unique and wonderful lake. As the entire world saw last month, the beauty of Lake Tahoe is unparalleled. We must do everything we can to keep it that way.”

The \$415 million set aside for the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act is earmarked for a number of different environmental restoration and protection projects, including:

- Wildfire Prevention – \$150 million for wildfire fuel reduction and forest management.
- Environmental Improvement Program – \$80 million for projects like bike trails, creek restoration and fire treatment.
- Invasive Species Management Program – \$45 million to prevent and manage invasive species.
- Stormwater Projects – \$113 million for storm water management, erosion control and watershed restoration projects.
- Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Program – \$20 million to recover this threatened species, which is also Nevada’s state fish.

- Project Oversight – \$5 million will go towards monitoring these projects, and another \$2 million to cover the cost of land exchanges and sales in the Tahoe Basin.

This is a follow-up to the original \$300 million Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which expired in 2010.

NOT FUNDED: Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2013

http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve/?File_id=95f88ea0-efe5-4ab5-84ff-a2446c12c162

H.R. 3390: Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2013 (Amodei - NV) The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2013 continues the federal commitment at Lake Tahoe by authorizing \$415 million over 10 years to improve water clarity, reduce the threat of fire, combat invasive species and restore and protect the environment in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

<http://www.trpa.org/tahoe-leaders-hail-house-introduction-of-restoration-act/>

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency leads the cooperative effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region, while improving local communities, and people's interactions with our irreplaceable environment.

NOT FUNDED: Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2011

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2011 was introduced but did not pass Congress. It had proposed a federal commitment at Lake Tahoe by authorizing \$415 million over 10 years to improve water clarity, reduce the threat of fire, and restore the environment. This lack of federal funding may create a dramatic slowdown in research projects, improvement projects, and infrastructure upgrades in the Tahoe Basin.

FUNDED: Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2009-10

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act 2009 was introduced for congressional review and approved. The 2009 legislation was the successor to the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2000, which was introduced by Senators Feinstein, Reid, Boxer and then-Senator Richard Bryan (D-NV). That legislation led to major investments in the environmental health of the Tahoe Basin, including \$424 million by the federal government, \$612 million by the state of California, \$87 million by the state of Nevada, \$59 million by local governments, and \$249 million in in-kind contributions from the private sector.

Regulatory: Regional Planning Efforts

TRPA Water Quality 208 Plan Lake Tahoe (208) Water Quality Management Plan

Adopted June 2013

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-U.S.-EPA-Adopted-Lake-Tahoe-208-WQMP_2013.06.19.pdf

208 Plans are required for certain areas by the Federal Clean Water Act (section 208). These plans promote efficient and comprehensive programs for controlling water pollution in a defined geographic area. The Lake Tahoe 208 Plan was updated by TRPA on December 12, 2012, which initiated the need for parallel updates of the Plan by the states of Nevada and California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Lake Tahoe Water Quality Management Plan (also known as the 208 Plan or WQMP) is a framework that sets forth the components of the water quality management system in the Lake Tahoe Region, the desired water quality outcomes for the Tahoe Basin, and the mechanisms adopted by all the relevant entities to achieve and maintain those outcomes. The WQMP is organized to reflect the water quality management plan elements required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA)

regulations at 40 C.F.R. Section 130.6, which implements Sections 208 and 303(e) of the Clean Water Act, as well as the unique situation in the Lake Tahoe Region.

Because Lake Tahoe is located in both California and Nevada, to protect and enhance the unique environment in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the respective State legislatures approved a bi-state compact, which was ratified by the US Congress in 1969. The Lake Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Compact created a unique bi-state regional planning agency, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), which has the responsibility to set environmental carrying capacity thresholds for water quality and other aspects of the environment, create and keep updated a regional plan and regulations to attain and maintain the thresholds, and implement the regional plan and regulations through various permitting processes and memoranda of understanding. Given that the Regional Plan includes bi-state water quality policies and the TRPA implements regulations to realize the objectives of those policies, in the 1970's, both Governors also designated, with approval by the U.S. EPA, the TRPA as the area-wide planning agency for the Tahoe Region under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act.

Since that designation more than 30 years ago, water quality administration has grown in complexity and programs have been added to make the management system more comprehensive. Water quality improvement programs are administered, managed, and implemented today in the Tahoe Region by a multitude of agencies at different levels of government under a wide array of statutory and regulatory authorities.

Furthermore, since the last comprehensive revision of the WQMP was approved in 1988, the State of California and the State of Nevada have determined the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of fine sediment particles, total phosphorus, and total nitrogen that may enter the Lake in order to restore the desired water clarity. The TMDL effort was the result of more than 10 years of research and analysis at a cost of approximately \$10 million. The U.S. EPA approved the Lake Tahoe TMDL in 2011. Both States are now working with their respective local governments, state transportation agencies and other resource management agencies in the Lake Tahoe Region on an ongoing basis to identify and implement the necessary steps to reduce pollutant loads. Concurrent with WQMP adoption, the TRPA Regional Plan is being updated to complement and support TMDL implementation.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) - Code of Ordinances

The overriding regulations on development in the Tahoe Basin are the codes set by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Ordinances. These documents are available at:

<http://www.trpa.org/regional-plan/code-of-ordinances/>

Historical Action on Shorezone Ordinance

Taking 20 years of negotiation and preparation, the TRPA Shorezone Ordinance (Preferred Alternative 6A) was adopted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board in October 2008. However on Sept. 16, 2010 - the 2008 passage of the Shorezone Ordinance by TRPA was revoked by federal court ruling. The Shorezone Ordinance had been legally challenged since its adoption, by several Tahoe area environmental groups. The decision sends the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency "back to the drawing board" in regulating development near Lake Tahoe's shore. After extensive legal review - in 2013, these new codes became effective.

TRPA Shorezone (Shoreline) Ordinance Passes in 2018

<http://www.trpa.org/programs/shorezone>

On October 24, 2018, TRPA Governing Board voted for adoption of Alternative 1, the Shoreline Ordinance. This completed a multi-year effort by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency worked with community members and stakeholders to update its shoreline policies and regulations.

For more information about the shoreline planning process: www.shorelineplan.org.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) have developed regulations on land use related to water quality standards. While many of the standards support drinking water efforts, they do not directly address drinking water pathogens.

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association has supported local source water protection projects and planning efforts with ongoing participation in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Shorezone Ordinance amendment process, Shorezone Development Review process, risk assessment of proposed projects and staff support on the Aquatic Invasive Species working group.

Alternative 1 – Proposed Shoreline Plan: The goal of this alternative is to enhance the recreational experience at Lake Tahoe while protecting the environment and responsibly planning for the future. This alternative, developed through a consensus-based approach, incorporates the policies developed by the Steering Committee and was endorsed by the Regional Plan Implementation Committee of the TRPA Governing Board. The Shoreline Plan would mete out new private and public development over time. At buildout, it would allow for up to 2,116 new moorings (buoys, lifts or public slips), 128 new private piers, 10 new public piers, and two new public boat ramps. Some new and existing buoys could be converted to slips, and vice versa at facilities open to the public (e.g., marinas).

TWSA member participation in the Shorezone (now called Shoreline) Ordinance amendments process has included:

- Submission of written and verbal comments on multiple occasions in 2016, and earlier in 2006, 2007 and 2008, to the “Lake Tahoe Shorezone Ordinance Amendments / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)”. The TWSA recommendation of a 1320 foot (¼ mile) ‘buffer’ around intakes was set as a trigger for water provider consultation, for proposed new piers into the current code. Buoy fields remain at 600 feet as the trigger for consultation, through the TRPA review and implementation process. This requires that any proposed project within the buffer goes through a risk assessment evaluation by the applicable water purveyor. The results will be provided to TRPA, with suggested mitigation measures.
- TWSA staff monitors and attends the TRPA/Interagency Shorezone Coordination Group (reviews all shorezone project proposals); providing input relative to water purveyor concerns.
- TWSA/USACE Risk Assessment Model Projects 2014/2008
Phase 1 was completed in October 2008. Included is the 2008 project is a spreadsheet based tool that is to be utilized by the purveyors to analyze potential risk from shorezone development. In spring 2013, NDEP contracted with Tahoe Science Consortium on updates to the Lake Tahoe Risk Assessment model; with potential upgrades to include new current data collected by TERC, analysis of increased risk from two potential new beach recreation areas in the southeastern corner of Lake Tahoe; and the increased safety of pathogen destruction from purveyor’s additional treatment processes required by LT2. Phase 2 was completed June 2014.

- TWSA offers staff support to TRPA / TRCD and other partners for water quality monitoring efforts during the Asian Clam removal projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – <http://shorelineplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/0-ExecSumm.pdf>

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) adopted its first Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances in 1987 to guide resource management and development, and protect the Tahoe Region’s natural ecology and unique values. The Regional Plan included a Shorezone Subelement and implementing ordinances that regulated development along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. The 1987 ordinances recognized that there was uncertainty about the effect of shoreline structures on fisheries. Because of this uncertainty, the ordinances prohibited new structures in areas identified as prime fish habitat and called for further study to evaluate the effects of shoreline structures on fish habitat and spawning. By the early 1990s, the studies had been completed, and they concluded that the placement of piers and buoys in spawning and feed/cover habitat has limited effect on fish populations and that those effects can be mitigated (Byron et al. 1989; Beauchamp et al. 1991, 1994). In response to the conclusions of the fish habitat studies, TRPA led multiple shorezone planning initiatives to replace the prohibition of structures in prime fish habitat with a comprehensive shoreline plan that would allow for lake access structures while protecting the environment. Any plan that would govern development along Lake Tahoe’s shoreline proved to be highly controversial. TRPA prepared multiple plans and environmental analyses, which were released in 1995, 1999, 2004, 2006, and 2008.

Each time, controversy centered around fisheries, scenic quality, air quality, water quality, recreation and other topics that prevented adoption and implementation of a shoreline plan. To find common ground between stakeholders, TRPA launched a collaborative process to develop a new Shoreline Plan in 2016. TRPA, along with partner agencies and organizations, engaged a third-party mediator to convene stakeholders and develop a consensus-based planning process. As part of this process, a Steering Committee was convened to frame key shoreline issues, identify approaches to address them, and develop policy recommendations. The Steering Committee consisted of senior-level representatives from the California State Lands Commission, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lake Tahoe Marina Association, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Nevada Division of State Lands, Tahoe Lakefront Owners’ Association, and TRPA.

TRPA also convened a Joint Fact-Finding (JFF) Committee comprised of technical experts from public agencies, universities, and stakeholder organizations to provide scientific and technical recommendations. The JFF Committee identified the best available scientific studies to inform the Shoreline Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), oversaw baseline data collection for the 2016 and 2017 boating seasons, developed analytical approaches to estimate boat usage, provided technical recommendations to the Steering Committee, and provided input on the analytical approaches in this EIS. The Steering Committee considered technical recommendations from the JFF Committee and input from the public to develop a recommended set of policies that constitute the proposed Shoreline Plan. The Regional Plan Implementation Committee of the TRPA Governing Board reviewed and endorsed the proposed Shoreline Plan as the preferred alternative, and three other alternatives, described in this EIS.

This EIS evaluates the environmental effects of four alternatives, consistent with the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, Code of Ordinances, and Rules of Procedure. The four alternatives include different strategies to meet the following objectives of the Shoreline Plan:

- protect and where feasible enhance the environment,
- provide a fair and reasonable system of access,
- adapt to changing lake levels,

- preserve high-quality recreation and public safety,
- implement predictable and consistent rules.

There is extensive regulation on land and water based activities that affect overall Lake Tahoe Water Quality. The snapshots below from the TRPA Code of Ordinance Chapter 60 indicate the type and extent of these regulatory actions.

CHAPTER 60: WATER QUALITY

60.1. WATER QUALITY CONTROL

60.1.1. Purpose

This section implements the Water Quality Subelement, Land Use Element, of the Goals and Policies. This section also implements, in part, TRPA's programs to attain and maintain federal, state, and local water quality standards under Article V(d) of the Compact.

60.1.2. Applicability

This section sets forth standards for the discharge of runoff water from parcels and regulates the discharge of domestic, municipal, or industrial wastewaters. These standards and prohibitions apply to discharges to both surface waters and ground waters.

60.1.3. Discharge Limits

Discharges shall not exceed the following standards:

A. Surface Runoff

Pollutant concentrations in surface runoff shall not exceed the readings in Table 60.1.3-1 at the 90th percentile.

Constituent	Maximum Concentration
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen as N	0.5 mg/l
Dissolved Phosphorus as P	0.1 mg/l
Dissolved Iron as Fe	0.5 mg/l
Grease and Oil	2.0 mg/l
Suspended Sediment	250 mg/l

1. If the constituent levels of water entering a site from upstream areas are of a superior or equal quality to the above, those waters shall meet the quality level listed in Table 60.1.3-1 prior to discharge from the site.
2. If the constituent levels of waters entering a site do not meet the quality levels in Table 60.1.3-1, there shall be no increase in the concentrations of these constituents in water discharged from the site, based on a 24-hour average.

B. Discharges to Ground Waters

Waters infiltrated into soils shall not exceed the maximum constituent levels in Table 60.1.3-2.

TABLE 60.1.3-2: DISCHARGES TO GROUND WATERS

Constituent	Maximum Concentration
Total Nitrogen as N	5 mg/l
Total Phosphate as P	1 mg/l
Iron as Fe	4 mg/l
Turbidity	200 NTU
Grease and Oil	40 mg/l

Where there is a direct hydrologic connection between ground and surface waters, discharges to groundwater shall meet the standards for surface runoff. A direct hydrologic connection shall be presumed to exist wherever, by virtue of proximity to a surface water body, nature of soils, or slope or gradient, the residence time of runoff water discharged into the ground is too short to remove pollutants from the runoff. Sediment traps, consistent with the *Handbook of Best Management Practices*, shall be used to protect infiltration devices from excessive levels of siltation.

C. Prohibition of Wastewater Discharge

The discharge of domestic, municipal, or industrial wastewater to Lake Tahoe, its tributaries, the ground waters of the Tahoe region, or the Truckee River within the Tahoe region, is prohibited, except for existing discharges under alternative plans for wastewater disposal authorized by state law and approved by the state agency of appropriate jurisdiction, and for catastrophic fire protection of the STPUD Luther Pass Pump Station as detailed in subparagraph 4 below. California and Nevada prohibit wastewater discharge through the enactment of the Porter-Cologne Act, and the Executive Order by the Governor of Nevada dated January 27, 1971.

1. Holding Tanks and Other No-Discharge Systems

To avoid a discharge of wastewater that is prohibited, holding tanks or other no-discharge systems may be approved in the following instances:

- a. As a temporary measure associated with a temporary use, including but not limited to, sporting events, community events, and construction; or
- b. As a permanent measure associated with remote public or private recreation sites, including but not limited to, trailheads, and undeveloped walk-in campgrounds, and summer home tracts where connection to a sewer system is not feasible or would create excessive adverse environmental impacts.

2. Accidental Releases of Sewage

To help prevent accidental releases of sewage, all sewage collection and treatment districts shall prepare and submit a report to TRPA within 120 days of a determination by the district that any unit treatment process, or major component of its collection system serving the Tahoe region, has reached 85 percent of its design capacity. Such report shall identify

what measures, if any, will be needed to accommodate projected population increases consistent with the Regional Plan, including capital improvements, operational changes, changes in discharge permits, and changes in financial programs.

3. Sewage Exfiltration

In conjunction with TRPA project approvals for all agencies that collect or transport sewage, TRPA shall require that such agencies have in place and vigorously implement plans for detecting and correcting sewage exfiltration problems in their collection and transport facilities.

4. Recycled Wastewater Use for Fire Protection

This exception allows for the use of recycled wastewater in emergency conditions to prevent severe harm to life, property, and the environment and to protect public facilities from destruction by wildfire in accordance with applicable state laws. Such emergency condition of catastrophic wildfire and authorization for recycled wastewater use shall be made and certified by the fire incident commander and reported to the TRPA Emergency Response Coordinator.

D. Prohibition of Toxic or Hazardous Waste Discharge

The discharge of toxic or hazardous waste to Lake Tahoe, other lakes in the region, their tributaries, the ground waters of the Tahoe region, the lands of the Tahoe region, or the Truckee River within the Tahoe region is prohibited.

E. Prohibition of Certain Watercraft

Commencing June 1, 1999, the launching, mooring, or operation of all two-stroke engine powered watercraft within the region is prohibited, except:

1. Any two-stroke engine powered watercraft whose fuel is directly injected into the cylinder shall be exempt from the prohibition;
2. Injected in to the crankcase prior to entering the cylinder and the fuel injection engine was purchased before January 27, 1999, shall be prohibited commencing October 1, 2001;
3. Any watercraft powered by a two-stroke engine whose engine is certified as meeting the U.S. EPA 2006 standard or the CARB 2001 standard shall be exempt from the prohibition;
4. Sailboats utilizing two-stroke engines as auxiliary power shall be prohibited commencing October 1, 2001;
5. Any watercraft powered by a two-stroke engine rated at ten horsepower or less shall be prohibited commencing October 1, 1999; or
6. Any watercraft powered by an engine that has been certified as meeting EPA's 2001-2005 emission standard shall be prohibited commencing October 1, 2001.

60.1.4. Snow Disposal

All persons conducting public, commercial, or private snow removal or disposal operations shall dispose of snow in accordance with site criteria and management standards in the *Handbook of Best Management Practices*, the Design Review Guidelines, and the criteria below.

A. Requirements for Individual Parcels

Removal of snow from individual parcels shall be limited to structures, paved areas, and unpaved areas necessary to safely park or provide safe pedestrian access. Snow shall not be plowed into or stored in a SEZ.

B. Requirements for Dirt Roads

Snow removal from dirt roads is subject to regulation pursuant to Section 5.12 Remedial Action Plans. When TRPA approves snow removal from a dirt road, pursuant to project approval or in accord with provisions of Section 5.12, the agency shall specify required winterization practices, BMPs, the specific means of snow removal, and a schedule for either paving the dirt road or ceasing snow removal.

60.1.5. Deicers and Abrasive Control

Salt and abrasives used to control ice on streets, highways, sidewalks, and parking areas shall be regulated in accordance with the standards provided below.

A. Storage Areas

Storage areas for deicing salt and abrasives shall be in conformance with the *Handbook of Best Management Practices*.

B. Reporting

The state highway departments and other large users of deicers and abrasives identified by TRPA shall maintain a tracking and reporting program to monitor the use of deicers and/or abrasives in their respective jurisdictions pursuant to State of California and Nevada requirements. TRPA shall incorporate this information into its annual monitoring report in accordance with Chapter 16: *Regional Plan and Environmental Threshold Review*.

C. Restrictions

The use of deicing salt and abrasives may be restricted where damage to vegetation in specific areas may be linked to their use or where their use would result in a violation of water quality standards. Mitigation for the use of road deicing salt or abrasives may be required and may include requirements to use alternative substances or change distribution patterns, frequency of application, and amount of application. Revegetation of parcels may be required where evidence indicates deicing salts or abrasives have caused vegetation mortality. Memorandums of understanding may be entered into with highway and street maintenance organizations to address use of salts or abrasives in relation to safety requirements.

60.1.6. Spill Control

All persons handling, transporting, using, or storing toxic or hazardous substances shall comply with the applicable requirements of state and federal law regarding spill prevention, reporting, recovery, and clean-up. Sewage collection, conveyance, and treatment districts shall have sewage spill contingency, prevention, and detection plans approved by the state agency of appropriate jurisdiction and submitted to TRPA for review and approval within three years of the effective date of the Regional Plan.

A. Cooperative Sewage Spill Plans

Sewage collection, conveyance, and treatment districts may join together to develop cooperative plans, provided that the plans clearly identify those agencies covered by the plan, are agreed to by each agency, and are consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

B. Sewage Spill Plan Criteria

Sewage spill contingency, prevention, and detection plans shall comply with the criteria set forth by the state agencies of appropriate jurisdiction and TRPA. Such plans shall include provisions for detecting and eliminating sewage exfiltration and stormwater infiltration from sewer lines and facilities.

60.1.7. Pesticide Use

The use of insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides shall be consistent with the *Handbook of Best Management Practices*.

A. Pesticide Use Discouraged

TRPA shall discourage pesticide use for pest management. Prior to applying any pesticide, potential users of pesticides shall consider integrated pest management practices, including alternatives to chemical applications, management of forest resources in a manner less conducive to pests, reduced reliance on potentially hazardous chemicals, and additional environmentally sound pest management tactics.

B. Criteria for Pesticide Use

The following criteria apply to pesticide use:

1. Only chemicals registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and the state agency of appropriate jurisdiction shall be used and only for their registered application;
2. Alternatives to chemical application shall be employed where practical; and
3. No detectable concentration of any pesticide shall be allowed to enter any stream environment zone, surface water, or ground water unless TRPA finds that application of the pesticide is necessary to attain or maintain the environmental threshold standards.

60.1.8. Fertilizer Management

A. Fertilizer Management Approaches Generally

Fertilizer management allowing for site-specific management approaches shall be consistent with the *Handbook of Best Management Practices*. The recommended approaches for landscaping are found in the *Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity* or its approved equivalent. Section 61.4 Revegetation, contains requirements for revegetation approaches. Fertilizers shall not be used, except as described below, in or near stream and drainage channels or in stream environment zones, including setbacks determined under Section 53.9: Procedure for Establishing SEZ Boundaries and Setbacks, and in shorezone areas except as otherwise provided in this subsection (see Chapter 90: *Definitions*, and Section 80.3: *Definitions*). Fertilizer use for maintenance of preexisting landscaping according to subparagraph 61.3.3.B.2 shall be minimized in stream environment zones and adjusted or prohibited if found through evaluation of continuing monitoring results to be in violation of applicable strictest water quality discharge and receiving water standards. These ordinances are applicable to both inorganic and organic fertilizer applications. Fertilizer management involves use and application approaches to achieve management standards and shall include the following considerations where appropriate:

1. The appropriate type of fertilizer to avoid release of excess nutrients;
2. Fertilizer management programs proposing the use of phosphorus shall demonstrate the need for the particular site conditions and vegetation to be maintained or established, and shall consider the use of slow release and phosphorus-free fertilizer;
3. The rate and means of application to avoid excessive application or application to non-target areas or native vegetation;
4. The timing and frequency of application to minimize the use of fertilizer, avoid early and late season fertilizer use when vegetation growth is not active;
5. Appropriate watering schedules and efficient irrigation systems to avoid excessive leaching and runoff of nutrients;
6. Preferred plant materials for the intended use and site conditions with an emphasis on native and adapted species to minimize the need of fertilizer;
7. Landscape design that minimizes the use and impacts of fertilizer application;
8. Critical areas such as backshore areas and SEZ setbacks in close proximity to Lake Tahoe and other bodies of water, or water quality treatment basins where the use of fertilizer shall be avoided;
9. Design and maintenance of drainage control systems including holding ponds where necessary;

10. Surface and groundwater monitoring programs to determine compliance with existing nitrogen and phosphorus discharge standards; any required monitoring will be at owners expense, where annual reporting is required in critical areas and as determined in program review or compliance determination;
 11. Public outreach, either in the form of public and private programs, fliers for utility district and other organization distribution, and workshops, or affiliate membership outreach on fertilizer management shall be included in fertilizer management plans. Public outreach applies in particular to small residential users for agency outreach programs, owners associations, condominiums, property and landscape managers, and landscapers; and
 12. For large users (defined under subparagraph 60.1.8.C below) and large turf projects, a soil testing program may be appropriate to assess the required concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus in the soil for vegetation use, adjusting for Tahoe Basin growing conditions. This may mean no or low application rates of phosphorus-containing fertilizer will be required for some sites and uses.
- B. Fertilizer Management Programs**
Projects that include landscaping or revegetation shall include, as a condition of approval, a fertilizer management program that addresses each of the considerations set forth in subsection 60.1.8.A, as appropriate to the size of the project.
- C. Existing Uses**
1. **At TRPA Request and Large Users**
At the request of TRPA and for large users that require regular fertilizer maintenance, including but not limited to golf courses, parks, cemeteries, plant nurseries, recreational ball fields, and large residential yards with an acre or more of turf, certain uses shall be required to submit fertilizer management programs for review and approval by TRPA. Review criteria shall include the considerations listed in subsection 60.1.8. Failure to comply with the request or to provide a program satisfactory to TRPA may result in an enforcement action.
 2. **Monitoring Report**
Following the first growing season after the approval of fertilizer management programs, large users of fertilizers such as plant nurseries and those managing more than one acre of turf, or as otherwise identified by TRPA under an existing large user survey, shall initiate a tracking program to monitor fertilizer use on lands under their control. Such users shall review fertilizer management programs with TRPA or Lahontan RWQCB staff and present annual reports for the prior season's use and monitoring if required to TRPA by June 1 (or as required by Lahontan) of each year. The report shall include information on the rate, amount, and location of use. This information shall be presented in a format developed by TRPA consistent with the reporting requirements of other agencies to eliminate duplication and shall be verifiable. TRPA shall include this information in its annual monitoring report under

Chapter 16, including such measures of progress as numbers of approved programs, annual fertilizer use reports received, and reported reductions in fertilizer use or monitored parameter improvement.

D. Requirements for Fertilizer Sales

Public outreach, including seller fertilizer recommendations consistent with subsection 60.1.8, provision of agency-developed fliers, and brochures of user information and recommended fertilizer rates from the *Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity* or its authorized equivalent, shall be required in conjunction with fertilizer sales in the Tahoe Basin. Outlying fertilizer retailers with potential purchases from the Tahoe Basin shall be requested to provide the same public outreach.

E. Snow Hardeners

The use of ammonium nitrate or other substances containing nitrogen or phosphorus to harden snow is prohibited.

60.2. WATER QUALITY MITIGATION

60.2.1. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to implement the Goals and Policies, Goal 4, Policy 1, Development and Implementation Priorities Subelement, Implementation Element, and specifically the requirement that new residential, commercial, and public projects completely offset their water quality impacts.

60.2.2. Applicability

A. General Applicability

This section is applicable to all projects and activities that result in the creation of additional impervious coverage, unless the project or activity is exempted pursuant to subparagraph B below.

B. Exemptions

The projects and activities provided below that create impervious coverage shall be exempt from water quality mitigation requirements:

1. Transfer

Impervious coverage permitted as a result of transfer of coverage.

2. 208 EIP Projects

Capital Environmental Improvement Program projects for erosion and runoff control and stream environment zone protection and restoration projects as described in TRPA's Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region.

3. Limited Exception for Additional or Transferred Development Within Adopted Community Plans

Additional or transferred development located within an adopted community plan, the water quality impacts of which were evaluated in the EIS for the community plan and mitigated by the provisions of the community plan, shall be exempt from the requirement of subsection

60.2.3 provided TRPA finds that the implementation element of the community plan, as a whole, meets the standards of subsection 60.2.3.

60.2.3. Required Offsets

All projects and activities that result in the creation of additional impervious coverage shall completely offset the potential water quality impacts of the project through one, or a combination, of the methods listed below.

A. Mitigation Projects

Implementation of offsite water quality control projects or stream environment zone restoration projects as a condition of project approval, pursuant to TRPA guidance on identification, design, and effectiveness of offsite mitigation projects. Applicants who wish to exercise this option shall include plans for the offsite mitigation project with their application. TRPA shall approve the offsite mitigation plans in conjunction with the approval of the project. Before issuing an approval, TRPA shall find that the offsite mitigation proposal completely offsets the expected impacts of the project.

B. Water Quality Mitigation Fund

Contribution to a water quality mitigation fund established by TRPA for implementing offsetting programs.

60.2.4. Fee Required

A fee shall be assessed for each square foot of additional land coverage created. The amount of contribution shall be established in the Rules of Procedure.

60.2.5. Use and Distribution of Mitigation Funds

TRPA shall deposit water quality mitigation funds in a trust account. Interest accruing to the trust account shall remain in the account until used on water quality mitigation projects or water quality planning. TRPA shall keep track of the amount of funds collected for each local jurisdiction and shall disburse funds to the local jurisdictions, upon their request, for expenditure within the jurisdiction of origin, provided TRPA finds that the expenditure is consistent with TRPA's Water Quality Management Plan. Accrued interest may be used for water quality planning in the region. TRPA shall encourage the local jurisdictions to use funds as expeditiously as possible.

60.2.6. Stream Environment Zone Restoration Program

To provide financial resources for implementation of the stream environment zone restoration program, at least 25 percent of the water quality mitigation funds collected for each local jurisdiction shall be used for stream environment zone restoration projects included in the TRPA's Water Quality Management Plan. This jurisdictional set-aside shall be individually evaluated and may be waived if TRPA determines that there are no more SEZ restoration projects identified in a given jurisdiction.

60.2.7. Water Quality Revolving Fund

TRPA shall establish a separate fund, to be known as the Water Quality Revolving Fund, for the purpose of depositing funds received through grants, fines, and voluntary contributions. TRPA may make grants from this fund to local governments and other

public entities for abatement and control of water quality problems by the same procedures as set forth in subsection 60.2.5.

60.3. SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

60.3.1. Purpose

This section contains regulations pertaining to recognition of source water, prevention of contamination to source water, and protection of public health relating to drinking water. It strengthens provisions of the Goals and Policies that address groundwater protection, and implements elements of the TRPA Source Water Protection Program.

60.3.2. Applicability

This chapter applies to projects that are identified as a possible contaminating activity located in identified source water protection zones as depicted on TRPA Source Water Assessment maps, and retrofit of existing development with Best Management Practices that identified source water protection zones as depicted on TRPA Source Water Assessment maps, and retrofit of existing development with Best Management Practices.

60.3.3. Source Water Protection Standards

To protect public health and to insure the availability of safe drinking water, TRPA shall review proposed projects identified as possible contaminating activities to source water that are located within a source water protection zone depicted on TRPA Source Water Assessment maps according to the following standards and procedures:

A. Source Water Defined

Water drawn to supply drinking water from an aquifer by a well or from a surface water body by an intake, regardless of whether such water is treated before distribution.

B. Possible Contaminating Activity Defined

Activities equivalent to TRPA primary uses identified by either the California Department of Public Health or the Nevada Bureau of Water Quality Planning, regardless of where the project is located, as having the potential to discharge contaminants to surface or groundwaters. Such uses are listed in subsection 60.3.5.

C. Source Water Protection Zone Defined

A zone delineated around drinking water sources in the following manner as depicted on the TRPA Source Water Assessment maps.

1. Protection Zone

A protection zone consisting of a fixed 600 foot radius circle shall be identified around wells, lake intakes, and springs assessed by TRPA. Protection zones shall be delineated using the best available source water location data known to TRPA. Protection zones may be located using the centroid of the parcel in which the well, lake intake, or spring is found. Protection zone delineations may be modified by TRPA as follows: Upon receipt of source water assessment information collected by the California Department of Public Health, the Nevada Bureau of

Water Quality Planning, or other public agencies responsible for conducting drinking source water assessments in accordance with state Source Water Assessment and Protection Programs and if recommended by the California Department of Public Health or the Nevada Bureau of Water Quality Planning; or upon receipt of source water assessment information provided by the property owner in which the well, spring, or lake intake is located and if the California Department of Public Health or the Nevada Bureau of Water Quality Planning concurs with the new delineation.

D. Review of Proposed Possible Contaminating Activities Located in Source Water Protection Zones

Proposed uses determined by TRPA to be projects that are identified as a Possible Contaminating Activity, with a project area located in a source water protection zone, shall not be approved unless TRPA finds that:

1. The project complies with the requirements to install BMPs as set forth in subsection 60.4.3;
2. TRPA has solicited comments from the operator/owner of the source water, and the department of environmental health with jurisdiction over the source water, and all such comments received were considered by TRPA prior to action being taken on the proposed project;
3. A spill control plan is submitted to TRPA for review and approval. The plan shall contain the following elements:
 - a. Disclosure element describing the types, quantities, and storage locations of contaminants commonly handled as part of the proposed project;
 - b. Contaminant handling and spill prevention element;
 - c. Spill reporting element, including a list of affected agencies to be contacted in the event of a spill;
 - d. Spill recovery element; and
 - e. Spill clean-up element.
4. Submittal of a spill control plan may be waived provided a state or local agency with jurisdiction over the subject source water provides a written statement to TRPA that a plan containing the above elements remains on file with that agency, or TRPA staff determines, at its discretion, that requiring a spill control plan would not result in significant additional protection of the source water.

E. Requirements of Existing Uses Located in Source Water Protection Zones

Existing uses that are identified as a possible contaminating activity located in a source water protection zone shall comply with subparagraph 60.3.3.D.3. Compliance with subparagraph 60.3.3.D.3 shall occur pursuant to the deadlines set forth in subparagraph 60.4.4.A.

60.3.4. Source Water Assessment

An inventory of wells, springs, and lake intakes that serve five or more user service connections shall be prepared for the Lake Tahoe Region. An inventory shall be prepared in consultation with local and state environmental health agencies. Sources omitted from the inventory due to a lack of information provided by local and state environmental health agencies shall be added as appropriate if additional source information is received by TRPA. Source water protection zones delineated on the source water assessment maps shall be modified pursuant to subparagraph 60.3.3.C.1.

60.3.5. Possible Contaminating Activities

A. Residential

1. Domestic animal raising

B. Commercial

1. Retail

- a. Service stations

2. Services

- a. Auto repair and service
- b. Business support services
- c. Laundries and dry cleaning plant
- d. Repair services

3. Light Industrial

- a. Batch plants
- b. Fuel and ice dealers
- c. Industrial services
- d. Recycling and scrap

4. Wholesale/Storage

- a. Storage yards
- b. Vehicle storage and parking
- c. Vehicle and freight terminals

C. Public Service

1. General

- a. Airfields, landing strips, and heliports
- b. Collection stations
- c. Hospitals
- d. Local public health and safety facilities
- e. Regional public health and safety facilities
- f. Power generating
- g. Public utility centers
- h. Schools

2. **Linear Public Facilities**
 - a. Transit stations and terminals
- D. **Recreation**
 1. Beach recreation
 2. Boat launching facilities
 3. Developed campgrounds
 4. Golf courses
 5. Marinas
 6. Recreational vehicle parks
 7. Rural sports
- E. **Resource Management**
 1. **Timber Management**
 - a. Timber stand improvement
 2. **Range**
 - a. Grazing
 - b. Range pasture management
 3. **Watershed Improvements**
 - a. Runoff control
- F. **Shorezone**
 1. Construction equipment storage
 2. Seaplane operations
 3. Tour Boat operations
 4. Water-oriented outdoor recreation concessions

60.4. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

60.4.1. Purpose

This section sets forth the requirements for installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection or restoration of water quality and for attainment of minimum discharge standards.

60.4.2. Applicability

BMPs, as described in the *Handbook of Best Management Practices* (Volume II of the Lake Tahoe Basin Water Quality Management Plan), or equivalent practices approved by TRPA, shall be applied to all public and privately owned lands.

60.4.3. Project Compliance Program

TRPA shall enforce the project compliance programs as provided below.

A. Temporary BMPs

Temporary BMPs in accordance with the *Handbook of Best Management Practices*, and as required in Section 33.5, shall be implemented on construction sites and maintained throughout the construction period until winterization and permanent BMPs are in place.

B. Permanent BMPs

Application of required permanent BMPs within the parcel or entire project area boundaries, whichever is greater, shall be a condition of project approval. Standard requirements are set forth in subsections 60.4.5 and 60.4.6.

1. Conditions of project approval shall set forth a schedule for installation of permanent BMPs on the project area. In no case shall permanent BMP installation be scheduled later than the date set for the completion of the project (see Chapter 2: *Applicability of the Code of Ordinances*).
2. Retrofitting of the project area outside the construction site boundary with permanent BMPs shall also be made a condition of project approval. If the project area involves more than one parcel, the entire project area will be treated as one parcel for purposes of this section. TRPA shall keep track of the status of retrofitting of project parcels, and or project areas, as provided in Chapter 6: *Tracking, Accounting, and Banking*.
3. The below categories of projects, if not carried out in conjunction with another type of project, may be exempt from the requirements of subparagraph 60.4.3.B.2.
 - a. Installation of erosion control facilities;
 - b. Restoration of disturbed areas;
 - c. SEZ restoration;
 - d. Underground storage tank removal, replacement, or maintenance;
 - e. Hazardous waste spill control or prevention facilities;
 - f. Sewage pump-out facilities for RVs or boats; and
 - g. Minor utility projects pursuant to subparagraph 30.6.2.F.

60.4.4. BMP Retrofit Program

Persons owning property not subject to a retrofit requirement prior to January 1, 1993, under subsection 60.4.3, or a discharge permit under subparagraph 60.4.4.D, shall install and maintain BMPs on their property with existing uses in accordance with the provisions below.

A. Priority System

Properties with existing uses shall install BMPs in accordance with subsection 53.10.5, the watershed priority system:

1. Priority Group 1

Properties with existing uses in watersheds with a point score less than or equal to 30 shall install BMPs not later than October 15, 2000.

2. Priority Group 2
Properties with existing uses in watersheds with a point score of 30 to 46, inclusive, shall install BMPs not later than October 15, 2006.

3. Priority Group 3
Properties with existing uses in watersheds with a point score of 47 or greater shall install BMPs by October 15, 2006, or not later than October 15, 2008, pursuant to a fee schedule to be developed for BMP inspections, evaluations, and certifications.

B. Parcels and Unpaved Roadways without Appropriate BMPs
Parcels and unpaved roadways without appropriate BMPs in place pursuant to the dates described above are subject to enforcement under Article IX Compliance Procedures, Section 9.19, of the Rules of Procedure for violation of 60.4.

C. Disclosure Requirements
Owners of property for sale shall, prior to sale, disclose to a purchaser the property's BMP status on a TRPA approved form. The purchaser of the property shall provide the disclosure form to TRPA within 30 days of sale.

D. Discharge Permits
Not later than December 31, 1992, TRPA shall notify property owners with existing uses in the following categories 1 through 3 below of the requirements of this subsection. Not later than March 31, 1993, the persons so notified shall inform TRPA that: (1) they have an existing valid state or federal stormwater discharge permit, (2) they will apply for a state or federal stormwater discharge permit, or (3) they will submit to TRPA a remedial action plan pursuant to Section 5.12 of the Code of Ordinances. Not later than June 30, 1994, all persons so notified shall have either a valid state or federal stormwater discharge permit or an approved remedial action plan pursuant to Section 5.12. Such permits and action plans shall be consistent with the provisions of the Water Quality Management Plan for the Tahoe Region.

1. Commercial Uses
Retail or entertainment facilities, greater than one acre, and storage yards.

2. Recreation Uses
Downhill ski areas, marinas, and golf courses.

3. Public Service Uses
Transportation routes, and corporation yards.

60.4.5. Priority for Installation of Retrofitting Measures

Schedules for BMP compliance shall include the measures proposed for each year and the estimated cost for those measures. The estimated cost shall be based on unit costs established by TRPA. Unless otherwise approved by TRPA, a schedule that phases BMP compliance shall implement the BMP measures in the following order:

- A. Pave legally established roads, driveways, and parking areas;
- B. Install drainage conveyances;
- C. Install walkways and stabilize cut and fill slopes;
- D. Vegetate denuded areas; and
- E. Treat surface runoff from land coverage.

60.4.6. Standard BMP Requirements

Pursuant to subsection 60.4.3, standard conditions of approval for projects shall meet the requirements provided below.

- A. **Runoff Water**
Runoff water from impervious surfaces shall meet the discharge standards of Section 60.1 and shall be controlled as provided below.
 - 1. **Infiltration Requirements**
Except as provided in subsection 60.4.8, infiltration facilities to discharge runoff to groundwater shall be required. Infiltration facilities shall be designed to accommodate the volume from a 20-year, one-hour storm. An average intensity of one inch per hour shall be used for this calculation. Infiltration facilities shall be designed utilizing the methodology set forth in the BMP Handbook. The bottom of infiltration trenches or dry wells shall be a minimum of one foot above the seasonal high water table. If TRPA finds that the runoff from impervious surfaces from a 20-year, one-hour storm will infiltrate naturally on the parcel, TRPA may waive the requirement to install infiltration facilities.
 - 2. **Excess Runoff**
Runoff in excess of that infiltrated pursuant to paragraph 1 above shall be controlled in accordance with the methods and design standards in the Handbook.
- B. **Cut and Fill Slopes**
Cuts and fills with slopes greater than 2:1 shall be stabilized with methods consistent with the BMPs.
- C. **Denuded Areas**
All denuded areas, including slopes less than 2:1, shall be vegetated with approved species listed in the Handbook.
- D. **Drainage Conveyances**
Drainage conveyances through a parcel shall be designed for at least a 10-year, 24-hour storm. Storm drain culverts and drain channels shall be designed by a qualified professional. Drainage conveyances through a SEZ shall be designed for a minimum of a 50-year storm.

- E. Roads, Driveways, and Parking Areas**
All roads, driveways, and parking areas proposed for year-round use shall be paved in accordance with Chapter 34: *Driveway and Parking Standards*.
- F. Protection of BMPs**
After installation, all BMPs shall be provided with adequate protection to prevent damage from vehicles.
- G. Consistency with Defensible Space Requirements**
In addition to subsections A – F above, water quality BMPs shall be installed and maintained consistent with the defensible space requirements of the applicable fire agency.

60.4.7. Additional Requirements

In addition to the standard requirements of subsection 60.4.6, project conditions of approval shall list any other appropriate required BMPs to meet minimum discharge standards. Construction in stream environment zones or Land Capability Districts 1 through 3, inclusive, normally shall require special conditions of approval because of the sensitivity of those areas to disturbance.

60.4.8. Special Circumstances

- A.** Where special circumstances occur, alternative BMPs may be approved to meet water quality standards. Special circumstances may include, but not be limited to, streets, highways, bike trails, existence of high ground water table, unusual upstream or downstream flow conditions, and presence of unusual concentrations of pollutants.
- B.** Infiltrating runoff volumes generated by the 20 year, 1-hour storm may not be possible in some locations due to shallow depth to seasonal groundwater levels, unfavorable soil conditions, or other site constraints such as existing infrastructure or rock outcroppings. For new development or redevelopment projects, site constraints do not include the existing built environment. In the event that site conditions do not provide opportunities to infiltrate the runoff volume generated by a 20 year, 1-hour storm, project proponents must either (1) meet the numeric effluent limits in outlined in subsection 60.1.3 for the 20-year 1-hour storm, or (2) coordinate with the local municipality or state highway department to document that shared stormwater treatment facilities treating private property discharges and public right-of-way stormwater sufficiently contribute to meeting the jurisdiction's average annual fine sediment particle and nutrient load reduction requirements.

60.4.9. Maintenance of BMPs

BMPs shall be maintained to ensure their continued effectiveness.

“Tahoe In Depth”

<http://www.trpa.org/about-trpa/press-room/tahoe-in-depth/>

Tahoe In Depth is a biannual publication coordinated by TRPA that aims to inspire environmental understanding and stewardship at Lake Tahoe. TWSA has submitted articles on water conservation and source water protection. The purpose of *Tahoe In Depth* is to give homeowners, landowners, visitors, and policymakers clear, straightforward, and interesting information about the Lake Tahoe environment – from successful restoration to ongoing challenges. The goal is to help people better understand the work being done to restore Tahoe’s clarity and the role they can play in helping reach that outcome.

The publication explores the natural and cultural history of the Tahoe Basin while providing balanced, reliable information on a wide spectrum of scientific and planning efforts under way to protect Lake Tahoe’s unique scenic and ecological qualities.

Spearheaded by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, various agencies working in the Tahoe Basin have contributed stories and financial assistance to *Tahoe In Depth*. Other stories and content for the publication have been written or selected by an independent editor working with TRPA and contributors.

New Gateway Signs Mark Nevada Entrances to Lake Tahoe Watershed

<http://www.trpa.org/about-trpa/press-room/new-gateway-signs-mark-nevada-entrances-to-lake-tahoe-watershed>

Visitors to the Lake Tahoe Summit on Tuesday, August 19, 2015 will notice new gateway signs along three Nevada highways leading into the Lake Tahoe Watershed. Installed near Daggett Summit on Nevada State Route 207, Spooner Summit on U.S. Highway 50 and on Nevada State Route 431 the Mount Rose Highway, the decorative gateway signs read, “Entering the Lake Tahoe Watershed — Help Protect It!”. The signs were installed in July in a collaborative project led by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Nevada Division of State Lands.

The signs are meant to help remind the millions of people who visit Lake Tahoe each year that they are entering a special place and have a duty to help protect its famously clear waters and environment. Fourth of July celebrations this year left thousands of pounds of trash on area beaches for community volunteers to clean up, showing there is still a strong need to remind people of their responsibility to help protect Lake Tahoe and its beaches. That same responsibility goes for keeping trash and other pollutants out of stormwater drainage systems and the 63 streams flowing into Lake Tahoe in a watershed that covers 312 square miles.

“Everything drains into the lake. The purpose of these new signs is to bolster environmental stewardship, let all visitors know they are entering a special place, and remind them there’s a responsibility we all share to take care of it,” said Julie Regan, chief of external affairs at TRPA. “These signs are one more tool to help instill that awareness.”

The Lake Tahoe Environmental Gateway Signage Project was paid for with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection as well as funding from the Lake Tahoe License Plate Program run by Nevada Division of State Lands. The agencies are looking to partner with community organizations to adopt the signs and help ensure they remain

attractive and in good repair. TRPA is also seeking funding to install more signs on California roadway entrances into the Lake Tahoe Basin.

TRPA Shoreline Plan for Lake Tahoe

The TRPA Governing Board approved a new Shoreline Plan for Lake Tahoe in October 2018. The plan supports boating, paddling, swimming, and other water-based recreation, while also ensuring effective natural resource management for continued attainment of environmental goals in the Lake Tahoe Region. The plan includes updated shorezone regulations (Chapters 80-85 of the [TRPA Code of Ordinances](#)) and a [Shoreline Implementation Program](#).



PERMITTING

The Shoreline Plan lifts a longstanding moratorium on new shorezone structures at Lake Tahoe, setting caps and regulations for new shorezone structures such as piers, moorings, and public boat ramps. The plan also creates a framework for marinas to enhance their facilities if environmental improvements are made part of the project. For more information about TRPA permits for moorings, structures, and other shorezone activities, please review the fact sheets at the bottom of this page or visit [TRPA's Applications & Forms Page](#).

During this pier allocation period (2019-2020), TRPA may allocate seven multiple-parcel piers. TRPA reviewed the submitted proposals based on the prioritization criteria in the code, which resulted in awarding six multiple-parcel pier applications the opportunity to submit a complete New Pier Application to TRPA. There were 23 projects tied for the seventh multiple-parcel pier allocation, which was decided by a random drawing on July 17, 2019. During this pier allocation period, TRPA allocated five single-parcel piers. TRPA performed a random drawing of the submitted proposals based on the code, which resulted in awarding five single-parcel pier applications the opportunity to submit a complete New Pier Application to TRPA.



MOORINGS

The Shoreline Plan authorizes up to 1,486 new private moorings at Lake Tahoe, including buoys, boatlifts, and boat slips. Fifteen percent of that total will become available for permitting in 2020 through the [mooring lottery](#), with additional moorings available for permitting in following years. The Shoreline Plan requires property owners to register and permit all existing moorings with TRPA. Moorings can be registered through the [Lake Tahoe Info website](#) starting March 1, 2019.



BOATING

The Shoreline Plan creates new programs to ensure shoreline structures and boating activity do not harm the environment, scenery, or recreation experiences at Lake Tahoe. These programs include coordinated enforcement against illegal boat moorings on the lake, more projects to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species, enhanced monitoring to better assess noise and scenic impacts from boating activity and shoreline structures, stronger

boating safety education, and new provisions to keep boats with aftermarket exhaust systems that exceed TRPA, California, and Nevada noise limits from operating on the lake.

The cost of these programs will be paid for through new fees apportioned to various shoreline users and structures. These fees include annual mooring registration fees, an increase in boat sticker fees, and boat rental concession fees that take effect for the 2019 boating season. Lake Tahoe watercraft inspection sticker fees increased by \$12 in 2019. This increase is needed to help pay for boater education, no-wake zone enforcement, and projects to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe.



NO-WAKE ZONES

The new shoreline program includes stronger boater education and enforcement of the [600-foot no-wake zone](#) at Lake Tahoe. The plan expands the no-wake zone to include all Emerald Bay and creates a 100-foot no-wake zone buffer around swimmers and paddlers and a 200-foot no-wake zone buffer around shoreline structures. These no-wake zones are in place to prevent unsafe boating in areas where boaters, paddlers, and swimmers share the lake, and to reduce noise impacts from boating.

BACKGROUND

The TRPA Governing Board approved the Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan in October 2018 after more than three years of strong public outreach and collaboration with a wide range of partners. Planning partners included the Lake Tahoe Marina Association, Tahoe Lakefront Owners' Association, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Nevada Division of State Lands, and California State Lands Commission. The plan is the first comprehensive update to TRPA's shorezone regulations in several decades.

Water Quality: Chapter 4 of the 2011 and 2015 Threshold Report

http://www.trpa.org/documents/rp_update/Final_TVVAL/1_2011_TEVAL_Chapters_Clean_2012-10-24/TEVAL2011_Ch4_WaterQuality_Oct2012_Final.pdf

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/10_Ch4_WaterQuality_FINAL_9_30_2016.pdf

This chapter provides extensive information relative to monitoring conditions of nearshore and deep lake water quality conditions. Extensive data is presented on suspended solids, nutrient loading, phytoplankton productivity, sechhi disk depths, and other water quality indicators. The chapter attempts to synthesize information in a complex intertwined grid of influences affecting water quality.

2015 TRPA Draft Threshold Evaluation Report

<http://www.trpa.org/regional-plan/threshold-evaluation>

The Draft 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report offers a snapshot of the health of the ecosystem in the Tahoe Basin by documenting the status and trends of 178 threshold standards in nine categories: Air quality, water quality, soil conservation, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, scenic resources, noise, and recreation. This evaluation of the environmental threshold carrying capacities is the sixth report published since the adoption of the Regional Plan in 1987 and was reviewed by an independent panel of scientific experts who found the report to be technically sound. Excerpts are below:

Executive Summary



More than 35 years ago, at the direction of the states of California and Nevada, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) led partners in the Region through the process of establishing a shared set of goals. They reviewed the best available science, identified key values, and developed a shared vision for Lake Tahoe. The goals ranged from specific targets for air and water quality, to broad visions for maintaining scenic beauty and enhancing the recreational experience. The goals were often ambitious and aspirational, and were formally adopted as threshold standards by the TRPA Governing Board in 1982.

Every four years, TRPA leads the development of a threshold evaluation report that assesses ecosystem health relative to the adopted standards. The report documents the progress of the partners in the Region towards achieving those shared goals. The 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report is the sixth comprehensive report since the adoption of the 1987 Regional Plan. Following the precedent established in 2011, an independent scientific peer review ensures the methods used, conclusions reached, and recommendations made are consistent with the best scientific guidance in the field. The full comments of the panel of the 15 peer reviewers can be found in Appendix C.

The reporting process is a collaborative endeavor that draws on the monitoring work and analytic expertise of federal, state, and local agencies, academic institutions, local businesses, and private consultants. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the environmental health of the Region as indicated by the 178 threshold standards.

Threshold Standard Status

This report considers conditions relative to 178 standards in nine threshold categories (Figure ES-1)¹. (Resolution 82-11 (TRPA 2012). Status determinations relative to the standard were made for 110 (68 percent) standards. Of the 110, 70 percent (77) were found to be “at or better than target” or “considerably better than target.”

Evaluators qualitatively assessed the implementation status of 25 management standards and policy statements. Consistent with the findings of prior threshold evaluation reports, it was found that all had been implemented through TRPA, state, and/or federal regulatory controls and/or are addressed as a component of on-the-ground environmental improvement projects and programs.

¹ Note: There are 869 separate scenic assessment units, each with a specific target standard in five separate scenic standard categories enumerated here. Because of the volume of standards associated with the scenic resource threshold category, the indicator results were aggregated for this summary.

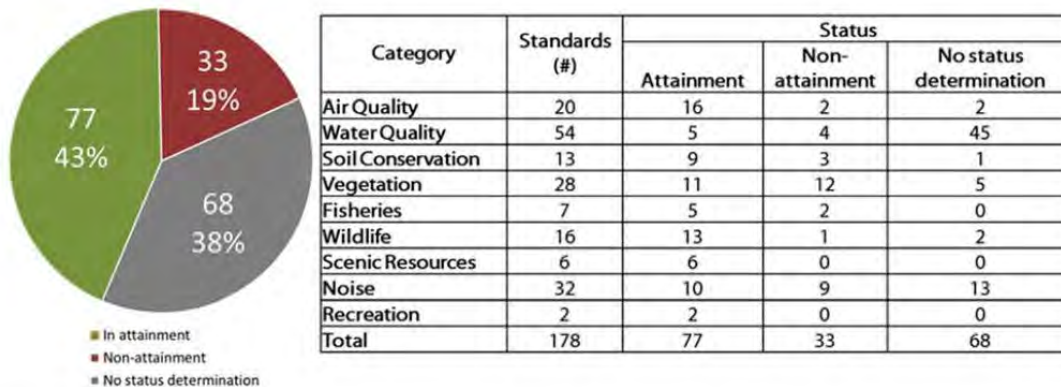


Figure ES-1. 2015 status determination summary by threshold category for the 178 threshold standards addressed in this report. Standards were placed into one of three categories: Attainment – where conditions are at or better than the standard; Non-attainment – where conditions are worse than the standard; and No status determination - where ambiguity in the standard, reference to an unknown historic baseline, or insufficient data precluded a determination of status.

Threshold Indicator Trends

Trend determinations were possible for 70 of the 178 standards evaluated in this report, and the vast majority where trend could be assessed (68 or 97 percent) are either improving or show little or no change. Improving trends outnumbered declining trends by over 10 to one. Conditions were declining for only two standards (Figure ES-2). For the majority of standards where no trend determination was possible, reasons include feasibility, standard ambiguity, funding gaps, and data issues. These findings represent a small improvement, but are generally consistent, with the findings of the 2011 Threshold Evaluation Report.

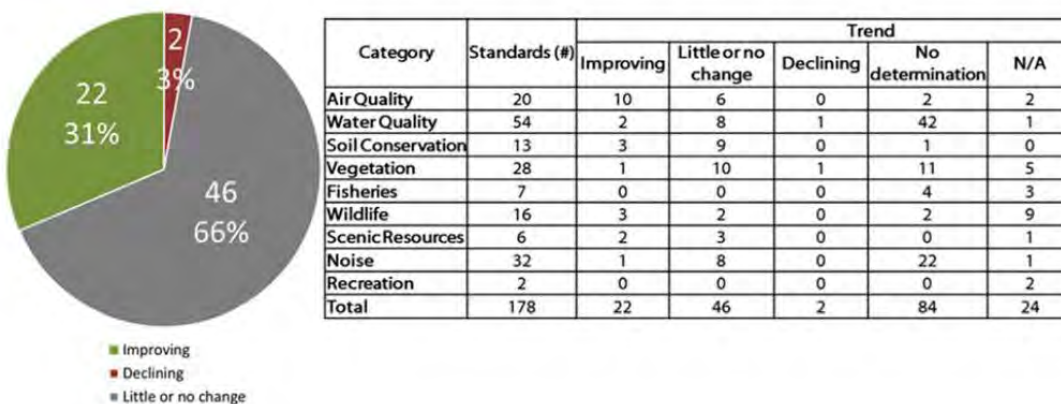


Figure ES-2. A trend determination was made for 70 of the 178 indicators. Standards were placed into one of four trend categories: Improving – where status was improving relative to the trend; little or no change – where status change was less than 0.5 percent; declining – where status relative to trend increased by more than 0.5 percent; and no determination – where insufficient data exists to assess trend or where status determination was qualitative.

Comparison 2011 to 2015

In general, compared to 2011, more standards showed improvement with attainment moving from 63 percent (58 standards) to 70 percent (77 standards). Status continued to improve for water clarity, air quality, scenic and soil conservation. Areas needing continued focus include removal of land coverage on sensitive lands, new threats to forest vegetation, deepwater plant communities, and the need for continued emphasis on water quality conditions (macroinvertebrates, periphyton (algae) and AIS control).

Water Quality

Lake Tahoe's extraordinary water clarity and quality are world-renowned. TRPA and state agencies have adopted strict water quality standards to protect and restore the lake for current and future generations.

Findings and Conclusions: Between 1968 and 2000, a third of the lake's iconic clarity was lost. Had the trend continued, Secchi depth in 2015 would have reached a new low of 16 meters (52.6 feet). Instead today in 2015, the observed Secchi depth was 22.3 meters (73.2 feet). Annual clarity measurements typically vary widely, so we look to longer term trends, which are encouraging. The five-year running average from 2010 to 2015 was 22.3 meters (73.2 feet), 18 feet better than forecasted in 2000. The continued improvement is a strong indication that the actions of partners in the Region are contributing to improved clarity and helping TRPA attain one of its signature goals.

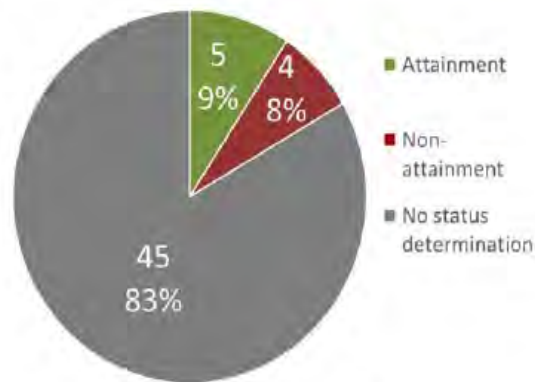


Figure ES-4: Summary of the status of water quality standards

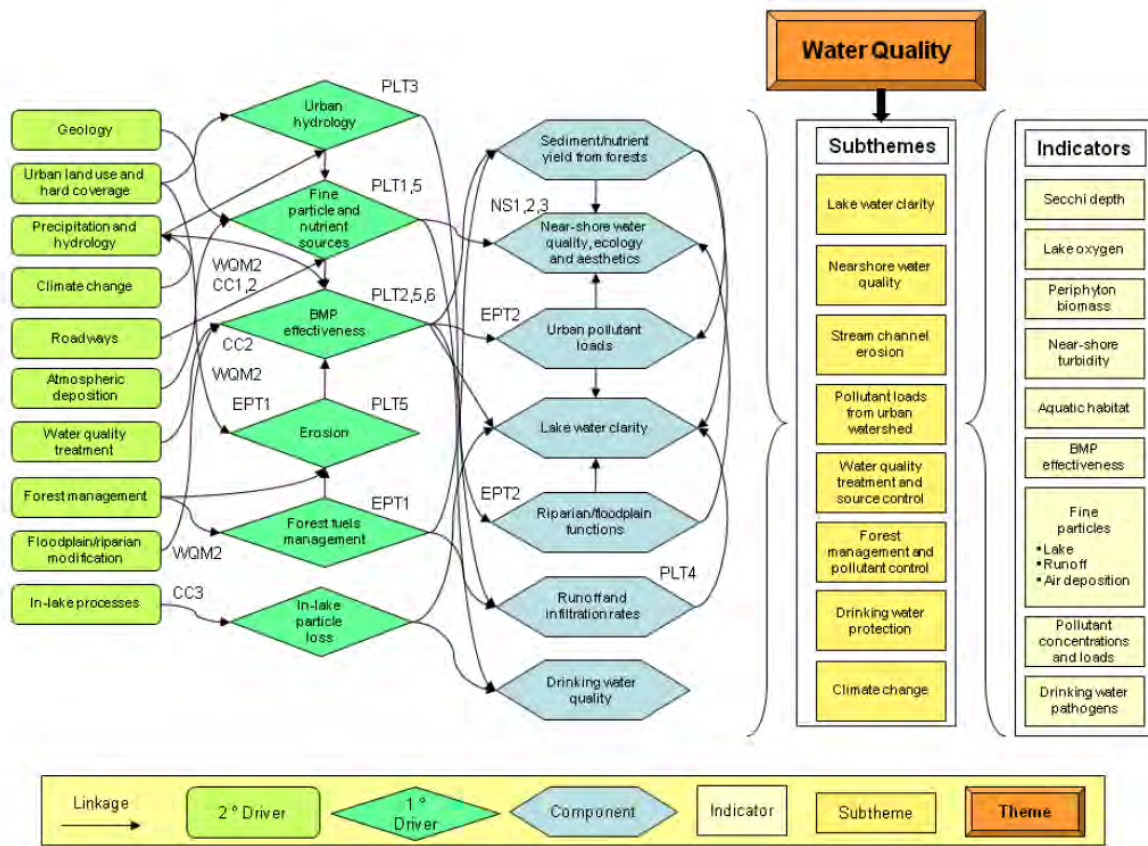


Figure 4-1. Conceptual model for Tahoe Region water quality. This model focuses on the pollutant pathway for fine sediment particles (<math><16 \mu\text{m}</math>) and nutrients (N and P). Key processes in this pathway include source identification, transport in the watershed, control and abatement, defining loads to Lake, fate in Lake, and assessment of water quality response. For ease of viewing only key linkages were drawn. Source: Hymanson and Collopy 2010.

TRPA Regional Plan Update – Final EIS Released Oct. 2012

<http://www.trpa.org/regional-plan/regional-plan-eis>

Concurrent with the release of the TRPA Threshold Evaluation Report (previous section); was the release of the long awaited final TRPA Regional Plan Update. This plan, has been drafted to serve as the guiding document for basin wide human activities.

The Final Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan Update posted online October 24, 2012. An unprecedented level of public input has been received on the plan to date and public meetings were held October, November and December 2012 to provide opportunities for public input. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Regional Plan Update is the blueprint for the Tahoe Basin's sustainable future. The Regional Plan Update will help guide how communities evolve, how ecosystems function, whether the transportation network is efficient and effective, and whether the Basin at large is restored, more pristine, and sustainable.

Public involvement in developing the updated plan has been extensive with thousands of people participating in the last 7 years. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) includes all comments received on the EIS during the public comment period, agency responses to comments, as well as all contents of the Draft EIS. Legal challenges to the plan were dismissed in November 2016.

Water quality threshold standards adopted by TRPA set a target to return the Lake to the transparency observed in the late 1960s. Within the six major indicator categories, TRPA uses seven water quality standards to assess the water quality of Lake Tahoe and its tributaries. Table 3.8-1 lists each indicator category and associated standard(s). The status and trend of each threshold relative to the associated standard(s) is described in Section 3.8.2, Affected Environment.

Indicator Category	Standard	Numerical Standard and/or Management Standard
Littoral Lake Tahoe	Sediment Loading	Decrease sediment load as required to attain turbidity values not to exceed 3 NTU in littoral Lake Tahoe. In addition, turbidity shall not exceed 1 NTU in shallow waters of Lake Tahoe not directly influenced by stream discharges.
Deep water (pelagic zone)	Winter clarity, pelagic Lake Tahoe	Average winter Secchi depth, December-March, shall not be less than 33.4 meters.
Deep water (pelagic zone)	Phytoplankton primary productivity	Annual mean phytoplankton primary productivity shall not exceed 52 gC/M ² /yr.
Tributary water quality	Annual average concentrations of appropriate constituents	Concentrations of appropriate constituents in any tributary stream for which states have established standards (as mg/l); 90 th percentile value suspended sediment of 60 mg/L.
Stormwater runoff quality	Surface discharge to surface water	Pollutant concentrations in surface runoff discharged to surface water shall not exceed the following concentrations at the 90th percentile: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 0.5 mg/L dissolved inorganic nitrogen as N > 0.1 mg/L dissolved phosphorus as P > 2.0 mg/L grease and oil > 0.5 mg/L dissolved iron > 250 mg/L suspended sediment
Stormwater runoff quality	Surface discharge to groundwater	Surface runoff infiltrated into soils shall not exceed the following concentrations at the 90th percentile: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 5.0 mg/L total nitrogen as N > 1.0 mg/L total phosphorus as P > 4.0 mg/L total iron > 40 mg/L grease and oil > 200 NTU turbidity <p>Where there is a direct hydrologic connection between ground and surface waters, discharges shall meet the guidelines for surface discharges (WQ-5).</p>
Other lakes	Concentrations of appropriate constituents	Water quality parameters and standards established by California and Nevada.
<p>mg/l = milligrams per liter NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units gC/M²/yr = grams of carbon per square meter per year Source: TRPA 2012a</p>		

REGIONAL PLAN

Goals and Policies

TRPA has established a number of goals and policies related to water quality. Goals include the reduction of sediment and nutrients to Lake Tahoe and the elimination or reduction of other pollutants. Policies address a range of issues, including snow removal, wastewater spill prevention, underground storage tanks, dredging, and reduction of impacts from motorized watercraft. The existing goals and policies for water quality protect and enhance lake clarity and beneficial uses within the following regulatory framework:

- ▲ Concentration-based discharge standards and infiltration requirements for stormwater treatment that control water quality impacts associated with new development;
- ▲ Regulations requiring the retrofitting of developed properties with Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce erosion and stormwater runoff;
- ▲ Regulatory preservation and restoration of Stream Environment Zones (SEZs) to protect and enhance their water quality values; and
- ▲ Prohibiting the discharge of wastewater, toxic waste, and solid waste into Lake Tahoe, its tributaries, and groundwater resources.

Code of Ordinances

The TRPA Code of Ordinances contains a range of requirements intended to help achieve water quality threshold standards, goals, and policies. Chapter 60 of the Code is the primary chapter directed at water quality and the installation of BMPs. A number of other chapters contain provisions pertaining to the protection of water resources and water quality for hydrology, coverage, and grading and excavation (Table 3.8-2).

Code Section	Requirements
Chapter 30	Sets forth regulations concerning the land capability system, land capability districts, prohibition of additional land coverage in certain land capability districts, and transfer and mitigation of land coverage.
Chapter 33.3	Sets standards for grading and excavation.
Chapter 33.4	Sets requirements for special investigations, reports, and plans, determined to be necessary by TRPA to protect the environment against significant adverse effects from grading projects.
Chapter 33.5	Sets forth the requirements for grading and construction schedules when grading or construction is to occur pursuant to a TRPA permit.
Chapter 35	Sets forth regulations pertaining to recognition of natural hazards, including floodplains, prevention of damage to property, and protection of public health relating to such natural hazards.
Chapter 60.1	Sets discharge standards for runoff and discharge to surface and groundwater.
Chapter 60.2	Sets forth requirements that new residential, commercial, and public projects completely offset their water quality impacts.
Chapter 60.3	Contains regulations pertaining to recognition of source water, prevention of contamination to source water, and protection of public health relating to drinking water.
Chapter 60.4	Sets standards for installation and maintenance of BMPs for the protection or restoration of water quality.

Source: TRPA 2012b

Regulations for stormwater discharge are based on maximum allowable concentrations for nitrogen, phosphorus, iron, turbidity, suspended sediments, and grease and oil. Standards for stormwater discharge to surface water are different than those for discharge to groundwater. In general, discharge standards to

groundwater are more lenient because of the natural filtering capacity of soils and the potential for nutrient uptake from vegetation. TRPA discharge standards for surface water and groundwater in the Code are the threshold standards for those indicator reporting categories (see Table 3.8-2). In addition to numerical discharge limits, the Code also restricts the discharge of wastewater and toxic substances, sets requirements for snow removal and control of salts, and sets criteria for pesticide use and fertilizer control.

In addition to stormwater runoff quality standards, regulations are in place for containment of stormwater runoff volumes and flows. These regulations are designed to reduce the hydrologic impacts of urbanization on peak runoff rates and volumes, protect water quality, and protect property and public safety. TRPA regulations require containment, at a minimum, of the stormwater runoff volume generated by a 20-year return period, 1-hour duration "design storm" from impervious surfaces. The calculation of runoff volume is made by multiplying the intensity of the 20-year, 1-hour design storm (taken as 1 inch of rain in 1 hour) by the impervious surface area. Runoff that is contained and subsequently infiltrated is required to meet the maximum concentration requirements for discharge to groundwater (Table 3.8-2).

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LAKE TAHOE REGION (208 PLAN)

The *Water Quality Management Plan for the Tahoe Region (208 Plan)* was prepared by TRPA in compliance with Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. The 208 Plan contains overlapping elements with the Regional Plan, including the Handbook of Best Management Practices, the Stream Environment Zone Protection and Restoration Program, and the Capital Improvement Program for Erosion and Runoff Control. The 208 Plan identifies pollution sources, control needs, and management practices to improve water quality.

The 208 Plan contains management programs that pertain to urban runoff and erosion, airborne nutrients, waste management, natural area management, and other water quality issues in Lake Tahoe and the Shorezone. Programs are implemented through designated management agencies, including TRPA, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and other federal, state, and local governments. To determine if water quality goals are attained and maintained, water quality programs require continuous scientific monitoring of environmental conditions related to the threshold standards for pelagic Lake Tahoe, littoral Lake Tahoe, tributary streams, surface runoff, groundwater, land coverage, and SEZs. TRPA must publish annual or semi-annual reports on monitoring program implementation and must evaluate the results at least every 5 years (Goals and Policies, p. VII-23).

FEDERAL

FEDERAL ANTIDEGRADATION POLICY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated Lake Tahoe an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). ONRWs are provided the highest level of protection under EPA's Antidegradation Policy, stipulating that states may allow some limited activities that result in temporary and short-term changes to water quality, but that such changes should not adversely affect existing uses or alter the essential character or special uses for which the water was designated an ONRW. EPA interprets this provision to mean that no new or increased discharges to ONRWs and no new or increased discharge that would result in lower water quality are permitted.

CLEAN WATER ACT

Section 404

The federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA), provides for the restoration and maintenance of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Section 404 of the CWA prohibits the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands,

except as permitted under separate regulations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and EPA. To discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, Section 404 requires projects to receive authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the USACE. Waters of the United States are generally defined as “waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; territorial seas and tributaries to such waters.”

Section 401

Under CWA Section 401, applicants for a federal license or permit to conduct activities that may result in the discharge of a pollutant into waters of the United States must obtain certification for the discharge. The certification must be obtained from the state in which the discharge would originate or, if appropriate, from the interstate water pollution control agency with jurisdiction over the affected waters at the point where the discharge would originate. Therefore, all projects that have a federal component and may affect state water quality (including projects that require federal agency approval, such as issuance of a Section 404 permit) must also comply with CWA Section 401. Water quality certification requires evaluation of potential impacts in light of water quality standards and CWA Section 404 criteria governing discharge of dredged and fill materials into waters of the United States. EPA delegates water pollution control authority under CWA Section 401 to the states.

Section 402

Section 402 of the CWA establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program to regulate discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States. An NPDES permit sets specific discharge limits for point-source discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States and establishes monitoring and reporting requirements, as well as special conditions. EPA delegates water pollution control authority under CWA Section 402 to the states, which oversee compliance.

CALIFORNIA

LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

The Porter-Cologne Act created the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) in California. The SWRCB protects water quality by setting statewide policy, coordinating and supporting RWQCB efforts, and reviewing petitions that contest RWQCB actions. The RWQCBs issue waste discharge permits, take enforcement action against violators, and jointly administer federal and state laws related to water quality in coordination with EPA and USACE.

The Tahoe Region is located within the jurisdiction of the Lahontan RWQCB (LRWQCB). The LRWQCB Region is approximately 570 miles long, covering an area of 33,131 square miles, from the California-Oregon border to the Antelope Valley watershed in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. In addition to the Tahoe Region, the Lahontan Region includes Death Valley, Mount Whitney, Owens Valley, Mono Lake, and portions of Lassen and Modoc Counties.

On the California side of the Tahoe Region, LRWQCB implements the CWA, the California Water Code (including the Porter-Cologne Act), and a variety of laws related to control of solid waste and toxic and hazardous wastes. LRWQCB has authority to set and revise water quality standards and discharge prohibitions. It issues federal permits, including NPDES permits and Section 401 water quality certifications, and state waste discharge requirements or waivers of waste discharge requirements. Its planning and permitting actions require compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Water quality standards and control measures for surface and ground waters of the Lahontan Region are contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for water bodies. It establishes water quality objectives, waste discharge prohibitions, and other implementation measures to protect those beneficial uses. Chapter 5 of the Basin Plan, Water Quality Standards and Control Measures for the Lake Tahoe Basin, summarizes a variety of control measures for the protection and enhancement of Lake Tahoe.

NEVADA

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY PLANNING

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Water Quality Planning (BWQP) is responsible for several water quality protection functions, including: collecting and analyzing water data, developing standards for surface waters, publishing reports, providing water quality education, and implementing programs to address surface water quality. The BWQP is divided into four branches: water quality standards, monitoring, nonpoint source pollution management, and the Lake Tahoe management program. The branches are responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:

- ▲ The Water Quality Standards Branch is responsible for developing and reviewing water quality standards; determining total maximum daily loads and wasteload allocations from point sources; and determining load allocations from non-point sources.
- ▲ The Monitoring Branch is responsible for administering the state's water quality monitoring program. This branch maintains and updates water quality data for the national water quality data base (Water Quality Exchange Network - WQX) and is responsible for preparation of Nevada's Water Quality Assessment Report, which is required under CWA Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).
- ▲ The Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Management Program aims to control nonpoint sources of pollution in Nevada. NPS pollution results from a variety of diffuse and dispersed human activities.
- ▲ The Lake Tahoe Watershed Program unit collaborates with LRWQCB to develop the Total Maximum Daily Load for Lake Tahoe.

LAKE TAHOE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to compile a list of impaired water bodies that do not meet water quality standards and to develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for impaired water bodies to determine the key pollutants and contributing sources to the impairment. Lake Tahoe is one of 41,237 impaired waters in the United States listed in EPA's National Summary of Impaired Waters and TMDLs (EPA 2012). While both California and Nevada have identified Lake Tahoe as an impaired water body, the scientific basis for the impaired classification is different between the states:

- ▲ California has identified Lake Tahoe's lack of transparency as the primary basis for its impaired status under its Section 303(d) impaired water listings filed with EPA. To comply with California's Lake Tahoe transparency standard, a 25-centimeter (10-inch) white Secchi disk would need to be visible 29.7 meters (97.4 feet) below the surface of Lake Tahoe on an average annual basis.
- ▲ Nevada has identified Lake Tahoe's lack of clarity as the primary basis for its impaired status under its Section 303(d) impaired water listings filed with EPA. Clarity is defined as a quantitative measure of the vertical extinction of light (VEC) per meter of depth. A lower VEC reading indicates more clarity to the water. To comply with Nevada's Lake Tahoe clarity standard, a VEC of 0.08 per meter is necessary.

The science supporting the Lake Tahoe TMDL was developed collaboratively by LRWQCB and the NDEP and provides the framework for a comprehensive water quality restoration plan to address identified pollutant sources with shared goals to ultimately achieve the Lake Tahoe transparency and clarity water quality objectives (LRWQCB and NDEP 2010: p. 1-1). However, TMDLs established under CWA Section 303(d) function primarily as planning devices and are not self-executing. Each TMDL represents a goal that may be implemented by adjusting pollutant discharge requirements in individual NPDES permits or establishing nonpoint source controls. Because California and Nevada must comply with, administer, and enforce their own state laws and policies, each state has developed its own Lake Tahoe TMDL to address the impairment of Lake Tahoe as addressed in each state's Section 303(d) filings with EPA. The following items highlight the differences in implementation approaches between the two states:

- ▲ California's Lake Tahoe TMDL (dated November 2010 and approved by EPA in 2011) requires attainment of the California transparency objective for Lake Tahoe over a 65-year implementation period. Based on California law, LRWQCB has the obligation to implement and enforce the California Lake Tahoe TMDL through NPDES discharge permits (over which EPA has jurisdiction) issued to California government entities (City of South Lake Tahoe, Placer County, El Dorado County, and the California Department of Transportation).
- ▲ Nevada's Lake Tahoe TMDL (dated August 2011 and approved by EPA in 2011) is a modified version of the California Lake Tahoe TMDL. The Nevada Lake Tahoe TMDL clarifies Nevada's regulatory structure and approach to implementation and emphasizes that the proposed implementation timelines may need to be adjusted for a variety of reasons, but particularly based on the availability of future funding. NDEP's stated plan for implementing the Lake Tahoe TMDL for Washoe County and Douglas County is through Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with each jurisdiction. MOAs are a collaborative, legally non-binding approach to implementing a TMDL. NDEP regulates the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Stateline Stormwater Association with NPDES discharge permits.

TRPA Regional Plan Development History

TWSA was an active participant of the multi-year Regional Pathway process over its entire process. The Pathway process was used to collaboratively update the Lake Tahoe Basin Regional plans led by Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada Environmental Protection Agency and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The 2012 Update: Restoring Lake Tahoe and Supporting Sustainable Communities

<http://www.trpa.org/regional-plan>

Legal challenges to the Regional Plan were dismissed in November 2016.

<http://legal-planet.org/2016/11/05/tahoe-regional-planning-agency-wins-big-in-ninth-circuit/planet.org>

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) won a major legal victory in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. A unanimous three-judge panel of that court rejected environmentalists' challenge to TRPA's adopted Regional Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin in [*Sierra Club v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*](#).

The Ninth Circuit decision effectively concludes a decade-long process by which TRPA formulated, held multiple hearings on, and ultimately adopted a revised Regional Plan for the Tahoe Basin. That Plan's most noteworthy element is its concentration of development in relatively densely-constructed "community centers" in already-urbanized portions of the Tahoe Basin. The environmental trade-off is that in exchange for that intensified development, currently-developed areas outside those community centers will be returned to open space.

A new way forward for Lake Tahoe was approved in December, 2012 with an update of the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan. The updates encourage greater private-public partnerships and created incentives for property owners to make Lake-saving improvements to their home or business.

Use these fact sheets for an overview of the focused updates that went into effect in February, 2013:

RESTORING *Lake Tahoe* & SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES



There is a new plan for Tahoe.

The 2012 Lake Tahoe Regional Plan is a blueprint for Lake Tahoe's sustainable future. The plan is an update to the bi-state regulatory system that aims to accelerate environmental gains while supporting the health of our communities. New policies pair longstanding regulations with new incentives for property owners to increase ecosystem restoration. The underlying goal is to encourage home improvements and environmental redevelopment of outdated properties as necessary to restore Lake Tahoe's environment.

Priorities of the 2012 Regional Plan

1. Accelerate water quality restoration
2. Help create walkable communities with alternative transportation options
3. Streamline the permitting process and integrate Area Plans with the Regional Plan

Homeowner Improvements

Property owners that were planning to use the new ordinances relating to land coverage this year are waiting for parallel approval of those amendments in other Lake Tahoe regulatory plans before they can be utilized. The changes allow land coverage credits and exemptions, such as for pervious paving and decks, on certain properties that have a completion certificate for their stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Litigation of the Regional Plan

Despite an unprecedented public participation process, a lawsuit has been filed against the 2012 plan by the Sierra Club. While the litigation makes its way through the legal process, the updated ordinances are currently in effect and TRPA is moving ahead implementing the plan.

To increase your understanding of what the plan is projected to deliver for Lake Tahoe, we have assembled some basic facts and figures on the next page.

For more information:
trpa.org · [facebook/voiceforlaketahoe](https://www.facebook.com/voiceforlaketahoe) · trpa@trpa.org

March 2013

Regional Plan by the numbers

While maintaining the strict growth control system that's been in effect since 1987, the plan makes reinvestment in our communities more feasible and promotes strengthening Lake Tahoe's economy and communities.

55% reduction in the maximum rate of new residential building **allocation**

8% maximum increase in **residential units** possible by 2035

0 number of new **tourist accommodation units** allowed by the 2012 plan updates



5,900

potential increase in the Basin's year-round population by 2035 expected from new development allowed by the Plan, or 0.5% per year—lower than the population measured in the 2000 census.

10,000

expected number of **vehicle miles traveled to be eliminated** from the Basin annually by transferring development from outlying areas to community centers

7% per capita **reduction in greenhouse gas emissions** projected by the Regional Transportation Plan in 2035



24

acres of land coverage projected to be removed from sensitive lands through privately-funded development transfers

1,200 additional **parcels** anticipated to be protected or restored

27,500

number of developed properties targeted by RPU incentives to complete and certify **stormwater infiltration BMPs**

A more concentrated land use pattern in the Tahoe Region will:

- Revitalize existing communities
- Reduce automobile reliance and emissions
- Increase feasibility of walking, biking and transit use
- Accelerate implementation of stormwater treatment
- Decrease environmental impacts
- Provide a broader range of housing options



A Voice for Lake Tahoe

Tahoe Bi-State Compact Preserved

<http://sd27.senate.ca.gov/news/2013-10-14-governor-signs-agreement-preserve-lake-tahoe>

October 14, 2013

SACRAMENTO – On Saturday, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 630 by Sen. Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) and Sen. Ted Gaines (R-Rocklin), which preserves the bi-state Tahoe Regional Planning Compact. The bill duplicates Nevada’s Senate Bill 229, which has been signed by Governor Brian Sandoval.

The compact is a 45-year-old framework for regulating land use in the Lake Tahoe Basin and enforcing environmental standards. In 2010, Nevada threatened to withdraw from the compact unless changes were made to the voting structure. These changes would have weakened conservation protections in the basin and were opposed by California. SB 630 reflects an agreement between the two states that keeps Nevada in the compact. Nevada agreed to keep the voting structure intact, and California agreed to amend the compact to require that economic considerations are taken into account by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the agency that enforces the compact.

“This agreement preserves a collaborative relationship between California and Nevada that has helped protect environmental quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin for more than four decades,” Pavley said.

TRPA Environmental Improvement Projects (EIP)

<http://www.trpa.org/about-trpa/how-we-operate/environmental-improvement-program>

Launched in 1997, the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, private interests, and the Washoe Tribe, created to protect and improve the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin. EIP partners implement projects that include everything from new bike trails to creek restorations to programs that protect the lake from aquatic invasive species.

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2016 authorized up to \$415 million over 7 years for the Environmental Improvement Program. The Act requires that the EIP maintain a priority list of projects, for the program areas of Forest Health, Aquatic Invasive Species, Watershed Restoration, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and Accountability.

The primary goal of the TRPA Environmental Improvement Program is to “lead the cooperative effort to preserve, protect and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region,” (TRPA 2004). The Environmental Improvement Project (EIP) is administered by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

The EIP program identifies restoration and improvement projects needed to meet nine environmental thresholds in the basin. The information is quite extensive on EIP projects, past, current and future. TWSA members act as managers and/or resources on EIP water quality improvement projects identified within their watersheds. The EIP is a public-private partnership that rivals some of the largest collaborative restoration initiatives in the United States in its scope.

The program identified projects and programs needed to fulfill nine environmental thresholds in the Tahoe Basin. The thresholds include: water quality, air quality, soil conservation, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, scenic resources/community design, recreation, and noise. TRPA, Nevada Tahoe Conservation

District, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit have completed extensive work on the tracking program to evaluate the progress of EIP project installations.

EIP Priorities:

- Improve forest health and reduce forest fuels
- Treat stormwater to improve Lake clarity
- Prevent and control aquatic invasive species
- Complete Basin-wide bike trail network
- Acquire and remove blighted structures, and transfer development rights from sensitive lands to town centers
- Restore Upper Truckee River and other key Tahoe watersheds.

Accomplishments 1997-2015:

More than 450 projects have been completed and 100 more projects are currently being implemented by EIP partners.

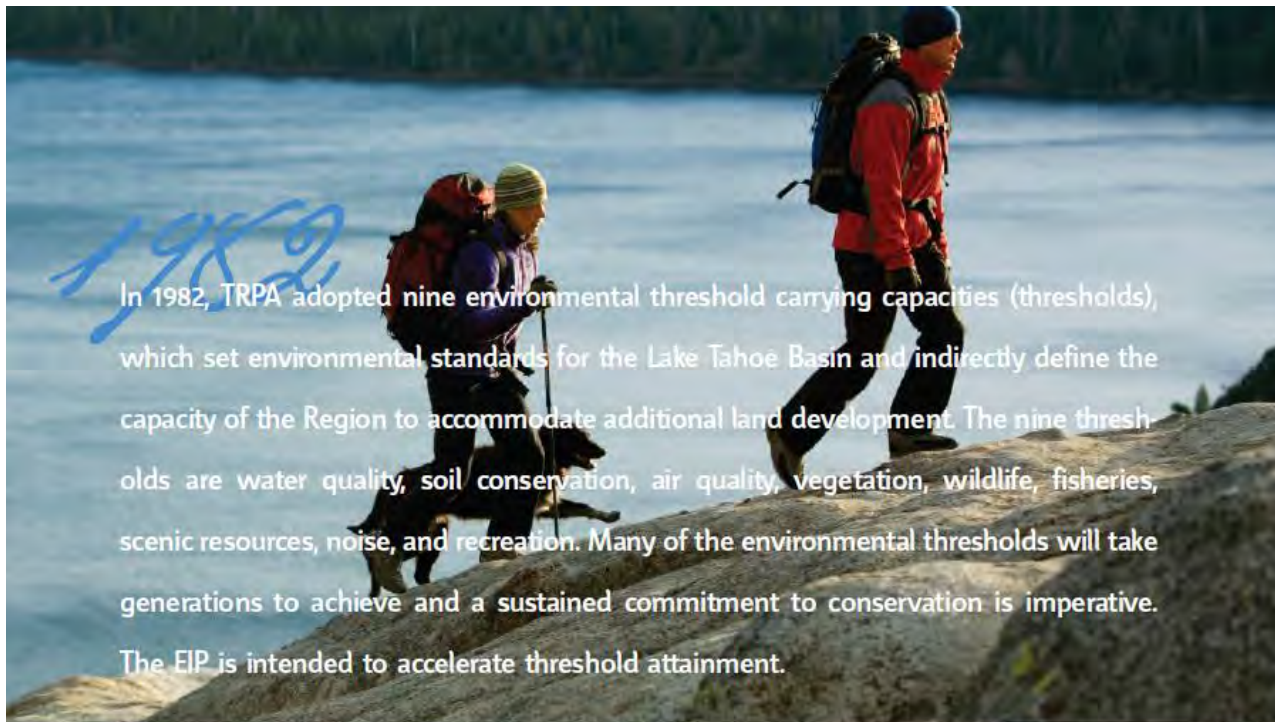
Accomplishments include:

- Improving erosion control measures on 703 miles of roadways
- Treating 59,520 acres of hazardous fuels
- Increasing public lake access by acquiring or enhancing 2,770 linear feet of shoreline
- Restoring over 16,000 acres of wildlife habitat, including 1,532* acres of stream environment ZONES (* Includes Truckee River Marsh Restoration Project which is currently in the planning phase. It will be one of the largest SEZ restoration projects undertaken in Lake Tahoe and the watershed is the largest contributor of fine sediment to the Lake.)
- Creating or improving 143 miles of bike and pedestrian routes

2018 Update

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/EIP_Report_Update.pdf

In total, all partners contributed more than \$1.1 billion for EIP projects and programs in the first phase. Approximately 270 EIP capital projects are on the ground, and hundreds more are in the planning and implementation stages.



In 1982, TRPA adopted nine environmental threshold carrying capacities (thresholds), which set environmental standards for the Lake Tahoe Basin and indirectly define the capacity of the Region to accommodate additional land development. The nine thresholds are water quality, soil conservation, air quality, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, scenic resources, noise, and recreation. Many of the environmental thresholds will take generations to achieve and a sustained commitment to conservation is imperative. The EIP is intended to accelerate threshold attainment.

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD GOALS FOR THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN

Water Quality: Return the Lake to 1960s water clarity and algal levels by reducing nutrient and sediment in surface runoff and groundwater.

Soil Conservation: Preserve natural stream environment zones (SEZ), restore 25% of disturbed urban SEZ areas (1,100 acres), and reduce total land coverage.

Air Quality: Achieve strictest of federal, state, or regional standards for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulates; increase visibility; reduce U.S. 50 traffic; and reduce vehicle miles of travel.

Vegetation: Increase plant diversity in forests, preserve uncommon plant communities including deepwater plants, enhance late seral forests and reduce forest fuels, and maintain minimum sustainable populations of sensitive plants including Tahoe Yellow Cress.

Wildlife: Provide habitat for special interest species, prevent degradation of habitats of special significance.

Fisheries: Maintain 180 miles of good to excellent stream habitat, achieve nearly 6,000 acres of excellent lake habitat, and attempt to reintroduce Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

Scenic Resources: Maintain or improve 1982 roadway and shoreline scenic travel route ratings, maintain or improve views of individual scenic resources, and maintain or improve quality of views from public outdoor recreation areas.

Noise: Minimize noise disturbance from single events, and minimize background noise disturbance in accordance with land use patterns.

Recreation: Preserve and enhance a high quality recreational experience. Preserve undeveloped shorezone and other natural areas, and maintain a fair share of recreational capacity for the general public.



Bob Richards takes a water clarity measurement.

“Since 2001, we have had seven years in which Lake clarity has consistently been better than the long-term trend would have predicted. This is unprecedented.”

– Geoffrey Schladow,
Director of the
Tahoe Environmental
Research Center,
UC Davis.

A Conservation Plan for Lake Tahoe: The Environmental Improvement Program

- The EIP is a public-private partnership that rivals some of the largest collaborative restoration initiatives in the United States in its scope
- Approximately 300 EIP capital projects have been completed and hundreds more are in the planning and implementation stages
- The next phase of the EIP spans 10 years.

EIP Research/Monitoring and Technical Assistance

- Funded \$48 million in research/monitoring
- Established the Tahoe Science Consortium to better inform agency decision making
- Federal agencies have provided nearly \$15.5 million in technical assistance to EIP partners.

Watersheds, Habitat, and Water Quality

- Acquired 3,092 acres of sensitive land
- Improved over 13,927 acres for wildlife habitat
- Restored 739 acres of wetlands including 108 acres within the urban boundary
- Treated stormwater runoff from 26 miles of state highways, 323 miles of city/county roads, and 80 miles of US Forest Service lands
- Revegetated or removed 55 miles of dirt road in forests
- Completed and planned 25 projects to help restore the Upper Truckee River watershed which delivers more sediment into Lake Tahoe than any other tributary.

Forest Management

- Treated 33,549 acres to achieve ecosystem restoration and/or forest fuel reduction goals
- Revegetated 374 acres
- Completed the Lake Tahoe Basin 10-Year Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy which qualifies Lake Tahoe to receive federal funding.

Air Quality and Transportation

- Achieved a 20% reduction in vehicle traffic near Stateline, Nevada since 2001 because of transit-oriented redevelopment
- Constructed or rehabilitated 20 transit facilities and increased transit ridership to 1.5 million passengers annually
- Replaced 18 vehicles in the public transit fleet with clean-burning vehicles
- Constructed or planned 127 miles of new multi-purpose trails.

Recreation and Scenic Resources

- Constructed or rehabilitated 82 public facilities to increase accessibility and the quality of the recreational experience
- Relocated more than 7 miles of overhead utility lines underground along highway corridors
- Acquired 2,388 linear ft. of Lake shoreline for public access.

* Accomplishments reported through 2009.

LOOKING FORWARD: KEY EIP GOALS 2008-2018

Goals

WATERSHEDS, HABITAT, AND WATER QUALITY

- Enhance or restore stream environment zones (wetlands) in priority watersheds
- Treat 400 terrestrial and aquatic invasive species sites annually
- Retrofit 300 miles of roadways with water quality improvements to reduce fine sediment loading
- Improve and protect 346 acres of wildlife habitat
- Cut fine sediment and nutrient loading as part of the "Clarity Challenge" target of 78 feet of clarity by 2028
- Continue to acquire and restore priority environmentally sensitive lands to protect and conserve the natural environment
- Restore and recover a self-sustaining lake form of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in Lake Tahoe and Fallen Leaf Lake.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Treat 68,000 acres for forest fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration, as identified in the 10-Year Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy
- Reduce open pile burning and encourage utilization of 125,000 tons of biomass
- Improve 1,500 acres of SEZ aspen communities.

AIR QUALITY AND TRANSPORTATION

- Construct 43 miles of bike and pedestrian trails to help reduce dependency on the private automobile as directed by the Bi-State Compact
- Increase transit ridership from 1.5 million passengers per year to more than 3 million
- Reduce road sanding
- Replace 10 street sweepers with innovative machines to reduce fine sediment loading from roadways into Lake Tahoe
- Initiate waterborne transit system.

RECREATION AND SCENIC RESOURCES

- Complete 40 recreation rehabilitation or construction projects
- Under-ground 6 miles of overhead utilities
- Implement 500 projects to meet scenic quality standards along shoreline and scenic highways.

APPLIED SCIENCE

- Refine and implement monitoring and evaluation programs to assess the status of environmental conditions and determine the effectiveness of EIP restoration projects
- Support applied research to understand causal relationships and quantitatively describe underlying ecosystem processes
- Improve data and information management to utilize web-based systems; develop and adopt standard operating procedures for seamless data analysis and public reporting.

OTHER PROGRAM ELEMENTS

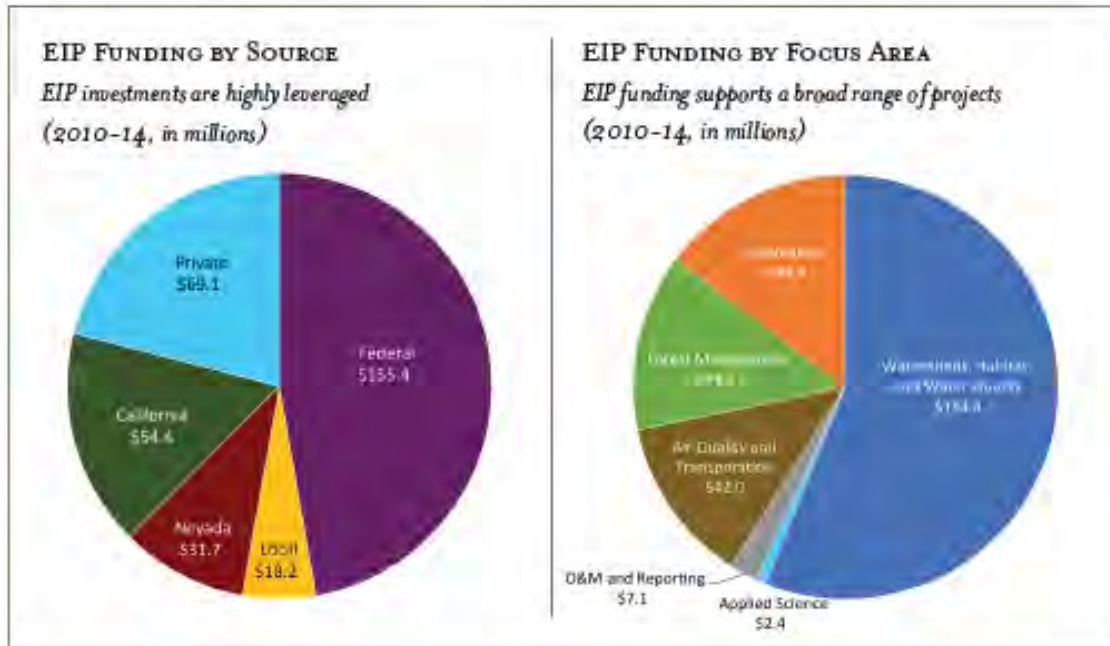
- Provide education and technical assistance to the public to advance the EIP and overall environmental stewardship
- Operate and maintain EIP projects to ensure performance of capital investments
- Provide program administration and tracking.



Left: US Senator John Ensign of NV at the annual Lake Tahoe Forum in 2009. Right: From left, US Senator Harry Reid of NV, US Senator Dianne Feinstein of CA, CA Secretary of Resources Mike Chrisman, Governor Jim Gibbons of NV and seated is US Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne at the 12th annual Lake Tahoe August event held at the Valhalla Historic Site in 2008.

EIP FUNDING

As programs move forward, EIP partners continue to work together to identify the highest priority projects and funding needed to continue the commitment to restoring and protecting Lake Tahoe.



Federal: Reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) for \$415 million and seek funding from all applicable federal programs.

Nevada: Access \$105 million in authorized bond funding (in phases).

California: Seek \$200 million from Prop. 1, cap and trade, potential parks bond, and other sources.

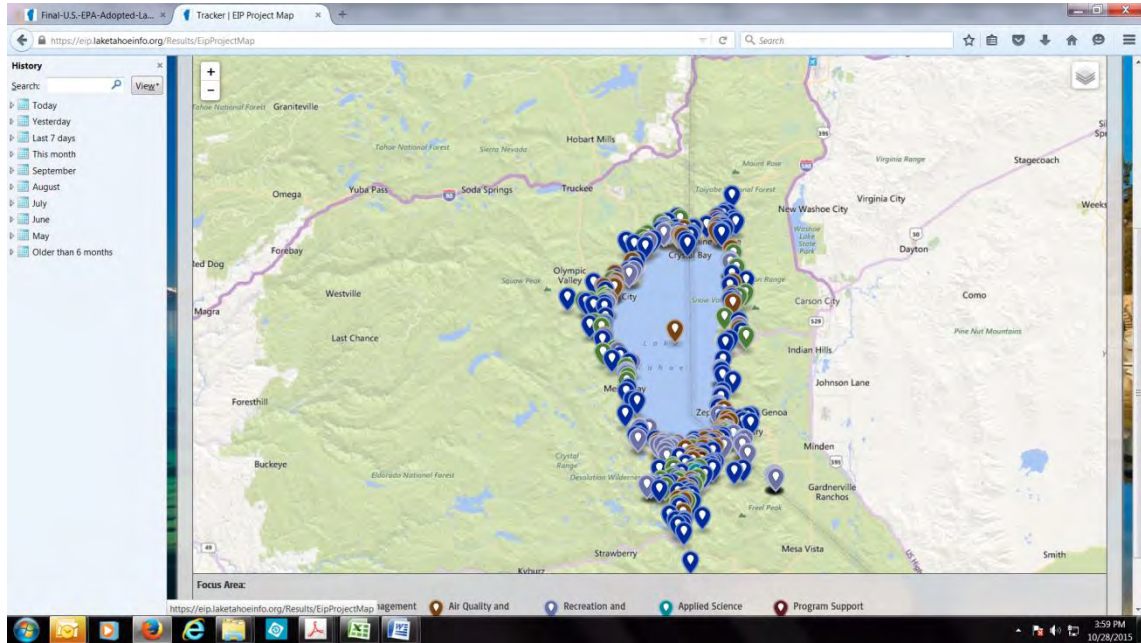
Local: Maintain and increase O&M commitments and local assessments.

Private: Attract new investments, donations, and partnerships.

EIP Project Databases - TRPA EIP Projects Related to Water Quality

TRPA EIP tracker database

<https://eip.laketahoeinfo.org>

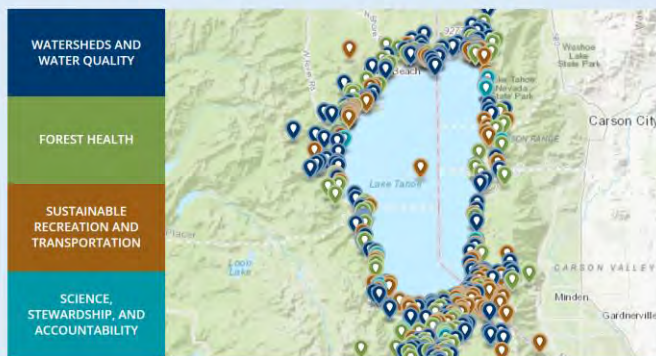


Overview of projects in the TRPA EIP Database: <https://eip.laketahoeinfo.org>

TRPA launched the EIP in an effort to better implement the Regional Plan and highlighted it at the Presidential Forum at Lake Tahoe in 1997. Recognizing that capital investments, research, and monitoring were essential components of the Regional Plan, the EIP called for an initial investment of \$908 million in capital projects and \$58 million in research and monitoring over 10 years. The EIP also identified hundreds of specific projects and programs to be undertaken by more than 50 funding partners including federal, state, and local agencies, and the private sector. The projects were focused on improving air, water, and scenic quality, forest health, fish and wildlife, and public access to the Lake and other recreation areas. The prime directive of the EIP was to move the Tahoe Basin closer to environmental threshold attainment. Today, over 400 EIP projects have been completed and hundreds more are in progress, with over \$1.8 billion of investment in the highest priority environmental improvement projects.

2020 update

EIP OVERVIEW | BASIN-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS



714
projects completed

\$ 2.5B
dollars invested

EIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS | BY THE NUMBERS

193
miles of bike and pedestrian trail constructed or improved

830
miles of roadway updated to reduce erosion and stormwater pollution

87,783
boats inspected for aquatic invasive species

3,195
feet of public shoreline added

89
acres treated to remove aquatic invasive weeds and Asian clams

84,514
acres of forest treated to reduce hazardous fuels



The 2020 Updated EIP Report is now available.

EIP accomplishments are reported for 1997 - present

The Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program

THE BASIN-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EIP) is an unparalleled partnership working to achieve the environmental goals for the Region. Local, state, and federal government agencies, private entities, scientists, and the Washoe Tribe are all collaborating to restore the clarity and environmental health of Lake Tahoe. The collective impact of 50-plus organizations working together over the last twenty years has resulted in improved forest and ecosystem health, progress on lake clarity, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, and better public access for recreation at Lake Tahoe. Emerging threats from wildfire risk, invasive species, and deteriorating infrastructure are challenging this partnership in unprecedented ways. Continued commitment to the EIP is vital to protecting the Region's investment in environmental restoration and preserving this outstanding natural resource.

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2016 authorized up to \$415 million over 7 years for the Environmental Improvement Program. The Act requires that the EIP maintain a priority list of projects for the program areas of Forest Health, Aquatic Invasive Species, Watershed Restoration, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and Accountability.

Priority List Summary Federal Fiscal 2020

Forest Health	\$25,835,000
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$7,924,000
Watershed Restoration	\$35,980,000
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	\$6,720,000
Accountability	\$1,875,000
TOTAL	\$78,334,000

For project details visit the
EIP Project Tracker at:

eip.laketahoeinfo.org





FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION **\$25,835,000**

Decrease the threat of catastrophic wildfire through forest fuels treatments and upgrades to water infrastructure.

- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration	\$16,810,000
- Regional Water Infrastructure Upgrades for Fire Protection	\$9,025,000
Total Request:	\$25,835,000

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES **\$7,924,000**

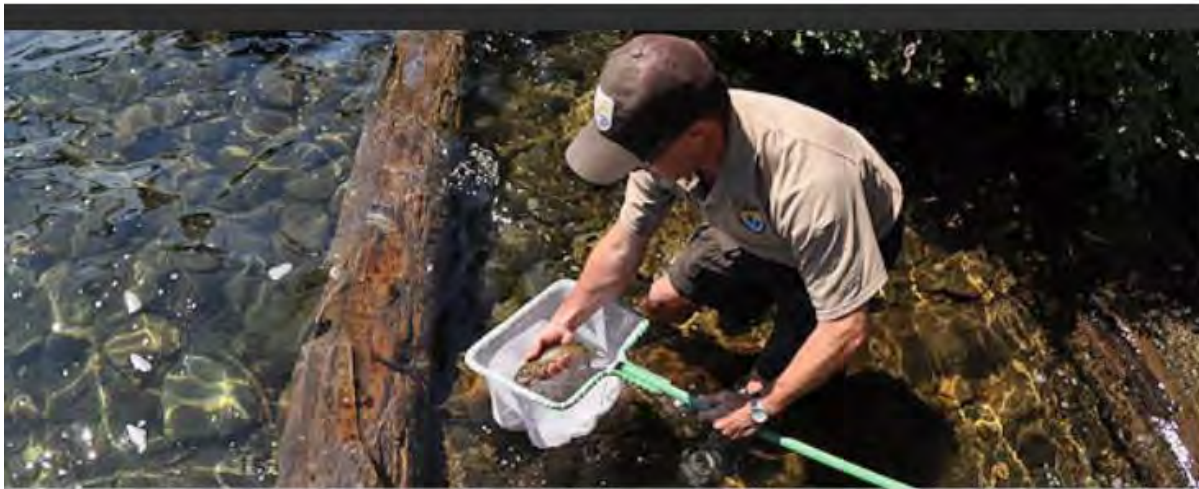
Control and remove existing aquatic invasive species and invest in innovative techniques.

- Aquatic Invasive Species Control	\$7,924,000
Total Request:	\$7,924,000

WATERSHED RESTORATION & EROSION CONTROL **\$35,980,000**

Improve water quality with innovative stormwater treatment projects and restoration of rivers and meadows. Transform communities through implementation of multiple-benefit projects.

- River and Meadow Restoration	\$12,750,000
- Urban Water Quality Improvement	\$23,230,000
Total Request:	\$35,980,000



LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT **\$6,720,000**

Continue to build a sustainable population of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the basin through habitat restoration.

- Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery	\$6,720,000
Total Request	\$6,720,000

ACCOUNTABILITY **\$1,875,000**

Continue to build out the LT INFO online public platform that tracks all EIP funding and accomplishments and incorporate EIP monitoring results.

- Public Transparency and Reporting	\$1,300,000
- EIP Effectiveness Monitoring	\$575,000
Total Request:	\$1,875,000

In 1997, Executive Order 13057 established the Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership including the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Secretary of the Army. Representation has been delegated to nine federal agencies: U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Prevention: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, watercraft inspections were available by appointment only, except during the lead up to the Fourth of July holiday. During the holiday, three inspection stations were open on a first-come, first-served basis. Demand was significant and long waits were experienced by boaters. Additional resources were brought in to help with the demand including:

- Non-program TRPA staff helped with operations and traffic management.
- California Highway Patrol and a private traffic control company were used for inspection station traffic control.
- A company that specializes in use of canine detection dogs was used at the Meyers inspection station for four days. The canines checked over 200 boats and detected quagga mussel presence on one boat. This boat was otherwise clean, drained, and dry, but the canine was able to sense previous presence of mussel larvae, or veligers. Inspectors discovered the boat had previously been in Lake Havasu, known to have quagga mussels.

During the quarter, inspectors conducted over 4,600 inspections at the three inspection stations (Meyers, Truckee, and Spooner) with approximately 58 percent needing a decontamination. Although this is a higher rate than last year, more mussel boats were intercepted this quarter (20) than during all four quarters of last year (11).

Control: TRPA contracted the Tahoe Resource Conservation District this quarter to start weed control work offshore of the Tahoe Keys. Divers are using a method over approximately three-acres in the boating channel outside the west lagoon of the Tahoe Keys and are expected to continue through the end of 2020. The League to Save Lake Tahoe has also provided funds through a private donation. Localized eradication is not an expected outcome at this time due to the size of the total infestation and proximity to the Tahoe Keys. The work is expected to keep the infestation from becoming unmanageable while program partners work to find solutions in the Tahoe Keys proper.

Stormwater Management Program

Best Management Practices (BMP) Certificates Issued: TRPA, in partnership with the states and federal government, establishes the water quality programs for the Region and looks to implementers in every sector to carry out those programs. The Stormwater Management Program at TRPA targets priority properties for BMP compliance in coordination with local jurisdictions to achieve required pollutant load reductions for the benefit of water quality. TRPA itself issues BMP certificates to private property owners to recognize a parcel's compliance with stormwater management requirements in TRPA's Code of Ordinances. Concentrating BMP compliance on commercial and large multi-family (six units or more) properties reduces more pollutant load compared to single-family residential properties.

This quarter, TRPA issued 110 BMP certificates: 90 for single-family residential parcels, 12 for multi-family residential parcels, and eight for commercial parcels. Of the total, 39 are source control certificates and seven were the result of accelerated enforcement. Cumulative year-to-date BMP certificates issued are shown in the table below:

BMP Certificates issued from January 1 to September 30, 2020					
	Land Use	Total Certificates Issued Year to Date	Certificates Issued Through Permitted Projects	Certificates Issued Through Voluntary Compliance	Certificates Issued Through Enforced Compliance
California	Single-Family Residential	119	74	45	0
	Multi-Family Residential	10	9	1	0
	Commercial	8	5	1	2
	California Total	137	88	47	2
	Nevada	Single-Family Residential	64	33	23
Nevada	Multi-Family Residential	9	0	5	4
	Commercial	5	2	1	2
	Nevada Total	78	35	29	14
	Total Certificates Issued	215	123	76	16

Reissued Certificates: During this quarter, TRPA reissued 15 BMP certificates following verification of BMP maintenance and effectiveness. Fourteen of these were for single-family residential parcels and one for a multi-family residence.

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION

Parcel Tracker Updates & File Requests

The Lake Tahoe Info Parcel Tracker (<https://parcels.laketahoeinfo.org/>) is the best source of detailed public information about the land use characteristics of properties in the Lake Tahoe Basin. TRPA staff reviewed and updated information on 355 parcels in the tracker during the quarter. TRPA responded to 243 unique requests from property owners, real estate agents, and local government partners for updated permitting information on parcels, more than double from the second quarter. The number of help requests submitted and the number of parcels updated are up due to awareness of the site's usefulness becoming more widespread.

While the front counter remains closed, public requests to review files are satisfied electronically. During this quarter over 150 individual requests to view files were received with most requesting to view multiple files. With each request, TRPA staff converts a paper file to electronic format, and converted 258 complete files this quarter.

