

Washoe County Development Code
Article 110.220.1
Tahoe Area Design Standards

Tahoe Planning Area Design Standards

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Region has been recognized as a national treasure through many eyes, including those of the U.S. Congress. The visual quality of the natural landscape is the primary contributor. National treasure status has afforded the Region unparalleled stewardship. The concept of stewardship carries through to the design and development of the built environment and the way the built environment it fits into the natural setting becomes critical. This manual of Signage, Parking and Design Standards and Guidelines represents a concerted effort to keep this area a national treasure while accommodating the sensitive development and use of land.

INTENT OF THIS MANUAL

The standards and guidelines standards of this manual are intended to streamline the development and approval of good project design, for the benefit of the patron, the businessman, and the community at large. The adopted design standards and guidelines are not intended to inhibit innovative design. Nothing herein alters the provisions of Article VI of the Compact related to gaming. Other codes, e.g., the TRPA Code, the Washoe County Development Code, outline the parameters which you are entitled to use in developing your property. This manual will tell you how to aesthetically and sensitively refine those parameters into a project that will fit into the natural setting. For example, there are codes that set parameters for height and coverage, however, they do not tell you how to aesthetically and sensitively apply them to your site. This manual will give you the guidance, through standards and guidelines, to accomplish this.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS MANUAL

This manual is laid out to identify what is required (the Standard) and, if appropriate, provide design solutions (the Guidelines) to meet that Standard.

Design Standards are ordinance requirements, usually fixed amounts or percentages for certain aspects of a project design. They are intended to ensure a minimum level of design quality.

Design Guidelines are recommended design approaches to certain design problems. They are meant to provide direction, not to dictate the actual design requirements of the project.

Because TRPA and Washoe County have the potential to create different standards and guidelines for the Neighborhoods and the Tahoe Plan Area of Washoe County, this manual is composed into two parts:

1. General standards and guidelines for all projects within the mixed-use Neighborhood Areas, and
2. Special mixed-use Neighborhood standards and guidelines for projects within mixed-use Neighborhood areas.

The General Standards and Guidelines for the mixed-use Neighborhood Areas are listed first and are organized by the design subject, i.e., Site Design, Building Design, Setbacks, etc. (see Table of Contents). Each design subject is divided into Standards and Guidelines.

The Special mixed-use Neighborhood Standards and Guidelines applicable only to Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood are listed in Section 12. In some instances, the mixed-use Neighborhood-specific guidelines and standards replace those presented in Sections 1 through 11. In the event of a conflict between the terms of Sections 1 through 11 and Section 12, the latter Section shall control with regard to the North Stateline plan area.

HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

To use this manual the following steps should be taken:

1. Besides this set of regulations review all TRPA and Washoe County codes applicable to your property. If there are questions, you should contact the Washoe County Department of Comprehensive Planning or the TRPA.
2. Once all the code parameters are known, review the General Standards and Guidelines of this manual.
3. When the General Standards and Guidelines are known, review the mixed-use Neighborhood Standards and Guidelines for that specific mixed-use Neighborhood. Should a conflict occur within the General Standards and Guidelines, the mixed-use Neighborhood Standards and Guidelines would take precedence.
4. Begin the design process. Informal consultation with the two planning staffs is encouraged early in the process.

APPROVAL PROCESS

APPLICABILITY

TRPA: For the mixed-use Neighborhood Areas in Washoe County, the standards and guidelines presented in this document replace Chapters 24, Driveways and Parking Standards, Chapter 26, Signs, and Chapter 30, Design Standards of the TRPA Code and TRPA Design Review Guidelines. If there is a conflict with other adopted standards of TRPA, or Article VI of the Compact, such as those regarding land coverage, height, project definition, etc., the standards of those ordinances shall apply. In general, the standards and guidelines in this document govern new construction activities subject to ordinance standards rather than retroactive changes to existing structures. New construction includes but is not limited to, construction of new buildings, remodeling and improvements to exterior spaces such as sidewalks and surface parking which require permits. Unless specified in each section, all activities shall comply with the following design standards except:

1. Projects, for which the cost of the required improvements exceed 10% of the project cost, may submit schedules for compliance.
2. Projects which are in assessment districts (wherein the assessments have been levied or are contained in approved funded public works projects) which are committed to implement the improvements.

3. Projects for which TRPA has found the standard not to be applicable due to unique circumstances arising from or regarding the project, and all required findings have been made, including the finding that the waiver of standards will result in equal or superior result.
4. Activities whose primary purpose is to come into compliance with these standards and guidelines shall only be required to conform in areas directly altered by construction.

In no case will any project modification or expansion be approved that preempts future compliance with applicable standards. For structures housing gaming under Article VI of the Compact, all activities except external modifications requiring local government permit are subject only to Washoe County review.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

All projects approved under design review are subject to standard conditions of approval. TRPA and Washoe County may impose additional conditions of approval for a project as needed. For minor projects, such as remodeling or signs, TRPA and Washoe County may ask for minor improvements in order to gradually upgrade the appearance of existing buildings or properties. In such cases, each project will be considered individually and the staffs will work with the applicant to arrive at a plan that will make the property more attractive and still be economically feasible for the owner or tenant.

DECISION AUTHORITY

Design review is conducted by the Washoe County and TRPA staff. For TRPA, action on projects is taken by TRPA staff or by the TRPA Governing Board pursuant to Chapter 4 of the TRPA Code. For Washoe County, action on projects is taken pursuant to the development code.

PERMIT COORDINATION

In order to save time and effort, a project which requires both Washoe County and TRPA action, joint design review may occur or TRPA may delegate design review authority to Washoe County or vice versa through a Memorandum of Understanding.

THE DESIGN PROCESS: ADVOCATING A DESIGN HOLISM

At first glance, this manual may seem to address design of the built environment in a segmented approach. What is intended, however, is to advocate a holistic approach to design, that is where the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts. As an example, the parts of a development project might include the building style, landscaping, signage, parking, interior floor plan and so forth. The whole is the complete site, from end to end, and from top floor to ground level.

The holistic approach to design begins with a strong design concept. Once a design concept is formulated each design decision can then be made within the concept's framework. It is believed that this approach can provide a more complete, more coordinated final product than an approach which designs each project element as an isolated piece.

While there is no one universally accepted theory on how to produce good design, there exists an identifiable set of steps which are followed in almost everyone's design process:

1. Looking at what exists on the site;

2. Analyzing what you see in terms of constraints and opportunities relative to the intended use; and
3. Synthesizing a design or arrangement of spaces which matches the program of elements to the existing conditions of the land.

Although it appears straight-forward, there are many complex and subtle decisions made during the design process which only experienced and "open eyes" can foresee. Based on these intricacies and the Basin's complex regulations, TRPA would strongly suggest that you retain design and engineering professionals (architects, landscape architects, interior designers, civil engineers and the like) to help prepare your plans.

REGIONAL VISUAL ENVIRONMENTS

At first glance the Lake Tahoe Region may appear to be a relatively homogenous forested landscape. Upon closer inspection, however, one finds a variety of visual environments including: urban centers, residential neighborhoods, small commercial nodes which serve the residential neighborhoods, large-scale recreation areas, and undeveloped stretches of wild and rural landscapes. Recognition of distinct visual environments within the Region has led to the establishment of three visual environments: urban, natural, and a transition environment between urban and natural areas.

These visual environments are described below: TRPA's regional design goals for site development in each environment are set forth in the table, entitled, Regional Design Principles. Please review this table prior to design development.

VISUAL ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Urban Areas: Commercial areas should retain a small-scale, compact character that is well-integrated with the surrounding natural environment. The goal is to create urban areas that complement the existing environment and utilize it to enhance the quality of the built environment. Existing examples: Tahoe City, South Lake Tahoe, Stateline, Kings Beach, Incline Village.

Transition Areas: The visual appearance of transition areas should be a balance between man-made development and natural landscape features. In terms of site planning it is appropriate to fit the development into the natural landscape, taking advantage of existing site planning and design opportunities, while recognizing potential limitations of the landscape. Commercial and public service activities in transition areas are among the most visible uses in these areas. It will be especially important for both new and redeveloping commercial and public service uses to make use of design and site planning guidelines in order to minimize their visual impact in transition areas. Existing Examples: Round Hill, Zephyr Cove, Christmas Valley, Tahoma, Sunnyside, Homewood.

Natural Areas: Natural Areas should retain the overall appearance and feeling of dominance by natural elements and processes. From a preservation of scenic quality standpoint new development in natural areas should not be visually evident from the travel route. Where existing development is visually evident in the landscape, modification to or redevelopment of it should be sited or screened so as to be visually subordinate. Existing Examples: Emerald Bay, Luther Pass, East Shore Forests.

REGIONAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The following matrix of Regional Design Principles establishes the intent of the Design Review Guidelines in the three visual environments. In many cases, design guidelines specified to each

type of visual environment which meet the adopted design standard are recommended. Users of this manual are strongly encouraged to solve design problems using the concept of differing visual environments. An example of meeting a design standard in each visual environment is provided below. Additionally, design standards specific to each visual environment have been adopted for certain design elements located within TRPA-designated Scenic Highway Corridors. These standards are established in Section 30.13 of the TRPA Code.

A. Urban Visual Environments

1. Scale of Development: Human scaled; places for people, especially pedestrians and bicycles; low vehicle speeds make detail appropriate.
2. Level of Human Activity: Highest of three environments; centers of commerce and activity where people create the interest in being there.
3. Access/Parking: Access constant and expected; parking is organized and readable; should be designed and sited to provide pleasing and attractive "car park" wherever possible.
4. Architectural Style: Responds to context and setting; reflects community values and desires in terms of form, color, and material; pedestrian-oriented.
5. Landscaping: Embellish buildings; create interesting spaces which attract people; soften and screen undesirable views; most appropriate places for non-native plant palette, but native plants are recommended in areas outside immediate building sites.
6. Building Materials and Colors: Widest variety of colors and materials appropriate; reflects community or traditional values; community character strongly influenced by architecture.
7. Lighting: Appropriate to the use and to surrounding neighborhood lighting levels.
8. Signage: Orient individual signs to pedestrians, not autos; orient business/shopping complex identification signs to autos; widest range of colors and materials appropriate; competition of signs is inappropriate.

B. Transition Visual Environments

1. Scale of Development: Linear experience of spaces for vehicles, pedestrian and bicycles; moderate vehicle speeds means less detail needed.
2. Level of Human Activity: Moderate; primarily residential, recreation activities with well organized landmarks of neighborhoods commercial nodes.
3. Access/Parking: Access is controlled; Parking integrated with setting; well buffered and sensitively sited; out of sight except in commercial/public service uses.
4. Architectural Style: Responds to context and setting; blends and appears to achieve a high degree of fit with the surrounding landscape.

5. Landscaping: Functional; used to highlight changes in use, access, etc., limited palette with some non-native species is appropriate, overall goal is to blend with setting.
6. Building Materials and Colors: More narrow range of materials and colors than in urban settings; responds to and blends with context of setting; natural appearing materials and colors are most appropriate.
7. Lighting: Intermittent, as needed; primarily uses at intersections, nodes, and other activity areas.
8. Signage: Existence of sign itself will draw attention to the use; moderate range of materials and colors with emphasis on those which responds to context and setting; in most cases internal lighting is not necessary; competition of signs is inappropriate.

C. Natural Visual Environments

1. Scale of Development: Moderate-high vehicle speeds; humans become temporary yet participatory part of the landscape, less detail needed.
2. Level of Human Activity: Lowest of three environments, primarily recreation, sight-seeing and conservation activities; places where nature creates the focal interest.
3. Access/Parking: Points of access are nominal; parking is hidden except for existing uses and roadside scenic viewpoints.
4. Architectural Style: Responds to context and setting; typically small scale which does not dominate surrounding landscape.
5. Landscaping: Responsive to plant communities in setting; very few opportunities for non-native species except for foundation plantings and planters.
6. Building Materials and Colors: Narrowest range of colors and materials is appropriate; colors should be dark toned and harmonize with those in and around site; natural materials are most appropriate; natural appearing materials should be a minimum requirement.
7. Lighting: Minimal; only as necessary for safety and function.
8. Signage: Minimal need for signs; signs should be small scale as presence of sign alone will draw attention to use; limited to natural and natural-appearing colors and materials only.

Chapter One

SITE DESIGN

Site design or site planning is the arrangement of indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate the activities of a proposed use. An important goal of site design is to fit the buildings and other structures into the landscape in such a way that leaves the natural features of the site intact and functional. This is a small-scale application of the environmental carrying capacity concept upon which land use planning in the Tahoe Region is based.

STANDARDS

A. Use the Site as a Design Determinant:

- (1) Existing Features: Existing natural features outside of the building site shall be retained and incorporated into the site design to the greatest extent feasible. Projects shall be designed to avoid disturbance to rock outcrops and stream environment zones and to minimize vegetation removal and maintain the natural slope of the project site.
- (2) Disturbed Areas: Projects shall be designed to use existing disturbed areas rather than undisturbed areas for the siting of all improvements except when:
 - (a) The disturbed area is precluded from development by setbacks or other such limitations;
 - (b) The disturbed lands are classified as sensitive lands and alternative sites classified as nonsensitive exist on the parcel;
 - (c) The use of the disturbed lands would require more total disturbance than use of undisturbed lands;
 - (d) Avoidance of other development impacts are of more importance than the preservation of undisturbed areas; or
 - (e) The degree of existing disturbance is minor and the area shall be restored as part of the project.

B. Screening Methods:

- (1) Screening: Screening of service yards, maintenance yards, warehousing, outdoor storage and trash and refuse collection areas shall be accomplished by the use of walls, fencing, landscape plantings or combinations thereof. Screening shall be effective in both winter and summer.
- (2) Location: Service yards, maintenance yards, warehousing, and outdoor storage areas shall be located in areas which are not highly visible from major transportation corridors, scenic turnouts, public recreation areas or the waters or lakes in the region.

C. **Frontage Improvements In mixed-use Neighborhood Areas:** Projects shall be conditioned to meet the following standards where applicable. For purposes of this section, the frontage is the area between the curblin e and the required setback. Consistent with the standards and guidelines of this section, specifications for the improvements shall be established by Washoe County of in approved areawide improvement plans.

(1) **State Route 28 (Main Street Area):** Projects fronting State Route 28 in the Main Street area of Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood shall provide the following improvements or commit to a schedule to implement the improvements along the frontage:

- (a) Ten feet minimum wide sidewalks measured from the curblin e or as specified in approved improvement plan.
- (b) Six inch vertical concrete curbs or as specified by NDOT or Caltrans.
- (c) Street trees planted every 50 feet, pockets of shrubs planted every 25 feet, a combination of both, or as specified in an approved improvement plan (minimum area of shrub pocket to be defined).
- (d) Pedestrian street lights 12 feet high, 50 feet on center, or low level lights 25 feet on center, or as specified in an approved improvement plan.
- (e) Building setbacks a minimum of 20 feet from the property line or as set forth in Subsection 12.A.

(2) **State Route 28:** Projects fronting Village Boulevard, Northwood Boulevard, Southwood Boulevard, Country Club Drive, Lakeshore Drive, Incline Way (Incline Village Tourist), and Alder Drive shall provide the following improvements or commit to a schedule to implement the improvements along the frontage.

- (a) Five to eight foot wide sidewalks. A three foot minimum landscaped separation is required from the edge of State Route 28 pavement.
- (b) Six inch vertical concrete curbs or as specified by NDOT.
- (c) Street trees planted irregularly (maximum 50 foot separation) or pockets of shrubs (maximum 25 foot separation) or a combination (minimum area os shrub pockets to be defined).
- (d) Pedestrian street lighting (maximum 12 feet height) as needed.
- (e) Building setbacks a minimum of 20 feet from the property line.
- (f) Vehicle barrier as needed (preferred style to be identified).

(3) **Other Streets:** Projects with frontage along Incline Way, Incline Court, Tanager, Enterprise, Oriole Way, Cal Neva Drive, and Stateline Road shall provide the following improvements on the frontage:

- (a) Six feet wide minimum concrete sidewalks measured from the curblin e.

- (b) *Pedestrian street lights 12 feet high 50 feet on center or low level lights 25 feet on center.*
- (c) *Building setbacks a minimum 10 feet from the property line.*
- (d) *Six inch vertical concrete curbs or as specified by Washoe or Placer County.*
- (e) *Street trees planted 50 feet on center or pockets of shrubs planted 25 feet on center or a combination, both subject to an approved landscape plan (minimum are of shrub pockets to be defined).*

GUIDELINES

1. **Site Analysis:** Every project, no matter how large or small, should first prepare a site analysis. The analysis is a method to evaluate the existing conditions on or near the project site. The analysis should identify at a minimum the location and type of the following:
 - (a) Topography and landform;
 - (b) Access;
 - (c) Vegetation;
 - (d) Views both onto the site and from the site;
 - (e) Places attractive to people (special places);
 - (f) Natural features;
 - (g) Aspect and orientation (sun/shadow patterns);
 - (h) Wind patterns;
 - (i) Location of utilities serving the site;
 - (j) Slope and drainage of the land;
 - (k) Impacts on the use of the site due to snow;
 - (l) Location of property boundaries and any required yard setbacks; and,
 - (m) Contextural setting (neighboring land uses and building styles, height, mass and form of (neighboring structures).

The analysis of each of these elements should be further evaluated in terms of design opportunities and design constraints. Design opportunities are those situations where the element in question will positively contribute to the overall project, while design constraints are situations where a specific element will detract or conflict with the overall project.

The opportunities and constraints identified in the site analysis should be used as design determinants in the design and development stages of the project. Additionally, if

structures are planned as part of the project, an architectural analysis should be prepared. Please see Section 2. Building Design, for the contents of an architectural analysis.

2. **Incorporate Natural Features into the Site Design:** Incorporating natural landscape features into the site design can produce some of the most interesting and unusual designs possible. Integrating these features on a site-specific basis can result in harmony between the built and natural environments. The following are examples of incorporating natural features into the site design:

- (a) Step a building around a mature tree or large boulder rather than remove them;
- (b) Locate structures or impervious surfaces away from areas of significant vegetation, wetlands, and stream zones;
- (c) Build a deck around rock outcroppings and incorporate them into the space;
- (d) Bend a driveway around large boulders rather than removing large boulders or other features in order to create a straight driveway.

3. **Building and Site Design:** Buildings designed for sloping topography should conform to the natural topography rather than altering the natural topography to accommodate the structure. In areas where slopes exceed five percent, stepped foundations are recommended in order to avoid grading necessary for flat-pad foundations.

The form, mass, and profile of individual buildings and architectural features should be designed to blend with the natural terrain and preserve the character and profile of the site as much as possible. Techniques that should be considered include:

- (a) Split pads, pier foundations, stepped footings, and grade separations to permit dwellings to step down or step up the natural slope.
- (b) Flat roof lines and/or low profiles with roof lines following the lines of the natural slope;
- (c) Detached garages, carports, or open parking to decrease apparent building mass;
- (d) Varied and articulated elevations and roof lines to soften the appearance of large vertical surfaces and to avoid the appearance of a massive, rigid, vertical element.

