

Climate at a Glance: Water Levels - Lake Tahoe

Bullet-Point Summary:

- Lake Tahoe **has reached** the **maximum allowable water level** during each of **the past three years** (2017-19), requiring special water releases into the Truckee River.
- The 2015-16 northern California drought was very brief and followed by three consecutive years of abundant precipitation and maximum allowable Lake Tahoe water levels.
- Alarmists claiming the 2015-16 drought signaled a “new normal” of drought and low water levels caused by climate change have been embarrassed and proven wrong.

Short Summary: Alarmists and their media allies frequently **asserted** (see [here](#) and [here](#), for example) that the 2015-16 California drought and **low Lake Tahoe water levels** signaled a “**new normal.**” **Since then**, however, Lake Tahoe water level has reached its **maximum allowable limit** of nine feet above gage height (6,229 feet elevation) during **each of the past three years**, requiring special water releases into the Truckee River. This is shown in Figure 1, below.

Gage height, feet

Most recent instantaneous value: 7.48 01-04-2020 11:00 PST

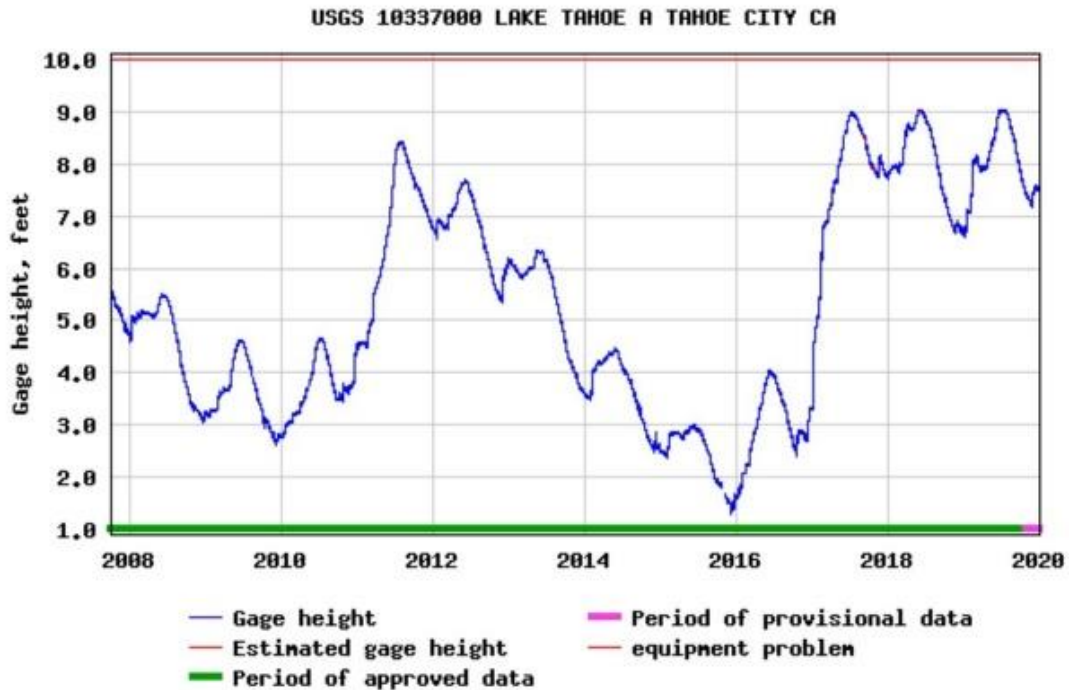


Figure 1: Lake Tahoe has reached its maximum allowable limit during each of the past three years, as measured by the U.S. Geological Survey. Source: U.S. Geological Survey:

https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwisweb/graph?agency_cd=USGS&site_no=10337000&parm_cd=00065&period=4478.

As often happens, alarmists claimed a normal, variable event like a brief drought signaled a permanent climate emergency, only to be proven wrong yet again.

Climate At A Glance is a Project of [The Heartland Institute](#)

© Copyright - The Heartland Institute think@heartland.org