Geographic Information Systems Updates

TRPA's operating goal is to be the region's best source of GIS information and services. During this quarter, staff made several updates to the agency's geographic information systems. Specifically:

- **GIS Websites**
 - Created the **Tahoe Keys Story Map** to show what has been done to date to control weeds in the Tahoe Keys. The site includes a mix of images, videos, and maps: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/44b2767b31a64c9aa4f5dbf0ce99e8a0>.
 - Created a **Forest Boundary Web Map** to address USDA Forest Service shutdowns and restrictions: <https://gis.trpa.org/forestboundary/>.
 - Improved the **Tahoe Smoke Forecast Map** to include AirNow stations. The site was viewed over 8,000 times in August and September.
 - Created the **Regional Transportation Plan Polling Map** for transportation planning to allow the public to "like" and comment on different categories of projects: <https://gis.trpa.org/rtpolling/>.
 - Assisted with creating the **Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership** story map and added new layers to the web map to highlight current and proposed projects on the West Shore: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c4458064c4ded4574bcb29687dfbcc22e>
- Conducted **system and server improvements** to ensure that TRPA systems are updated and to support internal and external use by partners and stakeholders.
- Deployed version 2.0 of the **Tahoe Boating App** to the Android and Apple stores. With collaboration with the Lake Tahoe Water Trail, new datasets were added to address the non-motorized boating and paddling community. The app now has the option to download all layers along with reference background data directly to the device to work when there is no internet connectivity.

- Added additional content to TRPA’s regional data warehouse, **Tahoe Open Data** (<https://www.tahoeopendata.org/>). GIS staff added a section for aerial imagery that provides links for users to utilize the 1940, 1969, 2015, and 2018 imagery. This additional imagery allows property owners, regional partners, and stakeholders the ability to view how the landscape has changed over time and to analyze these changes for potential land management solutions. For example, the recently released stream environment zone baseline assessment by TRPA and partners evaluated the historical extent of wetlands in the region using aerial imagery to assess the historical changes to these important and sensitive areas.
- Provided **2019 Threshold Evaluation Support** for data collection, analysis, and publishing. Distributed code for web-based maps and charts to a public github repository. Deployed air quality and noise indicators to Lake Tahoe Info. Created a method that is both transparent and reproducible to improve future updates: <https://www.laketahoeinfo.org/Indicator/Detail/78/Overview>.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRPA supports a culture committed to public education, outreach, and community engagement to implement the Regional Plan. The External Affairs team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a variety of agency and nonprofit stakeholders. This quarter, TRPA continued ongoing virtual education and outreach in the Lake Tahoe Region to raise awareness about Lake Tahoe’s issues and improve public understanding of TRPA’s role and the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) multi-sector collaborative partnership, particularly amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Legislative Affairs

This quarter’s activities included the **24th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit**. This year, US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev) virtually hosted this signature event. Urging resilience, Lake Tahoe’s legislative leaders and the governors of both states came together to bolster the collaborative work to restore Lake Tahoe and address the impacts of climate change on this spectacular environment. Approximately 1,400 people watched the Summit live, and



thousands more have since viewed the recording online. The Summit garners publicity from lawmakers and highlights policy achievements for Tahoe. The USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit will be receiving funding for maintenance backlogs through the Great American Outdoors Act, and lawmakers are pushing to distribute funding through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. Lake Tahoe received emergency funding for transportation through COVID-19 relief funds. The basin is also a priority for the congressional delegation for the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. Tahoe is well positioned to

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AGENDA ITEM NO. X.A.1

receive funding through the Water Resources Development Act and the Sustaining Tourism Enterprises during the COVID-19 Pandemic (STEP) fund, if both are passed. During the event, Senator Cortez Masto also unveiled a nearly \$100,000 federal grant through the Desert Research Institute for research into microplastic pollution in Lake Tahoe.

Following the Summit, TRPA coordinated a **virtual policy forum centered around the focus areas of the EIP**. This roundtable discussion allowed ample time for questions posed by Nevada Governor Sisolak, Senators Cortez-Masto and Rosen, as well as multiple members of the House of Representatives. TRPA produced a five-minute video highlighting the 2019 EIP accomplishments by program area. In addition to the 160 people who participated in the forum, the video has since been viewed 162 times.

The **Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of TRPA met** for its final session in mid-August concluding the interim session of the Committee's work. Joanne Marchetta and Dan Segan addressed the Committee on the role of science in policy making at Lake Tahoe and offered an overview of the threshold update initiative. At the work session immediately following the meeting, the Committee voted to prepare resolutions of support for the Tahoe Science Advisory Council and the bi-state transportation consultation process. The Committee also voted to move forward with bill drafts to support the issuance of bonds to carry out Nevada's share of the EIP and to write a letter to the congressional delegation requesting funds for Lake Tahoe under the Great American Outdoors Act.

Public Outreach

The External Affairs team supported outreach for the Meeks Bay Restoration Project, Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test, the State Route 89 Corridor Plan, and other projects. In September, TRPA presented at the Sierra Nevada Alliance's 2020 virtual conference about how storytelling plays a role in the conservation of Lake Tahoe, and about the Take Care Tahoe stewardship program.

The monthly e-newsletter continues to educate and influence audiences on TRPA initiatives including No-Wake zones, transit and transportation, Lake Tahoe West, COVID-19 recreation response, wildfire and forest health, aquatic invasive species prevention and control, and housing. More than 7,300 people currently subscribe to the e-news. The team also continues to respond to media requests, schedule and coordinate media interviews, monitor media coverage of pertinent issues, and to serve other teams by drafting and disseminating press releases and updating websites with news and announcements.

TRPA continues to play a leadership role in the national Network for Landscape Conservation. In July, the Network hosted a virtual policy with thought leaders discussing the future of landscape conservation. Former Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell was one of six panelists in the 90-minute forum. A recording of the forum is available at <https://youtu.be/4RkHuHRuVvc>.

Aquatic Invasive Species and Boating Outreach

From July through September 2020, TRPA's External Affairs team provided critical communications counsel and helped implement the first-come, first-served boat inspection

system during the busy Fourth of July holiday, followed by inspections by appointment-only. Despite travel restrictions and a global pandemic, the AIS inspection program served record numbers of boaters this year and communication support was critical to reach diverse stakeholder groups on a regular basis.

TRPA continues to educate boaters and paddlers on the Clean, Drain, and Dry messaging by using billboards, rack cards, advertising, social media, and TV spots. The campaign is working – boaters are arriving aware of the program and are supportive of boat inspections.

Shoreline outreach and public education on no-wake zones continued with TV spots and the team’s input on an update to the Tahoe Boating smartphone app which TRPA redeployed this year. In July, External Affairs participated in an on-the-water paddler meetup in Emerald Bay initiated by a local group of paddlers calling for greater safety and boater education of no-wake zones.

Social Media Outreach

TRPA staff continue to be highlighted on social media channels using the hashtag TeamTRPA. Each week, short bios and photos of staff are shared to showcase their role and how they serve the community.

TRPA’s Facebook followers grew 10.5 percent this quarter. This growth was driven in part by increased engagement related to boating. One video about boat inspections reached almost 14,500 people and has been viewed 9,600 times. Posts on TRPA’s Facebook page between July 1 and September 30 reached over 68,264 users and generated more than 5,287 shares, comments, or clicks.



Lake Tahoe/Truckee Sustainable Recreation Working Group

The team continues to lead the public information officer (PIO) group formed as a parallel to the TIE Sustainable Recreation Working Group COVID-19 response meetings. The public information group now consists of 27 member organizations including PIOs, public and private recreation managers, ski resorts, and destination marketing organizations. Regional challenges have been continually addressed by the Sustainable Recreation Working Group including litter, crowding, safe recreation, closures, and environmental stewardship. The weekly public information meetings have coordinated outreach, messages, and marketing among disparate organizations that may never have convened otherwise. Take Care campaign messages and materials are central to the group’s communications and are constantly adapted to the needs of the group.

Take Care Tahoe

Take Care partners continue to be the go-to source for disseminating the rapidly changing stewardship guidelines related to recreating in Lake Tahoe. Over 3,000 yard signs have been distributed throughout Lake Tahoe to encourage people to stay safe while visiting.

In July, Raley's in Incline Village became the first major Tahoe area business to encourage their customers not to buy single-use water bottles. Instead, the grocer asks its patrons to consider purchasing **DRINK TAHOE TAP** branded reusable Klean Kanteen water bottles. In addition to making the bottles available to customers for purchase, Raley's has incorporated signage from the Take Care Tahoe campaign in their in-store displays where single-use plastic water bottles are shelved to help educate customers about the impacts of single-use and microplastics on the environment and the Lake Tahoe watershed.



The Take Care Bear helps stock shelves with reusable water bottles.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. X.A.1

TRPA partnered with the Tahoe Fund to introduce the Take Care Tahoe campaign to attendees of the 2020 Sierra Nevada Alliance virtual conference. The presentation explained how this regional stewardship campaign effectively educates and protects beloved places like Tahoe using humor that resonates with all age levels to convey key messages about a broad array of subjects from invasive species to boat safety. The conversation sparked interest from the Sierra Nevada Alliance to expand Take Care to their member group throughout the Sierra Nevada. Negotiations with the artist are ongoing to be able to expand the reach of this campaign to other communities.

Visitation to the Take Care website continues to grow steadily. Sessions increased 184 percent and page views increased 117 percent. Partners attribute some of this growth to being the go-to source for COVID messaging this summer. In fact, the COVID page was visited by 10,000 people.

Restoration In Progress: Environmental Improvement Program Update Planning Horizon to 2018

Full report: http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/EIP_Report_Update.pdf

4 page summary: http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/EIP_4PG_2011_FNL.pdf

A Conservation Plan for Lake Tahoe: The Environmental Improvement Program (1997-2006)

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/EIP_4PG_SUMM-FINAL.pdf

TRPA Stormwater Management Program

<http://www.tahoebmp.org>

(Editor Note: The Updated TRPA Regional Plan shifts the burden of BMP compliance from individual property sites to a more regional approach to BMP Compliance. The following information is included as the current policy follows these guidelines.)

Erosion from developed land in the Tahoe Basin is the biggest driver of lake clarity loss. Stormwater runoff from residential, commercial, tourist, recreation, industrial and public service projects conveys sediment and nutrients onto public roads and ultimately to Lake Tahoe. By retrofitting developed public and private parcels with erosion control measures, known as Best Management Practices (BMPs), this program keeps runoff from entering roadways. Most of the rain and snow that falls on impervious surfaces on these lands (i.e., rooftops, driveways and parking areas) runs off and flows into roadside drainage channels. This runoff then combines with stormwater from public roads to produce a large volume of water containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and fine sediment. Roadside ditches erode and when these flows enter natural stream channels, the channels also erode. Once the stability of a natural stream is disturbed, the process continues for years or even decades.

Stormwater running off disturbed land picks up soil particles from unvegetated land or bare soil. During storms, soil particles from these bare areas are washed into street gutters or storm drains. In addition, vehicles driven or parked on bare dirt compact the soil, reducing infiltration and increasing runoff. Developed lands also contribute other types of pollutants. Fertilizer applied to lawns and gardens, releases nitrogen, phosphorus, and other nutrients. When these nutrients reach the Lake, they stimulate algae growth.

BMPs are the first line of defense to reduce stormwater erosion from developed properties. Private property owners are the primary implementers of BMPs throughout the Tahoe Basin. BMPs are improvements such as infiltration trenches and drywells that infiltrate roof and driveway runoff on-site which prevent runoff from entering the public right-of-way. Revegetation of disturbed areas and stabilization of eroding slopes keep soil in place and prevents the transport of sediment and nutrients off-site. Paving dirt driveways and parking areas also helps improve water quality. Large developed properties require a higher level of BMP implementation and may include the construction of detention and infiltration facilities as well as treatment vaults.

Public entities also implement BMPs on publicly-owned properties. To accelerate BMP implementation, EIP partners are working with private property owners on neighborhood or area-wide treatment solutions. Through outreach to residents in neighborhoods where public projects are being designed, property owners have opportunities to meet their retrofit requirements and public agencies can implement more effective water quality improvement projects.

Providing assistance to property owners is an important element in implementing BMPs. Local, regional, state, and federal agencies, and conservation districts assist private landowners in implementing BMPs. EIP partners provide technical assistance in the form of BMP site evaluations and implementation plans. TRPA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in conjunction with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, will continue to provide this technical assistance. Public education and technical assistance are crucial components in integrating BMPs with defensible space for fire safety.

2013: Residential BMP Designer tool online

<http://www.tahoebmp.org/BMPDesigner.aspx>

BMP Designer - Create a BMP Design for Single Family Residences

The BMP Designer allows homeowners, contractors, and consultants to create BMP designs in a friendly, self-guided web application. Specifically created with single family homes in mind, this unique tool directs the user through the BMP design process from laying out site conditions to a complete BMP plan. Users can even submit their plan for approval and help the TRPA Final Inspection by uploading photos of the work performed.

U.S. Forest Service Projects and Actions – Lake Tahoe Basin

The US Forest service maintains a database of ongoing projects. These projects include extensive erosion control and water quality improvement projects. Project details on the following items are located at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/ltbmu/landmanagement/projects>

Local Projects

Follow the links provided below to view detailed project documents. For older local projects, visit the [Projects & Plans Archive](#). Scroll down or follow this link to learn more about [Access and Travel Management Plans \(ATMs\)](#).

For current projects, visit the [Projects & Plans webpage](#).

- [Angora Hazard Tree Removal](#)
- [Angora Reforestation](#)
- [Baldwin Beach Restroom Replacement](#)
- [Baldwin Grazing Allotment Management](#)
- [Barker Pass Road Slide Repair](#)
- [Fallen Leaf Campground BMP Retrofit](#)
- [Heavenly MojoMan Challenge](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort Galaxy Test Wells](#)
- [High Meadow Ecosystem Restoration](#)
- [Meadow Restoration Pilot](#)
- [Meeks Creek Meadow Ecosystem Restoration](#)
- [Meyers Weather Station Replacement](#)
- [Nevada Beach and Day Use Area BMP Retrofit](#)
- [Roundhill Pines Prospectus](#)
- [Spoooner Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration](#)
- [William Kent Campground BMP Retrofit and Administrative Site Redevelopment](#)
- [Zephyr Cove Pier Replacement](#)

- [Angora Restoration](#)
- [Aspen Community Restoration](#)
- [Big Meadow Creek Watershed Fire Regime Restoration](#)
- [Blackwood Creek Restoration](#)
- [Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment Project](#)
- [CalPeco Electrical Line Upgrade Project \(FEIS\)](#)
- [Camp Richardson Corral Permit Reissuance](#)
- [Camp Richardson Resort Campground and Vehicle Circulation BMP Retrofit](#)
- [Camp Richardson Resort Permit Renewal](#)
- [Carnelian Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration](#)
- [Diamond Peak Ski Area Reissuance of Special Use Permit](#)
- [Emerald Fire Restoration Project](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort Epic Discovery Project](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort 2010 Capital Projects](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort 2011 Capital Projects](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort 2012 Capital Projects](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort 2013 Capital Projects](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort 2017 Capital Improvement Projects](#)
- [Heavenly Mountain Resort Tamarack Project](#)
- [Historic Facilities BMP Retrofit](#)
- [Homewood Mountain Resort 20-Year Ski Slope Permit](#)
- [Homewood Snowcat Tours](#)
- [Incline Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project](#)
- [Incline Lake Dam Project](#)
- [Incline Management Plan](#)
- [Integrated Management and Use of Roads, Trails and Facilities](#)
- [Kingsbury Stinger Trail Reconstruction and BMP Upgrades Project](#)
- [Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Restoration in the Upper Truckee River](#)
- [Lake Tahoe Ecosystem Underburn](#)
- [Lower Truckee Riverbank Stabilization](#)
- [LTBMU Routine Road Maintenance](#)
- [LTBMU Trails Maintenance](#)
- [Meeks Bay Campground BMP Retrofit](#)
- [Meeks Bay Restoration Project](#)
- [Meeks Creek Meadow Ecosystem Restoration](#)
- [Meeks Meadow Washoe Restoration](#)
- [Meyers Landfill](#)
- [Non-Federal Lands Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects](#)
- [NV Energy 634 Line Rebuild Project](#)
- [Ongoing Lands Projects](#)
- [Proper Food Storage Order](#)
- [Restoration of Fire Adapted Meadow Ecosystems](#)
- [Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Restoration](#)
- [South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration](#)
- [South Tahoe Fuel Treatment Project](#)
- [SR-28 Corridor Improvement Plan](#)
- [SR-28 Shared Use Path](#)
- [SR-89/Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project](#)

- [Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation](#)
- [Taylor Creek Environmental Education/Visitor Center](#)
- [Taylor Tallac Restoration Project](#)
- [Terrestrial Non-Native Plant Species Treatment](#)
- [Truckee River First Four Mile Streambank Stabilization and Restoration](#)
- [Upper Echo Lakes Hazardous Fuels Reduction](#)
- [Upper Truckee River Reach 5 Restoration](#)
- [Valhalla Pier Erosion Control and Accessibility Retrofit](#)
- [West Shore Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project](#)
- [Zephyr Cove Pier Replacement](#)
- [Zephyr Cove Stable Upgrade](#)
- [Zephyr Point Fire Lookout Relocation](#)

Action Description for Incline Lake Dam Project

USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Washoe County, NV

LOCATION:

This project is located off of State Route 431 in Washoe County, Nevada near Tahoe Meadows. The reservoir and dams are situated on Assessor Parcel Number 048-041-15, at an elevation of approximately 8,300 feet. The total project area is approximately 43 acres and includes the roadway into the dam and the human influenced disturbance footprint of the dam (approximately 30 acres).

BACKGROUND:

Incline Lake Dam was purchased as part of a larger land acquisition (777 acres) on July 29, 2008. All buildings were removed from the property prior to the acquisition. As a part of the larger acquisition, a site investigation and assessment of the major dam and spillway were commissioned. The results of the site investigation and assessment indicated that the existing major dam and spillway do not meet Federal, State or local standards for a high hazard dam. Before long term planning can begin for the remainder of the property, the dam needs to be addressed.

EXISTING CONDITION:

The results of the site assessment indicated that the existing dam and spillway do not meet Federal, State or local standards for a high hazard dam. Subsequently, the lake was drained and the outflow pipe was disabled so that it would not refill.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Under this Proposed Action the Incline Lake Dams would be completely removed and the topography around the dams and the historic disturbance footprint would be recontoured to match adjacent contours and grades. This would likely involve fill of part of the disturbance footprint. The goal of this Proposed Action would be to restore the human influenced disturbance footprint of the dams (approximately 30 acres) within the Incline Lake Dam project area, such that surface and groundwater hydrologic function are restored to a point where natural processes would restore the groundwater dependent ecosystems that characterized this site prior to when the dam was created. Additional restoration actions may be required outside of the Incline Dam project boundary and/or scope, to fully achieve restoration of hydrologic function supporting groundwater dependent ecosystems in this Incline Dam project area. Actions outside of this project area or project scope will be addressed in the future through a full analysis of proposed management of the entire Incline Lake Acquisition Area.

2020: Forest Service acquires 120 acres on Brockway Summit

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif., Dec. 10, 2020

The USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is pleased to announce we have completed the purchase of a significant parcel of undeveloped land on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. The acquisition includes two parcels that total approximately 120.4 acres on Brockway Summit that will be added to the National Forest System (NFS) of lands within the LTBMU.

“We are excited to announce the completion of this long-awaited purchase,” said Deputy Forest Supervisor, Danelle D. Harrison. “By adding this parcel to the National Forest System, we can better protect the water quality, scenic and recreational resources and help preserve the quality of experience on the Tahoe Rim Trail, which is adjacent to the property.”

These parcels are part of a much larger property on the north side of the ridgeline outside of the LTBMU owned by Sierra Pacific Industries and adjacent to Northstar Ski Area. All other private lands on the LTBMU side of the ridge have been previously acquired by the NFS from Sierra Pacific's predecessors in ownership. “We wish to thank everyone whose hard work and determination contributed to this highly anticipated acquisition, and we also thank Sierra Pacific Industries for giving the Forest Service the opportunity to purchase this property,” said Lands Program Manager, Bob Rodman.

In addition, our sincere thanks go out to the California Tahoe Conservancy, who were integral partners during the purchase, assisting with the appraisal and helping to keep the landowners engaged during the arduous purchase process.

The Forest Service land acquisition program dates to Dec. 23, 1980, when Congress passed the Santini-Burton Act that directed the LTBMU to acquire environmentally sensitive lands around the Tahoe Basin to safeguard them from potential development in order to protect the water quality of Lake Tahoe. This property is one of the few remaining large properties in the Lake Tahoe Basin that was suitable for acquisition by the Forest Service.

The Santini-Burton Act

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ltbmu/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fsm9_046519

Congress passed Public Law 96-586, defined as the Santini-Burton Act, on December 23, 1980. In passing the Act, Congress declared that the environmental quality of the Lake Tahoe Basin was jeopardized by over-development of sensitive lands and that the unique character of the Lake Tahoe Basin is of national significance deserving further protection. The passage marked a major commitment and emphasis by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in land acquisition and watershed restoration focused on protecting and restoring the environmental quality of Lake Tahoe.

Specific provisions in the Act directed the Forest Service to:

1. acquire environmentally sensitive land
2. restore watersheds on acquired National Forest Systems lands
3. administer erosion control grants to units of local government.

The Act authorized the Forest Service to acquire, by purchase and donation, sensitive lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Receipts from the sale of surplus Federal land in the Las Vegas area, to be advanced through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, were earmarked for the purchases.

Properties eligible for purchase under the Act are wetlands, stream environment zones, or steep and fragile lands. The first acquisition recorded in October 1982. To date, over 3,500 parcels (or Urban Lots) totaling 13,000 acres valued at \$105 million have been acquired under the authority of the Santini-Burton Act. Some recent significant acquisitions include more than half a mile of lakefront and acreage at Secret Harbor, approximately 300 feet of beachfront on the south shore, and several large acreage parcels adjacent to existing National Forest System lands in the Kingsbury area.

- A Map of Santini-Burton Purchase lots in the Tahoe Basin is available at:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5371156.pdf

A provision of the Santini-Burton Act authorized a sum equal to 15 percent of the acquisition dollars for erosion control grants to local governments. Allocations to the five local jurisdictions are proportionate to the acres acquired under the Act. Over \$16 million have been appropriated for these grants, funding in whole or in part over 80 water quality improvement projects.

LTBMU Forest Plan Revision Update 2012

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ltbmu/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5371037>

In June 2012, The LTBMU released a revised Forest Plan for Public review; the *Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan - June 2012* for Alpine, El Dorado, and Placer Counties, California and Douglas and Washoe Counties, and Carson City, Nevada. The Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) describes the framework that will guide on-the-ground projects and program activities of the Plan.

Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement Documents (DEIS) are posted at:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5371192.pdf

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

ABSTRACT: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes the consequences of four alternatives for revising the 1988 LTBMU Land and Resource Management Plan (as amended), commonly referred to as the “Forest Plan”. Plan revision provides an updated Forest Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) that would guide management of National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin for approximately the next 15 years by providing:

- A framework to manage for ecological sustainability and contribute to social and economic sustainability, with resilient ecosystems and watersheds, diverse plant and animal communities, and the capacity to provide people and communities with a range of social, economic, and ecological benefits for present and future generations.
- Strategic direction to guide site-specific project decisions in the context of broader social and ecological considerations.
- Guidance that is flexible enough to remain effective in the face of changing conditions and policies and enable the Forest Supervisor to work with the public to make the best possible decisions in the future.

3.4.21.2. Overview of the Affected Environment

Lake Tahoe Basin Watershed Condition

An assessment of watershed conditions considers physical resource values such as water quality, water quantity, soil condition, and stream channel and stream environment zone geomorphic condition. However watershed condition also considers biotic values related to species and their habitats. In short watershed condition integrates the entire ecological function of a land area contained within a given hydrologic boundary. For the LTBMU, existing assessments describe watershed condition primarily as it relates to the upper watersheds in the Lake Tahoe Basin that are within Forest Service Management, and not lower watersheds and intervening areas that are largely not under Forest Service Management and are impacted by urban development.

The Forest Service Manual (FSM) uses three classes to describe watershed condition (USDA Forest Service 2004, FSM 2521.1):

Class 1 watersheds exhibit high geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition.

Class 2 watersheds exhibit moderate geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition.

Class 3 watersheds exhibit low geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition.

The FSM classification defines watershed condition in terms of “geomorphic, hydrologic and biotic integrity” relative to “potential natural condition”. In this context, integrity relates directly to functionality. Geomorphic functionality or integrity can be defined in terms of attributes such as slope stability, soil erosion, channel morphology and other upslope, riparian and aquatic habitat characteristics. Hydrologic functionality or integrity relates primarily to flow, sediment and water quality attributes. Biological functionality or integrity is defined by the characteristics that influence the diversity and abundance of aquatic species, vegetation, and soil productivity. In each case, integrity must be evaluated in the context of the natural disturbance regime, geoclimatic setting and other important factors within the context of a watershed. The definition encompasses both aquatic and terrestrial components because water quality and aquatic habitat are inseparably related to the integrity, and therefore the functionality, of upland and riparian areas within a watershed.

Within this context, the three watershed condition classes are directly related to the degree or level of watershed functionality or integrity: These three Classes relate directly to watershed functionality, and therefore watershed condition, as:

Class 1 = Functioning Properly;

Class 2 = Functioning at Risk; and

Class 3 = Impaired Function.

In March 2011, the Forest Service assessed the condition of all 6th field hydrologic units on all NFS lands using protocols recently developed by the Washington Office headquarters staff, at intervals of approximately 5 years (Forest Service Watershed Condition Classification Technical Guide, July 2011).

The watershed condition classification system described in this Technical Guide uses twelve (12) indicators comprised of attributes related to watershed processes. The indicators and their attributes are surrogate variables representing the underlying ecological functions and processes that affect soil and hydrologic function. For the majority of the indicators, the FS can take direct action, or cause actions to be taken by others that can contribute to maintaining or improving watershed condition (i.e. functionality). This provides for a direct linkage between the classification system and management or improvement activities the FS conducts on the ground. Because of this linkage, when a sufficient number of properly designed and implemented restoration and/or management actions occur within a watershed, the outcome can be expressed as a change in condition class and the information used for performance accountability purposes. Management activities that effect the watershed condition class are not limited to soil and water improvement activities, but include a broad array of resource program areas from hazardous fuel treatments, invasive species eradication, abandoned mine restoration, riparian area treatments,

aquatic organism passage improvement, road maintenance and obliteration, and others. To achieve a change in watershed condition class will in most cases require changes within a watershed that are significant in their scope and include treatments from multiple resource areas. Sound management or improvement to management practices can often be as effective as implementing restoration projects and must not be overlooked. In order to demonstrate improvement in condition class activities will need to be tracked at the smallest feasible watershed unit, the 6th level HUC (typically 10,000 to 40,000 acres in size).

The suite of watershed condition indicators includes:

1. Water Quality,
2. Water Quantity,
3. Aquatic Habitat,
4. Aquatic Biota,
5. Riparian/Wetland Vegetation,
6. Roads and Trails,
7. Soils,
8. Fire Regime or Wildfire,
9. Forest Cover,
10. Rangeland Vegetation,
11. Terrestrial Invasive Species, and
12. Forest Health.

The Lake Tahoe Basin HUC 6 watersheds contain several HUC 7 level watersheds that lie adjacent to each other. They all drain to Lake Tahoe, but are not hydrologically connected to each other. Therefore it is possible to have one or more HUC 7 watersheds within a HUC 6 watershed that exhibit poor ecological integrity, adjacent to highly functioning watersheds. For the purposes of this Forest Plan, watershed condition will be discussed as several scales, HUC 5, 6, and 7 levels.

The Lake Tahoe Basin constitutes one HUC 5 watershed and includes all the land that drains into Lake Tahoe. Condition of this HUC 5 watershed is best characterized by the TMDL evaluation report completed by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, further described in the water quality section of this EIS (Lahontan, 2010). The Lake Tahoe Watershed is named on the EPA's 303d List as an impaired water body based on water quality.