4. **Use Existing Disturbed Areas:** Use existing disturbed areas onsite as areas to concentrate structures and other land coverage.

- (a) Disturbed areas often have been compacted by previous activity. This makes them good sites for driveways, garages, parking areas and walkways.
- (b) Disturbed areas which have been compacted are often inhospitable areas for landscaping and plant materials.

5. **Reclaim Disturbed Areas:** Reclaim all previously disturbed areas which are not covered with impervious surfaces. Reclaiming may include regrading, revegetation or landscaping. See also TRPA's Handbook of Best Management Practices for restoration techniques.

6. **View Corridors:** The siting and design of new development should preserve or change existing view corridors through to the lake, the surrounding ridgelines and the natural landscape.
- (a) Where new view corridors are opened up by new development, the siting and massing of buildings and landscaping should be designed to enframe and enhance views.
 - (b) The size of the opening to be maintained as a view corridor should be sufficient to permit significant view penetration (i.e., wide enough to provide visual interest).
 - (c) Buildings should not appear to exceed the height of the mountain backdrop when viewed from the lakes, major public areas, or travel corridors.
 - (d) When a view of a mountain peak or other natural features is involved, the distance between buildings should be sufficient to permit views that allow the entire shape of the natural form to be apparent. This often can be accomplished by stepping back the upper stories of structures in combination with setting the bases of buildings farther apart.
 - (e) In developments with multiple structures, clustering the structures can create the open space necessary for view corridors.
7. **Mountain Backdrops:** Building sites with visually significant mountain backdrops should avoid siting tall structures which would obscure or compete with the mountain view. Low building forms should be used instead. Increasing the building setback from major public viewpoints (i.e. the road, beach, etc.) also can reduce the obstruction of views caused by a structure.
8. **Views from Roadway:** Along segments of the Basin's roadways, mountains and ridgelines often dominate straight ahead views (i.e., Mt. Tallac as seen from Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe). Existing scenic features should be protected by not allowing structures to obscure the land form.
- Taller structures which would interrupt the profile of the ridge or hill should be avoided. Similarly, structures should be sited a sufficient distance from the roadway or stepped back to avoid disruption of view.
9. **View Protection:** Where possible, new hillside development should be sited at either sufficient horizontal or vertical distance from other structures that outward views are retained for both existing and new development. This recommendation can be most effectively implemented in planned unit developments and subdivisions. However, the siting and design of dwelling units downhill from existing development should consider their views.
10. **Limit Grading:** All grading should be kept to a minimum. Extensive regrading of a site to create building pads for construction is not recommended. Buildings should be fitted to the land with graded areas limited, whenever possible, to the portion of the site to be covered by the structure. When graded areas cannot be covered by the structure, they should preferably be screened from public views by the building.
11. **Visual Mitigation:** In order to minimize the visual impacts associated with grading, the following grading guidelines are recommended:

- (a) The overall shape, height, and grade of any cut or fill slope should be designed to simulate the existing natural contours and scale of the natural terrain of the site.
- (b) The angle of a graded slope should be gradually adjusted so that it merges smoothly into the angle of the natural terrain. Flat planes and sharp angles which suggest a more formal landscape should be reserved for institutional and public service sites when a formal landscape is desired.
- (c) Graded slopes should be promptly revegetated with a ground cover or combination of ground cover, shrubs, and trees to reduce the visual impact of the graded slope and to stabilize the slope and minimize erosion.

12. **Roadway Dimensions:** Minimal roadway dimensions are recommended to reduce the amount of grading required, thus reducing the visual impact. A looped system of one-way streets can be used or roadways may be split (i.e., one lane in either direction) in order to reduce the area of cut required on a hillside.

13. **Preserve Existing Vegetation:** Grading should be designed to minimize the disruption to existing vegetation (including ground covers and shrubs, as well as trees). Revegetation of graded areas should utilize plant materials that will blend well with the surrounding vegetation, and are on TRPA's List of Approved Plant Species.

14. **Slope Configuration:** When graded slopes (either cut or fill) extend horizontally for more than 100 feet (such as along roadways), the contours should be curved to create an undulating bank with greater visual variety and a more natural appearance.

Long, straight engineered slopes look unnatural and detract from the scenic quality of the roadway landscape. Varying slope bank gradients (i.e., 2:1 in some areas, 3:1, 5:1, etc. in others) is another method for producing graded slopes that have a more natural appearance.

15. **Sediment Basins:** Also known as retention or detention basins, sediment basins are used to remove sediment from storm water and other surface water runoff. TRPA's Handbook of Best Management Practices provides standards and specifications dealing with the installation and operation of sediment basins, and should be consulted early in the design process.

The appearance and integration of these systems into the landscape can be greatly improved over existing practices. In times of non-storm events the basins can serve as open spaces in neighborhoods or in existing recreation areas. Terrace basin slopes whenever possible as shown below in order to minimize the safety hazard of straight, deep slopes.

Terracing of side slopes also allows sediment basins to be integrated into other types of land uses such as trail systems, golf course hazards, or wetland systems. This may be an important consideration when siting a sediment basin.

Restricting access to sediment basins has often been accomplished by 6 foot high cyclone or chain link fence with little or no additional landscape screening. A more visually successful solution is to combine changes in grade with low (3-4 feet high) wooden fencing, and a substantial landscape screen of trees shrubs, and ground cover. Formal landscape plantings will give a more formal or urban appearance, while native or naturalized grasses and riparian species can give the appearance of a wet meadow or

wetland marsh. All mechanical equipment should be screened from view of the road or the lake.

The use of signs around sediment basins should be incorporated into the design. Signs should be of an interpretive nature as well as regulatory explaining in simple English the function and potential hazards of sediment basins. A well thought-out signage plan can stress the importance of avoiding sediment basins during and after storm events. A combination of grading, landscaping, controlling access and signage can turn a traditionally attractive nuisance and visual eyesore into a pleasing and

usable community resource. It is appropriate to increase the access restrictions to basins which are potentially more hazardous due to such factors as degree of side slope, depth, and volume.

16. **Retaining Walls:** Maximum height of retaining walls should be limited to three to four feet. When slopes greater than three vertical feet must be retained, terraces should generally be used to create smaller grade changes (three to five feet or less). Areas between terraces should be wide enough to accommodate vegetation. Downhill sides of retaining walls should be planted in order to help screen the structure. Please also see the Handbook of Best Management Practices.

Long, straight unbroken retaining walls with no articulation or other surface features are strongly discouraged, especially when they are sited along roadways. Retaining walls which match the architectural style, color and materials of a projects primary structures are also appropriate. Retaining walls are often used as informal seating. In areas where this appears likely, consideration should be given to providing seating.

Urban Areas: Retaining walls in urban areas may be built from the widest range of materials including textured concrete, wood, stone, or brick. Wherever possible retaining walls should be accompanied with landscape planting pockets to soften the wall's appearance.

Transition Areas: In transition areas the setting and context of the site as well as the site's primary use should be used to determine whether retaining walls will have more of an urban appearance (i.e., form, color, materials), or a natural appearance.

Natural Areas: In natural areas the narrowest range of materials should be used. These should be limited to wood (including wood timbers and logs) or stone, and combined with planting areas or pockets wherever possible.

17. **Mechanical Equipment:** Site design should consider the placement and screening of service areas and auxiliary structures. This includes service yards, maintenance areas, outdoor storage, fuel tanks, trash and refuse collection or disposal, and other utility meters and hardware. Utility meters and service functions should not be visible on the primary facades of buildings or in front yard areas.
18. **Auxiliary Structures:** Auxiliary structures should be architecturally compatible with the rest of the site development. A good building may be ruined by poorly located mechanical equipment or storage areas.
19. **Boats and Trailers:** Commercial uses involved in the storage, maintenance or repair of boats should provide adequate onsite parking for boats and trailers. Parking boats and trailers in front yard setbacks adjacent to the edge of the roadway without adequate screening are strongly discouraged, and are prohibited in commercial uses.

20. **Service Areas:** Service areas should be located at the rear of the site wherever possible, and should be screened by the main structures. Service areas near the building should be screened with a wall of the same construction and materials as the building wall. Consider snow accumulation in planning access to service areas and trash receptacles.

Urban Areas: Widest range of appropriate solutions. Use walls or fences of similar colors and materials as main building or structure. Avoid long straight runs of walls or fences with no articulation. Buffer walls and fences with landscape plantings. If chain link fence must be used, use only that which is coated in a dark color.

Transition Areas: Screening service areas in transition areas may be accomplished by using structural or vegetative screens, or a combination of both. Range of appropriate materials is more narrow than in urban areas.

Natural Areas: Use landform and vegetation to screen the service area whenever possible. Use structural solutions only when no other solutions exist. Structural solutions are appropriate when buffering the service area from neighboring residents or recreational uses. Walls and fences of natural materials are appropriate in natural areas.

21. **Trash Enclosures:** Trash disposal areas should be enclosed by a fence or wall and equipped with doors and hardware of durable materials. The edge of the disposal area should be landscaped. The pad in front of the trash enclosure should be reinforced to carry the weight of service vehicles

Urban Areas: See (20) Urban Service Areas guidelines above.

Transition Areas: See (20) Transition Service Areas guidelines above.

Natural Areas: See (20) Natural Service Areas guidelines above.

22. **Positive Visual Screening:** Walls and fences often obstruct views, and generally decrease the natural and open character of the landscape. For this reason, the use of walls and fences is not encouraged from a visual standpoint unless it provides positive visual screening of development.

The use of walls or fences to simply define one's property is not recommended. In areas where views of the lake or other significant features are available, walls and fences should be avoided or designed so that they do not obstruct views.

23. **Integration with Setting:** The siting and design of walls and fencing should respect existing land forms and vegetation patterns and blend into the natural landscape as much as possible, rather than arbitrarily following site boundary lines.

24. **Design and Materials:** The design of fences, walls, and other structural landscape features should be compatible with and complementary to the site architecture and the natural landscape. Avoid long, straight runs of walls and fences with no articulation or other visual relief.

Chain link fences are strongly discouraged except as temporary construction fences or as absolutely required for safety purposes. Permanent chain link fences are acceptable when coated with dark coating. Consider the use of range or welded wire fencing as an alternative.

Urban Areas: The widest range of fencing materials are appropriate in urban areas. This includes textured and color-tinted concrete, wood, brick and stone.

Transition Areas: Range of appropriate materials in transition areas is more narrow than in urban areas. Wood, stone, and range or welded wire fencing are most appropriate.

Natural Areas: In Natural areas, the narrowest range of fencing materials should be used. The materials should be limited to wood (including timbers and post and pole type) and stone, and combined with planting areas or pockets whenever possible.

25. **Landscaping:** All fences, walls and other structural landscape features should be accompanied by landscaping to better integrate the structures with the site and to reduce their visual impacts. An exception to this is in urban areas where the wall is to be used as an architectural feature. See Chapter 6, Landscaping, for guidelines regarding landscaping.

26. **Outdoor Storage Areas:** Outdoor storage and work areas should be adequately screened by a solid fence, wall, or hedge. The area being screened should not be visible through the screen. Chain link fencing is not recommended unless combined with landscaping and surfaced with black coating. Equipment and materials should not be stacked higher than the top of the fence.

Landscaped areas should be provided in front of the screen if it is within 20 feet of the street. Where visibility of storage areas is needed for security purposes, a neatly appearing, well kept, orderly layout of vehicles and materials is encouraged. Outdoor storage areas which are located next to or near residential or recreational uses should be especially well buffered in order to minimize potential adverse impacts.

Urban Areas: Outdoor storage areas in urban areas may be screened using the widest variety of forms and materials, including textured and color-tinted concrete, wood, stone, or brick. Wherever possible, screening should be accompanied with landscaping, especially trees and shrubs, to soften the structure. The storage area can also be screened by siting it behind other structures onsite. Care should be taken to provide screening from side streets when they are adjacent to the site.

Transition Areas: A more narrow range of materials is appropriate in transition areas than in urban areas. Locate storage at the rear of the site wherever possible.

Natural Areas: Outdoor storage areas in natural areas should maximize the landform, vegetation and distance in order to provide screening. Structural solutions should be considered only when no other solution exists. In natural areas, walls and fences used to screen outdoor service areas should be constructed primarily of wood and stone.

27. **Service Yards:** Locate service and maintenance yards, warehousing and outdoor storage areas to the rear of the site and out of the view from the road.

28. **Auxiliary Structures:** Auxiliary structures used for warehousing and storage should complement or be similar to the design of the main buildings on-site.

Chapter Two

BUILDING DESIGN

The planning and design of any new building, structure, or addition should include architectural analysis. The analysis should inventory the height and mass of neighboring structures, along with any recognizable design style or theme. The analysis may also include a sun and shadow study for all on-site structures, and adjacent structures which may affect the site.

STANDARDS

A. **Building Design:** *The following building design standards shall apply. The general standards are:*

- (1) **Screening:** *The architectural design of a project shall include elements that screen from public view all external; mechanical equipment, including refuse enclosures, electrical transformer pads and vaults, satellite receiving dishes, communication equipment, and utility hardware on roofs, buildings or the ground.*
- (2) **Glare:** *Roofs, including mechanical equipment and skylights shall be constructed of nonglare finishes that minimize reflectivity.*

B. **Satellite Dish Antennas (General):** *Satellite dish antennas are allowed as accessory uses in all regulatory zones pursuant to the provisions of this section.*

- (1) **Location:** *Satellite dish antennas shall not be placed in the required front yard of a lot, except as provide in Section B.(2) below.*
- (2) **Setbacks:** *Satellite dish antennas shall comply with the accessory use setback requirements specified in the Washoe County Development Code.*
- (3) **Color:** *Solid satellite dish antennas shall be colored light or dark brown, tan grey, or dark green unless another color is justified by the physical setting or the color of the building. Designs on solid dishes may cover up to thirty-five (35) percent of the background color. Mesh satellite dish antennas may be colored off-white or muted silver in addition to the colors listed above if scenic review indicates there is no scenic impact.*
- (4) **Building Code:** *All satellite dish antennas shall be installed and maintained in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 100 Building and Construction of the Washoe County Code.*
- (5) **Grounding:** *All satellite dish antennas shall be permanently and effectively grounded.*
- (6) **Height:** *All satellite dish antennas shall comply with the TRPA Chapter 22 height limitations.*

C. Satellite Dish Antennas (Ground Mounted): A satellite dish antenna may be mounted on the ground in accordance with this section:

- (1) General: A satellite dish antenna may be ground mounted provided:
 - (a) It is physically or electronically linked only to a receiver located on the same lot;
 - (b) In all residential regulatory zones the dish shall not exceed twelve (12) feet in diameter and in all non-residential regulatory zones the dish shall not exceed (36) feet in diameter;
 - (c) Wiring between the receiver and the satellite dish antenna is placed in rigid conduit at least four (4) inches beneath the surface of the ground;
 - (d) The antenna and appurtenances are constructed and installed so as to withstand the forces due to wind pressure, as provided for under the Washoe County Building Code; and
 - (e) Any driving motor does not exceed 110 volts and is encased in protective guards and is muffled against noise.

- (2) Screening Required: Screening is required for all satellite dish antennas visible from a threshold scenic unit or are located in non-residential regulatory zones that exceed twelve (12) feet in diameter, and are located adjacent to a residentially zoned property. The required screening shall shield views of the satellite dish antenna from the adjacent residential parcels. The satellite dish antenna may be screened around the base of the antenna or along the common property line. A waiver from the screening requirement can be obtained from TRPA if the satellite dish antenna is sufficiently setback from the residential parcel to mitigate its impact.

- (3) Front Yard Locations: A satellite dish antenna may be place in the required front yard if authorized by a permit obtained in accordance with the provisions of this subsection:
 - (a) In addition to the requirements listed in Section B and Subsection (1) and (2) of this section, the following requirements shall apply:
 - (i) The antenna shall be setback at least eight (8) feet from the front property line; and
 - (ii) The base of the satellite dish antenna and driving motor house shall be screened.
 - (iii) The antenna is not in a scenic setback.
 - (b) In addition to the requirements for a permit, the applicant shall demonstrate that:
 - (i) Locating the satellite dish antenna in the required side or rear yard would result in obstruction of the antenna's reception window; furthermore, such obstruction involves factors beyond the control of the applicant; and

- (ii) *Locating the satellite dish antenna in the required front yard will not impair the required line-of-sight from adjacent driveways or streets.*
- (c) *In addition to those findings required for a permit, TRPA shall make the following findings:*
 - (i) *Location in the required side or rear yard prevents the private satellite dish antenna from receiving a complete signal.*
 - (ii) *Location of the satellite dish antenna in the required front yard does not visually impact surrounding properties; and*
 - (iii) *Location of the antenna in the required front yard does not impair the required line-of-sight form adjacent driveways or streets.*

D. Satellite Dish Antennas (Roof Mounted): *A satellite dish antenna may be mounted on the roof of a primary structure in accordance with the provisions of this section.*

(1) All Roof Mounted Satellite Dish Antennas: *In addition to the requirements listed in Section B, the following requirements shall apply:*

- (a) *The satellite dish antenna shall be directly mounted upon the roof of the main or accessory structure and not upon appurtenances such as chimneys, towers, trees, poles, or spires.*
- (b) *The satellite dish antenna shall not exceed a height of three (3) feet above the roof, except as provided in Subsection (2) of this section, and is located on the rear half of the roof regardless of whether the roof is flat, or sloping perpendicular, or parallel with the front lot line;*
- (c) *The satellite dish antenna shall not exceed seven (7) feet in diameter, except as provided in Subsection (2) of this subsection; and*
- (d) *The satellite dish antenna shall be designed to withstand extraordinary wind forces and the proposed installation shall meet or exceed applicable structural regulations for load distribution within the building support structure.*
- (e) *The satellite dish antenna shall be screened from view from public roads, recreation areas, and Lake Tahoe.*

(2) Non-residential Roof Mounted Satellite Dish Antennas: *In all non-residential regulatory zones, a satellite dish antenna mounted on a roof may exceed seven (7) feet in diameter if authorized by a permit obtained pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.*

- (a) *In addition to the requirements listed in Section B above. the following requirements shall apply:*
 - (i) *The color of the satellite dish antenna shall blend with the color of the building on which it is mounted;*

- (ii) *Air navigation warning lights shall be located on the satellite dish antenna, if determined appropriate by the Federal Aviation Administrator; and*
- (iii) *The base of the satellite dish antenna and driving motor shall be screened.*
- (b) *In addition to the submittal requirements for a permit, the applicant shall state the reason why a larger diameter dish is necessary to satisfy the applicant's needs.*
- (c) *In addition to those findings required for a permit, Washoe County and TRPA shall make the following findings:*
 - (i) *The size of the satellite dish antenna is necessary to receive or send a signal that meet the applicant's needs;*
 - (ii) *The size of satellite dish antenna will not pose a hazard to air navigation; and*
 - (iii) *The satellite dish antenna, including guy wires, supporting structures, and accessory equipment, is located and designed so as to minimize the visual impact on surrounding properties and from public streets.*

GUIDELINES

1. **Siting, Scale and Massing:** The siting, scale and massing of new buildings and structures should be compatible with existing development (when such development is consistent with the design review guidelines or the intent of the mixed-use Neighborhood governing the area). The siting, scale and massing of new buildings and structures should be subordinate to the area's scenic features. The project should not decrease the visibility of such features.
2. **Provide Usable Outdoor Spaces:** Building design and site planning should consider the types of outdoor spaces that will be created by a development. Building forms and building complexes should be designed to create "positive" outdoor spaces that have their own identify and function due to their enclosure by and orientation to the buildings, rather than being left-over, unused areas. Often during a site analysis "special places" are identified. These places are often best used as outdoor spaces. "Special places" often lose their special qualities when covered with a building.
3. **Use a Comprehensive Design:** All structures within a project should be integrally designed with strong architectural and spatial relationships. The same or complementary design, materials, and colors used on the main structures should be used on accessory structures on the site.
4. **Establish an Architectural Style:** Major building forms should express a simplicity and directness responsive to the vernacular traditions of mountain architecture. Design elements which contributed to the "Old Tahoe" design style are listed at the beginning of the Historic Buildings Section of this manual. These guidelines, however, do not intend to limit creative design solutions made possible by advances in building technology. The

goal is for functional design solutions that are compatible with the natural environment and contribute to the character and quality of the built environment.

Variety and distinctiveness in design are desirable as they often are seen as extensions of the people who inhabit them. Homogenous, suburban-like streetscapes created by a monotony of building design are not encouraged.

5. **Articulate Building Facades:** Long, straight building facades are generally uninviting and visually uninteresting. Vary building setbacks and articulate facades to add visual variety, distinctiveness, and human scale to commercial areas.

It is essential that the variety appears coordinated within a visually ordered system and not haphazard, cluttered or confusing. The spaces created by the varied setbacks of the building facades can accommodate landscaping and pedestrian seating areas that contribute visual interest.

6. **Integrate Auxiliary Structures:** Auxiliary structures, frequently associated with commercial buildings, such as trash enclosures, newspaper racks, phone booths, vending machines, etc., should be integrated into the design of the development in order to create a pleasing appearance both on- and offsite.

Elements such as outdoor storage areas, mechanical equipment, loading areas, and trash disposal areas should be sited away from public views whenever possible and carefully screened.

7. **Screen Satellite Dish Antennae:** Satellite dish antennae and other communication equipment should not be visible from public roads, recreation areas, or the Lake. The following techniques should be used in order to reduce visibility of this equipment to the maximum extent possible.

- (a) Satellite dishes should be screened through the use of landscaping and plant materials, walls and fences, existing structures, sub-grade placements, or other means. Screening should be effective year round.
- (b) All wires or cables related to the communication equipment should be installed underground where it would otherwise be visible from public roads, recreation areas, and the Lake.
- (c) The color of satellite dishes should be compatible with the surrounding setting including the natural landscape and the built environment. The appearance of existing antennae and dishes suggests that darker colors, particularly black mesh, blend into the forest cover better than light colors. Antennae and dishes with white, unpainted, or reflective surfaces are strongly discouraged.
- (d) The use of mesh satellite dishes is preferable to solid dishes because they more effectively blend into their surroundings.
- (e) Satellite dishes should only be located on a building when they are architecturally integrated into the structure and they are not visible from roads, the lake, or scenic viewpoints.

8. **Screen Roof Mounted Mechanical Equipment:** Screening should be provided for all roof-mounted mechanical and electrical equipment as an integral part of the building's design. Any exposed vents or flashing should be colored to blend in with the roof surface, and should not be left as reflective, metallic surfaces.
9. **Screen Ground Mounted Mechanical Equipment:** Please refer to the guidelines in Section 1. Site Design, for screening ground mounted mechanical equipment.
10. **Use Roof Surfaces to Help Integrate the Building:** The form, color, and texture of a building's roof should be an integral part of the building design, and should be compatible with both the natural environment and the man-made setting. Compatibility can be produced by selecting appropriate roofing materials. The use of wood shakes, composition or other treated shingles is encouraged. It is recommended that roof surfaces generally be dark in color, with a low reflectivity. Skylights and solar-energy collector panels are recognized exceptions to this guideline. Metal roofs are appropriate when the metal has a low-gloss finish of low reflectivity. This generally means dark colors (greens, browns, dark gray, black) with a matte finish. Additionally, the use of articulated roof surfaces using features such as gables, clerestories, and dormers will break up continuous roof planes and help integrate the structure into the setting.

A wider range of roof surfaces is appropriate in urban areas. Appropriate materials include those identified above, along with slate, concrete, terra cotta tiles, fiberglass and asphalt shingles, and tar/gravel for flat roofs.

11. **Design for Snow:** In the Lake Tahoe Region one must accommodate snow, especially in building design. This manual also contains standards and guidelines for storing plowed or otherwise collected snow. Please also refer to the guidelines in Section 5, Snow Storage. In terms of building designs the following guidelines are recommended:
 - (a) Locate entrances under the gable ends of pitched roofs.
 - (b) Do not locate entrances beneath roof eaves;
 - (c) Do not locate parking, access, or walkways under roof eaves;
 - (d) Cover stairs and other entrances;
 - (e) Do not locate stairs under the drip line of roof eaves; and
 - (f) Do not extend balconies beyond roof eaves.
12. **Incorporate Signage into the Building:** If a building sign is intended, the facade should be designed to accommodate signage so that a business will have advertising space without detracting from the appearance of the structure. See also guidelines in Section 8, Signs.
13. **Maintain Building and Structure Heights Below the Forest Canopy:** The height of structures should not interfere with views of significant scenic features and should not exceed the height of existing forest cover in the vicinity. In most cases this means protecting the public or common view of the scenic features. In some instances you will affect a neighbor's view. The visual impact associated with building height can be mitigated and significant scenic backdrops can be protected by varying setbacks, stepping back upper stories, and maintaining view corridors that enframe views.

Structures that rise above the forest cover detract from the natural character of the environment because they are visible from viewpoints around the lake at great distances from the actual building site. Maintaining building heights at 2/3's to 3/4's the height of existing forest cover will limit the visual impact of a structure to the immediate site vicinity.

14. **Integrate Heights of New Buildings and Structures with Existing Development:** The height of new development should respect existing development patterns and avoid creating sharp contrasts with neighboring structures. If new structures are taller than adjacent development, carefully coordinated step-backs and variations in building height should be utilized to reduce sharp contrasts and provide visual interest.
15. **Location:** Maximize use of vegetation screening when siting the structure. The visual magnitude of the structure from the road or from the Lake can be reduced when screened with existing or planted vegetation. Screening should be effective year-round.
16. **Color/Reflectivity:** Dark shades of earthtone colors (including black) with flat or matte finishes should be used on all surfaces in order for the structure to recede into the natural landscape. Where appropriate, surfaces of structures should be heavily textured using rough or articulated surfaces to minimize reflectivity.
17. **Height Relative to Tree Canopy:** Maximum structure heights should be limited to 2/3's to 3/4's of predominant tree canopy.
18. **Mass:** Minimize bulk and mass of structure whenever possible. If not possible, orient the most massive views of the structure away from roadway or Lake viewing opportunities.
19. **Exterior Materials:** External building materials should be predominantly natural, such as wood siding, wood shakes, and stone. Exterior building materials should also be genuine and not simulated (i.e., no simulated stone or brick should be permitted). For reasons when simulated materials are used they should exhibit a convincing realism especially at corners, joints, and edges (i.e., turn the corner with simulated stone, giving depth to the facade). Genuine efforts should be made to use the simulated materials as if they were the real thing.

Texturing and coloring of concrete surfaces is encouraged. Exposed aggregate surfaces are generally more acceptable than concrete with a smooth finish. Concrete block or masonry unit construction which has no decorative texture or coloring should be veneered with a finish layer such as brick, stone, rock or wood. Aluminum, steel, plastic and plywood siding (not including board and batten) are not recommended.

20. **Building Color:** Exterior building colors should be compatible with the surrounding natural and man-made environment, and not in competition with surrounding material elements for attention (i.e., building color should not become "signing" for the site).

Urban Areas: Generally, building colors should be subdued, with natural colors (i.e. vegetation and earth tones found in the area) preferred. Primary colors or other bright colors should be used only as accents to enliven architecture, or as an integral component of a specific theme. It is important to remember that light-valued elements project forward against the dark greens and browns of the forest background, making them more visually prominent.

Natural and Transition Areas: The use of earth tone colors on exterior surfaces is strongly recommended in natural and transition areas. Earth tone colors are also recommended in situations where the goal is to blend the building into the natural

landscape. Earth tone colors are considered to be darker shades of reddish-brown, brown, tan, ochre, umber, sand and green. Certain hues of blue and gray can also function as earth tone colors, as can lighter hues of brown and sand when the building(s) is located in a granite-dominated setting. TRPA maintains a full-color catalog of the recommended colors at the TRPA offices.

Primary colors or other bright colors should be used as accent colors in transition areas such as on trim, or in conjunction with a specific theme. Primary colors and other bright colors are not recommended for use in natural areas. It is important to remember that light-valued elements project forward against the dark greens and browns of the forest background, making them more visually prominent. Also see guidelines in Section 2.B, Building Design.

21. **Historic Buildings:** Refer to The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. Copies of the Secretary of Interior's Standards available at the TRPA offices.

Chapter Three

SETBACKS OF STRUCTURES

Setbacks of structures and other activities from the property line are traditional land use and site planning tools which serve several purposes. In commercial areas building setbacks should be utilized to create visual interest to allow for substantial landscaped areas, and to avoid the tunnel-like effects associated with strip development.

STANDARDS

[Standards A and C through I are Washoe County standards and are administered by Washoe County]

- A. **General:** The Washoe County yard requirements and setback dimensions are set forth in Part Three of Table 3.1. Other than Subsection B, these requirements may be modified by Washoe County pursuant to Washoe County Development Code.

Table 3.1
Part Three: Yard and Setback Standards

	LDR	MDR	HDR	LDS	MDS	HDS	LDU	MDU	HDU	GC	OC	TC	I	PSP	PR	OS	GR
Front Yard (ft.)	30	30	30	30	20	20	15	15	20	10	30	20	15	20	20	n/a	30
Side Yard (ft.)	50	15	15	12	8	5	5	5	5	10	15	10	10	15	15	n/a	50
Back Yard (ft.)	30	30	30	30	20	20	10	20	20	10	20	10	15	20	20	n/a	30

Source: Washoe County Department of Comprehensive Planning

- B. **Special TRPA Standards:** Requirements for development occurring in the Tahoe area including, but not limited to, building placement standards shall be the most restrictive of Tahoe Regional Planning Agency standards and Washoe County standards above.

- (1) For parcels abutting roadways rated in the TRPA's scenic resources inventory (State Routes 430 and 28), the minimum building setback from the right-of-way of such roadways shall be 20 feet. Decks (except decks for off-street parking), stairs, canopies, building, or roof overhangs shall not intrude into the 20 foot setback established in this subparagraph. TRPA may approve building setbacks less than 20 feet if TRPA finds that the project will not cause a decrease in the numerical ratings assigned to the roadway unit, including the scenic quality rating of the individual resources within each unit, as recorded in the 1982 scenic resources inventory and shown in tables 13-3 and 13-8 of the Study Report for the Establishment of Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities, October, 1982. The criteria for rating scenic quality as identified in the study report cited herein shall be used to determine if a project will cause a decrease in the numerical rating.
- (2) Buildings, other structures and land coverage shall be setback from SEZs in accordance with Chapter 37, Individual Parcel Evaluation System, of the TRPA Code.

- (3) Other setbacks are set forth in Chapter 64, Grading Standards, of the TRPA Code.
- C. Double Counting Yards:** No required yard or open space around any building shall be considered a yard or open space for any other building on an adjoining lot or parcel.
- D. Combining Lots:** If two (2) or more lots must be combined to meet the minimum yard requirements of this article, the lots shall be legally merged into one (1) lot before a building permit will be issued.
- E. Unobstructed Yards:** Any yard required by the Development Code shall be open and unobstructed from the ground to the sky except as provided in this article.
- F. Front Yards:** Front yards shall comply with the provisions of this section.
- (1) Through Lots: On through lots, either end line may be considered the front line, except when the access would be from a street classified as an arterial. The minimum rear yard shall not be less than the required front yard in the regulatory zone in which such lot is located. After development of the lot has occurred, the yard chosen as the front yard shall remain the front yard for all further development on the lot
- (2) Interior Lots: On any interior lot in any residential or agricultural zone, the front yard requirement shall be fifteen (15) feet where the slope of the front half of the lot is greater than a two (2) foot rise (or fall) above (or below) the established street grade for every ten (10) feet of horizontal distance. Plans submitted must be specific enough to establish conformance with these provisions.
- (3) Corner Lots: On a corner lot, all yards abutting streets shall be considered as front yards.
- (4) Obstruction to Vision: There shall be no fences or other obstruction to vision more than three (3) feet higher than curb level within thirty (30) feet of the intersection of any two (2) streets on any corner lot.
- (5) Architectural Features: Cornices, canopies, chimneys, eaves or other similar architectural features may extend into a required front yard not to exceed two (2) feet.
- (6) Detached Garages: Detached garages may be located behind the required front setback.
- G. Side Yards:** Side yards shall comply with the provisions of this section.
- (1) Outside Stairs: Outside stairs or landing places, if unroofed or unenclosed, may extend into a required side yard for a distance not to exceed three (3) feet.
- (2) Architectural Features: Cornices, canopies, chimneys, eaves or other similar architectural features may extend into a required side yard not to exceed two (2) feet.(3)
- (3) Accessory Structures: Accessory structures may be located in a side yard as provided in Article 306, Accessory Uses and Structures, except that a guest building shall not be located in a side yard.

- H. Rear Yards:** *Rear yards shall comply with the provisions of this section.*
- (1) **Outside Stairs:** *Outside stairs or landing places, if unroofed or unenclosed, may extend into a required rear yard for a distance not to exceed five (5) feet.*
 - (2) **Architectural Features:** *Cornices, canopies, chimneys, eaves or other similar architectural features may extend into a required rear yard not to exceed two (2) feet.*
 - (3) **Accessory Structures:** *Accessory structures may be located in a rear yard as provided in Article 306, Accessory Uses and Structures.*
- I. Visual Obstructions:** *Walls, fences, planting and other visual obstructions not over six (6) feet in height may be erected, placed or grown on lot lines, except in required front yard areas. Walls, fences, planting and other visual obstructions not over four-and-one-half (4-1/2) feet in height may be erected, placed or grown anywhere on the lot except as provided in Section F, Front Yards.*

GUIDELINES

1. **Provide Variety:** Variety is encouraged in the setbacks and in the relationship of buildings to the street in order to reduce the sense of sameness which characterizes strip development.
2. **Provide Larger Setbacks on Larger Parcels:** Developments with longer street frontage are encouraged to have generally larger setbacks.
3. **Coordinate Setbacks:** The setbacks for a project should be responsive to neighboring uses and appear coordinated to them.
4. **Reduced Setbacks Along Scenic Threshold Roadways:** This guideline only applies to situations where the proposed building or building addition is closer than 20 feet from the property line and is along a TRPA Scenic Threshold Roadway. Setbacks closer than 20 feet are generally discouraged. In scenic threshold roadway units which are in threshold attainment buildings proposed closer than 20 feet may be approved when the proposed building is set back the same distance or greater than existing buildings along the same travel unit. Visual mitigation measures such as landscaping, building facade improvements, walkway installation, etc., may be required to offset the visual impact.

If a building is proposed to be set back closer than 20 feet along a scenic threshold roadway unit which is not in threshold attainment, the applicant first should review the visual assessment and recommendations for that unit. This information is located in TRPA's Scenic Quality Improvement Program. If lack of setbacks is a significant problem in the unit, exceptions to the 20 foot setback generally will not be approved. If setbacks are not listed as a specific problem, visual mitigation measures such as those listed above may be required to offset the visual impact.

5. **Activities Within Setbacks:** Only landscaping, architectural features such as canopies or overhangs, structures housing mechanical or other utility equipment which are 3 feet in height or lower, driveways and signs should be located within front yard setbacks. Also see landscaped setback guidelines in Section 6. Landscaping. Local jurisdictions within the Region have differing requirements regarding what is allowed within setbacks. Please check these requirements before designing your project.

6. **Provide Landscaped Setbacks on Commercial Properties:** A landscaped buffer no less than 10 feet wide is recommended between the edge of the travelled roadway and building facades in order to provide a sense of separation between the roadway and pedestrian areas. Placement of pedestrian walkways between the landscaping and the building is preferable to placement along the street edge. Landscape treatments should be compatible with snow removal techniques.

In commercial areas, where existing development is set close to the roadway (10 foot or less setback) and structures are relatively small in scale, it may be desirable to maintain minimal building setbacks to preserve a more intimate pedestrian scale for the area. This would only be appropriate if new development maintained a similar scale, if pedestrian facilities are provided, and if parking along the frontages of structures (both on- and off-street) was removed or restricted.

7. **Residential Setbacks:** In non-commercial areas, the purpose of building setbacks should be to minimize the visibility of development from adjoining travel corridors. The setback may permit a densely planted buffer of native vegetation to be maintained along the roadway. Such a buffer should respect and attempt to maintain significant views of natural features or other scenic elements.

Residential units that take direct access off major travel routes should be set back as far as possible. Deeper setbacks along major travel routes will also permit the preservation of views from the roadway. In many cases this guideline conflicts with minimum coverage regulations because longer driveways to serve the residences take up additional coverage. Since no coverage overrides for deeper setbacks are provided, this conflict must be resolved on an individual basis.

Front yard setbacks for residential development along threshold routes must meet the minimum twenty (20) feet setback from the road right-of-way. Garages, decks, and stairs should not intrude into front setback.

As much as possible, existing mature, natural vegetation (especially tree cover) located in the front setback should be preserved. To insure effective screening, additional native trees (species should be selected from TRPA's Recommended Native and Adapted Plant List and should be compatible with existing native species in surrounding area) should be introduced so that trees are spaced at an average of 20 feet on-center minimum and at least two rows deep.

8. **Subdivision Frontages:** Residential subdivision frontages along major travel corridors should use a combination of existing vegetation, setbacks of structures, and landscape screening so that they are not readily visible from major travel corridors (i.e. average setback of 200-250 feet from roadway).

