



Site Description

Washoe Lake

(updated 2010)

Geologic setting: The geology of the area has been mapped by Tabor and Ellen (1975).

Geothermal features:

Bowers Mansion: Bowers Mansion west of Washoe Lake was built in 1864 by Sandy Bowers, a prosperous miner of the Comstock Lode. The restored sandstone mansion was operated by the Washoe County Department of Parks and Recreation until 2010, when state budget issues led to temporary closure. Two swimming pools were open to the public in summer.

Bowers Hot Spring has in the past been diverted to the swimming pool, but is now used for irrigation (Peterson, 1976). The hot spring issues from a granodiorite-alluvium fault scarp along the east side of the Carson Range. A hot well drilled in 1962 may intersect this normal fault at depth: the well hit 47°C water at 63 m and now supplies water for an Olympic-size pool. The pool waters are reduced to 24-25.5°C by adding 12°C water from Riter Springs, ~1.7 km northwest of the mansion. Warm wells at a nearby private home are also used in a swimming pool (Reno Gazette Journal, Real Estate Section, November 29, 2003). The estimated reservoir temperature is 100±20°C, based on silica geothermometry (Lyles, 1985, p. 73).

New Washoe City:

Leasing information: