

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	1-1
1.1	Scope of Project	1-1
1.2	Defining the Problem.....	1-2
1.3	Site Background	1-2
1.3.1	Evaluation Focus.....	1-2
1.3.2	Location and Physiography.....	1-3
1.3.3	Previous Investigations	1-3
1.4	Geologic Setting.....	1-3
1.5	Quaternary History of the Tahoe Basin	1-4
1.6	Project Staffing	1-5
1.7	Report Organization.....	1-6
1.8	Acknowledgements	1-6
2.0	Groundwater Data – Collection and Conceptual Site Model.....	2-1
2.1	Data Collection and Literature Search.....	2-1
2.2	Historic Aerial Photography	2-2
2.3	Land Use Classification.....	2-2
2.4	Conceptual Site Model.....	2-3
3.0	Nutrient Loading - Groundwater.....	3-1
3.1	Nutrients – Nitrogen and Phosphorous	3-1
3.1.1	Nutrients as Pollutants	3-3
3.1.2	Nutrient Attenuation in Groundwater	3-7
3.2	Methodology	3-7
3.3	Previous Lake Tahoe Basin Studies.....	3-8
3.3.1	USGS Groundwater Loading Study (Thodal 1997).....	3-9
3.3.2	Desert Research Institute (DRI) Near Shore Water Quality Study (Taylor 2002)	3-9
4.0	South Lake Tahoe/Stateline Nutrient Loading	4-1
4.1	Description of Study Area.....	4-1
4.1.1	History of Development.....	4-3

4.1.2	Local Geology.....	4-3
4.2	Previous South Lake Tahoe/Stateline Investigations.....	4-16
4.2.1	UC Davis Thesis (Woodling 1987).....	4-16
4.2.2	UC Davis Institute of Ecology Study (Loeb 1987).....	4-16
4.2.3	DRI Near Shore Clarity Study (Taylor 2002).....	4-17
4.2.4	Other Investigations	4-17
4.3	Nutrient Concentrations	4-20
4.3.1	Emerald Bay to Taylor Creek Nutrient Concentrations.....	4-22
4.3.2	Subregion 1 Nutrient Concentrations	4-25
4.3.3	Subregion 2 Nutrient Concentrations	4-28
4.3.4	Subregion 3 Nutrient Concentrations	4-31
4.3.5	Subregion 4 Nutrient Concentrations	4-34
4.3.6	Stateline Nutrient Concentrations	4-37
4.4	Groundwater Discharge	4-40
4.5	Nutrient Loading	4-46
4.5.1	Emerald Bay to Taylor Creek	4-46
4.5.2	Subregion 1	4-47
4.5.3	Subregion 2	4-48
4.5.4	Subregion 3	4-51
4.5.5	Subregion 4	4-53
4.5.6	Stateline.....	4-55
4.6	Ambient Nutrient Loading	4-56
4.7	Summary & Conclusions	4-56
5.0	Incline Village Area Nutrient Loading	5-1
5.1	Description of Study Area.....	5-1
5.2	History of Development.....	5-1
5.3	Local Geology.....	5-1
5.4	Previous Incline Village Area Investigations	5-2
5.4.1	University of Nevada at Reno Master’s Thesis (Ramsing 2000)	5-2

5.4.2	USGS, Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) and Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services (BHPS) Water Quality Monitoring	5-3
5.5	Nutrient Concentrations	5-4
5.6	Groundwater Discharge	5-1
5.6.1	Darcy’s Law Calculation	5-1
5.6.2	Seepage Meter Calculations.....	5-1
5.6.3	Summary.....	5-5
5.7	Nutrient Loading.....	5-5
5.8	Ambient Nutrient Loading	5-8
5.9	Summary and Conclusions	5-8
6.0	Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Nutrient Loading.....	6-1
6.1	Description of Study Area.....	6-1
6.2	History of Development.....	6-1
6.3	Local Geology.....	6-1
6.4	Previous Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Area Investigations	6-2
6.4.1	USGS, Brockway Golf Course & North Tahoe Public Utility District Water Quality Monitoring.....	6-2
6.5	Nutrient Concentrations	6-4
6.5.1	Old Brockway Golf Course Data	6-6
6.5.2	Drinking Water Wells	6-6
6.6	Groundwater Discharge	6-7
6.7	Nutrient Loading	6-7
6.8	Ambient Nutrient Loading	6-10
6.9	Summary & Conclusions	6-10
7.0	Tahoe City/West Shore Nutrient Loading	7-1
7.1	Description of Study Area.....	7-1
7.2	History of Development.....	7-1
7.3	Local Geology.....	7-1
7.4	Previous Tahoe City/West Shore Investigations	7-2
7.4.1	Ward Valley Investigation (Loeb 1979)	7-2

7.4.2	UC Davis Institute of Ecology Study (Loeb 1987).....	7-3
7.4.3	USGS, DRI Near Shore Clarity Study, Tahoe City PUD, Placer County Environmental Management & California DHS Water Quality Monitoring	7-4
7.5	Nutrient Concentrations	7-14
7.5.1	North Tahoe City Subregion.....	7-14
7.5.2	Ward Valley Subregion.....	7-15
7.5.3	Homewood, Tahoma and Meeks Bay Subregions	7-16
7.6	Groundwater Discharge	7-17
7.6.1	Darcy’s Law Calculation Using Estimated Hydraulic Conductivity.....	7-17
7.6.2	Darcy’s Law Calculation Using Estimated Transmissivity	7-18
7.7	Nutrient Loading	7-18
7.8	Ambient Nutrient Loading	7-20
7.9	Summary & Conclusions	7-21
8.0	East Shore Nutrient Loading.....	8-1
8.1	Description of Study Area.....	8-1
8.2	History of Development.....	8-1
8.3	Local Geology.....	8-1
8.4	Previous East Shore Investigations	8-2
8.4.1	Thodal 1995	8-2
8.4.2	USGS & Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services Water Quality Monitoring	8-2
8.5	Nutrient Concentrations	8-3
8.6	Groundwater Discharge	8-8
8.7	Nutrient Loading	8-8
8.8	Ambient Nutrient Loading	8-9
8.9	Summary & Conclusions	8-10
9.0	Lake Tahoe Basin-Wide Groundwater Nutrient Loading.....	9-1
9.1	Basin-Wide Data Gaps.....	9-1
9.2	Error Analysis	9-1

9.3	Overall Loading to Lake Tahoe	9-2
10.0	Nutrient Sources.....	10-1
10.1	Fertilizer.....	10-1
10.1.1	Historical Fertilizer Usage in Lake Tahoe Basin.....	10-1
10.1.2	Fertilizer Composition	10-2
10.1.3	Fertilizer Nutrient Leaching.....	10-3
10.1.4	Fertilizer Application and Loading Rates	10-4
10.1.5	Residential.....	10-6
10.1.6	Golf Courses	10-7
10.1.7	Urban Parks.....	10-8
10.1.8	Institutions	10-8
10.1.9	Commercial.....	10-8
10.1.10	Agriculture	10-8
10.1.11	Summary.....	10-8
10.2	Sewage Exfiltration.....	10-10
10.2.1	Exfiltration.....	10-10
10.2.2	Septic Tanks	10-13
10.3	Urban Infiltration	10-14
10.4	Engineered Infiltration Basins	10-14
10.4.1	Infiltration Basins.....	10-15
10.4.2	Infiltration Trenches.....	10-16
10.4.3	Dry Wells	10-16
11.0	Nutrient Reduction Alternatives	11-1
11.1	Phytoremediation.....	11-1
11.1.1	Description.....	11-1
11.1.2	Effectiveness	11-2
11.1.3	Implementability.....	11-3
11.1.4	Cost	11-3
11.2	Permeable Reactive Treatment Walls	11-4
11.2.1	Description.....	11-4
11.2.2	Effectiveness	11-5