Subdivision entrances should be designed to provide safe, efficient, easy-to-identify access points, while also creating a positive first impression that is compatible with the surrounding natural vegetation. The location of existing vegetation and geological features should help determine the appropriate entry setting.

Chapter Four

PARKING, LOADING, AND CIRCULATION

The design of parking areas should be safe and accessible. Simple layouts which can be readily understood by motorists are advocated, especially in urban areas. Reducing the visual dominance of the automobile in the landscape while increasing opportunities for the pedestrian are important design goals addressed in this section.

The purpose of this Chapter, Parking, Loading, and Circulation, is to regulate parking and loading in order to lessen traffic congestion and contribute to public safety by providing sufficient on-site areas for the maneuvering and parking of motor vehicles that are attracted to and generated by land uses within the County.

STANDARDS

A. Applicability: *The provisions of this article shall apply whenever:*

- (1) *A new structure is constructed;*
- (2) *An existing structure, including a legal nonconforming structure, is enlarged for any purpose, the parking and loading requirements for the entire structure shall apply;*
- (3) *The intensity of use, or expansion of use is changed, the parking and loading requirements for the use shall apply.*

B. Required Parking Spaces: *On-site parking spaces shall be provided in the quantities set forth in Appendix A.*

- (1) *Description of Use Types: The use types referred to Appendix A, are defined in Chapter 18, Permissible Uses, of the TRPA Code.*
- (2) *Requirements Cumulative: Where Appendix A sets forth more than one (1) requirement for a given use type, those requirements shall be cumulative.*
- (3) *Space Based on Square Footage: The square footage requirements used in Appendix A to calculate parking spaces refer to the total enclosed areas of all buildings on the lot, but excludes the areas of spaces having a height of less than seven (7) feet and the area used exclusively for parking and loading.*
- (4) *Spaces Based on Employees: The employee requirements used in Table A to calculate parking spaces refer to the maximum number of employees who could be working at one time when the facility is operating at full capacity.*
- (5) *Rounding Off Numbers: Whenever the computation of the number of off-street parking spaces required by Table A results in a fractional parking space, one (1) additional parking space shall be required for a fractional space of one-half (1/2) or more. A fractional space of less than one (1/2) shall not be counted.*

- (6) Single Family Houses, Including Secondary Residences: Parking spaces within a driveway, a garage or carport shall be considered in determining the adequacy of parking facilities. Stacked parking may occur.
- (7) Other Residential Uses: Only designated parking spaces and one parking space, per unit within individual garages shall be considered in determining the adequacy of parking facilities. Stacked parking may occur for no more than two vehicles.
- (8) Multiple Uses: If two or more uses share a project area, demand for each use shall be calculated separately, and the total demand shall be the total of the parking demand for the uses subject to exceptions noted below.
- (9) Fleet Vehicles: Tourist accommodation, commercial, public service and recreation uses shall provide one parking space for each business or fleet vehicle.
- (10) Visitor/Service Parking: All uses shall provide for parking for visitors and service deliveries to the use, such parking not to conflict with snow removal regulations, traffic flows and unrestricted access.

C. Modification of Standards:

- (1) Shared Parking: Washoe County and TRPA may approve shared parking facilities for two or more uses provided that applicants execute and record reciprocal agreements for shared parking and can make the following findings: (a) the uses have different peak periods, (b) the parking demand will not overlap, and (c) the parking facility is of adequate size to meet demand.
- (2) Parking Reduction for Transit: Parking requirements for uses other than single family dwellings may be reduced 20 percent if a traffic analysis indicates public transit service exists within 300 feet of the property and is a viable substitute for parking. For each space reduced, the project shall be required to contribute \$300 per year or the fee required by the transit provider to the transit agency providing the service.
- (3) Off-site parking shall not be considered in determining the adequacy of parking facilities except as follows:
 - (a) Temporary Uses: Off-site parking may be permitted for a temporary use on the basis of an approved parking analysis.
 - (b) Deed Restrictions: Based upon an approved parking analysis, off-site parking may be allowed provided an appropriate deed restriction is recorded which documents the relationship of the two parcels.
 - (c) Assessment Districts: Off-site parking provided pursuant to an assessment district and a related parking analysis may be approved.
 - (d) Locations: Off-site location may be approved if TRPA and Washoe County finds that it will not violate other applicable standards. Such parking shall be located within 300 feet of the facility it serves or shall be directly connected by transit during the hours of operation.

- (4) Required Parking Spaces: In lieu of the Parking Demand table, and applicant may submit for TRPA approval a technically adequate parking analysis. It shall include:
 - (a) A parking demand estimate.
 - (b) Propose alternatives to the parking standards.
 - (c) Methods of ensuring compliance.
 - (d) Additional information that may be required.

D. Special Parking Provisions:

- (1) Motorcycle and Bicycle Spaces: For every four (4) motorcycle or six (6) bicycle parking spaces provided, a credit of one (1) parking space shall be given toward the requirement of this article, provided, however, that the credit for each shall not exceed one-fortieth (1/40) of the total number of automobile spaces required. If determined necessary by the County or TRPA, bollards shall be installed to separate and protect motorcycle and bicycle spaces from automobile circulation. The minimum dimension for motorcycle and bicycle spaces shall be as set forth in the following subsections:

- (a) Motorcycle spaces shall be a minimum of seven (7) feet in length and three (3) feet four (4) inches in width as illustrated in Figure 4.1.

**Figure 4.1
Motorcycle Parking Dimensions**

- (b) Bicycle spaces shall be a minimum of six (6) feet in length and two (2) feet six (6) inches in width as illustrated in Figure 4.2.

**Figure 4.2
Bicycle Parking Dimensions**

- (2) Bicycle Storage: In commercial and industrial projects with twenty (20) or more required parking spaces, a rack or other secure device for the purpose of storing and protecting bicycles from theft shall be installed. Such devices shall be provided with a minimum capacity of one bicycle per twenty (20) required parking spaces and shall be located so as not to interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- (3) Handicapped Parking: In any parking facility serving the public, parking for the handicapped shall be provided as set forth in this subsection.
 - (a) Handicapped parking spaces shall be provided in accordance with Table 4.3. One (1) of every eight (8) required handicapped spaces shall be van accessible space (a minimum of one (1) van accessible space per parking area).

Table 4.3
Handicapped Accessible Spaces

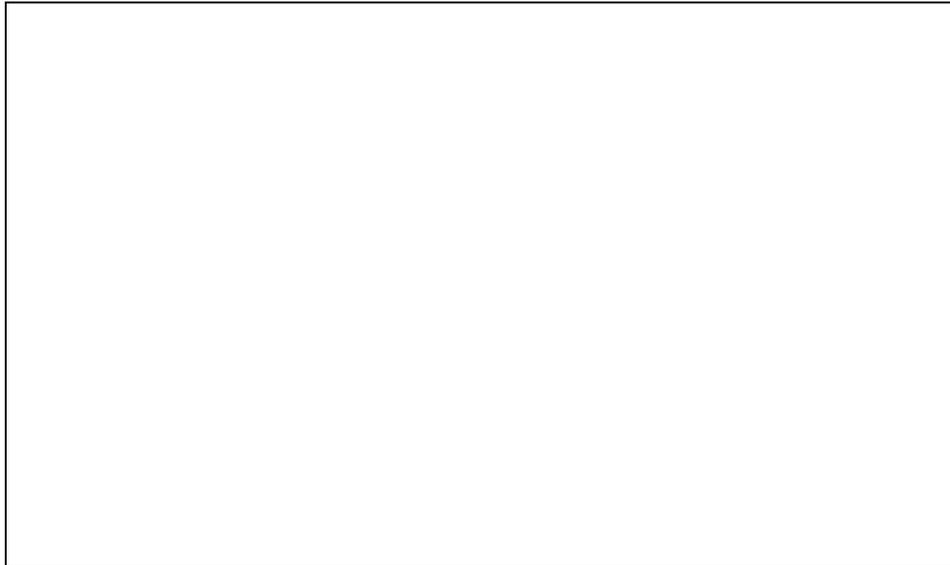
Spaces in Lot	Required Number of Accessible Spaces
1 to 25	1

26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 to 1,000	2 percent of Total
1,001 and over	20 plus 1 per 100 above 1,000

Source: Washoe County Department of comprehensive Planning

- (b) *Handicapped parking spaces shall be a minimum of eight (8) feet in width and a minimum of eighteen (18) feet in length, as illustrated in Figure 4.4.*

Figure 4.4
Handicapped Parking Dimensions



- (c) *Handicapped spaces shall be provided with an adjacent access aisle, as illustrated in Figure 4.4. Access aisles shall be a minimum of five (5) feet in width. Van access aisles shall be a minimum of eight (8) feet in width. Access aisles shall be located on the passenger side of each space unless it is located between and is shared by two (2) designated spaces.*
- (d) *Handicapped parking spaces and access aisles shall be level.*
- (e) *Handicapped spaces shall be located as near as possible to accessible building or site entrances and shall be located so as to provide convenient access to curb ramps.*

- (f) Each reserved handicapped parking space shall be designated with a stall sign displaying the International Symbol of Accessibility, as illustrated in Figure 4.5. Each stall sign shall be at least seventy (70) square inches in size. Spaces that are van accessible shall be designated as "Van Accessible".

Figure 4.5
International Symbol of Accessibility



- (g) Each reserved handicapped parking space shall meet one (1) of the following stall markings requirements:
- (i) Each handicapped parking space shall be painted solid blue with a white International Symbol of Accessibility; or
 - (ii) Each handicapped parking space shall be outlined in blue with a three (3) foot square International Symbol of Accessibility painted in a contrasting color.
- (h) Each reserved handicapped parking space shall be marked with a sign warning drivers of the possibility of towing due to unauthorized use and providing information of recovering towed vehicles. Warning signs shall have minimum dimensions of seventeen (17) inches by twenty-two (22) inches and shall be labeled with lettering of at least one (1) inch in height.
- (i) A minimum of ninety-eight (98) vertical inches of clearance shall be provided for van accessibility spaces and the entire route from parking are ingress/egress points to the parking space.
- (j) As illustrated in Figure 4.6, a minimum vehicle overhang allowance of twenty-four (24) inches shall be provided between accessible routes and handicapped parking spaces. Said accessible routes shall, at all times, provide users with a minimum width of thirty-six (36) inches of throughway.

E. Location of Required Parking Spaces: Required parking spaces shall be located as set forth in this section.

- (1) On Same or Adjacent Lot: For dwellings, motel, automobile-oriented services, and elementary, junior high, and high schools, required parking spaces shall be provided on the same lot as the main building(s) or on an adjoining lot or lots zoned for the main use of the property.
- (2) Other Uses: For uses not listed in Subsection (1) above, required parking spaces shall be located within three hundred (300) feet of the lot on which the main building is located.
- (3) Adjacent and Off-site Lots: If an adjacent or off-site lot is used to satisfy the parking requirements, the lot(s) shall be secured in such a manner that will provide parking for the life of the project. This requirement does not preclude the use of reciprocal parking agreements, so long as the agreement is in a form acceptable to Washoe County.

F. Design of Parking Areas: The design standards for off-street parking facilities shall be set forth in this section;

- (1) Parking Lot Design: Parking lot design and dimensions shall be in accordance with Table C and Figure 4.7.

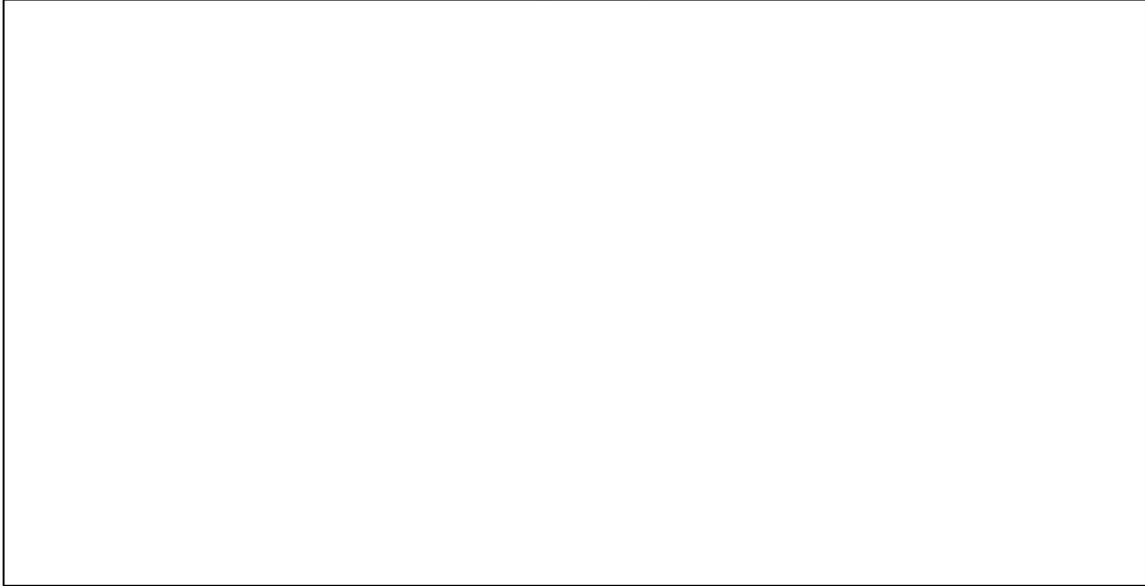
Table C
Parking Dimensions

A (Angle in Degrees)	C	D	L	Q	V	W	X	Y
0	12.0*	8.5	22.0	0.0	17.0	8.5	22.5	0.0
15	12.0*	12.6	17.0	4.4	32.8	8.5	16.4	2.2
30	12.0*	15.9	17.0	8.5	17.0	8.5	14.7	4.3
45	12.0*	18.0	17.0	12.0	12.0	8.5	12.0	6.0
60	16.0*	19.0	17.0	14.7	9.8	8.5	8.5	7.4
75	20.0	18.6	17.0	16.4	8.8	8.5	4.4	8.2
90	24.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	8.5	8.5	0.0	8.5

Note: This table provides dimensions (in feet of parking spaces and lots. The asterisk (*) indicates the minimum aisle width for two-way traffic is twenty (20) feet. The letters in the column headings refer to dimensions illustrated in Figure 4.7 and to the following: A = Angle of Parking Spaces; C = Width of Aisle; D = Depth of Stall; L = Length of Stall; Q = Interlock Length of Stall; V = Interlock Width of Stall; W = Width of Stall; X = End of Parking Stall Aisle Width; Y = Perpendicular Width of Stall; and $D = W \cos A + \sin A$; $Q = L \sin A$; $V = W/\sin A$; $X = L \cos A$; and $Y = Q/2$.

Source: Sedway cooke Associates

Figure 4.7
Parking Lot Layout



- (2) Automobile Parking Spaces (Sizes): Parking space sized shall be built with an uninstal design in accordance with Table C and Figure 4.7.
- (3) Wheel Stops: A wheel stop or curb, if used, shall be placed between two-and-one-half (2-1/2) and three (3) feet from the end of the parking space.
- (4) Striping and Marking: All parking stalls shall be striped and directional arrows shall be delineated in a manner acceptable to the County Engineer. All paint used for striping and directional arrows shall be of a type approved by the County Engineer.
- (5) Surfacing: All parking spaces, driveways and maneuvering areas shall be paved and permanently maintained with asphalt or cement. Bumper guard shall be provided when necessary to protect adjacent structures or properties as determined by the Director of Development Review and TRPA.
- (6) Landscaping and Screening: All open parking areas shall be landscaped and/or screened according to the standards set forth in Chapter 6, Landscaping.
- (7) Lighting: All off-street parking areas within commercially-zoned projects shall be provided with exterior lighting which meets the following minimum standards:
 - (a) Proper illumination shall be provided for safety which, at a minimum, shall be the equivalent of one (1) foot candle average of illumination throughout the parking area;
 - (b) All lighting shall be on a time clock or photo-sensor system;
 - (c) Parking lot luminaires shall be high-pressure sodium vapor with 90-degree cut-off and flat lenses; and

- (d) *All lighting shall be designed to confine direct rays to the premises. No spillover beyond the property line shall be permitted, except onto public thoroughfares proved, however, that such light shall not cause a hazard to motorists.*
- (8) Access: *Access to parking areas shall be provide as follow:*
 - (a) *Access driveways shall have a width of no less than twenty (20) feet;*
 - (b) *The parking area shall be designed so that a vehicle within the parking area will not have to enter a public street to move from one location to any other location within the parking area; and*
 - (c) *Vehicular access to arterial streets and highways will be permitted only in accordance with driveway locations and access design to be approved by the County Engineer. Except for single family driveways, on-site parking that requires backing out on to streets is prohibited*
- (9) Parking Aisles: *The minimum dimensions for parking aisles (the space required for maneuvering vehicles within a parking lot) shall be as set forth in Table C and Figure 4.7.*

G. Truck Parking and Loading: *Parking and loading space for trucks shall be provided as set forth in this section.*

- (1) General Commercial Uses: *For commercial uses, a minimum of one (1) space shall be provided for every use with three thousand (3,000) or more square feet of gross floor area. Additional parking and loading space may be required based on the operating characteristics of the individual use. In such instances, the number of spaces provided shall be determined by the Director of Development Review and TRPA upon the submittal of site plans and general operation plans.*
- (2) Light Industrial and Wholesale/Storage Uses: *For light industrial and wholesale/storage uses, spaces shall be provided as follows:*
 - (a) *One (1) space shall be required for each use having three thousand (3,000) to twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of gross floor area;*
 - (b) *Two (2) loading spaces shall be required for each use having twenty thousand (20,000) to forty thousand (40,000) square feet of gross floor area; and*
 - (c) *For each twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of gross floor area, or major fraction thereof, over forty thousand (40,000) square feet of gross floor area, one (1) loading space shall be required.*
- (3) Design Standards: *Design of required spaces shall be as follows:*
 - (a) *Spaces shall be a minimum twenty-five (25) feet in length an fifteen (15) feet in width, and shall have minimum height clearance of fourteen (14) feet;*
 - (b) *Spaces shall not interfere with vehicular circulation or parking, or with pedestrian circulation; and*

- (c) *On-site driveways and maneuvering areas may be used in lieu of one (1) of the off-street loading spaces required by this section, as long as maneuvering areas for delivery vehicles are provided*

H. Driveways: *Driveways may exceed 10% slope for single family houses, including secondary residences and 5% slope for all other uses, if Washoe County and TRPA find that a steeper driveway would minimize the amount of grading and site disturbance that would result from construction of a driveway of lesser slope. In no case shall a driveway exceed 14% for residential use or 8% for all other uses. Driveway widths shall conform to the following standards:*

- (1) Single Family: *Single family houses, including secondary residences, require driveways of a minimum width of 10 feet. Where the house includes a garage, the driveway shall be at least as wide as the garage door opening for a distance of 20 feet and shall taper to the appropriate width, but no less than 10 feet.*
- (2) Other residential uses: *Two-way driveways serving residential uses other than single family houses shall be 24 feet. One-way driveways serving residential uses other than single family houses shall be 12 feet.*
- (3) Tourist Accommodation, Commercial, Public Service and Recreation Uses: *Two-way driveways serving these uses shall have a minimum width of 20 feet and a maximum width of 30 feet. One-way driveways serving such uses shall have a minimum width of 10 feet and maximum of 15 feet. For two-way driveways with median dividers serving such development, each direction shall have a minimum width of 10 feet and a maximum of 17 feet.*
- (4) Impacts: *New driveways shall be designed and located so as to cause the least adverse impacts on traffic, transportation, air quality, water quality and safety.*
- (5) Shared Driveway: *Washoe County and TRPA shall encourage shared driveways in new projects, if it is found that the effect is equal or superior to the effect of separate driveways.*
- (6) Federal and State Standards: *On federal and state highways, ingress/egress standards of Nevada (NDOT) shall apply. Where state standards conflict with county standards, state standards apply.*
- (7) Number of Driveways: *New development, which does not require a traffic analysis pursuant to TRPA Code, shall be served by a single driveway with no more than two points of ingress/egress from the public right-of-way or other access road. Additional or transferred development, requiring a traffic analysis, shall conform to ingress/egress provisions necessary to mitigate all traffic and air quality impacts under TRPA Code.*
- (8) Intersection Setbacks: *All exits onto public streets shall be located a minimum of 50' from an intersection.*
- (9) Curb Cut Width: *Curb cut widths shall be a minimum of 24' for two-way traffic, and 14' for one-way traffic.*
- (10) Curb Cut Separation: *Curb cuts on the same lot shall be separated by a minimum distance of 22'.*

(11) Emergency Access: Provide adequate access for emergency vehicles and for those persons attempting to render emergency services.

- I. Pedestrian Circulation: Pedestrian circulation systems shall be required for Commercial, Tourist Accommodation, Public Service and Multi-residential projects. Sidewalks shall be a minimum 48" wide, with gradients less than 5%. Ramps for use by the handicapped shall not exceed a 1:12 slope and shall be provided with landings as specified in the Uniform Building Code. Ramps exceeding a 1:15 slope shall be fitted with handrails, 30-34" in height above the stair tread. Sidewalk dimensional standards are applicable to public and right-of-way easement walkways only, and not to pedestrian facilities and structures within the private property (unless otherwise required by safety and fire codes).

GUIDELINES

1. Location of Parking: A major scenic goal within the Lake Tahoe Basin is to reduce the visual impact associated with the automobile. Toward this end, parking in commercial areas should be located away from building frontages and the main roadway whenever possible.

It is preferable to have parking areas located in back or side yards where the parking can be more efficiently screened by buildings and landscaping. This also helps establish a stronger architectural edge along the travel corridors when cars are not parked between the viewer and the building.

In areas where commercial development backs directly onto the lakeshore, it may be preferable to maintain the area between the building and the lake free of parking.

2. On-Street Parking: In order to reduce the visual clutter and unpredictability along the edges of the major travel routes, on-street parking should be restricted along the state and federal highways (i.e. Highways 28 and 431). In those areas where it is desirable to maintain on-street parking, it is recommended that on-street parking be accommodated in parallel parking bays. Each bay would be designed to hold a maximum of four (4) parked vehicles. Bays would be paved and clearly defined with curbing. An eight (8) foot wide minimum landscaped area should be required at the end of each parking bay (i.e. consecutive parking bays would have 16 feet of landscaped area between them).
3. Stacked Parking: Stacked Parking areas are recommended only when vehicles are directed or parked by parking attendants. Dimensions for stacked parking spaces should be 8 feet by 16 feet. An aisle at least 12 feet wide should be maintained along the length of one side of the stacked parking area to allow for emergency access. In areas of stacked parking, maintain an aisle clear of vehicles at least 12 feet wide along the length of one side of the stacked parking area.
4. Compact Vehicle Spaces: Parking lots with 20 or more required parking spaces may design for a maximum 25 percent compact car spaces. Space width should be a minimum of 8 feet and space to curb length should be a minimum of 15 feet.
5. Delineation of Parking Areas: Considerable visual confusion and clutter results from the uncoordinated parking that occurs in poorly defined and unpaved areas along the shoulder of the roadway. All parking areas should have clearly defined boundaries and should be striped to indicate

location of spaces within the parking lot. The parking lot should be maintained to ensure that striping remains clearly visible.

6. **Provide Wheel Stops:** Use wheel stops wherever needed in order to prevent automobiles from parking on dirt areas or landscape plantings, or from overhanging walkways. Wheel stops should be placed approximately four feet back from the edge of landscaping to allow for bumper overhang. Commonly used types of wheel stops include precast concrete units, landscape timbers, and railroad ties which are staked into the ground. Bollards may also be used. Wooden bollards should be used rather than steel poles. No setback for bumper overhang is needed when using bollards.
7. **Sloped Parking Areas:** When parking is sited on sloping terrain, terrace the parking lots to follow the terrain rather than allowing the lot surface to extend above the natural grade.
8. **Elements of Pedestrian Environments:** Provide elements which will contribute to an attractive pedestrian environment including:
 - q Destinations which can be reached on foot;
 - q Pedestrian-scaled signage and other information;
 - q Elimination of barriers and obstacles to continuous movement;
 - q Protection from inclement weather; and
 - q Clearly marked pathways or walkways of adequate width.
9. **Provide Pedestrian Amenities:** Provide pedestrian amenities which will encourage people to walk such as:
 - q Street furniture;
 - q Outdoor cafes;
 - q Pedestrian plazas;
 - q Window shopping opportunities; and
 - q Outdoor entertainment.
10. **Provide a Comprehensible Circulation Pattern:** The circulation pattern should be easily comprehended by the user.
11. **Separate Circulation Modes:** Separate vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems should be provided in order to reduce conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. Separation can be effected through the use of changes in grade, materials, screens, and structures.
12. **Anticipate Movement Patterns:** Layout of sidewalks should follow the anticipated movement of pedestrians. Failure on the part of the designer to anticipate these patterns often results in the creation of informal "people paths" which often lead to vegetation destruction and increased soil erosion.

13. **Separate Loading Activities:** Loading activities should not interfere with other site circulation patterns. This often means locating most loading activities to the rear or side of the site.
14. **Clearly Mark Building Entries:** Building entries should be clearly visible from the parking areas and should be kept clear of parking.
15. **Use Compatible Paving Materials:** Paving materials should be compatible with other site materials. Sidewalk surfaces should be non-slippery.
16. **Provide Site Access Options:** Provide at least two points of access to the site whenever possible. This increases the options of fire and safety personnel to reach a site during an emergency. Service drives can serve this purpose if access to the building is available. A secondary access point need not always be a road or drive. Grasscrete or even lawn open to a public street can be used as emergency access.
17. **No Parking in Driveways:** Discourage parking in the driveway.

Chapter Five

SNOW STORAGE

Accommodating snow removal and storage presents unique challenges to site planning and design. During snow months, roofs, parking areas, and walkways become areas which need to be cleared of snow for safety and convenience. When snow is not disposed of offsite, provisions need to be made to store the snow on site.

STANDARDS

A. **Standards for Snow Storage:** *The standards for snow storage are:*

- (1) **Parking:** *Parking areas shall be sloped at least two percent to prevent ponding and icing.*
- (2) **Commercial, tourist accommodation, public service, recreation and multi-residential projects:** *Shall provide, within the project area, snow storage areas of a size adequate to store snow removed from parking, driveway and pedestrian access areas or have arrangements by means of recorded easements or equivalent arrangements to remove and store accumulated snow offsite.*
- (3) **Snow disposal:** *All persons conducting public, commercial or private snow removal or disposal operations shall dispose of snow in accordance with site criteria and management standards in the handbook of best management practices, and the criteria below;*
- (4) **Requirements for individual parcels:** *Removal of snow from individual parcels shall be limited to structures, paved areas, and unpaved areas necessary to safely park or provide safe pedestrian access.*
- (5) **Requirements for dirt roads:** *Snow removal from dirt roads is subject to regulation pursuant to Chapter 9, Remedial Action Plans, of the TRPA Code. When TRPA approves snow removal from a dirt road, pursuant to project approval or in accord with provisions of Chapter 9, it shall specify required winterization practices, BMPs, the specific means of snow removal, and a schedule for either paving the dirt road or ceasing snow removal.*

GUIDELINES

1. **Provide Snow Storage Areas:** All parking areas, whether on- or off-street, should be designed to accommodate snow removal maintenance procedures. Wherever possible, locate storage areas away from public views and visually sensitive areas (e.g. at the rear of the property, screened by the buildings, etc.). Do not locate storage areas or dispose of snow in drainage channels or swales. Provide infiltration systems in the storage areas consistent with the Handbook of Best Management Practices.
2. **Storing Snow on Pavement:** The paved surface of the parking area may be used to store snow when deicing compounds (especially salt) are used on the pavement. This will

prevent damage to landscaped areas by the deicing compounds. Storing snow on impervious surfaces generally requires the installation of infiltration trenches, dry wells, or other drainage conveyance system. Periodic maintenance of the snow storage area will be necessary to remove accumulated debris and road sand.

3. **Storing Snow on Landscaped Areas:** Landscape and planting beds around parking areas may be used for snow storage, especially when no chemical de-icing compounds (not including sand) are used on the parking surface. Infiltration systems consistent with the Handbook of Best Management Practices may be necessary. Storage areas may also be constructed in landscape areas using a 12" layer of crushed rock in order to screen it. Avoid directing runoff from the storage area toward any drainage channel or swale. Periodic maintenance of the snow storage area will be necessary to remove accumulated debris and road sand.
4. **Define and Protect Landscaped Edges:** Edges of landscaped areas adjacent to roadways and parking areas should be delineated with reinforced curbing, large rocks or boulders, timbers, berming, or other grade changes. The edge materials used should be compatible with snow removal techniques in order to protect plant materials from snow plows and other vehicles. The perimeter of all plowed areas should be marked during the Winter with snow stakes. Edges of landscaped areas which are delineated with materials like those mentioned above can also function as permanent vehicle barriers.
5. **Pave Dirt Roads and Parking Surfaces:** Paving existing dirt roads, walkways, and parking surfaces will prevent the unintentional plowing and moving of dirt when snow plowing.

Chapter Six

LANDSCAPING

The primary goal is to protect the existing and natural vegetation of the Tahoe Region. In areas that have been disturbed, TRPA Code Chapter 25, Best Management Practice Requirements, requires protection of vegetated areas and the revegetation of disturbed areas. TRPA Code Chapter 77, Revegetation, sets forth the requirements of revegetation. This landscaping section addresses revegetation requirements in the built environment.

Landscaping can be used to successfully integrate the built environment into the natural environment. It can also provide pleasant outdoor spaces for people, mitigate noise and air quality impacts, and help screen undesirable elements. Regional climatic and physiographic conditions generally impact landscape and plant materials, and must be taken into account early in the design process. It is recommended that landscape design and planning take advantage of the different visual environments in formulating a design theme or concept. The purpose of this section, Landscaping, is to establish regulations for the development, installation and maintenance of landscaped areas within the Tahoe Plan Area and Washoe County, without inhibiting creative landscape design. The intent of these regulations is to protect the public health, and safety and welfare by:

- q Increasing compatibility between residential, commercial and industrial land uses;
- q Enhancing the economic viability of the County and the quality of living for residents and visitors by creating an attractive appearance of development along streets and highway;
- q Reducing heat, glare, noise, erosion, pollutants and dust by increasing the amount of vegetation;
- q Preserving significant ecological communities, and desirable existing trees and vegetation best suited for the local microclimate; and
- q Maximizing water conservation through established conservation principles and practices, and through proper landscape and irrigation planning, design and management.

STANDARD

A. **Applicability:** *The provisions set forth in this section shall apply as follows:*

- (1) **Developed Land Area:** *Developed land areas of all projects and activities subject to the provisions of TRPA Code Chapter 25, Best Management Practice Requirements, shall be subject to this Section, except for single family residential uses and other uses TRPA and Washoe County have determined that the revegetation requirements of TRPA Code Chapter 77, Revegetation, to be adequate.*
- (2) **Duplicate Ordinance:** *If the provisions of this article are in conflict with other ordinances or regulations, the more stringent limitations or requirement shall prevail to the extent of the conflict. The provisions of this article may be waived if*

the proposed landscaping conflicts with the restoration, revegetation, or vegetation view protection requirements of the TRPA Code.

- (3) Review of Extenuating Circumstances: The applicant may appeal to the TRPA for special review resulting from extenuating circumstances or physical conditions on the proposed project site.

B. Developed Land Area: For purposes of this Landscape Section, developed land area is that portion of the project area that contains altered or improved land area where the existing vegetation no longer exists or can not be maintained naturally. Such areas may include construction areas, areas of heavy pedestrian use, areas subject to disturbance or unusual treatment, artificial areas such as planters, etc.

C. Required Plans: A site plan, planting plan and an irrigation plan are required, and a soil analysis is required for all non-exempt development. These plans shall be prepared by a licensed landscaped architect or other persons permitted to prepare landscaping and irrigation plans pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 623A and submitted to, and approved by, TRPA.

- (1) Site Plan: A site plan is required to ensure that the proposed landscape improvements are in conformance with the standards and requirements of this article. A copy of the approved site plan shall be kept on the project site until the project is inspected and accepted by the TRPA. A site plan, drawn at a scale appropriate to the proposed project, including dimensions and distances, shall include at a minimum:

- (a) Location and configuration of proposed and existing buildings, and site improvements on a base map with existing and proposed topography; and
- (b) Location and amount of proposed and existing parking spaces and other paved areas, public rights-of-way and impervious surfaces.

- (2) Planting Plan: A planting plan is required to ensure that the proposed plantings are in conformance with the standards and requirements of this article. The planting plan must include all necessary information to satisfy Section L, Planting Standards, of this section. A planting plan shall include at a minimum:

- (a) Location, spacing, size, and genus and/or species of proposed plantings, and identification of existing plants;
- (b) Existing vegetation, natural features and site improvements on adjoining properties within ten (10) feet of the property line; and
- (c) Plant list which includes the following: quantity of proposed plants; existing plants to remain; number of proposed trees number of existing trees to be preserved; amount of paved area; and the amount of turf.

- (3) Irrigation Plan: An irrigation plan is required to ensure sufficient and timely watering necessary for the survival of newly installed plants. A copy of the approved irrigation plan shall be kept on the project site until the project is inspected and accepted by the TRPA. The irrigation plan must include all necessary information to satisfy Section M, Irrigation Standards, of this article.

An irrigation plan, drawn at a scale identical to the required site plan, shall include at a minimum:

- (a) Location, size and specifications of water source(s), water mains, meter(s), valves and the controller;
 - (b) Temporary or permanent water irrigation systems;
 - (c) Specifications of irrigation equipment identified by the manufacturer's name and equipment identification number; and
 - (d) An approved backflow prevention device is required on all landscape irrigation systems.
- (4) Soil Analysis: A determination of soil classification. A horticultural suitability analysis with appropriate recommendations is strongly encouraged to assist in proper selection of plant materials and soil amendment as necessary to enhance the health and growing capabilities of the plants.

D. Water Conservation: To promote resource-efficient landscaping for the conservation of water and other natural resources, the following principles and practices are encouraged:

- (1) Practical turf areas;
- (2) The use of water-conserving plant material;
- (3) The grouping of plants with similar water requirements;
- (4) An irrigation system designed to meet plant needs;
- (5) The installation of permeable hard surfaces to encouraged groundwater recharge and re-use, and to discourage run-off;
- (6) The use of water harvesting techniques;
- (7) The use of mulches;
- (8) The use of soil amendments based on soil analysis; and

E. Existing Vegetation: Existing vegetation within the project area, as generally depicted in Figure 6.1, shall be preserved as set forth in this section and may contribute toward all landscaping required by this article, including:

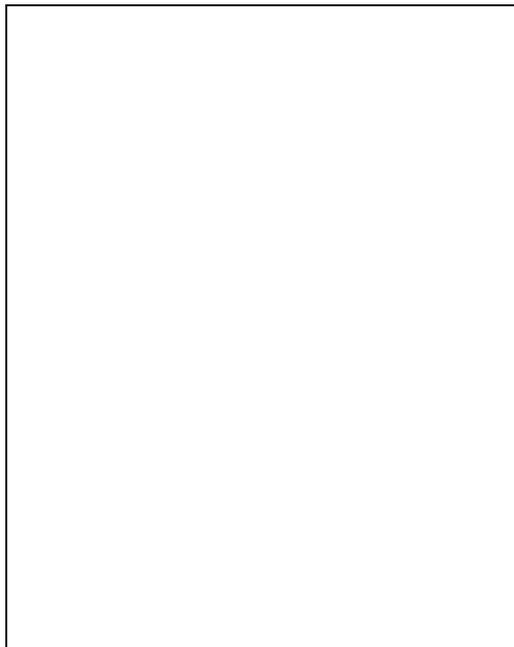
- (1) Existing Vegetation: Existing vegetation and ecological communities shall be protected and preserved where appropriate and as feasible;
- (2) Preservation of Protected and Endangered Vegetation: Protected and endangered vegetation as defined in the Conservation Element of the Washoe County Comprehensive Plan and Chapter 75, Sensitive and Uncommon Plant Protection and Fire Hazard Reduction, of the TRPA Code; and
- (3) Preservation of Significant Trees: Existing trees with a caliper greater than six (6) inches, as measured fifty-four (54) inches from grade, shall be preserved if

feasible. Protection measures, including non-disturbance around the drip-line and/or root zone, shall be incorporated into the landscaping plan.

F. Public Safety: All provisions of this article shall comply with the public safety requirements set forth in this section.

- (1) General: Landscaping shall meet the following safety requirements:
 - (a) Landscaping elements shall not be permitted if they pose a public health or safety threat; and
 - (b) The height, spread and growth habit of all plants shall not interfere with or obstruct ease of movement or impede a public right-of-way.
- (2) Special Areas: The use of thorny plants is prohibited along public bicycle and pedestrian paths, and the use poisonous and/or thorny plants is prohibited on properties used primarily by children such as schools, day care centers and nurseries.
- (3) Intersection Visibility: All trees shall be pruned such that no branches extend lower than six (6) feet above curb level and other plants shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches in height above any street curb under the following conditions:
 - (a) Street intersection: Within a thirty (30) foot visibility triangle.
 - (b) Commercial Driveway or Alleyway: Within a fifteen (15) foot visibility triangle.
 - (c) Residential Driveway: Within a ten (10) foot visibility triangle.

