**LAKE CLARITY**

**Light transmission**

In 2006

Light transmission is measured at various depths to produce a clarity profile. Last year was typical: The lowest light transmission occurred in summer, with the minimum values (less than 85 percent transmission) in the upper 50 feet. As usual, the highest light transmission (more than 92 percent) occurred in winter (when mixing brings clearer water up to the surface).
LAKE CLARITY

**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 measure of water clarity at Lake Tahoe. The annual Secchi depth is composed of approximately 25 readings throughout the year. While there have been periods of years when lake clarity has improved, there has been an overall long-term decline. In 2006, the Secchi depth was 67.7 feet, a reduction of 4.6 feet from the previous year.

The year’s high precipitation (Figure 6.5), and the resulting high urban runoff and stream flow, largely account for this decrease.

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![Graph showing average Secchi depth from 1968 to 2008](image-url)