



Friends of Lake Tahoe

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May 7, 2012

Sent via email and U.S. Mail

Mr. Geoffrey Schladow, Ph.D.
Tahoe Environmental Research Center
UC Davis, Watershed Sciences Building
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-8527

RE: California Public Records Act Request

Dear Mr. Schladow,

This CPRA request is being filed by Friends of Lake Tahoe, a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization operating under the laws of the State of California, and a “person” within the meaning of the California Public Records Act Gov. Code 6250 *et seq.*

On January 24, 2012, we submitted under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) a request to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for the public records of the “raw data” Secchi measurements that are the basis for calculating the annual average Secchi depth measurements. The TRPA supplied, in the form of a spread sheet, the “annual and seasonal summaries of the data that TRPA receives from UC Davis – TERC – the entity that performs these measurements.” Their letter further states the TRPA does not possess the “raw” Secchi data (i.e. each individual recorded Secchi measurement obtained during the course of a year). We are directing this request to you as the identified holder of this public information.

The current lack of availability of the requested data deprives many individuals of the science information essential to understanding the processes of lake clarity and the mechanisms behind clarity decline and potential improvement. A Secchi measurement is not something that can be modified or changed for one’s purposes, but is quantitative, and is collected without bias or opinion using standardized and developed methods for its collection.

We request the following records:

- 1) The actual Secchi measurements recorded for the day, each day measurements are taken during each of the twelve months for each year.

- 2) The time period for this information is beginning December 1, 1999, through April 30, 2012.
- 3) The locations of the measurements requested are the Index Site, the Mid-Lake site, and any other site measurements that are used in the calculation of monthly, seasonal, or annual average Secchi depth measurements.
- 4) The raw data of each day's measurement may be provisional. So we are also asking for the records of any adjustments to the raw data that are incorporated to derive the monthly, seasonal, or annual average official measurements.

The form of the measurements can be tabular, electronic excel, pdf files, or as hard copies. We prefer electronic files.

Fees – Waiver of Fee Request

Friends of Lake Tahoe is a non-profit public benefit corporation. It does not engage in commercial, for profit operations. The records sought will assist the general public and individuals in the scientific community to better understand the processes of lake clarity and fluctuations of lake levels, weather events, fires, etc. which influence clarity.

Should there be any questions regarding this written request for public records, you may contact the undersigned either by telephone or email at the number and address shown.

Thank you for your kind attention to this request.

Sincerely,

David McClure
Friends of Lake Tahoe
mcluretahoe@yahoo.com Telephone: 530-559-5113

cc: Mr. Lloyd Lee
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