Figure 6.2
Intersection Visibility



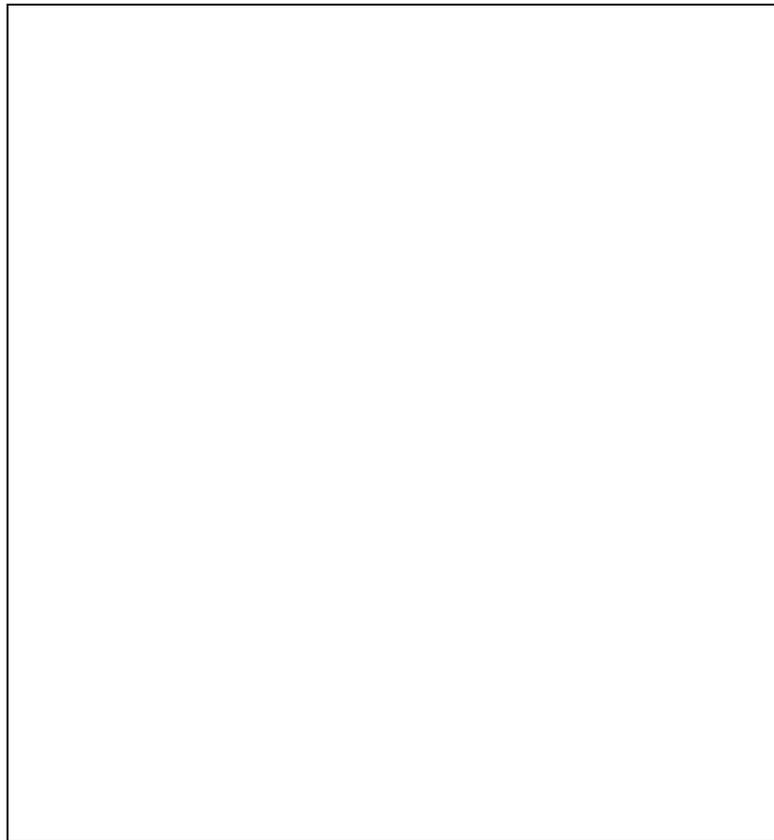
G. Residential Use Types: The following landscaping requirements shall apply to residential uses including duplex and multiplex residential subdivision lots and multi-family developments. Any landscaping required in this section may contribute toward the minimum requirements.

- (1) Coverage: A minimum twenty (20) percent of the total developed land area shall be landscaped.
- (2) Required Yards Adjoining Streets: All required front, rear or side yards which adjoin a public street shall be landscaped and shall include at least one (1) tree for every fifty (50) linear feet of street frontage, or fraction thereof.

H. Public Service, Tourist, and Commercial Use Types: The following minimum landscaping requirements shall apply to the total developed area for public service, tourist and commercial uses. The total developed land area is illustrated in Figure 6.1. Any landscaping required in this section may contribute toward the minimum requirements, including a mixture of building and buffer landscaping. These requirements are generally depicted in Figure 6.3.

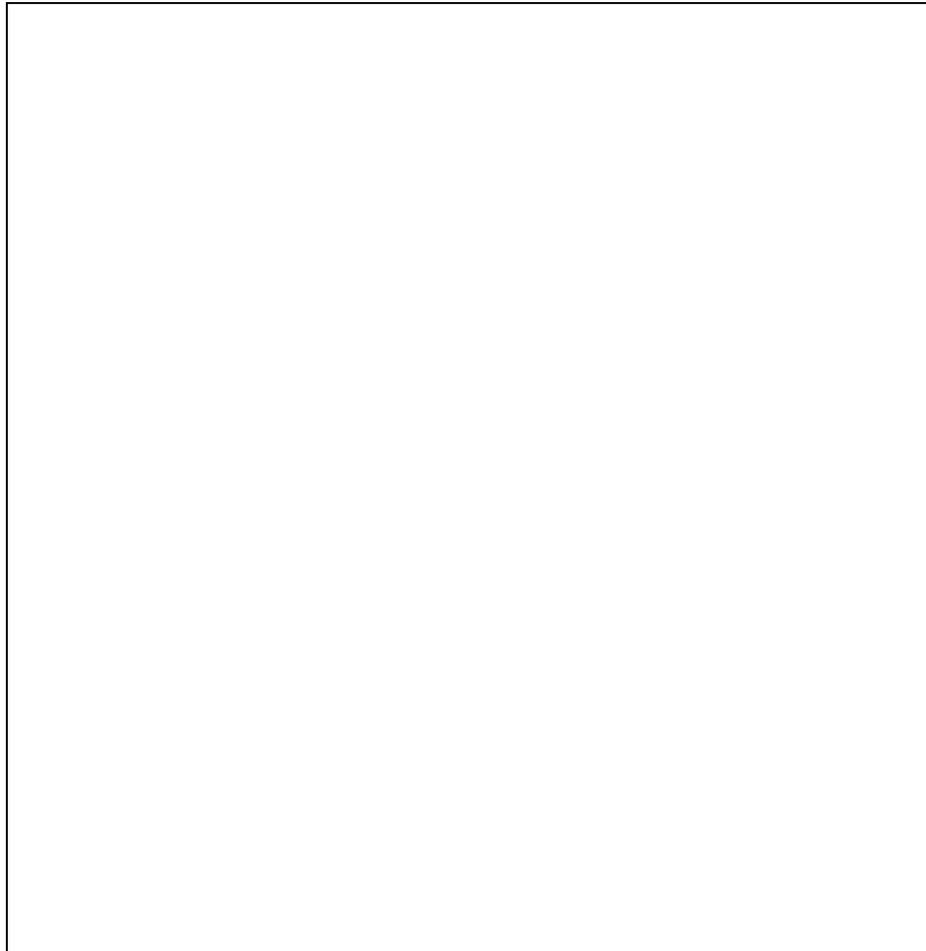
- (1) Coverage: A minimum twenty (20) percent of the total developed land area shall be landscaped. Any disturbance to undeveloped portions of a site shall be mitigated.

**Figure 6.1
Project Land Area**



- (2) Required Yards Adjoining Streets: All required yards which adjoin a public street shall be landscaped and shall include at least one (1) tree for every fifty (50) linear feet of street frontage, or fraction thereof.
- (3) Landscaped Buffers Adjoining Residential Uses: When a public service, tourist or commercial use adjoins a residential use, a landscaped buffer is required as follows:
 - (a) The buffer shall be the width of the required front, side or rear yard for the entire length of the adjoining common property line; and
 - (b) The buffer shall at least one (1) tree every twenty (20) linear feet of property frontage, or fraction thereof, planted in off-set rows or groupings to achieve maximum screening.
- (4) Screening Adjoining Residential Uses: When a public service, tourist or commercial use adjoins a residential use, a solid decorative wall or fence shall be erected along the entire length of the common property line. This wall or fence shall be at least six (6) feet but not more than seven (7) feet in height.

Figure 6.3
Landscaping and Screening for Civic, Commercial,
Industrial and Agricultural Use Types



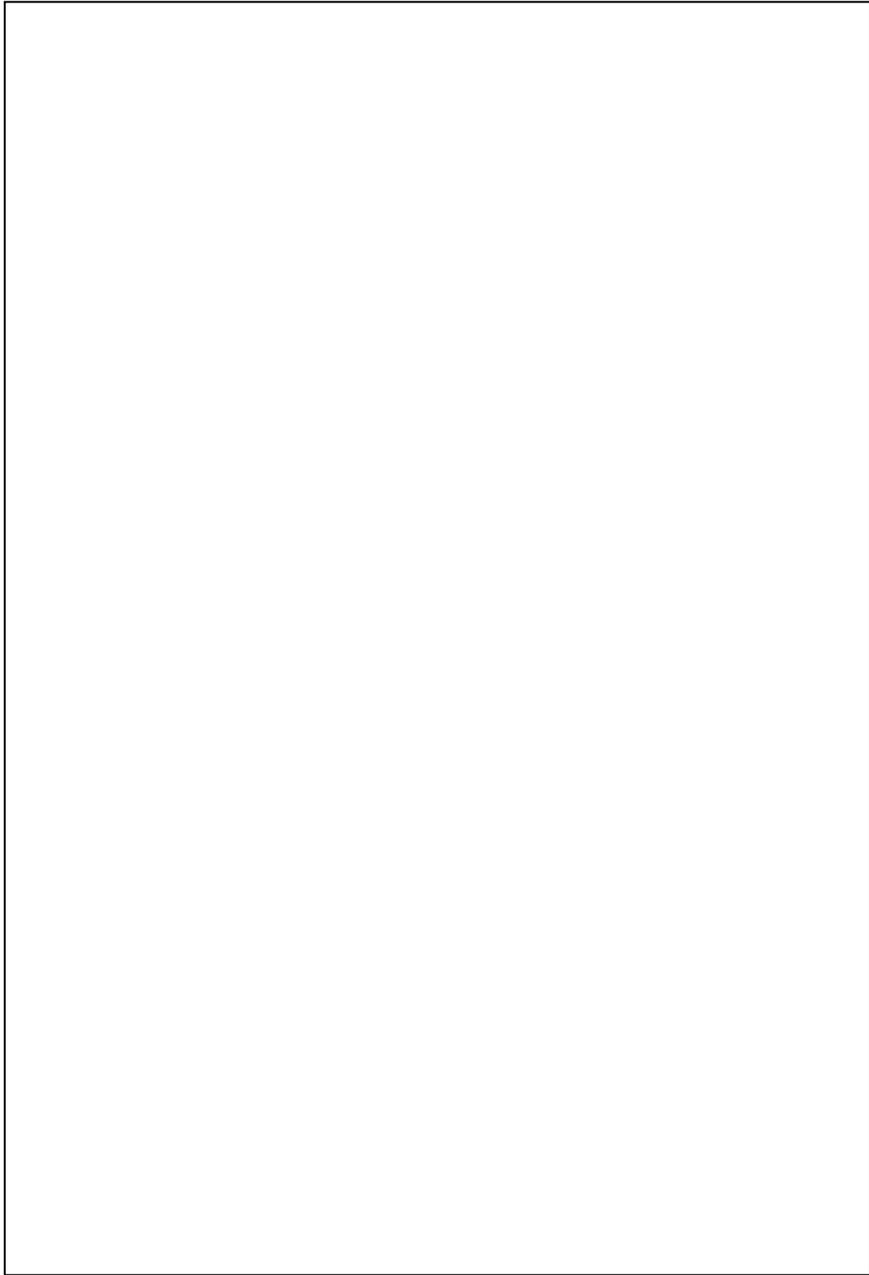
I. Light Industrial and Wholesale/Storage Use Types: The following minimum landscaping requirements shall apply to the total developed land area for light industrial and wholesale/storage type uses, except those exempted by Section B, Exemptions. The total developed land area is illustrated in Figure 6.1. Any landscaping required in this section may contribute toward the minimum requirements, including a mixture of building and buffer landscaping. These requirements are generally depicted in Figure 6.3.

- (1) Coverage: A minimum ten (10) percent to the total developed land area shall be landscaped. Any disturbances to undeveloped portions of a site shall be mitigated.
- (2) Required Yards Adjoining Streets: All required yards which adjoin a street shall be landscaped and shall include at least one (1) tree for every fifty (50) linear feet, or fraction thereof.
- (3) Landscaped Buffers Adjoining Residential Uses: When an industrial type use adjoins a residential use, a landscaped buffer is required as follows:
 - (a) The buffer shall be the width of the required yard for the entire length of the adjoining common property line; and
 - (b) The buffer shall include at least one (1) tree every twenty (20) linear feet of property frontage, or fraction thereof, planted in off-set rows or other methods to achieve maximum buffering.
- (4) Screening Adjoining Residential Uses: When any industrial type use adjoins a residential use, a solid decorative wall or solid decorative fence shall be erected along the entire length of the common property line. This wall or fence shall be at least six (6) feet but not more than seven (7) feet in height.

J. Parking and Loading Areas: In addition to other required landscaping, all parking and loading areas shall provide minimum landscaping as set forth in this section. Any trees required in Sections G through I may contribute toward the minimum coverage requirement.

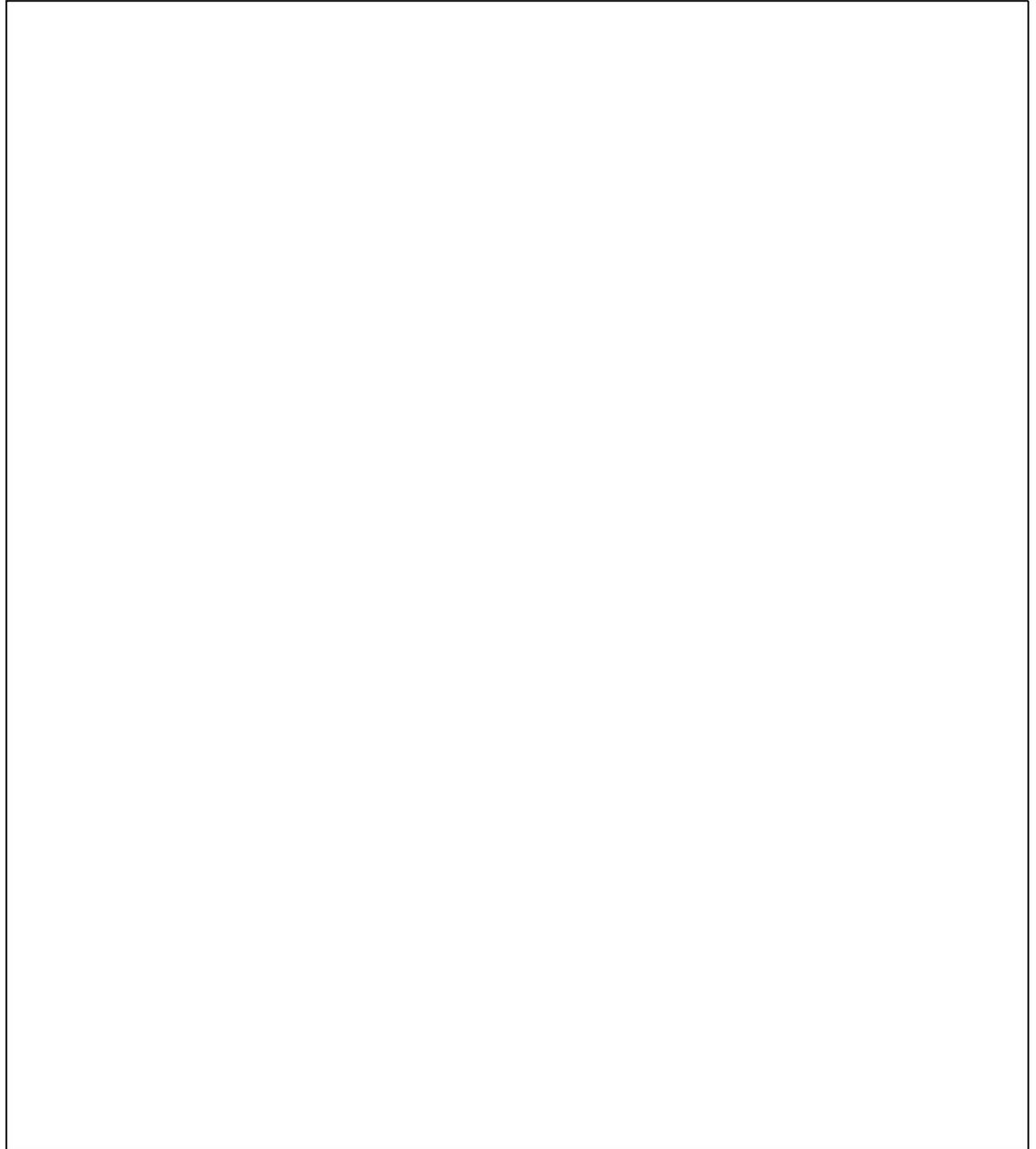
- (1) Coverage: At least one (1) tree shall be provided for every ten (10) parking spaces, provided the distance between required trees does not exceed twelve (12) spaces in a row and the trees are evenly distributed throughout the paved area, as generally depicted in Figure 6.4.
- (2) Required Yards Adjoining Street: When a parking or loading area adjoins a street, a landscaped berm and/or decorative wall or fence shall be provided within all required yards adjacent to the parking or loading area.
- (3) Landscaped Buffers Adjoining Residential Uses: As generally depicted in Figure 6.5, when a parking or loading area adjoins a residential use, a landscaped buffer is required as follows:
 - (a) The buffer shall be the width of the required yard for the entire length of the adjoining common property line; and
 - (b) The buffer shall include at least one (1) tree every twenty (20) linear feet, or fraction thereof, planted in off-set rows.

Figure 6.4
Required Trees Within Parking and Loading Areas



- (4) Screening Adjoining Residential Uses: As generally depicted in Figure 6.5, when a parking or loading area adjoins a rear or non-street side yard of a residential use, a solid decorative wall or fence shall be erected along the length of the property line. This wall or fence shall be at least six (6) feet in height.

Figure 6.5
Landscaping and Screening for Parking and Loading Areas



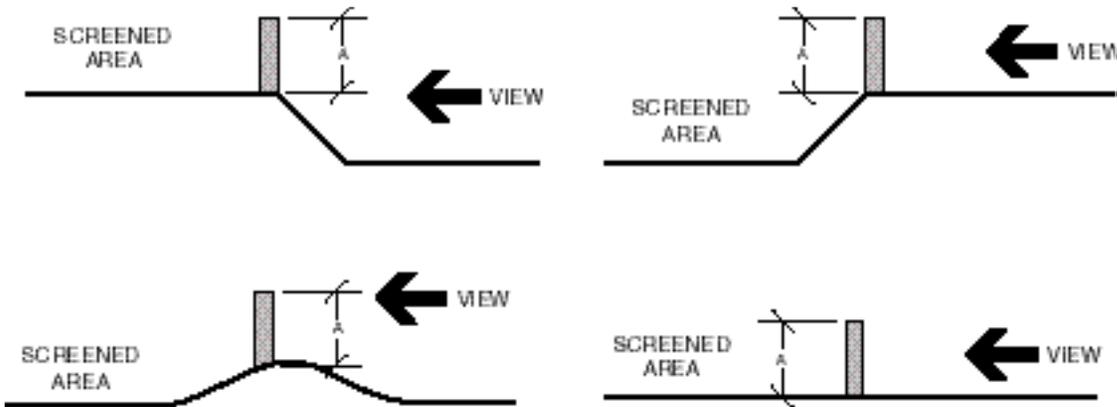
- (5) Existing Parking and Loading Areas: When a parking or loading area existing prior to the effective date of this chapter is enlarged by one or more expansions in area greater than 50 (50) percent, the minimum landscaping requirements of this article shall be met for the total (existing and enlarged) area.
- (6) Standards: The following standards shall apply within parking and loading areas:
- (a) Planted areas shall be protected by curb, wheel stops or other appropriate means, to prevent injury to plants from pedestrian or vehicle traffic; and
 - (b) Planting areas which abut the side of parking stalls shall include a minimum eighteen (18) inch wide paved strip to allow access to and from vehicles.
- (7) Exceptions: Required landscaping shall not apply where parking and loading areas are:
- (a) Completely screened from surrounding properties by intervening buildings or structures;
 - (b) Located under, on or within buildings; or
 - (c) Devoted to display parking for automobile dealership.