11.2.3	Implementability.....	11-5
11.2.4	Cost.....	11-5
11.3	Pretreatment of Storm water Runoff.....	11-6
11.3.1	Description.....	11-6
11.3.2	Effectiveness.....	11-7
11.3.3	Implementability.....	11-7
11.3.4	Cost.....	11-8
11.4	Groundwater Pumping.....	11-8
11.4.1	Effectiveness.....	11-9
11.4.2	Implementability.....	11-9
11.4.3	Costs.....	11-9
11.5	Implementation of Best Management Practices.....	11-9
11.5.1	Existing Best Management Practices.....	11-10
11.6	Awareness Programs.....	11-12
12.0	Summary, Findings, Conclusions & Recommendations.....	12-1
12.1	Summary.....	12-1
12.2	Findings.....	12-5
12.3	Conclusions.....	12-5
12.4	Recommendations.....	12-8
13.0	References.....	13-1

List of Appendices

Appendix A	Site ID and Associated Source Agency Code.....	A-1
Appendix B	Simulation of Lake-Groundwater Interaction, South Lake Tahoe, California.....	B-1

List of Figures

Figure 1-1.	Site Location Map.....	1-7
Figure 1-2.	General geology of the Lake Tahoe Basin. From Crippen and Pavelka (1972).....	1-8

Figure 1-3. Extent of glaciations in the Truckee River Valley. Hobart (dashed), Donner (solid), and Tahoe Glaciations (dot-dash). Modified after Birkeland (1964).....	1-9
Figure 2-1. Site Conceptual Model.....	2-4
Figure 3-1. Lake Tahoe Basin Groundwater Evaluation Regions	3-2
Figure 3-2. Nitrogen Cycle	3-5
Figure 3-3. Phosphorus Cycle	3-6
Figure 4-1. South Lake Tahoe Subregion Delineation	4-2
Figure 4-2. Geologic cross-sections of the South Lake Tahoe area	4-5
Figure 4-3. Geologic cross-sections derived from borehole geophysical logs by Einarson (2003).....	4-7
Figure 4-4. Submerged trees indicating former lower lake levels	4-9
Figure 4-5. Ice-contact depositional environments.....	4-11
Figure 4-6. Spatial variations in lake-bottom deposits as a function of dispersal mechanisms	4-13
Figure 4-8. South Lake Tahoe Model Area Groundwater Contours and Flow Lines...	4-21
Figure 4-9. Emerald Bay to Taylor Creek Groundwater Wells and Land Use	4-24
Figure 4-10. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 1 Groundwater Wells and Land Use	4-27
Figure 4-11. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 2 Groundwater Wells and Land Use	4-30
Figure 4-12. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 3 Groundwater Wells and Land Use	4-33
Figure 4-13. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 4 Groundwater Wells and Land Use	4-36
Figure 4-14. Stateline Groundwater Wells and Land Use	4-39
Figure 4-15. South Lake Tahoe Area Total Flux from Groundwater to Lake Tahoe by Layer and Region, Average Normal Year	4-42
Figure 4-16. South Lake Tahoe Area Total Flux from Groundwater to Lake Tahoe by Layer and Region, Average Spring.....	4-43
Figure 4-17. South Lake Tahoe Area Total Flux from Groundwater to Lake Tahoe by Layer and Region, Average Fall	4-44
Figure 5-1. Incline Village Area Groundwater Wells and Land Use Classifications	5-1
Figure 5-2. Summary of Ski Beach Seepage Meter Measurements (Ramsing 2000)	5-3

Figure 5-3. Summary of Ski Beach Seepage Meter Measurements (Ramsing 2000),
February 1997 5-3

Figure 5-4. Average Seepage Meter Measurements, Ski Beach..... 5-4

Figure 6-1. Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Groundwater Wells and Land Use 6-3

