

# TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

---

PO Box 8568  
Truckee, CA 96162  
530-550-8760  
[www.truckeeriverwc.org](http://www.truckeeriverwc.org)

May 2021

## Reporting Water Quality Problems

### Gather as much of the following information as possible

- **Location** of the water quality problem
- **Date** the water quality problem occurred/is occurring
- **Time** the water quality problem occurred/is occurring
- **Photos** of the water quality problem

### Emergency Situations: Toxic Spills, Hazardous Waste Spills

Call 911. By calling 911, the appropriate emergency services will be contacted.

### Non-Emergency Situations

Call the agency located nearest to the problem as soon as possible:

- **Nevada County:** Amy Irani, Nevada County Environmental Health, 530-265-1222, x 3
- **Placer County:** Mary Keller, Placer County Public Works, 530-745-7503  
[www.placer.ca.gov/stormwater](http://www.placer.ca.gov/stormwater)
- **Town of Truckee\*:**
  - Stormwater Hotline - 530-582-7794; <https://www.townoftruckee.com/i-want-to/report-stormwater-issue>
  - Caitlin Safford, Code Compliance Officer, [csafford@townoftruckee.com](mailto:csafford@townoftruckee.com)
- **If you're not sure:** Scott Ferguson, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, 530-542-5432, [sferguson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sferguson@waterboards.ca.gov)

\*the attached article from April 30, 2021 explains the process the Town of Truckee uses to address water quality complaints

# Talk From The Town

## TOWN OF TRUCKEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CHRIS TURNER



### What's New

TOWN MANAGER UPDATE  
 GREEN WASTE SERVICE STARTS IN MAY  
 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT  
 PROJECT UPDATE  
 2021 TRUCKEE TRANSPORTATION SURVEY  
 TRUCKEE & NORTH LAKE TAHOE REGIONAL  
 OFFICIALS CANCEL FOURTH OF JULY  
 EVENTS FOR 2021  
 TOWN OF TRUCKEE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
 PROJECTS  
 FREE COMMUNITY SHRED DAY &  
 MEDICATION TAKE BACK  
 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY  
 FIRST ALL-ELECTRIC VEHICLE IN TOWN  
 VEHICLE POOL  
 VACCINATION UPDATES  
 EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE  
 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SUCCESS  
 WATERCRAFT SELF-INSPECTIONS AT  
 DONNER LAKE  
 CHIEF'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
**CODE COMPLIANCE**  
 USE A GREEN BOX TO-GO CONTAINER  
 UPCOMING MEETING & EVENTS

### Town Manager Update

*By: Jen Callaway, Town Manager*

Hello Truckee ... I hope everyone is getting a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather we have been having! I have had the pleasure and privilege of serving as Town Manager for six months now and while working for Truckee was a dream of mine, I still did not quite know what to expect when we moved here from the central coast. While I had visited many times and had an idea that this place was special, there were still a lot of unknowns on the path ahead.

Well, during the past six months I have learned so much about the Town, the Town employee family, and the community. I have observed the uniqueness, generosity, creativity, passion, and kindness that extends across the entire community. The Truckee community is passionate about Truckee; we all love the area we live in and want to preserve everything that is special about Truckee for years to come.

## Chief's Advisory Committee Continued

Criteria used for recommending and ultimately selecting panel members will include:

- Truckee resident
- Reflect a diverse representation of the Truckee community relative to race, religion, country or origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, socioeconomic status, and age, and/or
- Reflect a diverse cross section of professions, employment, education, social interests and geographic residency, and/or
- Have a historical knowledge of the Truckee community, and/or
- Current Truckee community members who have a genuine interest in contributing to solutions that address local community concerns about the relationship between the Truckee Police Department and the Truckee Community, and/or
- Commit to the time obligation required to be a member of the Chief's Advisory Committee