The condition of HUC 6 watersheds on the LTBMU were assessed in March of 2011. The results of this assessment indicate that 2 watersheds were rated as Class 1, 8 watersheds as Class II, and no watersheds as Class 3.

Figure 3-79 displays a map of the nine HUC 6 watersheds defined in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and their current watershed conditions ratings. The rating and watershed names are also presented below.

- 1-Lake Tahoe-East Shore Frontal / North Half
- 1-Lake Tahoe-East Shore Frontal / South Half
- 2-Upper Truckee River –Angora
- 2-Upper Truckee River - Trout Creek
- 2-McKinney Creek-Bliss-Eagle Creek Frontal
- 2-Cascade Creek-Tallac Creek-Taylor Creek Frontal
- 2-Burton Creek-Watson Creek-Tahoe Vista Frontal
- 2-Ward Creek-Blackwood Creek-Eagle Rock Frontal
- 2-Stateline Point-Third Creek-Incline Creek Frontal

To describe watershed condition at the HUC 7 level we relied on existing survey and assessment information. This more informal assessment does rely on the same kind of data and analyses identified in the draft National protocol, but the qualitative assessment described below does not follow this specific protocol.

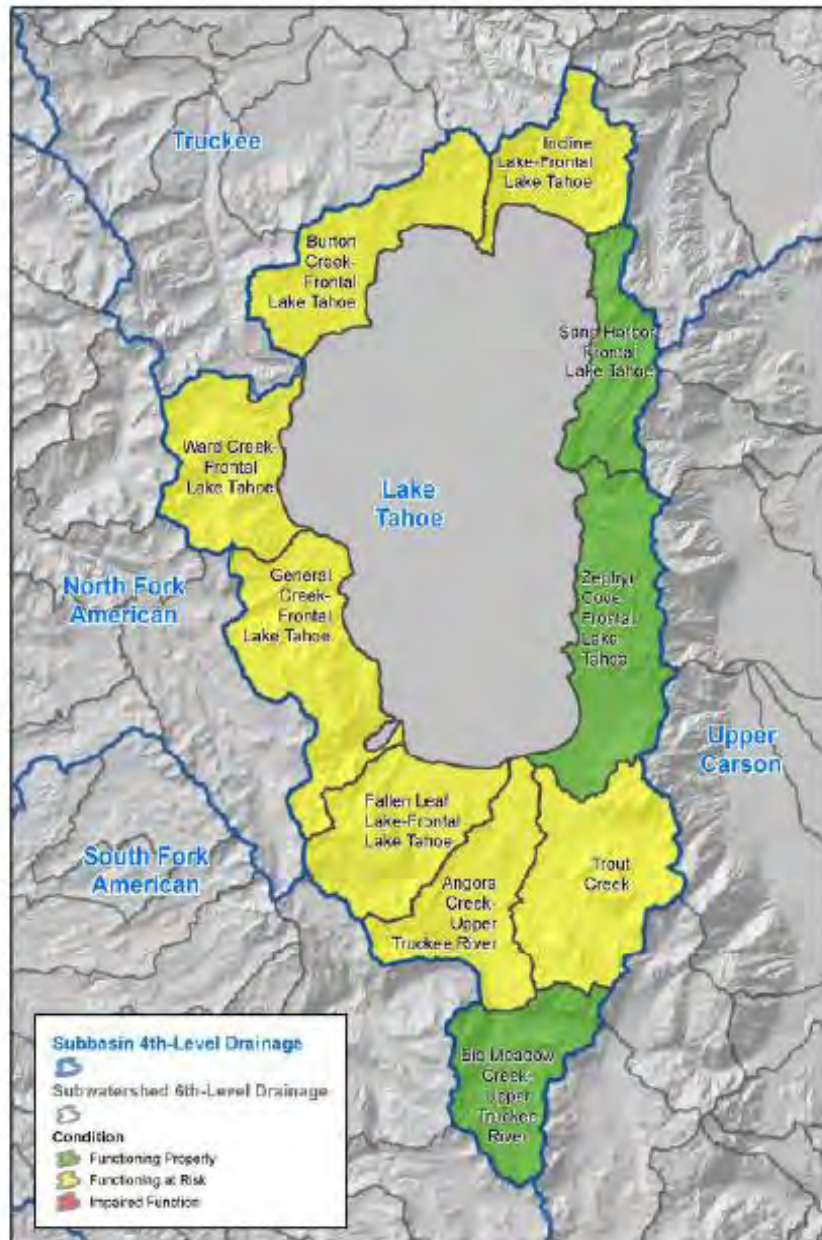


Figure 3-79. Map of HUC 6 Watersheds Defined in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Water Quality and Soil Erosion; Water Quantity; Watershed Condition

The LTMBU largely relies on the efforts of other agencies in the Lake Tahoe Basin to track and analyze metrics that would serve as measures of cumulative effects relative to lake clarity and tributary water quality.

The Lake Tahoe Basin has a long data record of tributary water quality data, provided through the Lake Tahoe Interagency Tributary Monitoring Program (LTIMP). This program is funded through TRPA and USGS, and from 2005 through 2012, has also been supported with funds through the USFS Erosion Control Grants program (for almost 1/3 of the cost of the program).

From this data, the State of California currently lists 8 tributary water bodies as impaired, and the State of Nevada lists seven tributary water bodies as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (2010 List). These tributaries are located within the Lake Tahoe Basin boundary; therefore most of the tributaries mentioned include both USFS and private lands. The receiving water body, Lake Tahoe is listed by both states.

3-528

■ Chapter 3 | Cumulative Environmental Consequences

Draft Revised LRMP – DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency has established seven thresholds related to Lake Tahoe Basin water quality that address Lake Tahoe, tributaries, stormwater runoff, groundwater, and other lakes. Based on LTIMP and other data provided to and utilized by the TRPA, none of these thresholds are currently in attainment with the exception of near shore turbidity (TRPA, 2006). One of the other seven thresholds (tributary water quality) is noted as having a positive trend, even though that threshold is not in attainment. Two of the thresholds related to Lake Tahoe clarity are noted as continuing to show a negative trend, with groundwater, other lakes, and stormwater runoff water quality metrics considered to show neutral trends.

Two of the California streams currently have approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets related to sediment, (Heavenly Creek, 2002 and Blackwood Creek, 2008) and TMDLs are scheduled to be developed for the other water bodies and constituents. The Lake Tahoe TMDL is a joint effort between the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board in CA and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection in Nevada NV. The Lake Tahoe TMDL was approved by EPA in August of 2011. The Lake Tahoe TMDL requires the USFS to track and report on efforts to reduce loading from NFS lands.

Most of the California streams (Table 1) and Lake Tahoe are 303(d) listed because of sediment and nutrient loading to Lake Tahoe and subsequent impacts to Lake Tahoe clarity. However based on the TMDL analysis, upland sources (the forested non-urban portions of the watersheds) are estimated to contribute only 9% of the total fine sediment loading to the Lake, with atmospheric (15%) and urban sources (72%) the largest contributors. In addition stream channel erosion is estimated to contribute 4% of the total fine sediment loading.

Forested non-urban sources are currently estimated to contribute 32% of the phosphorus and 18% of the nitrogen loading to the lake. Of the forested non-urban lands, the LTBMU is the primary land use manager, responsible for managing 75 % of the forested non-urban lands in the Tahoe Basin.

The six Nevada streams are listed (Table 3-70) because of zinc, iron, and in one instance pathogen violations. Two of the California streams are listed because of pathogens. The 303(d) listed waterbodies, other than Lake Tahoe, are listed below along with the pollutants causing listing.

3.5.3. Conclusion

Since essentially all actions on private, county and state lands must pass through the multiple layers of regulation with TRPA involved in essentially all actions, there is a commonality of environmental protection that occurs in the Basin. Consequently while it is impossible to know the array of individual projects that might occur in the foreseeable future, it is reasonable to assume they will all meet the appropriate stringent regulations and therefore respond to threshold attainment. There is a high degree of integration between all the agencies that has the result that none of the planning documents work at cross purposes to each other.

The equation for cumulative effect is reached by taking the environmental consequences of each of the four Forest Plan alternatives presented in this DEIS for NFS lands in combination with the highly regulated actions of all other land owners/managers as guided by the TRPA Regional Plan and other regulatory agencies. As a result there is a common intent of maintaining or improving the environment on all lands within the Basin. With this common goal constraining all actions in the basin, there are no significant negative cumulative effects at the programmatic level, and in fact, for some resources and alternatives there are positive cumulative effects.

The Tahoe RCD Stormwater Monitoring Program is leading the scientific monitoring of stormwater runoff at eight locations around the Lake Tahoe Basin. Not only do we measure the pollutant loads reaching Lake Tahoe through the stormwater pipes you may have seen; we also monitor the performance of public water quality projects, such as infiltration basins and stormwater filtration vaults. With the data, we can determine the effectiveness of these types of stormwater treatment actions.

Stormwater monitoring is a necessary strategy for truly understanding whether our collective actions are helping restore Lake Tahoe. Since monitoring results are only as good as the data collected, Tahoe RCD developed the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program in the Lake Tahoe Basin. It outlines protocols for consistent data collection, management, analysis and reporting of stormwater monitoring data. Now that this is in place, it's easy to make "apples to apples" comparisons of water quality data collected around the lake. Tahoe RCD analyzes the data and publishes the results in an annual report, aiding the jurisdictions in collectively reaching the goals of the Lake Tahoe TMDL and helping them make informed management and treatment decisions to reverse Lake Tahoe's clarity loss.

[*\(View our Annual Stormwater Monitoring Report and other publications\).*](#)

Developing the administrative and scientific structure to implement the Regional Storm Water Monitoring Program (RSWMP) is a new role for the TRCD, but has been a long term planning effort for many Basin partners. The TRCD will work with partners to create a centralized yet flexible structure to integrate and coordinate future stormwater monitoring efforts around the Basin. A second major goal for the TRCD is to establish a comprehensive web-based database for housing all Lake Tahoe stormwater data in one location. To lead these efforts the Tahoe RCD has spent the last twelve months recruiting staff members and building partnerships integral to developing and implementing RSWMP. This work was possible through the Department of Conservation's Watershed Coordinator Program Funds.

Implementers' Monitoring Program (IMP) Component of the Regional Storm Water Monitoring Program (RSWMP)

[http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Implementers-MP-130812.final .pdf](http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Implementers-MP-130812.final.pdf)

Submitted to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on April 30, 2013. Funds for this project are provided by the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act and the Department of Conservation for a Watershed Coordinator.

This document is intended to function as the Lake Tahoe Basin's first collaborative monitoring plan for implementation efforts related to the urban stormwater source category of the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). This monitoring program was developed jointly by the California and Nevada implementing jurisdictions in an attempt to collectively fulfill California National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit requirements or Nevada Interlocal Agreement commitments. However, this monitoring plan also represents a historic first step toward implementing a comprehensive Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSWMP) envisioned for the Tahoe Basin. All data will be collected in a manner consistent with RSWMP monitoring protocols so it can easily be analyzed to align with the goals and objectives presented in the multi-agency driven RSWMP Data Quality Objective Plan (Heyvaert et al 2011a), Quality Assurance Project Plan (Heyvaert et al 2011b), and Sample Analysis Plan (Heyvaert et al 2011c).

The Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a comprehensive, long-term plan to reverse the decline in deep-water transparency of Lake Tahoe and restore mid-lake clarity to the 1967-1971 level of 29.7 meters (97.4 feet). TMDL science suggests that up to two thirds of the decrease in clarity is attributable to fine sediment particles (FSP, <16 µm in diameter), and that the urbanized areas, roadways in particular, account for approximately 72% of FSP that eventually enter the lake (Lake Tahoe TMDL Technical Report, 2010). Following the adoption of the TMDL in August 2011, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board approved a Municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (NPDES NO. CAG616001 Updated Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Stormwater/Urban Runoff Discharges from El Dorado County, Placer County and the City of South Lake Tahoe within the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit, Order No. R6T 2011-101A) (herein after “Municipal permit”) on December 6, 2011, and later amended on October 12, 2012.

The Municipal permit requires California jurisdictions in the Lake Tahoe Basin to take measures to decrease pollutant loading from stormwater runoff in urbanized areas. Local California jurisdictions must implement pollutant controls to decrease FSP and nutrient inputs, and must monitor and evaluate select urban catchment outfalls and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for flow volumes and sediment and nutrient loads.

While monitoring data will not be used assess credits earned under the Lake Clarity Crediting Program for implementing effective pollutant controls, it will provide empirical data that will begin to (1) inform assumptions used to estimate runoff volumes and pollutant loads modeled with the Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM) (2) assess nutrient and sediment loading at chosen catchments, (3) evaluate BMP effectiveness at chosen BMPs.

Similar permits or regulatory programs have been adopted for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) under NPDES NO. CAS000003, NPDES Statewide Stormwater Permit for Waste Discharge Requirements for State of California Department of Transportation, Order No. 2012-0011-DWQ effective July 1, 2013.

The three urban jurisdictions located within Nevada, Washoe County, Douglas County and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) will each enter into Interlocal Agreements with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to implement the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load. These agreements were slated to become effective in August 2013.

Monitoring will include flow measurements and water quality sampling at eleven monitoring stations: the outfalls of the five selected catchments, and the inflows to and outflows from the selected BMPs located within three of those catchments.

The monitoring plan includes:

- Measuring continuous flow at each of the eleven monitoring stations,
- Measuring continuous turbidity at selected monitoring stations,
- Taking samples across the hydrograph during four different storm event types at ten of the eleven monitoring stations,
- Analyzing samples for total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), total suspended solids (TSS), turbidity, and fine sediment particles (FSP),
- Calculating seasonal and annual runoff volumes at each of the eleven monitoring stations and nutrient and sediment loads at ten of the eleven monitoring stations.

Watershed Management Guidebook Published Jan. 2013

<http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/TIP-WEB-version-FINAL.pdf>

A publication by Integrated Environmental Restoration Services, Inc. Produced in collaboration with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District. The *Watershed Management Guidebook* presents a set of principles and practices for managing disturbed watersheds. It has been developed based on years of practice to help link initial project plan to actual outcomes in watershed projects. The Guidebook does not provide all the answers or completely prescriptive approaches. Instead, it offer tools to help achieve greater alignment between intentions and outcomes. There is a growing recognition that relying solely on mathematical models to help us manage dynamic watersheds and their complex processes is not practical. By assessing outcomes and embracing the uncertainty inherent in managing watersheds, we can produce not only high quality results but we can continue to add to our knowledge base and improve future projects. This Guidebook was created to share a process that has been evolving for over 20 years and that has produced surprising results. This process has achieved results by valuing direct assessment over expert opinion, embracing unexpected outcomes, and in the process, building relationships and a common language among participants at every level in watershed management efforts.

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) Best Management Practices Retrofit Program

<http://ntcd.org>

Nevada Tahoe Conservation District's (NTCD) Best Management Practices (BMP) Retrofit Program is part of the nationwide Backyard Conservation Program. The BCP is designed to educate private homeowners about simple, inexpensive conservation measures they can utilize in their own backyards. The Backyard Conservation Program is a joint effort of the Wildlife Habitat Council, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Conservation Districts in the Tahoe Basin are recognized throughout the country for progressive Backyard Conservation Programs.

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District's BMP Program works primarily with single-family residences located on the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, providing homeowners with information on how to control erosion and infiltrate stormwater runoff on their properties in compliance with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) BMP Ordinance. The Conservation District's have worked hard to maintain a close relationship with the local fire districts and the TRPA in order to develop a consistent message regarding BMP implementation and Fire Defensible Space practices. Nevada Tahoe Conservation District staff also works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who provides engineering oversight, technical expertise and guidance with BMP designs.

Other programs and projects at the NTCD include: storm water management assessment, BMP asset inventory, a street sweeper effectiveness study, stream restoration projects, biologic base water quality improvement, water quality monitoring, forest health projects and outreach, biomass utilization and coordination; watershed storm water management planning.

Zephyr Cove Water Quality Improvement Project

The goal of the Zephyr Cove Water Quality Improvement Project is to treat sediment and nutrient laden stormwater flows from US Highway 50 by re-routing flows to an infiltration basin and safely conveying any overflow to Lake Tahoe while minimizing beach erosion. After many years of planning with multiple stakeholders and agencies, the design was finalized in 2016 and constructed in two phases, a 2016 Phase 1 and a 2017 Phase 2. Construction of the project was completed in June 2017 and the project is

currently undergoing irrigation to establish vegetation. The project was funded by the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Nevada Division of State Lands, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and the US Forest Service.

Hybrid BMP Project

This project constructed eight LID infiltration features in the Washoe County Right-of-Way during the Fall of 2011. The rain gardens were integrated into an existing landscaping and stormwater improvement project and are designed to hydraulically isolate themselves when full. Preliminary monitoring results are promising with nearly 80% of all water in the catchment area being treated through infiltration. Studies have shown infiltration to be the most promising method in the treatment of fine sediment and integrating off-line rain gardens throughout the Tahoe Basin could result in a significant reduction of fine sediment delivery to Lake Tahoe and surrounding water bodies.

Hybrid BMP Project Awarded TRPA Best in Basin

NTCD in collaboration with Washoe County and Gradex Construction was awarded the Best in Basin for Erosion Control for the Hybrid BMP Project located in Incline Village.

Cave Rock Estates GID Stormwater System Retrofit Project

In 1990 and 2003, the Cave Rock Estates Erosion Control Project and the Cave Rock Estates Slope Protection Project installed treatments to control the sediment load that comes from this area. Slope stabilization and conveyance systems were created to move the bulk of Cave Rock Estates stormwater runoff to a bed filter at the bottom of the subdivision where it is treated. It then joins with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) stormwater, and is sent through two deep sediment traps before entering Lake Tahoe. The bed filter *was* now 22 years old and at the end of its operational life. It was designed prior to the identification of fine sediment particles (sub-16 µm sediment) as the target pollutant in the Lake Tahoe TMDL Program. NTCD and Cave Rock Estates GID have been working together on a plan to retrofit the existing bed filter to be more effective at fine sediment particle removal. This area-wide strategy is a new model for stormwater management and is paving the way for larger, more community based systems in the Basin. The Cave Rock Estates GID Stormwater System Retrofit Project was implemented in the summer of 2014 and a Phase 2 was implemented in Summer 2016 to improve the direction of runoff into the treatment area. The project is working well since installation.

Burke Creek Final Report

http://www.ntcd.org/NV_ourtahowatershed

One of the NTCD major projects for 2011 was an overall analysis of the Burke Creek Watershed in the southeast corner of Lake Tahoe next to the Nevada/California state line.

Burke Creek serves as the watershed to several TWSA member municipal intakes.

Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD / TRCD) Watershed Resources Programs

www.TahoeRCD.org

Tahoe RCD's Watershed Resources Program manages large erosion control and revegetation projects and also educates property owners on conservation landscaping practices for the California side of the lake.

Johnson Meadows Acquisition

TWSA provided 10 dog waste stations for this location.

In 2018, the Johnson Meadows property on the Upper Truckee River (South Tahoe) was purchased.

<https://tahoercd.org/home/programs-and-projects-link-page/johnson-meadow/>

Johnson Meadow is situated in the heart of the city of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California. It is located within the Upper Truckee River watershed, the largest watershed in the Lake Tahoe Basin, draining over 56 square miles and providing some of the most significant wet meadow floodplain habitat in the entire Sierra Nevada.



Tahoe RCD recently acquired title to approximately 206 acres comprising the Johnson Meadow property in order to provide continuous public ownership of the lower nine miles of the Upper Truckee River (UTR) before the river enters Lake Tahoe. This nine-mile reach of the UTR is centered downstream of property owned by the City of South Lake Tahoe and California Department of Parks and Recreation (Washoe Meadows State Park) and upstream of the Upper Truckee Marsh, owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy. Johnson Meadow is situated in the floodplain of the UTR and was the largest privately-owned meadow in the Tahoe Basin.

Acquisition of Johnson Meadow is a critical step in restoring the UTR watershed, and this river reach contains significant wildlife habitat, including river, riparian, meadow, and upland habitat areas. Acquisition was made possible through funding from California Tahoe Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tahoe Fund. The purpose of this land purchase is to provide ecosystem and watershed protection benefits through preservation, management, and future restoration of meadow, riparian, aquatic and upland habitats in Johnson Meadow.

The Tahoe RCD plays a critical role in addressing the most important natural resource concerns and opportunities in the basin, from preventing and eradicating aquatic invasive species from the lake, to helping communities mitigate the risk of fire. The mission of the Tahoe RCD is to promote the

conservation, stewardship and knowledge of the Lake Tahoe Region's natural resources by providing leadership and innovative environmental services to all stakeholders. The Tahoe RCD is a flexible and adaptable organization that can serve as a link between public and private interests related to this property. Additionally, the Tahoe RCD has extensive experience in natural resource management and will ensure that this unique property with sensitive habitat is properly restored and managed for generations to enjoy.

Best Management Practices (BMP) Retrofit Program

Tahoe Resource Conservation District's (Tahoe RCD or TRCD) Best Management Practices (BMP) Retrofit Program is also part of the nationwide Backyard Conservation Program. This program parallels the NTCDC program, but works primarily with single-family residences located on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, providing homeowners with information on how to control erosion and infiltrate stormwater runoff on their properties in compliance with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) BMP Ordinance.

Biological Resources Program

Tahoe RCD's Biological Resources Program consists of the Terrestrial Invasive Weed and Aquatic Invasive Species Programs. Through these programs, TRCS participates in the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee and the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group. These groups are comprised of diverse agencies and community members dedicated to protecting the Lake Tahoe Basin from invasive species through education, research, prevention, early detection, survey and control. Our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program implements Lake Tahoe's mandatory Watercraft Inspection Program, Truckee Regional AIS Prevention Program (TRAISPP), and Lake Tahoe's Survey and Control Program. The Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program, prevents the introduction of AIS such as Quagga and Zebra mussels into the Tahoe Basin. With funding from the Truckee River Fund, TRAISPP implemented a pilot Watercraft Inspection Program in 2010, in the lower Truckee River watershed. Our Survey and Control Program includes projects aimed at controlling AIS currently in Lake Tahoe.

Watercraft Inspection Sub-Program Highlights

Tahoe RCD coordinates Lake Tahoe's Watercraft Inspection Program by providing qualified inspectors at public launch facilities, technical support for private launches, trainings, and decontamination of watercraft. The Watercraft Inspection Program was implemented in 2008. Details are also provided in previous chapter (Watershed Activities).

Other Tahoe RCD Projects:

Community Watershed Partnerships (CWP)

<https://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Tahoe-Valley-Meyers-CWP-Report-FULL.pdf>

One of the newest projects focused on community watershed protection is the Community Watershed Partnership (CWP) a holistic conservation initiative which engages locals, land managers and agencies in neighborhoods throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. Funded by a grant from NRCS, Community Watershed Partnership is a holistic conservation process which takes place at the community scale. Montgomery Estates in South Lake Tahoe is the first neighborhood targeted through this pilot program. Residents are encouraged to provide input on current and planned conservation projects in their own neighborhood. Expected outcomes include enhanced recreational opportunities, defensible space, wildlife habitat and water quality.

Tahoe Basin Watershed Coordinator

In January 2011, Tahoe RCD was awarded \$293,000 from the CA Dept. of Conservation to create a new Watershed Coordinator position for the Tahoe Basin. The Watershed Coordinator worked with local jurisdictions, agencies, and the community to coordinate land use planning, increase environmental awareness, and address water quality issues within the Tahoe Basin. This position has continued under a new title.

Angora Community Demonstration Garden

With our partner agencies and the Tahoe community, Tahoe RCD has re-vegetated a property burned in the Angora Fire to create a demonstration garden. The garden is located at 1383 Mt. Olympia Circle in South Lake Tahoe. The garden includes examples of Tahoe native and adapted vegetation, defensible space, water conservation, and erosion control practices specific to properties in the Angora Burn area. Additionally, the garden features irrigation techniques and a variety of composts and mulches.

Angora Forest Stewardship Project

With funding from the National Forest Foundation, Tahoe RCD partnered with the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and the US Forest Service to organize over 1,000 South Tahoe community members and students to plant more than 7,000 tree seedlings during the spring of 2009 on urban USFS lots in the Angora burn area. The majority of the trees planted were Jeffrey and Sugar pines and Incense cedars. Additionally, community groups and local homeowners have adopted lots and are performing on-going maintenance and monitoring of the trees. Prior to the spring tree planting, the Tahoe RCD, US Forest Service, and partner agencies developed and implemented an interdisciplinary forest health curriculum for all Lake Tahoe unified elementary schools. The curriculum was based on the Project Learning Tree curriculum and reached over 1,700 students in grades K-5.

Large Scale Erosion Control Projects:

Brockway Erosion Control Project

With funding received from the California Department of Transportation, Tahoe RCD conducted revegetation and slope stabilization work along the Highway 267 corridor over Brockway summit. The goal of the Brockway Summit Cal Trans Project is to reduce the overall contribution of fine sediments and nutrients entering Lake Tahoe from the Highway 267 corridor. Revegetation and slope stabilization practices are being implemented, thus improving the overall scenic quality of the area. TRCD worked with CalTrans and Integrated Environmental Restoration Services (IERS) on project design and installation. To date, approximately 50,000 square feet of bare, eroding slopes have been treated within the project area, and over 2000 plants, trees and shrubs have been planted.

Homewood Erosion Control Project

With funding from the Department of Water Resources, Tahoe RCD developed a public-private partnership to implement erosion control and water quality improvement practices at Homewood Mountain Resort to achieve pollutant load reductions within the Homewood Creek Watershed. The goal of this program is to make this the first watershed in the Lake Tahoe Basin to achieve the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Clarity Challenge of a 32% reduction in fine sediment loading. Through the Homewood Erosion Control Project and partnership with Homewood Mountain Resort (JMA Ventures) important improvements to Tahoe's water quality have been made. . The restoration activities conducted through this project help to reduce non-point source pollutant loading in Homewood and Madden Creeks, which rank among the leading sources of upland erosion in the Tahoe Basin, contributing fine sediments and nutrients into Lake Tahoe. Erosion control and water quality

improvements have been completed on over 125,000 square feet of disturbed bare soil within the Homewood property.

Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation Program

<http://www.trpa.org/conservation-efforts-protecting-tahoe-yellow-cress>

Beginning summer 2011, Tahoe RCD worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Services and Nevada Tahoe Conservation District doing Tahoe Yellow Cress conservation work with lake front private property owners. This included creating site specific stewardship plans for Tahoe Yellow Cress populations with recommendations for care, planting and protection, and an educational brochure.

North and South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (STEEC) School Programs

<http://nteec.webs.com>

<http://steec.org>

A not-for-profit, collaborative network of local agencies and organizations dedicated to bringing high quality environmental education programs to all North and South Tahoe students in grades K-12. LTEEC/STEEC has joined hundreds of Lake Tahoe volunteer educators and reached thousands of Tahoe Basin elementary students annually.

LRWQCB Load Reduction Planning Tool / Lake Tahoe Watershed, Nevada & California

<http://tahoebmp.org/BMPHandbook.aspx>

The Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM) is designed for evaluating and comparing pollutant load reduction alternatives for storm water quality improvement projects in the Tahoe Basin. The PLRM uses publicly available software and source code to provide users with complete access to the tools developed. The PLRM is intended to be practical for application by users possessing a basic understanding of hydrology, water quality, and water resources modeling.

