
STAFF REPORT

Date: September 20, 2023

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: 2023 Tahoe: State of the Lake Report

Summary:

Dr. Geoffrey Schladow from the University of California Davis, Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) will present a summary of the 2023 State of the Lake Report. The full report may be accessed at <https://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake>. TRPA is proud to be one of a group of partners that fund TERC's work and the development of the State of the Lake Report, and is grateful that Dr. Schladow has agreed to present the findings of the State of the Lake Report to the TRPA Governing Board. This item is informational only.

Background:

TERC has been continuously monitoring the water quality of Lake Tahoe since 1968. This long-term record provides a unique perspective on the current status and recent observations of the condition of Lake Tahoe. Continuous monitoring and reporting on clarity has been critical to raising public awareness and spurring management action to preserve water quality.

The 2023 Report found that average annual water clarity in 2022 was 71.7 ft (21.9 m). Secchi depths in 2022 had a trajectory of poor clarity for the first six months of the year. Then, in July 2022, earlier than when clarity often starts improving, the trend reversed, and clarity improved. The Report highlighted significant shifts in the algal communities of the Lake. The State of the Lake summarizes the results of the ongoing research and monitoring and provides important information that TRPA and its partners rely upon to inform policy decisions about the future of the Region.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this item, please contact Dan Segan, Chief Science and Policy Advisor at dsegan@trpa.gov or 775.589.5233. To submit a written public comment, email publicComment@trpa.gov with the appropriate agenda item in the subject line. Written comments received by 4 p.m. the day before a scheduled public meeting will be distributed and posted to the TRPA website before the meeting begins. TRPA does not guarantee written comments received after 4 p.m. the day before a meeting will be distributed and posted in time for the meeting.

Attachment:

- A. [2023 State of the Lake Report](#)