



TOWN OF TRUCKEE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION

December 14, 2012

Subject: Erosion Prevention Standard

Dear Property Owners and Contractors:

At its meeting on April 5, 2007 the Town Council approved an updated erosion prevention standard for one and two family dwelling construction projects. The new standard, entitled, "Minimum Standards for Year-Round Erosion Prevention for One and Two Family Dwelling Construction Projects," was drafted by the Erosion Control Committee. It "raises the bar" over past erosion prevention efforts and will improve the effectiveness of erosion prevention on one and two family dwelling construction sites, better protecting local waterways and the environment.

The Erosion Control Committee held six public meetings throughout the winter. Meetings were attended by local contractors, engineers, and the Truckee River Watershed Council. During the time the committee was meeting, the Town was designated by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board as a regulated Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). As such, the Town must apply for coverage under a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Basically, Lahontan determined that better effort is required to control erosion into sensitive waterways. The committee determined that the efforts undertaken to improve erosion prevention on one and two family dwelling projects was consistent with Lahontan's objectives.

Requirements of the updated standard include:

- A statement of goals for construction and earthwork project to prevent erosion, and,
- Grading permits for clearing, grubbing, excavation or fills of 20 cubic yards or more or disturbing over 500 square feet **before work is begun**.
- An erosion prevention plan shall be included as part of construction plan submittal documents. The plan must be site specific and be prepared by a certified or licensed professional. It must include timelines and temporary and permanent protection methods.
- Driveways exceeding 10% slope shall be surfaced with asphalt, concrete or the functional equivalent as approved by the Building Official for winter access.
- Additional storm water runoff created by new construction such as driveways and roofs shall be detained/retained on site. Common methods may include dry wells, infiltration trenches and/or detention basins.
- Penalty fees are proposed. Training may substitute for penalties.

The new standard applies to new one and two family dwelling projects and additions that are initially submitted for permit on or after June 4, 2007. If you would like a copy of the erosion prevention standard, it is available on the Town website under Building Department News or at the Community Development Department counter.