

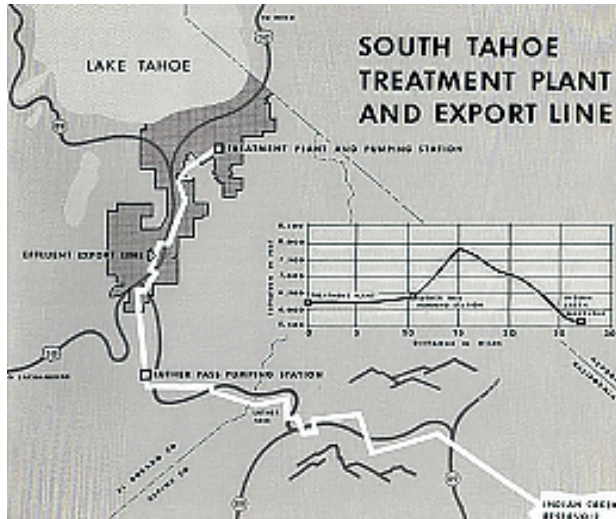


1957 CLUB DISPATCH

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Tahoe Sewer Export Job Unity Is Seen

TAHOE CITY, Lake Tahoe — Managers and engineers from five Truckee-Lake Tahoe sewer districts studying sewage export from the Tahoe and Truckee River watershed are working in close harmony and making reasonable progress, according to Tahoe City Public Utility District engineer Randolph Dewante.

The study is going to take about 15 months. It will include testing and analyzing various locations for suitability as sewage treatment and disposal sites.

It also will determine problems, benefits and other aspects of using reservoirs for disposal and reclamation of treated waste effluent.

"We'll consider primary treatment, secondary and tertiary treatment," Lewing told utility directors, "and we certainly won't recommend anything until we see all the facts."

Effluent Use
Areas which might use treated effluent for irrigation and recreation also will be investigated. These areas could be as far from Lake Tahoe as Sierraville. The five-district committee also will review the Truckee River water quality policy to see if modifications would allow direct discharge of reclaimed waste water into the river.

Tahoe City directors have become concerned over whether five districts working together can get the job of regional sewage disposal done in time to head off problems of disposal at Tahoe and Truckee River. "I'd like to see us pursue consideration of the five districts," director Herb Beck said. "I'm a born worrier and I know the problems of communications just between the North Tahoe PUD and Tahoe City."

Single Agency
Dewante said that a single agency probably could move faster and more efficiently but there is not time to form a single agency and complete the engineering study in time. He recommended continuing the engineering study while the boards studied the governmental aspects.

Lewing, Alpine Meadows sewer district manager and chairman of the study committee, said the committee will recommend what type of agency should administer the regional system but the committee itself does not plan to do so.

State legislation is available which would allow the five districts to form a regional agency. The districts are North Tahoe, Tahoe City, Alpine Meadows, Square Valley and Truckee. All would be connected by a pipeline down the Truckee River, ending at a treatment plant somewhere below Truckee.

Notes from the CEO



Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the inaugural volume of the 1957 Club Dispatch.

This first issue offers a window into our history, shedding light on the pivotal moments, people, and decisions that shaped the League to Save Lake Tahoe and laid the foundation for the powerful movement that created the environmental protections we now consider essential.

Since 1957, the League has remained a relentless advocate for Lake Tahoe, protecting it from unchecked development, pollution, and threats to its iconic clarity. In this issue, you'll read about early victories like the diversion of sewage from the Basin, creation of the ground-breaking bi-state compact, and the tireless work of citizen champions.

This history isn't just a retrospective - it's a roadmap. The same foresight and innovation that guided the League's earliest days are needed now more than ever to keep up with the pace and scale of the threats facing the lake: warming climate, wildfire risk, increased recreation pressure, and threats to water quality.

As a founding member of the 1957 Club, you are part of this legacy. Your leadership and generosity not only honor our past, they actively shape our future. This community was created to recognize your extraordinary commitment and to connect you more deeply with the work you make possible.

STPUD and Sacramento Bee, April 4, 1970

How a Grassroots Movement Helped Save Lake Tahoe: The League's Pioneering Victory on Sewage Export

In the late 1960s, as Lake Tahoe's famed clarity was beginning to wane, a small but determined nonprofit emerged as a powerful force for environmental change.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe, founded in 1957, achieved one of its earliest and most significant victories: the campaign to end sewage discharge into Lake Tahoe.

At the time, raw and treated sewage from homes and businesses around the Lake was dumped directly into the watershed. An alarming wake-up call came in 1961, when a major system overflow occurred during the Labor Day weekend, sending nearly two million gallons of wastewater into the Lake.

The disaster horrified the public, and the League jumped into action, commissioning a pivotal study, known as the McCaughey Report. It was among the first reports to present scientific evidence that nutrient-rich wastewater was accelerating algae growth and threatening the Lake's fragile ecosystem.

