

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Release Immediately

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TRPA APPROVES CHANGE TO TREE-CUTTING RULE FOR DEFENSIBLE SPACE, FIRE PREVENTION

Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV – The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board Wednesday increased from six to 14 inches diameter the size of trees that property owners may remove without a permit. The change to TRPA's ordinances comes as part of the Agency's ongoing effort to encourage homeowners to create more defensible space around homes and structures for fire safety.

The new rules, which were approved on a 12 to 1 vote, take effect in 60 days. Since 2004, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's number one priority has been to help reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

To protect scenic resources, the change does not apply to lakefront property on land between structures and the lake shore. In those instances, a permit is still required to remove trees six inches diameter and larger. Existing permit restrictions for vegetative screening on lakefront properties remain in effect as well.

The proposed rule change arose from discussions between TRPA staff and Tahoe Basin fire chiefs who in September outlined nine areas of policy and practice to address to streamline defensible space efforts around the lake. These discussions are ongoing.

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 Dennis Oliver at 775-589-5235 or 775-450-9184 during today's meeting.

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