The Chief of Police looks forward to this unique opportunity to bridge the gap between the police department and the community members of Truckee. Keep an eye out on our Truckee Police Department website and social media pages on when the application is open. If you have an interest in becoming a member on this important committee, please contact Lieutenant Lisa Madden at [LMadden@townoftruckee.com](mailto:LMadden@townoftruckee.com) to discuss more specific details about the Chief's Advisory Committee. [The Chief's Advisory Committee application is available here.](#)

## Code Compliance

*By: Denyelle Nishimori, Community Development Director; Scott Mathot, Associate Engineer; Caitlin Safford, Code Compliance Officer*

Code compliance is most often about outreach and education. Many times, property owners, tenants, businesses, and community members do not realize they have made a mistake, and once engaged in a conversation are willing to work towards a solution. There is a small percentage of situations where a blatant violation has occurred, and these situations require a higher level of communication to ensure resolution. Regardless of the complaint, whether big or small, accidental or blatant, all matters of code are important, and town staff is diligent in resolving them. Within this context, matters of life or safety, such as unsafe/unpermitted construction, and water quality violations along waterways or within the Town's stormwater systems take first priority.



Specific to violations in or near Town waterways, the Town is not the only regulatory authority. Staff works collaboratively with a multitude of other agencies including the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Nevada County Department of Environmental Health, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, depending on the nature and scope of the violation. For example, for unpermitted grading with vegetation removal in a floodplain, Town staff will coordinate a site inspection with the applicable agencies and property owner/violator and develop a plan for resolution together. For violations occurring within the floodplain, Lahontan will take the lead with Town staff in a support role in their abatement process. *(Continued)*

## Code Compliance Continued

Each situation is unique, and staff use a variety of tools in working toward compliance. For those rare situations when staff face resistance, fines and recorded violations against the property are possible options. Code compliance takes time, and it is because of dedicated Town staff that compliance issues are resolved. It is important to note that the Town follows up on every complaint received. Investigation, education and enforcement follows, if necessary. The matter becomes an open code compliance case between the Town and the property owner where the violation is taking place. Details regarding enforcement action are not shared with the reporting party or the public.

The following outlines the general code enforcement process and framework that Town staff work within:

1. Town staff is alerted to a potential code violation by a community member or other Town staff member.
2. The Town's Code Compliance Officer (CCO) performs an investigation into the potential code violation with assistance from other Town staff.
3. If a code violation is identified, the CCO will send a letter to the property owner identifying the codes that have been violated and appropriate steps to correct the code violation. In the case of a code violation near a body of water, and in addition to any Town requirements, the CCO directs the property owner to communicate with the appropriate agencies to determine appropriate steps that need to be taken to meet the specific agency's requirements. If a violation is actively occurring, the CCO can issue a Stop Work order or "Red Tag" at the property to cease unpermitted activity until approvals and permits are obtained.
4. Appropriate fees are imposed by the Town depending on the persistence of the code violation.
5. Routine follow up occurs on a code violation by the CCO until the code case has been remedied to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer and Community Development Director.

If you see something that you are concerned about or feel that it may be a code violation, you can report your concerns by e-mailing Caitlin Safford, Code Compliance Officer, at [csafford@townoftruckee.com](mailto:csafford@townoftruckee.com).

## Use a Green Box TO-GO Container

By: Erica Mertens, Program Manager

The [green box program](#) is a reusable to-go box program. Boxes cost \$5 for a one-time purchase, and it is an even exchange on subsequent green box uses. Green boxes may be used at The Station, Siam Cuisine, and Stella at Cedar House. If you would like to participate, you may purchase a box at the Tahoe Food Hub.

The Town has provided a starter set of 100 boxes to restaurants for free, and will then share the cost for any subsequent purchases. Restaurants get to keep the \$5 purchase fee, but are responsible for sanitizing boxes in their commercial dishwashers. There are currently 1,000 boxes in circulation. To date, we estimate we have diverted 75,000 single-use boxes from landfill by the use of green boxes.

