

TAHOE:
STATE
OF THE
LAKE
REPORT
2011

CLARITY

CLARITY

Annual average Secchi depth

Yearly since 1968

Secchi depth (the point below the lake surface at which a 10-inch white disk disappears from view) is the longest continuous measurement of Lake Tahoe clarity. The annual Secchi depth is the average of 20 to 25 readings made throughout the year. While lake clarity has improved for brief

periods since 1968, the overall long-term trend has shown a significant decline. In the last decade, Secchi depth measurements have been better than predicted by the long-term linear trend. Statistical analysis suggests that the decline in Lake Tahoe's clarity has slowed, and is now better represented

by the curve below than a straight line. 2010 was a low year for annual average Secchi depth, with the depth of 64.4 feet being the second lowest ever recorded (the lowest was 64.1 feet in 1997). It represents a decrease of 3.7 feet from the previous year. See Pages 6.2 - 6.13 for additional details.

DECLINE OF WATER CLARITY AT LAKE TAHOE