Figure 7-1. North Tahoe City Area Groundwater Wells and Land Use 7-5

Figure 7-2. Ward Valley Area Groundwater Wells and Land Use 7-8

Figure 7-3 Homewood/Tahoma Subregions Groundwater Wells and Land Use 7-10

Figure 7-4. Meeks Bay Subregion Groundwater Wells and Land Use..... 7-13

Figure 8-1. East Shore (North) Groundwater Wells and Land Use 8-5

Figure 8-2. East Shore (Central) Groundwater Wells and Land Use 8-6

Figure 8-3. East Shore (South) Groundwater Wells and Land Use 8-7

Figure 11-1 Typical Permeable Treatment Wall (Cross-Section) (AEC 2002b)..... 11-4

List of Tables

Table 2-1. Average Nutrient Concentrations Based on Land Use Types within the Tahoe
Basin..... 2-3

Table 4-1. Hydrologic Conductivity Estimates (m/day) Initial Values Used 4-15

Table 4-2. South Lake Tahoe/Stateline Area Well Construction Information 4-18

Table 4-3. Emerald Bay to Taylor Creek Average Nutrient Concentrations (mg/L) ... 4-23

Table 4-4. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 1 Average Nutrient Concentrations (mg/L). 4-26

Table 4-5. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 2 Average Nutrient Concentration (mg/L) .. 4-29

Table 4-6. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 3 Average Nutrient Concentration (mg/L) .. 4-32

Table 4-7. South Lake Tahoe Subregion 4 Average Nutrient Concentration (mg/L) .. 4-35

Table 4-8. Stateline Average Nutrient Concentration (mg/L) 4-38

Table 4-9. South Lake Tahoe Area Total Flux from Groundwater to Lake Tahoe by
Layer and Region, Average Normal Year (Fenske 2003) 4-40

Table 4-10. South Lake Tahoe Area Total Flux from Groundwater to Lake Tahoe by
Layer and Region, Average Spring (Fenske 2003)..... 4-41

Table 4-11. South Lake Tahoe Area Total Flux from Groundwater to Lake Tahoe by
Layer and Region, Average Fall (Fenske 2003) 4-41

Table 4-12. South Lake Tahoe Average Annual Nutrient Loading, Emerald Bay to Taylor Creek	4-47
Table 4-13. South Lake Tahoe Average & Downgradient Annual Nutrient Loading, Subregion 1	4-48
Table 4-14. South Lake Tahoe Average , Downgradient & Land Use Weighted Annual Nutrient Loading, Subregion 2	4-50
Table 4-15. South Lake Tahoe Average, Downgradient & Land Use Weighted Annual Nutrient Loading, Subregion 3	4-52
Table 4-16. South Lake Tahoe Average, Downgradient and Land Use Weighted Annual Nutrient Loading, Subregion 4	4-54
Table 4-17. Stateline Average & Downgradient Annual Nutrient Loading	4-55
Table 4-18. South Lake Tahoe/Stateline Ambient Nutrient Loading Estimate	4-56
Table 4-19. South Lake Tahoe/Stateline Total Dissolved Nitrogen and Total Dissolved Phosphorus Loading Estimate Summary by Subregion.....	4-57
Table 4-20. South Lake Tahoe/Stateline Area Groundwater Nutrient Loading Comparison to Basin Wide Loading Estimates from U.S. Forest Service Watershed Assessment (Murphy et al. 2000)	4-59
Table 5-1. Incline Village Area Well Construction Information.....	5-3
Table 5-2. Incline Village Area Groundwater Elevation Data (ft above msl)	5-4
Table 5-3. Incline Village Area Average Nutrient Concentrations (mg/L)	5-6
Table 5-4. Incline Village Area Seepage Meter Measurements	5-2
Table 5-5. Incline Village Area Average, Downgradient and Land Use Weighted Annual Nutrient Loading	5-7
Table 5-6. Incline Village Area Ambient Nutrient Loading Estimate	5-8
Table 5-7. Incline Village Area Groundwater Nutrient Loading Comparison to Basin Wide Loading Estimates from U.S. Forest Service Watershed Assessment (Murphy et al. 2000)	5-10
Table 6-1. Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Area Well Construction Information.....	6-2
Table 6-2. Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Groundwater Elevation Data (ft above msl).....	6-4
Table 6-3. Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Average Nutrient Concentration (mg/L)	6-5

