1. The first chart shows precipitation as measured at the Galena Park gage, since 1980. The average is 24 inches. The y axis scale is percent of normal. This shows that most of the time drought lasts longer than above average precipitation years.
2. The second chart shows the lake fluctuation over the same period. Note the high and low elevations with 5017 feet being basically dry. The blow ups show how precipitation correlates to lake level and subsequent "lag" periods. Pretty obvious.
3. The third chart then plots these together with water level measurements in a representative domestic well, $\sim 1 / 2$ mile from the lake. Again, the correlation of ground water levels to lake levels to precipitation. This, I think, is the take home message.
4. Water level declines in East Washoe based upon 14 wells and a few dummy values (for gridding purposes) from 2001 to 2008. There is not a whole lot of change, generally, as illustrated in last graph.
5. You may not want to present this next figure. This shows well water levels changes from 1997, but this was a bumper year for precipitation and so, well water levels were higher then (as was the lake) and after a few years of below average precipitation, well water levels are bound to be lower. The point being that levels fluctuate based upon precipitation patterns (and consequent lake levels). If and when wet weather returns, well water levels will rebound.


Washoe Lake Record
1980-2007


East Washoe Water Resources



Approximate ground water level decline from 2001 to 2008


Approximate ground water level decline from 1997 to 2008