K. Other Screening Requirements: In addition to screening requirements established in Sections G through J, screens shall comply with the minimum requirements of this section.

- (1) Open Storage Areas: The following screens are required for open storage areas:
- (a) Open storage areas shall be enclosed by a screen at least six (6) feet but not more than seven (7) feet in height;
 - (b) Items stored within one hundred (100) feet of a street or residential use shall not be stacked higher than the required screen;
 - (c) Screens to enclose storage areas between adjoining side or rear yards may be deleted by mutual agreement of the property owners involved;
 - (d) Exterior electrical cage enclosures and storage tanks shall be screened from view from an adjacent street and residential use; and
 - (e) The location of trash enclosures, as specified on the site plan, shall be subject to the approval of TRPA. Such enclosures and gates shall be of solid construction and shall be in accordance with County standards and the Uniform Fire Code.
- (2) Mobile Home Parks: A decorative wall or fence shall be erected along the entire length of the property line of a manufactured home park as follows:
- (a) The wall or fence shall be at least six (6) feet but not more than seven (7) feet in height along property lines not adjoining a street.

- (3) Recreation Vehicle Facilities: In urban areas, a decorative wall or fence shall be erected along the entire length of the property line of commercial campground facilities and recreational vehicle parks as follows:
- (a) When a recreational vehicle park adjoins a street, the wall or fence shall be four (4) feet or more in height; and
 - (b) The wall or fence shall be at least six (6) feet but not more than seven (7) feet in height along property lines not adjoining a street.
- (4) Mechanical Equipment: All mechanical equipment, tanks, ventilating fans or similar equipment, whether located on a roof or on the ground, shall be screened from view from adjoining properties and streets. Screens shall be integrated into the overall architectural style of the associated building and shall be measured from the highest point of the object being screened.
- (5) Swimming Pools: Swimming pools shall be enclosed by a minimum five (5) foot high screen.
- (6) Materials: Screens shall include the installation and maintenance of at least one (1) or a combination of the following elements:
- (a) Dense plants, such as hedges;
 - (b) Chain link fencing, except along streets, with inserts of wood, metal or other acceptable material;
 - (c) Decorative fences constructed to maintain an opaque condition. Alternating slats are encouraged to accommodate windy extremes; or
 - (d) Decorative walls consisting of either brick, rock or block, and maintaining a width of at least eight (8) inches.
- (7) Opaqueness: Plants used for screens shall be:
- (a) Of a type which will provide a year-round barrier at the prescribed height;
 - (b) Planted at a spacing necessary to achieve one hundred (100) percent opacity within five (5) years; and
 - (c) Supplemented or replaced with other dense landscaping or an appropriate fence or wall, if it fails to retain such opaqueness any time after the initial two (2) year period.
- (8) Height Measurements: Screening materials shall be located to maximize the benefit of the screen, and prescribed heights shall be measured from finished grade, as illustrated in figure 6.6.

Figure 6.6
Placement and Measurement Techniques for Screening Materials



NOTE: A = Screen Height Measured from Finished Grade.

- L. **Planting Standards:** All required landscaping, including parking and loading areas, shall comply with the minimum standards established in this section and Chapter 77, Revegetation, of the TRPA Code.
- (1) **Composition:** The use of climatic adaptive planting material on TRPA's Recommended Native and Adapted Plant List is required.
 - (2) **Compatibility:** Development shall relate harmoniously to the surrounding topography and provide for the preservation of natural features such as water courses, wooded areas, and rough terrain.
 - (3) **Compatible Water Use Zones:** Trees and plants having similar climatic, water, soil and maintenance requirements shall be organized in distinct and compatible planting zones as defined below:
 - (a) High water use zones include plants which require moist soils and supplemental water in addition to natural rainfall to survive at maturity;
 - (b) Moderate water use zones include plants which survive on natural rainfall with supplemental water during seasonal dry periods at maturity; and
 - (c) Low water zones include plants which survive on natural rainfall without supplemental water at maturity.
 - (4) **Nursery Standards:** Plants shall meet the standards for sizes and grades of plant materials as listed in the latest edition of the American Standard for Nursery Stock released by the American Association of Nurserymen.
 - (5) **Non-Interference:** The location of trees and vegetation shall not adversely affect utility easements, service lines or solar access or neighboring sites. If necessary, the width of the planting areas shall be increased so that the tree locations do not interfere with utilities or solar access.

- (6) Public Rights-of-Way: Any tree planted within five (5) feet of publicly maintained curbing, pavement or sidewalks shall install a root control barrier as prescribed by the County. Landscaping for a private development may be placed in a public right-of-way subject to the issuance of a valid encroachment permit.
- (7) General: The following general standards shall apply to all new planting areas:
- (a) Planting areas with trees within parking and loading areas shall be at least eight (8) feet wide at the base of the tree in all directions;
 - (b) Planting areas without trees within parking and loading areas shall be at least five (5) feet wide;
 - (c) Ground cover or mulch shall be used in all planting areas. Turf is not allowed in parking lot tree planters; and
 - (d) Planted areas shall be protected by curb, wheel stops or other appropriate means to prevent injury to plants from pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
- (8) Trees: New trees shall meet the following standards:
- (a) The composition of trees shall represent a mixture of deciduous and coniferous varieties;
 - (b) At least one-half (1/2) of all evergreen trees shall be at least seven (7) feet in height, and the remainder must be at least five (5) feet in height at the time of planting; and
 - (c) The required number of the deciduous trees shall be at least two (2) inch caliper per American Nursery Standards at the time of planting.
- (9) Shrubs and Hedges: New shrubs and hedges shall meet the following standards:
- (a) Shrubs shall be comprised of a mixture of sizes, but not less than number one (1) size containers.
 - (b) Shrubs shall be a minimum of three (3) gallon pot size where upright shrubs have a minimum height of 18 inches and minimum spread of 18 inches; and, spreading shrubs have a minimum spread of 18-24 inches.
- (10) Ground Cover: New ground cover shall meet the following standards:
- (a) Living ground cover shall be planted to achieve a minimum planting area coverage of fifty (50) percent within one (1) year of installation and shall achieve one hundred (100) percent coverage within three (3) years of installation;
 - (b) Wood chips, bark, decorative rock or other appropriate inert materials may also be used provided it does not exceed ten (10) percent of the total planting area; and
 - (c) Plastic, steel or other appropriate edging material shall be provided around ground cover areas to retain loose materials.

- (c) *Groundcovers shall be a minimum four (4) inch pot size or one (1) gallon container and shall be a maximum 24 inches on center spacing.*
- (11) Turf: *Turf, when used appropriately, offers aesthetic appeal, environmental cooling, oxygen production and a safe activity surface for a variety of recreational uses. Areas with turf shall meet the following standards.*
- (a) *Irrigation for turf areas shall minimize runoff and inadvertent watering of non-turf areas;*
 - (b) *Use of turf shall be consolidated to those areas that receive significant pedestrian traffic, provide for recreational uses, assist in soil erosion control such as on slopes or in swales, and other functional use areas;*
 - (c) *Turf areas shall be dethatched and aerated as needed to promote effective water infiltration into the soil, to minimize water runoff and to promote deep, health roots;*
 - (d) *In multi-family residential use types, turf areas shall be provided at a minimum of fifty (5) percent of the required landscaping area in a practical configuration for recreational uses and shall be balanced with other landscaping materials;*
 - (e) *In commercial and industrial use types, turf areas shall be balanced with other landscaping materials;*
 - (f) *Turf shall be comprised of TRPA recommended, drought-resistant, and hardy varieties which, when properly installed and maintained, are capable of surviving under conditions of restricted water use;*
 - (g) *Any turf area must be capable of being watered with minimum overspray or runoff; and*
 - (h) *Where turf is used in areas subject to erosion or in swales, it shall be sodded rather than seeded.*
- (12) Earth Berms: *Earth berms shall comply with the following standards:*
- (a) *An earth berm may contribute toward the prescribed height of any planting, fencing, or wall;*
 - (b) *Mounds of earth used for planting shall not exceed horizontal to vertical slopes of two to one (2:1); and*
 - (c) *Turf planted slopes shall not exceed horizontal to vertical slopes of four to one (4:1).*
- (13) Soil Preparation: *Soil shall comply with the following standards:*
- (a) *Required landscaping shall be installed using a planting soil mix comprised of a type appropriate to the individual proposed plants and the native soil found on the site;*

- (b) *Where necessary, soil amendments such as manure, straw, peat moss or compost shall be used to improve water drainage, moisture penetration and water holding capacity as recommended in the soil analysis report pursuant to Section C, Required Plans; and*
 - (c) *Deep ripping and tilling of landscape areas is encouraged to facilitate deep water penetration and oxygenation.*
- (14) **Mulch:** *Permanent mulch shall be applied to and maintained in all planting areas to assist soils in retaining moisture, reducing weed growth and minimizing erosion as follows:*
- (a) *A minimum three (3) inch layer of organic mulch material such as pine needles shall be installed in all planting areas except turf areas and meadow planted areas;*
 - (b) *Mulch may consist of wood products, stone and other non-toxic recyclable materials;*
 - (c) *Non-porous materials, such as plastic sheets, shall not be placed under the mulch; and*
- (15) **Height Measurements:** *Prescribed heights shall be measured from finished grade at the base of the plant material.*
- (16) **Plant Species Permitted:** *Plant species on the TRPA recommended Native and Adapted Plant List shall be used for lawns and landscaping.*
- (17) **Accent Vegetation:** *Plant species not found on the TRPA recommended Native and Adapted Plan List may be used for landscaping as accent plantings. Such plants shall be limited to borders, entryways, flower beds, and other similar locations to provide accents to the over all native or adapted landscape design.*

M. Irrigation Standards: *Required irrigation shall comply with the minimum standards established in this section.*

- (1) **Separate Water Meter:** *All irrigation systems required for landscaping of all non-exempt development shall be connected to a water meter installed on the main line of the irrigation system upstream of the control valves to measure water delivery separate from water delivered for other forms of interior or exterior consumptive use.*
- (2) **Compatible Water Use Zones:** *Irrigation systems shall be designed to correlate with the composition of trees and plants and their related water use. High water use zones shall be provided with central automatic irrigation systems.*
- (3) **Coverage Requirements:** *Coverage requirements apply to all temporary and permanent irrigation systems as follows:*
 - (a) *Spray irrigation systems shall be designed for head-to-head coverage;*
 - (b) *Sprinkler heads must have matched precipitation rates within each control valve circuit; and*

- (c) *Drip systems shall be designed to be expandable to adequately water the mature plant.*
- (4) Control Systems: *The following requirements apply to all irrigation control systems;*
 - (a) *Controlled irrigation systems shall be operated by an irrigation controller capable of irrigating high water demand areas on a different schedule from low water demand areas;*
 - (b) *Controllers must have multiple cycle start capacity and a flexible calendar program above to be set to comply with local or water management district restrictions; and*
 - (c) *Moisture sensor and/or rain shut-off equipment is encouraged to avoid irrigation during periods of sufficient rainfall. Such equipment shall have the capability to override the irrigation cycle of the sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.*
- (5) Cross Connection Devices: *All non-exempt development shall have either a pressure vacuum breaker or a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer device installed on the main line of the irrigation system upstream of the control valves.*
- (6) Size of Irrigation Lines: *Irrigation lines shall be classified as follows:*
 - (a) *Schedule 40 P.V.C. is required for all pressure lines and as sleeving under all paved areas;*
 - (b) *Lateral line piping shall be installed at least twelve (12) inches underground for non-pressurized irrigation lines;*
 - (c) *Mainline piping shall be installed at least eighteen (18) inches underground for constant pressure irrigation lines; and*
 - (d) *Manual and automatic drains shall be used to prevent freeze damage.*
- (7) Water Application Schedules: *Irrigation system schedules should include the following standards:*
 - (a) *Turf shall be irrigated on separate irrigation schedules; and*
 - (b) *Sprinkler systems with spray heads should not operate during times of high wind or high temperatures.*
- (8) Maintenance: *Irrigation systems shall be maintained as follows:*
 - (a) *Irrigation systems shall be maintained regularly to eliminate the waste of water due to loss from damaged, missing or improperly operating portions of the system;*
 - (b) *Controllers shall be adjusted to allow for the seasonal water requirements of the plants; and*

- (c) *Systems shall be winterized to prevent freeze damage, including draining lines and backflow prevention devices as necessary.*

N. General Requirements: *All landscaping and screening shall meet the general requirements of this section.*

- (1) Bonding Value: *Landscaping, irrigation, and screening shall be completely installed prior to release of security. The applicant shall post a security of three (3) dollars per square foot of landscaping at base year value of 1993, or other appropriate financial assurances.*
- (2) Deferrals: *Request for deferrals shall be submitted in writing to TRPA and shall include the bond amount or other appropriate financial assurances. The request must explain the need for such deferral and the estimated time for completion.*
- (3) Dust Control: *The following dust control measures shall be used:*
 - (a) *For temporary coverage to control dust for less than one (1) year: hydroseed with fast growing temporary grasses; apply mulch or weed prevention netting; apply other slope stabilization materials; and install temporary irrigation system, if required, subject to the approval of the TRPA; and*
 - (b) *For coverage to control dust for more than one (1) year: land clearing shall be minimized and permanent planting as required by this article shall apply*
- (4) Erosion Control: *Erosion shall be controlled by slowing stormwater runoff and assisting in groundwater recharge as follows:*
 - (a) *To minimize erosion during construction, straw or other appropriate material shall be applied to slopes susceptible to water runoff; and*
 - (b) *Erosion shall be controlled on all graded sites which remain vacant prior to building construction.*
- (5) Stormwater Runoff: *Stormwater runoff shall be minimized in landscaped areas as follows:*
 - (a) *Stormwater detention/retention basins not integrated with paved areas shall be landscaped to enhance the natural configuration of the basin and plants located within the lower one-third (1/3) portion of the basin must withstand periodic submersion;*
 - (b) *Where appropriate, grading and landscaping shall incorporate on-site stormwater runoff for supplemental on-site irrigation;*
 - (c) *Where water is dispersed to natural ground or channels, appropriate energy dissipators shall be installed to prevent erosion at the point of discharge;*
 - (d) *Runoff from disturbed areas shall be detained or filtered by earth berms, planting strips, catch basins or other appropriate methods to prevent*

sedimentation from the disturbed area from obstructing natural or artificial channels or deposition on paved areas; and

- (e) No earth, organic or construction material shall be deposited in or placed where it may be directly carried into a stream, lake or wetlands area.

O. Maintenance: All landscaping, irrigation and screening shall be maintained at all times to conform to the regulations established in this article.

- (1) Responsibilities: Landscaping and related equipment including, but not limited to, plants, screens, walkways, benches, fountains and irrigation systems shall be maintained by the applicant or subsequent owner of the property.
- (2) Agreement: Prior to acknowledging the permit, the applicant shall file a Maintenance Agreement or access easement to enter and maintain the property. Such a document shall ensure that if the property owner fails to maintain the requirements set forth in this article.
- (3) Plants: Required plants shall be maintained in healthy, vigorous, and disease and pest-free conditions so as to present a neat and healthy appearance free of refuse, debris and weeds. Plants shall be fertilized, cultivated and pruned on a regular basis and sound horticultural principles shall be practiced.
- (4) Staking: Plants shall be staked, tied or otherwise supported as necessary. Supports shall be regularly monitored to avoid damage to plants and removed when appropriate.
- (5) Pruning: Pruning shall be accomplished in accordance with accepted arboriculture standards.
- (6) Turf Edge Trimming: Roadways, curbs and sidewalks shall be edged to prevent encroachment from the adjacent turfed areas. Line trimmers shall not be used to trim turf abutting trees or other plants. All turf within a twenty-four (24) inch radius of any tree trunk shall be removed.
- (7) Replacement: Landscaping which is not maintained in a manner consistent with this article shall be replaced as follows:
 - (a) Replacement includes, but is not limited to, replacing plants damaged by insects, disease, vehicular traffic, vandalism, storm damage and natural disaster or occurrence;
 - (b) If the required landscaping is not living within one (1) year of the release of security, it shall be replaced with equivalent vegetation;
 - (c) If the existing landscaping which was preserved is not living within two (2) years of a release of security, it shall be placed with equivalent new landscaping; and
 - (d) Replacement landscaping shall be installed within thirty (30) days following notification by the TRPA that a violation of this article has occurred.

- P. **Guarantee of Completion:** To ensure proper installation and compliance with approved plans required in Section C, Required Plans, the person responsible for preparation of the required plans, or a qualified designated representative of the individual or firm which prepared the plans, shall conduct a final field inspection prior to release of the security. It shall be unlawful to occupy the premises unless the required landscaping, irrigation and screening is installed in accordance with these regulations, or a faithful performance bond or other satisfactory guarantee of completion insuring the faithful performance of all work, is accepted by the TRPA.

GUIDELINES

1. **Establish a Design Concept:** Landscape plans should exhibit a design concept that provides more than a haphazard arrangement of plants. Plant materials should be utilized in a sensitive ordering which defines the site's spatial organization and function, relates to the buildings and structures, and incorporates the various site elements.

2. **Reinforce the Region's Natural Character:** In addition to adding aesthetic charm and interest to developments, the primary goal for landscape improvements within the Tahoe Basin should be to preserve and enhance the landscape character of the project site and vicinity.

Introduced vegetation should be compatible with the existing landscape in scale and should reflect the physical properties such as form, line, color and texture of local plant communities. See also guideline (4) Integration With Setting.

3. **Existing Landscape Elements:** As much as is feasible, significant existing landscape elements should be preserved and incorporated into development and landscape plans. Elements such as mature trees, tree groupings, and rock outcroppings should be considered as design determinants.

Landscape construction plans should show how the design has considered existing vegetation and site features, and what steps would be taken during construction to protect them. Vegetation protection practices during construction may be found in TRPA's Handbook of Best Management Practices.

4. **Integration with Setting:** Landscape designs should attempt to integrate the project into the existing setting.

Urban Areas: In urban settings the landscape often functions as architecture or as a means to define spaces for use. The widest range of plant materials is appropriate in urban areas. Please also refer to the Accent Vegetation guideline in this section. Generally, new plantings should be arranged in natural-looking groups. Geometric layouts with evenly spaced rows of trees and other formal landscape patterns should be reserved for institutional and public service sites when a formal landscape is desired.