Table 6-4. Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Average, Downgradient and Land Use Weighted Annual Nutrient Loading	6-9
Table 6-5. South Lake Tahoe/Stateline Ambient Nutrient Loading Estimate	6-10
Table 6-6. Tahoe Vista/Kings Beach Area Groundwater Nutrient Loading Comparison to Basin Wide Loading Estimates from U.S. Forest Service Watershed Assessment (Murphy et al. 2000)	6-12
Table 7-1. North Tahoe City Well Construction Information	7-4
Table 7-2. North Tahoe City Subregion Groundwater Elevation Data (ft above msl) ...	7-6
Table 7-3. Ward Valley Subregion Well Construction Information.....	7-6
Table 7-4. Ward Valley Subregion Groundwater Elevation Data (ft above msl).....	7-7
Table 7-5. Homewood Subregion Well Construction Information	7-9
Table 7-6. Homewood Subregion Groundwater Elevation Data (ft above msl).....	7-9
Table 7-7. Tahoma Subregion Well Construction Information.....	7-11
Table 7-8. Meeks Bay Subregion Well Construction Information.....	7-11
Table 7-9. Meeks Bay Subregion Groundwater Elevation Data (ft above msl)	7-12
Table 7-10. North Tahoe City Subregion Average Nutrient Concentrations (mg/L) ...	7-15
Table 7-11. Ward Valley Subregion Average Nutrient Concentrations (mg/L).....	7-16
Table 7-12. Homewood, Tahoma and Meeks Bay Subregions Average Nutrient Concentrations (mg/L)	7-17
Table 7-13. Percent of Shoreline by Subregion in the Tahoe City/West Shore Area...	7-19
Table 7-14. Tahoe City/West Shore Average and Land Use Weighted Annual Nutrient Loading	7-20
Table 7-15. Tahoe City/West Shore Ambient Nutrient Loading Estimate	7-21
Table 7-16. Tahoe City/West Shore Area Groundwater Nutrient Loading Comparison to Basin Wide Loading Estimates from U.S. Forest Service Watershed Assessment (Murphy et al. 2000)	7-23
Table 8-1. East Shore Area Well Construction Information.....	8-2
Table 8-2. East Shore Average Nutrient Concentration (mg/L)	8-4
Table 8-3. East Shore Average and Downgradient Annual Nutrient Loading	8-9
Table 8-4. East Shore Ambient Nutrient Loading Estimate	8-9

Table 8-5. East Shore Area Groundwater Nutrient Loading Comparison to Basin Wide Loading Estimates from U.S. Forest Service Watershed Assessment (Murphy et al. 2000)	8-11
Table 9-1. Range of Nutrient Loading to Lake Tahoe by Region	9-3
Table 10-1. Lake Tahoe Soil Characteristics Applied to Phosphorus Model (USDA 1995)	10-4
Table 10-2. Estimated Fertilized Areas in the Lake Tahoe Basin	10-5
Table 10-3. Annual Fertilizer Loading Rates For Residential Areas.....	10-6
Table 10-4. Golf Course Application Areas and Fertilizer Rates	10-7
Table 10-5. Estimated Annual Nitrogen and Phosphorus Application in the Lake Tahoe Basin in 1972 (Mitchell 1972) and Currently.	10-9
Table 10-6. Average Unit Exfiltration Rate and Annual Exfiltration.....	10-12
Table 12-1. Prioritization of Data Gaps.....	12-2
Table 12-2. Regional and Lake Tahoe Basin-Wide Nutrient Loading Estimates Via Groundwater.....	12-6