The purpose of this document is to provide a step-by-step methodology for estimating and comparing potential water quality pollutant loads from redevelopment projects under both existing conditions and proposed redeveloped conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin on a parcel or multiple parcel scale. This Load Reduction Planning Tool (LRPT) methodology can be used as a planning tool to estimate changes in potential water quality pollutant loading associated with the proposed redevelopment projects. The LRPT could be used early in the planning process by planners, developers and/or regulators to identify alternatives and design modifications that could be made to the redevelopment project to reduce pollutant loads generated from the site. This methodology is applicable to a much smaller spatial scale than the [Pollutant Load Reduction Model \(PLRM\)](#) and it is not intended to replace PLRM or other water quality planning tools approved by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), or the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

The Pollutant Load Reduction Model is part of a multi-stakeholder effort to provide technical tools for project planners, funders, implementers, and regulators to work collaboratively to minimize the deleterious effects of urban storm water on the remarkable clarity of Lake Tahoe, a keystone in the ecological and economic health of the Lake Tahoe Basin. This project is pursuant Section 234 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (PL 104-303) which provides for coordinated interagency efforts in the pursuit of water quality and watershed planning.

Regional EIP/ CIP Projects

Hundreds of large and small scale projects have been completed. CIP/EIP infrastructure projects include: storm drains, storm water collection and retention systems; street curbs, gutters, sidewalks, lighting, pavement; bike paths, land and stream restoration, revegetation projects, public access improvements and ADA retrofits. The EIP Project Tracker is an online user-friendly database that displays information about projects with interactive maps, charts, and photos.

TWSA Member Agency CIP Projects:

This section has been moved to Chapter 5 - Description of Water Supply

Tahoe Basin CIP/EIP projects are listed in detail in the master EIP list provided at EIP Project Tracker.

<http://www.trpa.org/about-trpa/how-we-operate/environmental-improvement-program>

The screenshot shows the EIP Project Tracker interface. At the top, there are filters for 'Color Projects by: EIP Focus Area' and 'Filter Projects by: EIP Program', with '10 of 10 selected' shown. Below the filters is a map of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding region, including Carson City and Gardnerville. The map is covered with numerous colored pins representing projects. A legend below the map identifies the colors: blue for Watersheds and Water Quality, green for Forest Health, brown for Transportation, purple for Sustainable Recreation, light blue for Applied Science, and red for Stewardship and Accountability. To the right of the map is a list of regional project counts, with a 'Hide regional project list' button at the top.

Hide regional project list	
Some projects operate over larger areas and are not represented on the map, but are listed here:	
- Jurisdiction	55
+ City of South Lake Tahoe	8
+ Douglas County, NV	5
+ El Dorado County, CA	15
+ Placer County, CA	17
+ Washoe County, NV	10
- Watershed	15
+ Bijou Creek	1
+ Bijou Park	5
+ Blackwood Creek	1
+ Marlette Creek	1
+ Meeks Creek	1
+ Taylor Creek	1
+ Trout Creek	3
+ Upper Truckee River	2
- Region	221
+ Basin-wide	208
+ Lake-wide	13
- State	44
+ California	21
+ Nevada	23

Partner agencies have completed hundreds of lake-saving projects in your neighborhood and on your favorite trail and beach. When you see “Another Lake-Saving Project” and the EIP logo around the Tahoe Basin, you know that public-private partnerships are making a difference for Lake Tahoe.

2020 Focus:

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/EIP_LTRA-PriorityList_2020_final2.pdf

The Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program

THE BASIN-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EIP) is an unparalleled partnership working to achieve the environmental goals for the Region. Local, state, and federal government agencies, private entities, scientists, and the Washoe Tribe are all collaborating to restore the clarity and environmental health of Lake Tahoe. The collective impact of 50-plus organizations working together over the last twenty years has resulted in improved forest and ecosystem health, progress on lake clarity, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, and better public access for recreation at Lake Tahoe. Emerging threats from wildfire risk, invasive species, and deteriorating infrastructure are challenging this partnership in unprecedented ways. Continued commitment to the EIP is vital to protecting the Region's investment in environmental restoration and preserving this outstanding natural resource.

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2016 authorized up to \$415 million over 7 years for the Environmental Improvement Program. The Act requires that the EIP maintain a priority list of projects for the program areas of Forest Health, Aquatic Invasive Species, Watershed Restoration, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and Accountability.

Priority List Summary Federal Fiscal 2020

Forest Health	\$25,835,000
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$7,924,000
Watershed Restoration	\$35,980,000
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	\$6,720,000
Accountability	\$1,875,000
TOTAL	\$78,334,000

For project details visit the
EIP Project Tracker at:
eip.laketahoeinfo.org





FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION

\$25,835,000

Decrease the threat of catastrophic wildfire through forest fuels treatments and upgrades to water infrastructure.

- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration	\$16,810,000
- Regional Water Infrastructure Upgrades for Fire Protection	\$9,025,000
Total Request:	\$25,835,000

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

\$7,924,000

Control and remove existing aquatic invasive species and invest in innovative techniques.

- Aquatic Invasive Species Control	\$7,924,000
Total Request:	\$7,924,000

WATERSHED RESTORATION & EROSION CONTROL

\$35,980,000

Improve water quality with innovative stormwater treatment projects and restoration of rivers and meadows. Transform communities through implementation of multiple-benefit projects.

- River and Meadow Restoration	\$12,750,000
- Urban Water Quality Improvement	\$23,230,000
Total Request:	\$35,980,000

The following information provides links to projects by jurisdiction.

Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) road improvement projects in the Tahoe Basin:

<https://www.nevadadot.com/projects-programs/road-projects/lake-tahoe-environmental-improvement>

California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) Projects

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/Projects/>

El Dorado County (CA) Department of Transportation (DOT); 2009 – 2018 ; CIP / EIP Program

DOT's Tahoe environmental improvement program continues to be funded entirely by federal, state, and local agency grants that have water quality improvement as one of their main goals.

Placer County (CA) Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)

Placer County Tahoe Basin Projects

<http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/dist3/departments/envinternet/placer28/Appendix%20G.pdf>

Placer County (DPW) completes semi-annual (spring and fall) project monitoring and reporting for all completed Lake Tahoe erosion control projects within Placer County. There are approximately 55 completed projects to date. Reports include tracking of road sanding materials reclamation and storm water BMP device operating and maintenance. Reports are on file in the Truckee office. Contact: Nova Lance-Seghi [NSeghi@placer.ca.gov] for more information.

Douglas County (NV) Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)

Douglas County projects are listed in detail in the master EIP list provided at

<https://eip.laketahoeinfo.org/Results/EipProjectMap>

Washoe County (NV) Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)

These projects are listed in detail in the master EIP list provided at

<https://eip.laketahoeinfo.org/Results/EipProjectMap>

Washoe County schedules EIP projects over two years with one year overlap. The first projects were scheduled for 2006-2008 and the last project is scheduled for completion in 2018. Washoe County prefers to construct projects with a total project costs between \$1 million and \$2 million (today's dollars) to ensure that all of the improvements can be constructed during one season. Washoe County Public Works has a continuing effort to construct erosion control and water quality improvements within county right-of-way in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads in stormwater runoff that reaches Lake Tahoe. The improvements have included timber retaining walls, block walls, curb and gutter, storm drain pipe, detention/infiltration basins, sediment traps, rock lined ditches, check dams, plants and vegetation. The projects are funded by Washoe County Water Quality Mitigation funds which are collected by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, (TRPA), federal grants, state bonds and local funds.

City of South Lake Tahoe CIP

<http://www.cityofslt.us/index.aspx?NID=629>

The Engineering Department is responsible for implementation of the City's adopted five year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which consists of a variety of projects to construct, maintain, rehabilitate

the City's infrastructure, facilities, and specialized equipment.

Lake Tahoe Basin Prosperity Plan

<http://tahoeprosperity.org>

The Lake Tahoe Basin Prosperity Plan (LTBPP) is a regional collaboration effort to develop a Basin-wide economic prosperity strategy. The region includes all land that sheds water into the Lake Tahoe Basin in California and Nevada. The LTBPP will result in an action plan to create a more resilient economy that enhances environmental quality and ensures an improved standard of living for all residents. The Plan will provide a framework for a competitive regional strategy that recognizes local differences, leverages the distinct attributes of all communities throughout the Basin, and enables local governments, institutions, and businesses to work as partners in revitalizing the Basin economy.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Activities

<https://www.epa.gov/lake-tahoe>

US EPA Region 9 has provided more than \$31 million since 1997, to promote water quality efforts in and around the lake. Several years ago, the EPA placed a full-time staff person in Tahoe to work with the community and local agencies to coordinate ongoing watershed projects in the area. The EPA supports a variety of watershed projects in an effort to reduce sediment and pollutants from flowing into the lake.

Recently funded projects include the following:

- Complete Lake Tahoe's water pollution control plan
- Evaluate trends and patterns in water quality;
- Evaluate nutrients and sediment loading into Lake Tahoe from urban runoff;
- Monitor and model air pollution sources, including mobile emissions;
- Tahoe Integrated Information Management System.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Southwest / Region 9



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Water Division
August 2019

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23 Years of Investing in a Clear, Healthy Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe is an EPA Priority Watershed, in part because of its iconic clarity and beauty. But climate change and human disturbance of the watershed threaten this national treasure. Lake clarity recovered from the impacts of extensive logging in the 19th century, but rapid, unregulated development following the 1960 Winter Olympics again increased fine sediment and nutrients flowing into the lake. Between 1968 and 1997, annual average clarity fell dramatically from around 100 feet to 64 feet (Figure 1).

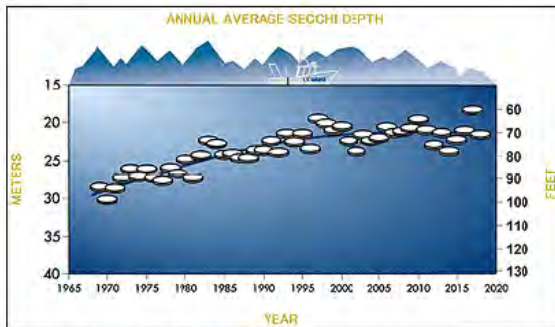


Figure 1. Source: UC Davis TERC (terc.ucdavis.edu)

A new era of ecosystem and watershed restoration began in 1997 with the visit of President Clinton to Lake Tahoe, where he helped launch the [Environmental Improvement Program](#). This \$2.3 billion effort has helped achieve Tahoe Basin improvements for air and water quality, soil conservation, forest health, wildlife and fisheries, and scenic and recreational resources. The decline in annual average lake clarity halted in recent years, with 2018 seeing a rebound to 70.9 feet after 2017's extreme winter and the worst annual average Secchi depth ever recorded: 60.4 feet. Past improvements may be attributed in part to local management of urban runoff guided by innovative decision-making tools. Continued progress as we face growing challenges

of climate change, like increasing tree mortality, forest fires, warmer lake temperatures and proliferation of invasive species, will require constant vigilance and dedicated resources.

What Is EPA Doing to Protect Lake Tahoe?

EPA has been charged with protection of the Tahoe Basin ever since Section 114 of the 1972 Clean Water Act required implementation of a study to "...preserve the fragile ecology of Lake Tahoe." EPA's involvement accelerated sharply after the 1997 Presidential Forum, where President Clinton announced a number of air- and water-quality goals, as well as a full-time, on-site EPA Lake Tahoe Basin Coordinator. Since then, EPA has invested over \$47 million, including \$9 million for a lake clarity restoration plan, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). EPA also oversees implementation of the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Air Act and other statutory requirements by our partner agencies in California and Nevada, and by local partners.

What Is the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and What Does It Do?

The Lake Tahoe TMDL is the centerpiece of efforts to reverse the decline in the lake's deep-water clarity and restore it to historic levels. The TMDL and its Implementation Plan were adopted by California and Nevada, and approved by EPA in 2011 following a 10-year, \$10 million development effort funded by state and federal agencies. Both the scientific research and stakeholder input that underpin the final restoration plan are among the most advanced ever applied to a TMDL in the Clean Water Act's 47-year history. Key elements include:

- **Understanding Pollutant Sources:** Quantified relative amounts of fine sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen inputs to Lake Tahoe from major pollutant sources including urban and forest stormwater runoff, stream channel erosion, and atmospheric deposition.

- **Targeting Load Reductions:** Calculated needed load reductions for the largest pollutant sources in order to achieve the interim “Clarity Challenge” target of 78 feet by 2026 and the long-term TMDL numeric clarity goal of 97 feet by 2076 (Figure 2).

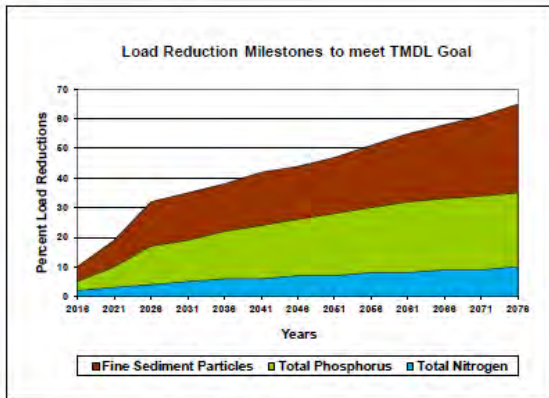


Figure 2. Source: U.S. EPA

- **Creating and Implementing a Strategy:** Developed a strategy to achieve pollutant load reductions through many possible actions, including improved roadway operations and maintenance, targeted street sweeping programs, infiltration basins to capture and treat urban stormwater, stabilization and revegetation of eroding slopes, removal of impervious cover and restoration of soil infiltration, and numerous non-urban source control and reduction measures, including reconnecting streams with their floodplains.
- **Tracking and Reporting Results:** The TMDL included development of the **Lake Clarity Crediting Program** (clarity.laketahoeinfo.org), an innovative, comprehensive accounting system that measures the amount of key urban stormwater pollutants entering the lake and sets load reduction targets, or “Lake Clarity Credits,” that city, county and highway agencies must achieve. The program enables greater transparency and accountability for expenditures on water quality improvement projects and is a model for other urban stormwater programs confronting similar issues. Adaptive TMDL Management System procedures enable TMDL program managers to report on accomplishments, better identify and respond to challenges,

and make adjustments to ensure that the TMDL is working. Results show that the TMDL achieved 2016 fine sediment load reduction goals and currently is on track to achieve the 2021 milestone of 21% load reductions.

What Are EPA's Priorities for Lake Tahoe?

EPA will continue to work with our federal, state and local partners, and the Washoe Tribe to support the TMDL planning and implementation needed to restore deep water clarity, improve nearshore water quality, and protect Lake Tahoe as a drinking water source. EPA will continue to support projects with multiple and sustainable benefits, especially to improve watershed resilience to the effects of climate change. We will also continue to invest in applying and improving scientific tools to predict and measure project benefits.

What Can YOU Do to Protect Lake Tahoe?

Visit the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency website and find “10 WAYS TO SAVE LAKE TAHOE” (www.trpa.org/get-involved/10-ways-to-save-lake-tahoe)

Actions YOU can take to protect Lake Tahoe

1. Choose native plants: to reduce water, fertilizer and pesticides.
2. Use phosphorus-free fertilizer: to reduce algae growth.
3. Adopt a storm drain: to keep sediment and other pollutants out.
4. Bike, walk, or catch the bus: to reduce air pollution.
5. Don't litter, pick up trash: to keep trash out.
6. Replace old woodstoves: to reduce air pollution.
7. Install and maintain Best Management Practices: to keep sediment and other pollutants from flowing off your property.
8. Volunteer: to help clean up and get involved.
9. Clean, drain, & dry: to prevent invasive aquatic species.
10. Become a Tahoe Keeper: learn to spot invasive species on your paddle crafts.

Additional actions shown in the infographic:

- 11. Pick up after your pet: to keep bacteria and nutrients out.
- 12. Get defensive: defensible space reduces wildfire risk.
- 13. Support restoration efforts: to improve Lake Tahoe's ecosystem and water quality.

Developed through a collaboration between Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Lahontan Water Board and Environmental Protection Agency
April 2014

For more information:

Jacques Landy, U.S. EPA
Lake Tahoe Basin Coordinator
Tel: (775) 589-5248
Email: landy.jacques@epa.gov

Learn more about the activities of EPA and partner agencies at EPA's Lake Tahoe website at

www.epa.gov/lake-tahoe

U.S. EPA approves TMDL collaborative bi-state plan (August 2011)

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opg/admpress.nsf/2dd7f669225439b78525735900400c31/54821f7aaa6df567852578ee00629305>

SAN FRANCISCO 8/16/11 –

The water clarity of Lake Tahoe declined from a visibility level of 105 feet in 1967 to an all time low of 64 feet in 1997. Ten years of scientific study ascertained that fine particulate matter is the prime factor in diminished clarity at Lake Tahoe. The Clean Water Act allows states and U.S. EPA to develop a “diet” for impaired waters like Lake Tahoe to help them recover. This diet is called the Lake Tahoe TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load).

The TMDL represents a decade of collaborative effort between federal, state and local agencies and public stakeholders to better understand the pollutants and sources affecting the Lake’s clarity and to develop a cost-effective, workable solution for improvement.

“I am pleased that California and Nevada have demonstrated unprecedented levels of collaboration in crafting this agreement,” said Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval. “Years of hard work and scientific study have paid off, paving the way for much-needed future success at Lake Tahoe.”

“Lake Tahoe provides enormous environmental and economic value to California and the nation,” said California Edmund G. Brown, Jr. “These benefits are directly related to the quality and clarity of the Lake. It is incumbent upon all of us to protect and enhance Lake Tahoe’s clarity. This historic agreement will ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy Lake Tahoe’s beauty and clarity.”

“The Total Maximum Daily Load offers a roadmap to improve Lake Tahoe’s clarity so future generations can enjoy this majestic lake,” said U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California. “More than a decade of research went into this plan and I commend California, Nevada and the Environmental Protection Agency for coming together to implement it.”

“Common-sense regulations regarding water clarity at Lake Tahoe are critical to the health, preservation and restoration of this national treasure,” said U.S. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada. “They will also ensure that Lake Tahoe remains a valuable economic resource that is helping put Nevadans back to work.”

“I commend Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board for developing a scientific plan to restore the clarity of Lake Tahoe. The years of hard work and collaboration have paid off,” said U.S. Senator Dean Heller of Nevada.

“Lake Tahoe is one of the largest, deepest, and clearest lakes in the world. Its shimmering blue waters, biologically diverse alpine setting, and remarkable water clarity are legendary,” said Jared Blumenfeld, U.S. EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “By establishing rigorous benchmarks and accountability, this plan ensures that Lake Tahoe’s environment and economy will thrive long into the future.”

The lake contributes significantly to the economies of California, Nevada and the United States. The communities and the economy of the Lake Tahoe Basin depend on the protection and restoration of its stunning beauty and diverse recreational opportunities in the region.

Scientific analysis demonstrates that restoring lake clarity is possible if pollutant load reductions can be

achieved in each of the four primary sources of these pollutants: urban stormwater runoff, forest runoff, stream channel erosion and atmospheric deposition. The TMDL outlines measures to reduce each of these sources, with a focus on the urban stormwater runoff source, as it is both the greatest source and the best opportunity to control the pollutants. The TMDL calls for advanced and innovative controls to achieve the needed pollution reductions.

“The water quality goals have long been agreed to. The TMDL makes it possible to go forward by knowing how much pollutant loads need to be reduced, where those reductions can be found, and the rate of improvement that will follow,” said Dr. Geoffrey Schladow, Director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Achieving the load reductions outlined in the TMDL will be challenging. California’s Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection are working closely with local jurisdictions including the counties, departments of transportation, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and other stakeholders to reduce the amount of fine sediment and nutrients entering the lake. The two state agencies are also collaborating with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to ensure that the Regional Plan, which will soon be updated, supports the local government actions needed to implement the TMDL.

Online Interface = Clarity Tracker

<https://clarity.laketahoeinfo.org/Results/Index>

The Lake Clarity Tracker is the central hub for information related to the Lake Tahoe TMDL Program. The [About](#) page provides an overview of the Lake Tahoe TMDL and the TMDL Management System. The [Results](#) pages provide the status of pollutant load reduction accomplishments for various source categories. The [Resources](#) pages include technical information and resources related to results tracking and reporting as well as documents related to program management and operations.

The Lake Clarity Tracker and the Lake Tahoe Info Stormwater Tools are sponsored by the [Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) and the [Nevada Division of Environmental Protection](#).

For more information about Clean Water Act TMDLs, please visit:

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/tmdl/>

For more information about California’s TMDL for Lake Tahoe, please visit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/tmdl/lake_tahoe/index.shtml

For more information about Nevada’s TMDL for Lake Tahoe, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/tmdl/nevada.html> and <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/tahoe.htm>

Lake Tahoe Water Pollution Control Plan (TMDL):

http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/file/lccp_handbook_v099.pdf

Additional information can be found in the:

[Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Technical \(Tech\) Report](http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/tahoe.htm) <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/tahoe.htm>

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQB) and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) have been working together

collaborating with numerous other federal, state and local entities to develop a water quality plan (known as the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The plan will identify the sources of pollution and specify reductions in sediment and nutrients that are necessary to [restore the lake's clarity](#).

The State of Nevada has designated Lake Tahoe as a [Water of Extraordinary Aesthetic or Ecologic Value](#). However, NDEP was forced to list the waterbody on its [303\(d\) List of Impaired Waterbodies](#) due to exceedances in the [clarity standard](#). In addition, monitoring conducted over the last 40 years has indicated a steady trend of loss in the Lake's transparency.

The Lake Tahoe TMDL is a scientific effort at the forefront of the campaign to return Lake Tahoe water clarity to historic levels. The scale of the TMDL effort signifies the importance of this national treasure; to date the TMDL Program has involved research by nearly 200 scientists and engineers and more than a \$10 million investment by the federal government and the states of Nevada and California as well as eight years of cooperation and participation by Tahoe resource management agencies, local governments and the public. In order to better manage the enormous undertaking of the Lake Tahoe TMDL, it was necessary to break the effort into three distinct phases, for which key questions were posed

Phase 1 involved the establishment of a comprehensive research program to answer the following questions:

- What pollutants were causing Lake Tahoe's clarity loss?
- What are the sources and quantities of each of these pollutants?
- How much of each pollutant can Lake Tahoe accept and still reach the clarity goal?

The analysis indicates that the primary pollutants controlling clarity are fine sediment particles and the nutrients phosphorous and nitrogen. Fine sediment particles (FSP) cloud the water while nutrients fuel algal growth. Although each affects the distance that light is able to penetrate into the water column, the analysis indicates FSP, particularly those less than 16 micrometers, appear to be more important than nutrients due to their light scattering effect. The vast majority of FSP entering the Lake are derived from the urban area. Modeling results suggest that a 65% reduction in FSP, accompanied by reductions in nitrogen and phosphorous, are necessary to restore historic clarity within Lake Tahoe.

Phase 2 of the TMDL attempts to answer these questions:

- What are the options for reducing pollutant inputs to Lake Tahoe?
- What strategy should be implemented to achieve the clarity goal?

Phase 3 of the TMDL addresses the following questions:

- How will the strategy be implemented?
- How will progress be assessed?

Phase 3, the current phase, represents the transition from the science-based policy formation phases to the implementation and performance evaluation phase. In this phase the recommended strategy will be implemented by local government agencies, as well as state, regional and federal regulatory and land management agencies through their respective programs. Load reduction requirements will be

established based on allocations contained in the TMDL document.

Progress toward meeting the Clarity Challenge will be assessed through the TMDL Management System, a program intended to define the process and protocols by which consistent methods and tools are used to quantitatively estimate and track the amount of load reductions achieved through specific actions on the ground. In addition, monitoring programs are a key part of evaluating progress.

Lake Clarity Crediting Program

<https://www.enviroaccounting.com/TahoeTMDL/Program/Display/ForUrbanJurisdictions>

The Crediting Program Support Services project has recently been completed. Through this project, the local governments and transportation agencies who will implement the TMDL as well as NDEP and Lahontan Water Board staff trained and tested the Crediting Program protocols, methods and tools. The project enabled participants to gain valuable experience, knowledge and skills and resulted in recommendations to improve Crediting Program efficiency, effectiveness and function. The revised Handbook and associated forms are now available for download.

NDEP and the Lahontan Water Board have successfully secured funding to carry out recommendations beyond the scope of the Crediting Program Support Service Project. The Stormwater Tools Integration Project will integrate the existing Crediting Program tools, databases and forms into a single web-based platform. Doing this will reduce the time, cost and complexity of using the tools; improve the ability of jurisdictions and funders to target investments and identify priorities for stormwater pollutant controls to achieve effective load reductions; simplify and streamline annual stormwater reporting requirements; and increase transparency and accountability for the use of EIP funds. Funding for this effort is being provided by the Nevada Division of State Lands through a Lake Tahoe License Plate Grant, the Lahontan Water Board and NDEP.

A Round 12 Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act capital grant was also secured to complete priority improvements to the stormwater tools. A primary objective of the Stormwater Tools Improvement Project will be to provide enhanced functionality to the Pollutant Load Reduction Model; the model will be updated to: align with the Road RAM, report pollutant generation by land use, incorporate recent characteristic runoff concentration data, include a climate change dataset scenario, incorporate road cut algorithms and increase program stability. Some technical improvements to the Road and/or BMP RAM may also be accomplished. The Integrated Stormwater Tool will be updated based on the technical improvements accomplished. Finally, the project seeks to build off the TMDL Activity Tracking System and Public Reporting System being developed through the TMDL Management System project, to link them to a web-based map viewer with expanded functionalities that enable stormwater managers to perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

Because urban stormwater is the main source and represents the greatest opportunity to resolve the Lake clarity problem, NDEP and the Lahontan Water Board guided development of a crediting program through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant. The Lake Clarity Crediting Program (Crediting Program) establishes the framework that connects on-the-ground actions taken by local governments and state transportation agencies to the goal of restoring Lake Tahoe clarity.

It defines a comprehensive and consistent accounting, tracking and reporting system administered by the Lahontan Water Board and NDEP using Lake Clarity Credits. Because it will be used to evaluate

compliance with load reduction milestones contained in permits and MOA, the Crediting Program aligns policies with ongoing implementation in order to drive accountability and motivate effective action to improve Lake Tahoe clarity.

The Crediting Program is the framework that connects on-the-ground actions taken by local governments and state transportation agencies to the goal of restoring Lake Tahoe clarity. It defines a comprehensive and consistent system to quantify, track and report load reduction actions. In order to maximize review efficiency and consistency and comparability of results Crediting Program specifies the use of standardized protocols for this purpose. Although the Handbook lays out the requirements necessary to consider the utilization of other methods and tools, the Crediting Program encourages the use of the following approved tools:

- The Pollutant Load Reduction Model is the standard load reduction estimation tool, which integrates load reductions achieved through combinations of source control practices and treatment BMPs in a catchment. The beta-version of the PLRM is now available on TIIMS.
- The Best Management Practice Maintenance Rapid Assessment Methodology (BMP RAM) is the standardized rapid inspection protocol to assess and report the functional condition of treatment BMPs. Results will inform jurisdictions when treatment BMPs are in need of maintenance.
- The Road Rapid Assessment Methodology (Road RAM) is the standardized rapid inspection protocol to assess and report on the pollutant potential of roadways. Results can be used to inform a number of water quality management questions, including the implementation of actions and strategies to control pollutants from roadways and protect downslope water quality; relative effectiveness of roadway operations practices, and relative maintenance needs of jurisdictions. Please contact Jason Kuchnicki to request access to the database.
- The TMDL Accounting and Tracking Tool (A&T Tool) is the central credit accounting system. It stores information related to catchment schedules and inspection results and generates reports showing the credits awarded each year for specific catchments and urban jurisdictions. The A&T Tool also tracks and reports load reductions at all scales from specific catchments to the overall basin. The A&T Tool is available for use by urban stormwater jurisdiction staff. Please contact Jason Kuchnicki for instructions and to request access.