The report's central recommendation was bold: remove all sewage from the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Backed by scientific research and a unified community, the League began lobbying state lawmakers and local water districts. These efforts culminated in a landmark shift in environmental policy. By 1965, both California and Nevada had passed resolutions calling for the export of sewage out of the basin.

This mandate was codified with California's 1968 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, then considered the most stringent clean water law in the country, and a precursor to the federal Clean Water Act.

Over the next decade, regional utility districts constructed a complex system of export pipelines, ultimately pumping treated wastewater more than 20 miles over the Sierra Nevada to Alpine County, where it was stored in reservoirs and used for irrigation.

This large-scale infrastructure feat, made possible by grassroots advocacy, is regarded as a cornerstone of the League's environmental protections for Lake Tahoe.

The League's early leadership in this campaign set a precedent for what was possible when citizens, scientists, and policymakers worked together. Today, Lake Tahoe's waters are still among the cleanest and clearest in the world, thanks in part to this decisive victory.



Governors Ronald Reagan (CA) and Paul Laxalt (NV) from the Special Collections & University Archives at the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries.

The 1964 Law Review Article that Shaped Tahoe's Protection

In 1964, two legal scholars, Cameron W. Wolfe, Jr. and Carl R. Pagter, published a groundbreaking article in the *California Law Review* titled “Lake Tahoe: The Future of a National Asset.”

The article issued one of the earliest and most comprehensive warnings about the lake's future at a time when the Tahoe Basin was facing unregulated development, fragmented governance, and growing environmental strain.

Their message was clear: if unchecked development continued and jurisdictional gridlock remained unresolved, Lake Tahoe's clarity, ecology, and recreational value would be lost. The authors cited alarming projections for population growth, exposed the failures of piecemeal land-use planning, and raised the alarm about sewage disposal practices that were already degrading water quality.

Wolfe and Pagter advocated for bold structural reforms including the creation of a basin-wide governing authority to oversee land use, pollution control, and water management.

The article did more than identify problems, it laid the groundwork for solutions. Its insights helped shape creation of the Bi-State Compact between California and Nevada and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) in 1969.

Notably, Cameron Wolfe, Jr. was “in the room where it happened”, actively participating in the negotiations between the Reagan (CA) and Laxalt (NV) administrations, which set the stage for unified environmental governance in the Tahoe Basin. His legal research directly informed these historic conversations. He would later continue his commitment to Lake Tahoe by serving as a dedicated League to Save Lake Tahoe Board Member for 25 years (1965-1990) during which time he served as Board President, Secretary, and Chair of the League's Charitable Trust.

Today, Wolfe's 1964 vision remains a cornerstone of Tahoe's environmental history.

An Urgent PSA about the Golden Mussel

On Friday, May 30th, something alarming was discovered at the Alpine Meadows watercraft inspection station near Lake Tahoe, a vessel carrying the highly invasive golden mussel.

This marks the first interception of this dangerous species by Lake Tahoe boat inspectors since the golden mussel was first detected in North America, specifically in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in late 2024.

The golden mussel poses a serious threat to Lake Tahoe. If introduced, they could irreversibly damage the lake's pristine water quality, devastate native species, and severely impact recreational use and local economies.

The good news? TRPA inspectors are trained; boat ramps and marinas are vigilant. However, that's only part of the solution.

Not every type of recreational water equipment is inspected. Nonmotorized gear like paddleboards, kayaks, inner tubes, fishing gear, water skis, and wakeboards go unchecked.

That means the paddler, the angler, and the weekend adventurer are the lake's first line of defense. It's a tall order, but the lake needs you to protect it while you play.

Every time you leave a body of water, remember these three words: Clean, Drain, Dry.

Clean your gear of any debris. Drain all water from boats and equipment. Dry everything thoroughly before entering another waterway. Your gear can be decontaminated for free at any inspection station. Or, go to KeepTahoeBlue.org/cd3 for a map of the CD3 mobile Clean, Drain, Dry machines' locations. This small step protects something much bigger.

It takes action to Keep Tahoe Blue — now is the time to act.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- **July 24: 1957 Club Member Happy Hour** hosted by Acorn Home Furnishing & Design and Tahoe Wine Collective – 4:30-6 pm on the Boatworks Mall Back Deck, Floor 1
- **August 21–2: Cousteau x Keep Tahoe Blue: A Legacy of Protecting Our Waters** The world's most renowned oceanographer meets America's most iconic lake. In a landmark collaboration, **Jean-Michel Cousteau** and **Keep Tahoe Blue** unite for a three-day series of events celebrating our shared commitment to water protection. From a lakeside cocktail hour and to a meaningful partnership with the Washoe Tribe at Meeks Bay, to a family-friendly speaker series in Incline Village, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, rooted in legacy and purpose.

Summer Reading Recommendations

- *Edge of the Lake: Tales and Lore from Around Lake Tahoe*, by David C. Antonucci
- *Snowshoe Thompson: Sierra Mailman*, by Frank Tortorich
- *The Tahoe Mystery Series*, by Todd Borg