
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 28, 2020

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, 2020. “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, 2020 through April 30, 2021.

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.

For persons conducting activities under a Water Board permit or directive and seeking a variance to the October 16, 2020 through April 30, 2021 soil disturbance prohibition period, 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, 2020 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.