NDEP and the Lahontan Water Board initiated the Crediting Program Support Services project, through which local governments and transportation agencies tested and trained the protocols, tools and methods described in the Handbook on a non-regulatory basis.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Best Management Practice Maintenance / Rapid Assessment Methodology (BMP RAM)

<http://lands.nv.gov/docs/LTLPreports/Stormwater%20Best%20Management%20Practices/Stormwater%20System%20Operation%20and%20Maintenance%20Handbook.pdf>

The BMP RAM is a simple, repeatable field observation and data management tool that can assist Lake Tahoe natural resource managers in determining the relative condition of urban stormwater treatment BMPs. The primary purpose of the BMP RAM is to inform the user of the relative urgency of water quality maintenance for Treatment BMPs. The BMP RAM evaluations, therefore, do not specifically address or consider the quality of the design of a particular Treatment BMP relative to others. Rather, the BMP RAM provides a practical, consistent and reliable tool to track the condition of a particular Treatment BMP relative to its observed condition at the time of installation or immediately following

complete maintenance.

Three items are available for download on the website. The Technical Document contains background information describing how the tool works and the rationale for tool development choices. The User Manual describes the specific protocols to create a Treatment BMP Inventory, conduct field observations, and interact with the database. The Database is the tool used to house and manage data and calculate RAM scores. Microsoft Access and familiarity with the Technical Document and User Manual are required to operate the database.

Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL)

Nevada State Lands permits buoy, piers, breakwalls and other structures within Lake Tahoe, itself, and in the near shore. TWSA receives copies of permit applications (new and renewal) for water provider comments relative to these structures and uses.

The Nevada Division of State Lands operates the Nevada Land Bank, which performs several functions on the Nevada side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. It receives fund distributions from the [Tahoe Regional Planning Agency](#) ("TRPA") from fees TRPA collects for excess land coverage on developed land parcels in the Tahoe Basin, in accordance with TRPA's regulations. Land coverage consists of impervious or disturbed soils, on lands of various classes of environmental sensitivity, that can have a detrimental affect on the Tahoe Basin environment and Lake Tahoe water quality. The fees received are used by the Land Bank to purchase, restore and permanently retire coverage, preserving land in its natural state.

Nevada Tahoe License Plate Program

<http://www.tahoe fund.org/ways-to-give/buy-a-tahoe-license-plate>

The State of Nevada collects fees for special Lake Tahoe license plates. The fees go into a dedicated Lake Tahoe fund, which is administered by the Division of State Lands. These funds are used for projects and programs to preserve or restore the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin. This program is completely separate from the Tahoe Science Program and SNPLMA funding. However, both programs use a competitive review process and help to fulfill the mission of restoring Lake Tahoe through the EIP.

Nevada and California Lake Tahoe license plates benefit conservation and recreation projects in the basin. On behalf of the California Tahoe Conservancy, the Tahoe Fund coordinates the very successful Plates for Powder winter license program, running from November, 2020 until April, 2021.

Show off your love and support of protecting Lake Tahoe by ordering your [California](#) or [Nevada](#) Lake Tahoe License Plate. Over 96% of the funds from purchase and renewal fees for Lake Tahoe License plates are used to build, maintain and protect the trails, water quality, wildlife and forest health of the Lake Tahoe basin.

New Tahoe License Plate fees benefiting the Tahoe Basin are \$50 in California and \$61 in Nevada. The annual renewal fee is \$40 in California and \$30 in Nevada. Personalized plates are also available for additional fees. To learn more about how your support helps keep Tahoe beautiful or to learn about specific [conservation](#), [recreation](#) and [watershed restoration](#) projects, visit the [California Tahoe Conservancy](#) and the [Nevada Division of State Lands](#).

California Tahoe Conservancy

<http://tahoe.ca.gov>

The California Tahoe Conservancy was created in 1984 to restore and sustain a balance between the natural and the human environment and between public and private uses at Lake Tahoe. Successful partnerships are integral to protecting Lake Tahoe's unique environment. The Conservancy participates in and supports a range of partnerships with Federal, State, regional, local non-profit and academic agencies and organizations. The mission of the California Tahoe Conservancy is to lead California's efforts to restore and enhance the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Major restoration projects are planned on CTC and partner land holdings in the South Lake Tahoe area 2016-2020.

California License Plate Program

<http://www.tahoe fund.org/ways-to-give/buy-a-tahoe-license-plate/>

The California Tahoe Conservancy administers Tahoe projects with funding generated by California's Lake Tahoe license plate program.

League to Save Lake Tahoe

<http://www.keptahoeblue.org/our-work/>

The League's core focus is to protect Lake Tahoe's inspiring water clarity. Efforts include researching development plans and projects to ensure these projects comply with rules to protect Lake Tahoe. The League also works to secure funding for river and watershed restoration and conduct outreach about the environmental challenges facing Lake Tahoe. The League has three primary program areas: Advocacy & Monitoring, Legislative Advocacy and Outreach & Education.

Eyes on the Lake is the League's newest volunteer program helping to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants in Tahoe's waters. If you are a water lover at Tahoe (SCUBA diver, paddler, swimmer, beachgoer, or boater) and want to help ensure Tahoe's waters stay clear and pristine, then Eyes on the Lake is for you. Volunteers learn how to identify plants in the classroom and in the field. Help protect the Lake while you play.

No. of Pipe Keepers trained	114
No. of pipes monitored	41
Monthly pipes assessments	40



Pipe Keepers is a volunteer-based, water quality monitoring program that examines the turbidity (clarity) of the water being released from storm drains into Lake Tahoe and I braved the elements to collect water samples, take photos, and raise awareness about neighborhood storm drains impacts on lake and river waters.

Volunteer Beach Cleanups and Tahoe Blue Crews, are some of the newest League community engagement activities. They are organizing several litter cleanups and graffiti removal events annually.

Tahoe Cigarette Butt Disposal Project
TWSA has partnered with the League on the Tahoe Cigarette Butt Disposal Project. 250 metal bins, obtained from a grant by Keep America Beautiful, are being installed lake-wide in 2019-22. <https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/news/press-releases/250-cigarette-butt-collection-canisters-to-be-installed-at-lake-tahoe>

Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC)
<http://tahoescience.org>

The EPA helped to establish and is currently supporting the activities of a consortium of Lake Tahoe Basin scientists. The Tahoe Science Consortium promotes integration among the many current and future scientific projects in the basin, prioritizing future research informed by a comprehensive science plan, creating an environment that promotes the contributions of the best available science, and emphasizing close cooperation with land and resource managers to facilitate the transfer of information in an effective manner.



TSC Key accomplishments:

- Conceptual plan for a Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSWMP)
- Drafting of a Tahoe Science Plan, published in August 2009.

Highlights of the Tahoe Science Program

1. Diverse science projects.
2. Multi-institutional effort: Members of the Tahoe Science Consortium (USGS; University of California, Davis; University of Nevada, Reno; Desert Research Institute; and PSW) work together to guide program activities.
3. Collaborative planning: To promote strategic plans to address environmental issues in the Tahoe Basin, the TSC has collaborated with an array of institutions to create a science plan for the Lake Tahoe basin, conduct topical science workshops, and develop a regional stormwater monitoring plan (RSWMP).
4. Competitive peer-reviewed process: Proposals for science at Lake Tahoe using SNPMLA funds compete through a peer-review process that evaluates technical merit and management relevancy.

5. Management orientation: Themes are selected based upon management needs in the basin. The proposal review process is done in collaboration with the management community in the basin.
6. Securing long-term knowledge systems: Annual funding from SNPLMA has provided continuous support for the TSC in delivering science synthesis to management agencies. The program has allowed several projects to conduct multiyear research by building upon work conducted in previous rounds.

The [Lake Tahoe Science Consortium](#) served to guide, peer review, and consult on science problems in the Basin, and has developed a [Science Plan](#) to guide future research, which EPA has peer reviewed.

ARkStorm@Tahoe Project

<http://tahoescience.org/arkstorm-project>

In 2018, TWSA staff served on an “Arkstorm – Lessons Learned” panel at the Nevada Water Resources Association, Fall Symposium. Organizers discussed the winter of 206-17 as a ‘light version’ test period for emergency preparations and response during future ArkStorms. An *ArkStorm @ Tahoe Preparedness Workshop* was held at the September 12, 2013 TWSA Board meeting. The TWSA members and other agency representatives spent 3 hours to discuss the operations of water and sewer supply systems during a potential long-term storm event. The exercise is designed to address potential social and ecological impacts of extreme winter storm events in the Lake Tahoe region. What is an ARkStorm? Atmospheric rivers (ARs) are large flows of water vapor that typically occur in fall and winter, bringing huge amounts of moisture over the Pacific to the U.S. West Coast. Landfalling ARs are storm events with the potential to deliver extreme amounts of precipitation to the West Coast, including California and Nevada, over a just a few days. The name “ARkStorm” was coined to describe large AR storm sequences, which, for instance, can produce precipitation in California that in places can exceed totals experienced only once every several hundred to 1,000 years. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Multi Hazards Demonstration Project (MHDP) designed a scientifically-plausible winter ARkStorm scenario for California emergency managers, stitching together historical AR storms from 1969 and 1986, separated by only 4 days. This hypothetical ARkStorm would rival but not exceed the intense California winter storms of 1861 and 1862 that left the Central Valley of California flooded and the state’s economy destroyed. It was designed to exceed any single storm in the 20th Century. On March 14, 2014, a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) was held at the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC), Reno, NV

Integrated Science Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin: Conceptual Framework and Research Strategies

<http://www.tahoescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Science-Plan-Intro1.pdf>

edited by Zachary P. Hymanson and Michael W. Collopy

An integrated science plan was developed to identify and refine contemporary science information needs for the Lake Tahoe basin ecosystem. The research priorities are reviewed and revised regularly to ensure they reflect the changing information needs and evolving priorities of agencies charged with the welfare of the Lake Tahoe basin.

The main objectives were to describe a conceptual framework for an integrated science program, and to develop research strategies addressing key uncertainties and information gaps that challenge government agencies in the theme areas of:

- (1) air quality,
- (2) water quality,
- (3) soil conservation,

- (4) ecology and biodiversity, and
- (5) social sciences.

This document presents the results of science community efforts to organize and describe the initial elements of an integrated science plan for the Lake Tahoe basin: a conceptual framework for completing science to inform adaptive management, and focused research strategies covering topic areas of relevance to Tahoe basin management and conservation. Separate, agency-led efforts are underway to develop other essential elements of an integrated science plan including programs for status and trends and effectiveness monitoring, new data applications aimed at converting data into information and knowledge, and the integration of monitoring and applied research efforts.

This science plan was developed to identify and refine science information needs for the Lake Tahoe basin. The main purpose of this effort was to develop a set of research strategies addressing key uncertainties and information gaps that challenge resource management and regulatory agencies. The research needs identified in these strategies are based on assessments of the issues and information needs that currently confront government agencies and stakeholders working in the basin.

This science plan comprises seven chapters. Excerpts related to water quality are listed below.

Water Quality:

- Initiate long-term status and trend monitoring of watershed hydrology and pollutant loads entering Lake Tahoe to:
 - (1) inform Lake Tahoe total maximum daily load (TMDL) land use and lake clarity models, and other water quality-related management models;
 - (2) evaluate progress in meeting TMDL allocation requirements and other regulatory obligations; and
 - (3) evaluate snowpack and snowmelt trends as they pertain to lake clarity.

The **Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program (LTIMP)** partially meets these monitoring needs, but this program has eroded over the last decade owing to funding restrictions. The LTIMP does not include some key pollutant sources (i.e., urban stormwater and road runoff), and it does not include some key water quality constituents that directly affect lake clarity (i.e., particle number and particle size distribution). Because water quality restoration efforts in the Tahoe basin are expected to exceed \$1 billion, it is critical that we continue to collect and deliver information in an organized fashion. The water quality research strategy in chapter 4 is intended to serve as a road map for discussions with resource managers. The chapter identifies those science projects necessary to help guide water quality restoration efforts and understand related ecosystem processes.

Near-term water quality research priorities include pollutant loading and treatment within the urban landscape.

Near-shore Water Quality and Aquatic Ecology:

Additional research is recommended to determine near-shore processes at various temporal and spatial scales. This research will contribute to an integrated database that can be used to determine trends and patterns for integrated, process-driven models.

- From this information, construct a predictive model to help guide ongoing and future management strategies. Ideally, this model would include features such as nutrient loading,

turbidity, localized and lakewide circulation patterns, wave resuspension, periphyton and macrophyte populations, introduced and native species, and recreational uses and activities within the near shore.

- Develop an aquatic invasive species research program with direct ties to water quality (e.g., threat of invasive species impacts on:
 - (1) native species composition and aquatic food webs,
 - (2) in-lake sources of drinking water, or
 - (3) water quality and stimulation of benthic algal growth in the near-shore.
- Develop analytical approaches for establishing quantitative and realistic water quality standards and environmental thresholds for the near-shore region.

Erosion and Pollutant Transport/Reduction within the Vegetated Landscape:

Collaboration between researchers and agency representatives is recommended to evaluate fine sediment and nutrient loads resulting from forest fuels reduction activities. A major effort would include quantifying BMP effectiveness for controlling fine sediment and nutrient releases from wildfire, as well as from forest biomass management practices, such as prescribed fire and mechanical treatment.

- Fully evaluate the benefits and risks from using large areas of the natural landscape (e.g., forests, meadows, flood-plains, wetlands) for treatment of urban runoff.

Water Quality Modeling:

Water quality management in the Tahoe basin has embarked on a pathway that will use science-based models to help guide management into the future. The models will:

- Develop appropriate linkages between the landscape, climate, and atmospheric and water quality models to provide more comprehensive assessment of primary and secondary drivers whose effects propagate through the ecosystem.
- Build decision-support modules for the linked ecosystem models that will support evaluation of effects from larger spatial scales.

Climate change:

Continue to document the effects of climate change on existing and future water quality conditions.

- Apply predictive scenario testing for evaluating potential effects from climate change within the new and developing management models used for water quality in the Tahoe basin. In particular, models could be used to evaluate basinwide BMP effectiveness and load reduction strategies based on the expected changes to temperature, precipitation, and hydrology.
- Limnological processes in Lake Tahoe such as stratification, depth of mixing, particle distribution and aggregation, species succession, aquatic habitat based on water temperature, and meteorology are all recommended for reevaluation in light of climate change and possible management response to the impacts of climate change.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) (Public Law 105-263)

<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/snplma.html>

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) became law in October 1998. It allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell public land within a specific boundary around Las Vegas, Nevada. The revenue derived from land sales is split between the State of Nevada General Education Fund (5%), the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10%), and a special account available to the Secretary of the Interior for:

- Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas
- Capital Improvements
- Conservation Initiatives
- Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)
- Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
- Lake Tahoe Restoration Projects

Tahoe Science Projects supported by SNPLMA

The US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) receives funding through the [Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act](#) (SNPLMA) to conduct science to inform efforts to restore Lake Tahoe and its watershed, as authorized in the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. PSW assumed responsibility of SNPLMA for sponsoring science projects. The PSW Station established a competitive grant award program with a rigorous [peer review process](#) coordinated by the Tahoe Science Consortium, a collection of universities and agencies with active research programs at Lake Tahoe.

A database of the many projects funded at Tahoe is available at:

https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/partnerships/tahoescience/browse_projects.shtml

Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program (LTIMP)

This program was consolidated into the TRPA EIP program database.

The formation of this program resulted from a series of meetings, beginning in 1978, initiated by the University of CA, including state and federal agencies. It was apparent that a strong environmental monitoring program was necessary to accommodate the needs of the various agencies concerned with land-use planning and regulation. The University's basic research program alone could not provide the expanded water quality data requirements in the Tahoe basin. As a result of these discussions LTIMP was formally established in 1979 to collect water/air quality information necessary to support the extensive regulatory/research activities in the basin.

USDA / US Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Monitoring Program Reports

The USDA / US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) provides multi-year, extensive reporting on forest land projects.

For an overview of ongoing projects and reports please visit:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ltbmu/maps-pubs/?cid=FSM9_046480

Examples are below:

2019

- [Upper Truckee River Reach 5 Effectiveness Monitoring Report - Apr. 3, 2019](#)
(PDF 8,182 KB)
- [Heavenly SEZ Demonstration Project Monitoring Report - Dec. 2017](#)
(PDF 3,375 KB)
- [Vegetation Structure Response to Channel Restoration Blackwood Creek - Dec. 2017](#)
(PDF 5,517 KB)
- [LTBMU Annual Soil and Water BMP Monitoring Report for FY15 - October 2016](#)
(PDF 338 KB)
- [LTBMU Rare Botanical Species 2015 Monitoring Report - May 1, 2016](#)
(PDF 870 KB)
- [Lake Tahoe Federal Grants Program Status Report 1984 - 2015](#)
(PDF 1,325 KB)
- [LTBMU Invasive Plant Management Report - 2015](#)
(PDF 596 KB)
- [Upper Truckee River Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project Annual Report - 2015](#)
(PDF 1,089 KB)
- [FY15 LTBMU Soil and Water BMP Monitoring Report - Nov. 24, 2015](#)
(PDF 170 KB)
- [LTBMU Rare Botanical Species 2013-2014 Monitoring Report - September 1, 2015](#)
(PDF 860 KB)
- [Invasive Plant Management 2013-2014 Annual Report - May 11, 2015](#)
(PDF 637 KB)
- [2008-2012 Wildlife Survey Program, Five-Year Summary Report - Sep. 30, 2015](#)
(PDF 5,840 KB)
- [Upper Truckee River Allotment Aquatic Trend Analysis - August 2015](#)
(PDF 2,938 KB)
- [LTBMU Riverine Restoration Program- An Overview - March 2015](#)
(PDF 8,928 KB)
- [Cold Creek High Meadows Restoration 2nd Year Effectiveness Monitoring Report - Feb. 2015](#)
(PDF 4,293 KB)

Lake Tahoe Geographic Response Plan (LTGRP) 2014 Update

http://www.epaos.org/site/doc_list.aspx?site_id=2261

This plan details interagency protocol and instruction for site response in the event of a major spill at Lake Tahoe.

http://ndep.nv.gov/bca/response_plan/ltgrp_summary_0308.pdf

Incidences with unreported spills in the Edgewood, Burke, and McFaul watersheds led to a discussion with Nevada Bureau of Corrective Actions regarding the spill notification process in August of 2004. As a

result, TWSA participated with the US Environmental Protection Agency and other Lake Tahoe Basin agencies in the development of the Lake Tahoe Geographic Response Plan. The Plan defines spill reporting and spill response procedures. In September 2007, the report was issued. In 2014, the plan was updated.

The TWSA participates in the ongoing development of the Lake Tahoe Geographic Response Plan (LTGRP), which establishes the policies, responsibilities, and procedures required to protect life, environment, and property from the effects of hazardous materials incidents. This plan establishes the emergency response organization for hazardous materials incidents occurring within the Lake Tahoe watershed. The plan is generally intended to be used for oil spills or chemical releases that impact or could potentially impact drainages entering Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe itself, and its outflow at the Truckee River. Plan coverage is for El Dorado, Placer Counties, California; Douglas, Washoe Counties, and Carson City, Nevada. The LTGRP is the principal guide for agencies within the Lake Tahoe watershed, its incorporated cities, and other local government entities in mitigating hazardous materials emergencies. This plan is consistent with federal, state, and local laws and is intended to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, particularly among local, state, and federal agencies, in hazardous materials emergencies.

Lake Tahoe Wastewater Infrastructure Partnership (LTWIP)

Presently inactive, 2007 saw the formation of a parallel organization to the TWSA, the Lake Tahoe Wastewater Infrastructure Partnership (LTWIP). The groups' purpose is to develop, implement and maintain effective operation, maintenance and capital replacement programs to meet state-of-the-art industry standards, satisfy State and Federal requirements, and advocate for the protection of Lake Tahoe as an outstanding National water body.

Members include Douglas County Sewer Improvement District No. 1 (DCSID), Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID), Kingsbury General Improvement District (KGID), North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD), Round Hill General Improvement District (RHGID), South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD), Tahoe Douglas District (TDD) and Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD).

Each of the Parties owns and operates a public sewer collection and/or treatment system within the Lake Tahoe Basin. These sewer systems could negatively impact the surface waters of Lake Tahoe upon failure or spillage. The Parties recognize the environmental sensitivity of the Lake Tahoe Basin, and the extraordinary responsibilities placed on their organizations as a result of their operation and maintenance of these sewage systems. Common standards and practices, and project prioritization are key steps to meeting those responsibilities.

The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE) had executed a Project Management Plan for Technical Assistance – Lake Tahoe Watershed Restoration with LTWIP, which included technical assistance related to the identification of sewer system defects, project identification, project prioritization, and application of consistent engineering standards for the execution of a wastewater capital replacement program within the Lake Tahoe Basin. This scope of work was completed and an additional task was added to assist the agencies with the preparation and completion of Sewer System Management Plans to meet California State Water Resources Control Board requirements under the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Plan.

This new California regulation required all sewer agencies in California to develop and implement a sewer system management plan (SSMP). The SSMP documents the agency's program to properly

operate and maintain its sanitary sewer system. Each SSMP is required to address the following elements: Goals, Organization, Legal Authority, Operation and Maintenance Program, Design and Performance Provisions, Overflow Emergency Response Plan, Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program, System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan, Monitoring, Measurement, and Program Modifications, SSMP Program Audits, and Communication Program.

The TRPA is adopting a similar requirement for a SSMP in the update of the Regional Plan. The plans completed as described above will meet this new requirement. The language included in the TRPA Regional Plan Update approved in 2012 is as follows:

60.1.6. Spill Control

All persons handling, transporting, using, or storing toxic or hazardous substances shall comply with the applicable requirements of state and federal law regarding spill prevention, reporting, recovery, and clean-up. Sewage collection, conveyance, and treatment districts shall have sewage spill contingency, prevention, and detection plans approved by the state agency of appropriate jurisdiction and submitted to TRPA for review and approval within three years of the effective date of the Regional Plan.

A. Cooperative Sewage Spill Plans

Sewage collection, conveyance, and treatment districts may join together to develop cooperative plans, provided that the plans clearly identify those agencies covered by the plan, are agreed to by each agency, and are consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

B. Sewage Spill Plan Criteria

Sewage spill contingency, prevention, and detection plans shall comply with the criteria set forth by the state agencies of appropriate jurisdiction and TRPA. Such plans shall include provisions for detecting and eliminating sewage exfiltration and stormwater infiltration from sewer lines and facilities.

The Public Utility member agencies of the LTWIP and of TWSA have completed a new standardized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the TRPA that regulates routine activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The existing MOU's were outdated and inconsistent among the Public Utilities. These were adopted in March 2012.

The new MOU lists the activities that are exempt or qualified exempt from obtaining a TRPA permit which are broader than the list in the TRPA Code of Ordinances. The new MOU includes performance-based standards for exempt and qualified exempt activities rather than prescriptive standards, where possible. This listing of activities allows the agencies to complete a wide range of projects and daily operations and maintenance activities without having to pull special permits. It still requires the agencies to follow all Best Management Practices, Land Coverage program rules, and other requirements such as seasonal restrictions.

A future task is that the special districts should be able to electronically report their activities to TRPA on-line, through the TRPA website, with a password unique to their organization. They should also be able to attach PDFs with their reporting forms for construction drawings and related information. An alternative to the current TRPA "QE stamp" will be developed for the special districts to use as evidence to building departments, etc. Reporting is currently done by the agency and is available for review by TRPA upon request.

To assure reliable sewer operations and avoid significant economic and environmental costs associated with inadequate operation and maintenance of these systems, the Parties desire to improve their practices and standards, implement state of the art asset management concepts, and comply with additional requirements.

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Table and Figure List:

Table 1.0: Number of customers and service hook ups for TWSA partner agencies by county.

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Table 3.0: TWSA partner agencies' intake structure description.

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Table 5.0: Summary of TWSA raw water turbidity between July 1st, 2019 and June 30th, 2020.

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Table 5.4: For the 2019-2020 reporting year, a comparison of annual maximum total coliform (CFU or MPN/100mL) and annual mean total coliform (CFU or MPN/100mL) by date for TWSA water suppliers.

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Table 5.6: Comparison of TWSA purveyors annual maximum Total Coliform results for the July 1, 2009-June 30, 2020 reporting years.

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Figure 2.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 2.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 2.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 2.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Incline Village General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Table 7.0: Glenbrook Water Cooperative source water turbidity data summary July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Glenbrook intake.

Table 7.1: Glenbrook Water Cooperative annual source water total coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected from raw water at the Glenbrook intake.

Table 7.2: Glenbrook Water Cooperative monthly source water Total Coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected from raw water at the Glenbrook Water Company intake.

Figure 3.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Glenbrook Water Cooperative between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 3.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Glenbrook Water Cooperative between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

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Figure 4.0: Monthly Max Turbidity Results for Cave Rock and Skyland Water Districts between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Figure 4.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Cave Rock and Skyland Water Districts between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Table 9.0: Zephyr Water Utility District source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Zephyr Water Utility District water supply intake.

Table 9.1: Zephyr Water Utility District (ZWUD) annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the ZWUD intake.

Table 9.2: Zephyr Water Utility District monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the ZWUD intake.

Figure 5.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 5.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020

Figure 5.2: Monthly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 5.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Zephyr Water Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Table 10.0: RHGID source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the RHGID intake.

Figure 6.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Round Hill General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 6.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Round Hill General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Table 11.0: KGID source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the KGID intake.

Table 11.1: KGID annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the KGID intake.

Table 11.2: KGID monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the KGID intake.

Figure 7.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 7.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 7.2: Monthly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 7.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Kingsbury General Improvement District between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2019.

Table 12.0: Edgewood Water Company Turbidity Data Summary, July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Turbidity measurements are completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Edgewood intake

Table 12.1: Edgewood Water Company annual source water total and E.coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Edgewood Water Company intake.

Table 12.2: Edgewood Water Company monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected from raw water at the Edgewood Water Company intake.

Figure 8.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 8.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020

Figure 8.2: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020

Figure 8.3: Yearly Mean and Max Coliform Results for Edgewood Water Company between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Table 13.0: LPA source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the LPA intake.

Table 13.1: LPA annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the LPA intake.

Table 13.2: Lakeside Park Association monthly source water Total and E.coli Coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the Lakeside Park Association intake.

Figure 9.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 9.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 9.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 9.3: Yearly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for Lakeside Park Association between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Table 14.0: Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) McKinney/Quail source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the McKinney/Quail intake.

Table 14.1: TCPUD McKinney/Quail source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the McKinney/Quail intake.

Table 14.2: TCPUD monthly source water total and E.coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the McKinney/Quail intake.

Figure 10.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Tahoe City Public Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020

Figure 10.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for Tahoe City Public Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 10.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for TCPUD between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019

Figure 10.3: Yearly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for TCPUD between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Table 15.0: NTPUD source water turbidity data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Turbidity analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the NTPUD intake.

Table 15.1: NTPUD annual source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the NTPUD intake.

Table 15.2: NTPUD monthly source water total and E. coli coliform data results from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020 Coliform analyses completed on samples collected daily from raw water at the NTPUD intake.

Figure 11.0: Monthly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 11.1: Yearly Mean and Max Turbidity Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 11.2: Monthly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Figure 11.3: Yearly Mean and Max Total Coliform Results for North Tahoe Public Utility District between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020.