



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 10, 2019

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE – As the winter season approaches, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) reminds individuals conducting earth-disturbing construction activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin (and, in some cases, other watersheds) that they must cease land disturbing activities and “winterize” projects by **October 15, 2019**. “Winterize” means the stabilization of disturbed areas by appropriate erosion and/or sediment control measures to prevent soil movement permanently or temporarily in a manner that will remain effective during the prohibition period of October 16, 2019 through April 30, 2020.

The Water Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (for the Lake Tahoe Basin) may grant variances to the grading prohibition on a case-by-case basis in situations where grading is necessary for reasons of public safety, water quality protection, erosion control, or if it can be shown that granting such a variance would not cause or contribute to the degradation of water quality.

Staff have monitored many projects over the years and for planning purposes for each acre of disturbed area, we recommend planning for one day of work to fully winterize each one acre of disturbance. For example, on a project with six acres of disturbed soil you should allow for six days to fully winterize the site. This means active grading should cease at least six days prior to your deadline so you can spend the six days solely working on implementing winterization measures. Please note all inactive areas must be fully winterized prior to receiving a variance to continue working during the soil disturbance period.

For persons conducting activities under a Water Board permit or directive and seeking a variance to the October 16, 2019 through April 30, 2020 soil disturbance prohibition, contact Water Board staff to ensure that all necessary information is provided to Water Board staff in adequate time for consideration of a variance before the October 16, 2019 prohibition date. A variance request form is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/storm_water/index.shtml (and clicking on link “Variance Requests for Land Disturbance Prohibition Period”) or by contacting Water Board staff at (530) 542-5400. Use of the form will expedite processing.

Thank you for working with us to protect water quality.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER