TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
www.trpa.org

Mail
PO Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449-5310
775-588-4547

Main Office
128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449
fax 775-588-4527

North Shore Office
3080 North Lake Blvd.
Tahoe City, CA 96145
fax 530-583-2612

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Cowen, TRPA Community Liaison, 775-589-5278

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WITH WINTER APPROACHING, GRADING SEASON ENDS OCTOBER 15 IN TAHOE

Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV – October 15 marks the end of the regular grading season at Lake Tahoe. Grading – the moving or shoveling dirt - is prohibited from October 15 through April 30 to protect water quality. All construction sites must be winterized by October 15 and active projects must have paved access in order to work past the deadline.

"As is the case in communities around the nation, the grading season at Lake Tahoe allows us to conduct business in an environmentally sensitive place within a time window wide enough to keep projects moving," said Jeff Cowen, TRPA Community Liaison. "Considering we just had the first snow of the season to reach the Lake level, we're down to the wire for going into winter mode."

Grading seasons are put in place to prevent sudden turns in the weather from washing loose soil through watersheds, affecting water quality. In Tahoe, the Lake's famed clarity is at stake.

Following October 15, grading is generally only allowed for emergency projects or work involving water quality or public health and safety. Such circumstances must receive TRPA authorization before grading begins. Grading extension applications are available online at www.trpa.org or at TRPA's offices in Stateline, NV, and Tahoe City, CA. Additional information about grading conditions is also posted on the TRPA site.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, call Jeff Cowen at 775-589-5278, or email jcowen@trpa.org .

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