Transition Areas: Development in transition areas often involves residential or small-scale commercial uses located in a relatively natural (although often disturbed) forested landscape. Generally a more limited range of plant materials is appropriate than in urban settings.

Natural Areas: In natural settings landscaping often provides the means to successfully place a structure or other development into the natural landscape. Generally the most narrow range of plant materials is appropriate in the natural setting. The arrangement

and type of plant materials used in landscape projects in natural settings should be compatible with and reflect elements of the natural landscape surrounding the site. Landscape plans should locate new plantings in such a manner that edges of the existing forest canopy are extended, and sharp distinctions between existing natural vegetation and introduced plantings are not evident.

5. **Quantity of Materials:** Plant materials should be installed in accordance with the size standards listed above. The desired quantity and spacing of plant materials should be sufficient enough so that a complete and somewhat mature appearing landscape will be achieved within two years of planting. The plant size standards listed in Subsection L. are intended to apply to landscaping projects for the type of projects identified therein, and not to erosion control/revegetation projects.

In both cases, it is possible to achieve the same desired density of plant materials using either fewer, larger plant materials, or larger quantities of smaller materials. Several factors will come into play when selecting either approach, including: Availability of stock, landscape budget, specific plant species to be used, opportunities for irrigation and maintenance, and time of planting-recent climatic conditions.

6. **Use of Accent Vegetation:** Accent vegetation is most appropriate in urban areas where the goal is to create dynamic spaces for people to assemble and interact. Accent vegetation is less appropriate in rural transition areas, however it can be very effective as a landmark or identification of lanes, driveways, and project entrances as one approaches the built environment. Accent vegetation is rarely appropriate in natural areas.

When accent vegetation is used, it should be used sparingly, and limited to accent areas such as project entries, and small-scale pedestrian-oriented areas where more visual interest is desired. Accent vegetation should never be used in large quantities where it visually dominates a project. Selective use of a limited palette of accent plant materials is recommended. The use of ornamental turfgrass as an accent planting along major thoroughfares (State Route 28) is not recommended.

7. **Functional Aspects:** Landscape improvements should be utilized to better integrate development with its surroundings by helping to reduce the apparent scale of structures, screening views of unsightly or non-essential elements, visually softening hard edges, and providing a transition between different use areas.
8. **Scale:** The scale and nature of landscape materials should be appropriate to the site and structures. Large-scale buildings should be complemented with large-scale landscape materials (i.e. plants, rocks, timbers, walls, fences, etc.) appropriate to the design character of the building.
9. **Landscaped Setbacks:** All structures should have a landscaped (either existing natural vegetation or introduced plantings) setback from any public roadway. The existing practice of having no landscaping between the facade of a structure and the roadway is unacceptable. The width of this setback should be proportionate to the scale of the development in terms of both the length of the frontage and the height and mass of the structures.

For new commercial developments the landscaped setbacks should not be less than twenty (20) feet deep. For existing development undergoing renovating/upgrading, this minimum may be difficult, if not impossible, to attain. In such cases, the maximum possible landscaped setback should be created, although it should not be less than ten (10) feet deep.

Urban Areas: Landscaped setbacks in urban areas should consider accommodating people as an important function. The entire setback up to the property line and where appropriate, up to the edge of the roadway.

Transition Areas: Landscaped setbacks in transition areas can often be larger than those in urban areas. Primarily native vegetation should be used. Landscaped setbacks in transition areas should reflect the nature of the transition area, between urban and rural areas.

Natural Areas: Landscaped setbacks in natural areas should be as large as possible, incorporating native vegetation and setting the structure as far back into the property as possible in order to minimize the visual impact of the development.

10. **View Protection:** New landscaping shall not be located in such a manner that it would obstruct significant views, either when first installed or upon maturity. Where views exist, a conscious effort should be made to use plant materials to enhance them (e.g. tree clusters to "frame" view corridor; groundcovers or understory planting to improve foreground of significant view, etc.).
11. **Use a Limited Plant Palette:** Regardless of visual environment type, a limited palette of plant species is preferable for most projects.
12. **Recognize Plant Characteristics:** In addition to choosing plant materials that are compatible with the surrounding natural vegetation, the selection of plant materials should be based on their relative hardiness, drought tolerance, year round interest (foliage, color, flowers, fruit, branching pattern, etc.) and function (e.g. screen, accent, shade, etc.). For example, deciduous vegetation would be inappropriate in areas where substantial year round screening is necessary. Plant materials that are well adapted to local conditions, i.e. requiring minimal irrigation and fertilizers, are preferable.
13. **Provide Irrigation:** In order to establish newly installed plant materials and to protect significant investments in landscaping, automatic irrigation systems are strongly recommended for all Commercial/Public Service, Tourist Accommodation and Multi-Family Residential projects containing more than four units. Certain Recreation projects such as parks, and golf courses are also encouraged to provide automatic irrigation systems.
14. **Using Fertilizer:** Fertilizer can provide many benefits to all types of landscape plantings. Because of its contents, however, fertilizer use has become an issue in the Lake Tahoe Region. Current information suggests that fertilizer should be used only in certain places (not in stream environment zones) and for very specific purposes (plant establishment, annual feedings). Above all, fertilizer should be used in a well thought-out and carefully controlled management plan. Generally, slow-release fertilizers are recommended for trees, shrubs, and ground covers other than grasses, while a minimal application of fast-release fertilizer is appropriate for grasses. This subject is discussed in greater detail in TRPA's Handbook of Best Management Practices and in the Guide to Fertilizer Use in the Lake Tahoe Basin.
15. **Leave Pine Needles:** It is recommended that in most cases fallen pine needles be left on the ground. The needles are a benefit to the natural landscape by serving many important functions including: erosion control, dust control, retaining soil moisture (this is especially important in the establishment of new vegetation), and protection for plants, especially perennials.

Chapter Seven

EXTERIOR LIGHTING

Outside lighting increases the operational efficiency of a site, provides a measure of site security, and can enhance the aesthetics of the site and the architectural qualities of its structure. In determining the lighting for a project, the source, intensity, and type of illumination should be appropriate for the lighting needs.

STANDARDS

- A. *Exterior lights shall not blink, flash or change intensity. String lights, building or roof line tube lighting, reflective or luminescent wall surfaces are prohibited.*
- B. *Exterior lighting shall not be attached to trees except for the Christmas season.*
- C. *Parking lot, walkway, and building lights shall be directed downward.*
- D. *Fixture mounting height shall be appropriate to the purpose. The height shall not exceed the limitations.*
- E. *Outdoor lighting shall be used for purposes of illumination only, and shall not be designed for, or used as, an advertising display. Illumination for aesthetic or dramatic purposes of any building or surrounding landscape utilizing exterior light fixtures is authorized provided the illuminated area does not exceed 26 feet above grade on a vertical wall, and the light source is shielded from public view.*
- F. *The commercial operation of searchlights for advertising or any other purpose is prohibited.*
- G. *Seasonal lighting displays and lighting for special events which conflict with other provisions of this section may be permitted on a temporary basis pursuant to Chapter 7, Temporary Uses, Structures, and Activities, of the TRPA Code.*

GUIDELINES

1. **Lighting Design:** Exterior lighting should be designed as an integral part of the architecture and landscape and located in a manner that minimizes the impact of lighting upon adjacent structures and properties.
2. **Lighting Levels:** Avoid consistent overall lighting and overly bright lighting. The location of lighting should respond to the anticipated use and should not exceed the amount of light actually required by users. Lighting for pedestrian movement should illuminate entrances, changes in grade, path intersections, and other areas along paths which, if left unlit, would cause the user to feel insecure. As a general rule of thumb, one foot candle per square foot over the entire project area is adequate. Several lighting suppliers and manufacturers have lighting design handbooks which can be consulted to determine fixture types, illumination needs and light standard heights.

Urban Areas: Generally, urban lighting levels should be the highest of any areas in the Region. Lighting needs are usually greater in urban areas for safety, visibility, convenience and other needs. Walkways and building entrances should be the brightest areas. Overall bright lighting over entire parking areas is inappropriate.

Transition Areas : Moderate levels of lighting are appropriate in transition areas. Street intersections, walkways and building entrances should be lit, however, parking areas may not need to be flooded with light.

Natural Areas: Natural lighting levels should be the lowest of any areas in the Region. Generally, street and driveway intersections are the only areas requiring lighting. Minimal security lighting for structures in rural areas is acceptable.

3. **Fixture Design**: Exterior lighting fixtures should be simple in design and should be well-integrated with other architectural site features.
4. **Structural Lighting**: Night lighting of building exteriors should be done in a selective fashion: highlight special recognizable features; keynote repeated features; or use the play of light and shadow to articulate the facade. The purpose of illuminating the building should be to add visual interest and support building identification. Harsh overall lighting of a facade tends to flatten features and diminish visual interest.
5. **Lighting Height**: As a rule, the light source should be kept as low to the ground as possible while ensuring safe and functional levels of illumination. Area lighting should be directed downward with no splay of lighting directed offsite. The height of light fixtures or standards must meet the height limitations in Chapter 22, Height Standards, of the TRPA Code. Direct light downward in order to avoid sky lighting. Any light source over 10 feet high should incorporate a cut-off shield to prevent the light source from being directly visible from areas offsite. The height of luminaires should be in scale with the setting and generally should not exceed 12-14 feet.
6. **Winter Seasonal Lighting Displays**: Winter seasonal lighting displays may be displayed in commercial or tourist plan areas only and should use miniature light strands which are neatly strung and securely attached to buildings, fences, shrubs, or trees. Any color of lights may be used; however, the lights should not be used to create advertising messages or signs (e.g., spelling out the name of a business is not permitted). Seasonal lighting displays should not blink or flash. Winter seasonal lighting displays should only be displayed between Thanksgiving and March 1 of the following year.

Chapter Eight

SIGNS

The primary purpose of signs should be to identify uses located within a specific site. Signs should not be used as advertisements or to attract attention. The design of a sign should be simple and easy to read with the sign's message limited to the name and logo (if applicable) of the business occupying the site and the street address.

STANDARDS

- A. **Applicability:** *All signs shall comply with the applicable standards set forth in this Chapter. Unless provided otherwise herein the definitions of Chapter 2, Definitions, of the TRPA Code of Ordinances shall apply. Except as exempted in Chapters 4, Project Review and Exempt Activities, of the TRPA Code and this section, installation modification or replacement of signs requires review and approval as a project in accordance with this section and other applicable provisions of the TRPA Code. Signs which are replaced or modified to come into compliance with this chapter shall not be considered "projects" for purposes of triggering excess coverage and/or BMP retrofit requirements as set forth in the TRPA Code. In addition, sign projects also may have imposed, as conditions of approval, appropriate provisions of the Guidelines. Article VI of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact shall govern with respect to external modifications to structures housing gaming and nothing set forth above or herein is intended to, nor shall it, in any manner supersede the Compact. The Compact shall control whenever a conflict exists.*
- B. **Sign Package Review:** *As an integral part of the review of a proposed new facility or development, or expansion of an existing use, or change in use not exempted under Chapter 4, Project Review and Exempt Activities, of the TRPA Code, or any sign project application, all locations and areas currently occupied, or intended to be occupied, by permanent signage on the project area shall be indicated on the submitted plans or drawings, together with the dimensions of each sign. Sign package review requirements shall not apply to sign project applications for a face change only, in existing sign structures approved pursuant to this chapter. In addition to substitute standards adopted for Plan Area 032 or Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood pursuant to Chapter 26, Signs, of the TRPA Code, existing casinos may be governed by individual signage packages approved under the authority of the mixed-use Neighborhood and sign package review.*
- C. **General Standards:** *The following sign standards shall apply to all signs except where specifically provided otherwise:*
- (1) **Opaque Background for Internally Illuminated Signs:** *The background of all internally illuminated signs shall either be of an opaque material which does not transmit light, or shall be of a dark color. This standard shall not apply to signs constructed entirely of neon tubing. The dark colors which meet this standard are listed in Guideline 3.*
 - (2) **Off-Premise Signs:** *No sign shall be erected or maintained on a parcel or project area other than the parcel or project area on which the use or activity advertised by the sign is located. However, signage shared by two adjacent property*

owners at a shared driveway shall not be considered an off-premise sign for either owner.

- (3) Sign Illumination: No sign shall be illuminated by or contain blinking, flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights, except the time and temperature portion of a sign.
- (4) Diffuse Lighting: All signs which are illuminated shall be illuminated using indirect or diffuse lighting. No sign shall contain copy which consists of illuminated bulbs or individual lights or light sources. This standard shall not apply to signs constructed entirely of neon tubing.
- (5) Roof Signs: No sign shall be mounted on the roof of a building or other structure, except for signs mounted on mansard roofs and which do not extend vertically above the top of the mansard.
- (6) Prohibited Devices: Strings of pennants, banners, ribbons, streamers, balloons, spinners, or other similar moving or fluttering devices, and searchlights shall be prohibited.
- (7) Signs Imitating Official Traffic Signs: No sign shall imitate the color and shape of, or directions given in, an official traffic sign or signal, or use such words as "stop," "caution," "yield," "danger," or "warning".
- (8) Signs Obscuring Vision: No sign shall be placed such that it unsafely obscures the vision of a motorist upon entering or leaving a street.
- (9) Signs on Natural Features and Other Structures: No sign shall be affixed to or painted on trees, rocks, or other natural features, utility poles, street sign poles, traffic signal equipment and poles, garbage receptacles, benches and other types of street furniture, and fences.
- (10) Rotating Signs: No sign shall rotate or have a rotating or moving part, or parts, except barber poles to the extent required by state law, and clocks and thermometers.
- (11) Signs Attached to Motor Vehicles: No sign shall be attached to or located on stationary motor vehicles, equipment, trailers and related devices, when used in a manner to augment approved signage for a business as opposed to normal operation or parking of the vehicle, equipment, trailer and related device. This subsection shall not apply to business, company, or government identification signs, or non-stationary motor vehicles.
- (12) Portable Signs: Except as otherwise provided herein, no sign shall be permitted which is not permanently affixed to the ground or a building.
- (13) State of Repair: All signs and components thereof, including supports, braces, and anchors, shall be kept in a state of good repair.
- (14) Removal of Sign Message: Any sign for which the sign message or face has been removed, leaving only the supporting frame, can, braces, anchors, or similar components, shall, within 30 days of the removal of the message or face, have the message or face replaced with a blank face or new message or face, or shall have the remaining components of the sign removed. This subsection shall not

be construed to alter the effect of Subsection 8.E, which prohibits the replacement of a nonconforming sign.

- (15) Non-Commercial Copy: No provision of this or any related chapter shall be construed as regulating or restricting the use of noncommercial copy or message on any sign which is permitted under this chapter. "Noncommercial copy or message" for purposes of this provision means copy or other message that does not advertise a business or similar economic means for the production of income.
- (16) Highway Signs: Highway signs, street signs and other regulatory and directional signs which are located on public rights-of-way shall conform to the applicable sign standards set forth in the Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 1978 as amended, or other standards which may be contained in a memorandum of understanding between TRPA and a public agency with jurisdiction over the travel way.
- (17) Increases in Maximum Allowed Sign Area: Sign area for building and freestanding signs, which are visible from highways with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or greater, may be allowed up to 20 percent additional sign area over the maximum allowable area for each sign as calculated based on the applicable provisions of this ordinance.
- (18) Window Signs: Any window sign which exceeds five percent of the window area of any window shall be included in the maximum allowable square footage calculations for building signs. Permanent signs printed on windows are considered to be building signs and shall be included in the maximum allowable square footage calculations if the signs exceed five percent of the window area.

D. Temporary Signs: Temporary signs shall conform to the following standards:

- (1) Temporary Signs for Temporary Activities: Temporary signs for temporary activities may be allowed, provided they conform to the standards set forth in Subsection 8.C, and to the following standards:
 - (a) Area And Height Limit: Individual temporary signs or a series of temporary signs intended to be read or viewed as one sign, which are part of a temporary activity, shall not exceed 60 square feet in area or heights permitted by these standards. Temporary signs which are placed in a temporary activity sign location designated as part of the adopted mixed-use Neighborhood shall not exceed 240 square feet of sign area per temporary activity.
 - (b) Time Limit Generally: Temporary signs which are part of a temporary activity may be installed up to 14 days prior to the activity and shall be removed at the end of the activity.
- (2) Temporary Signs for Temporary Uses: Temporary signs for temporary uses may be allowed as part of a temporary use approval. Standards for temporary signs associated with temporary uses shall be the applicable standards of the plan area in which the temporary use is located as set forth in Subsections 8.G through 8.L, inclusive. Temporary signs which are allowed as part of a temporary use shall be removed when the permit for the temporary use expires.

E. Existing Signs: *An existing sign is a sign that is legally existing or approved on November 27, 1989 and is subject to the following standards:*

- (1) Conforming Sign: *A sign that is existing as of the effective date of this section, which complies with the standards set forth in this section and/or Chapter 26, Signs, of the TRPA Code, is a conforming sign.*
- (2) Nonconforming Sign: *A sign that is existing as of the effective date of this section, which does not comply with the applicable standards set forth in this section and/or Chapter 26, Signs, of the TRPA Code is a nonconforming sign.*
- (3) Removal of Nonconforming Signs: *Nonconforming signs shall be conformed, if conformity is possible, or removed as follows:*
 - (a) *Where the cost of conforming the sign is less than one hundred dollars or where the sign is valued at less than one hundred dollars, such sign shall be conformed or removed within one year after the effective date of this subparagraph.*
 - (b) *If a nonconforming sign is destroyed or damaged to an extent in excess of 50 percent of the sign value.*
 - (c) *If the sign is relocated.*
 - (d) *If the sign is altered structurally, or if more than 50 percent of the copy as measured by the sign area is altered, except for changeable copy signs and maintenance. The sign or signs shall be immediately brought into compliance with this chapter with a new permit secured therefor, or shall be removed.*
 - (e) *If the business or use for which the nonconforming sign(s) was installed is expanded or modified, and if the value of the expansion or modification exceeds 50 percent of the value of the existing improvements. The sign or signs shall be immediately brought into compliance with this chapter with a new permit secured therefor, or shall be removed. All improvements to a single business or use within any 12-month period shall be treated cumulatively in the administration of this subparagraph.*
 - (f) *Nonconforming signs which are visible in whole, or in part, from any scenic threshold roadway or shoreline travel route shall be made to conform to the standards set forth in this Chapter or shall be removed, in accordance with the following schedule:*

Value of Sign	Time in Which Sign Shall Conform or be Removed
Not over \$5,000	October 1, 1993
\$5,001 - \$10,000	October 1, 1995
Greater than \$10,000	October 1, 1997

Sign value shall be determined based on an actual sales receipt for the sign, a cost estimate for the replacement cost provided by a qualified

professional, or the replacement cost as determined in the current edition of the Signwriters Guide to Easier Pricing, whichever is greater.

- (4) Exceptions: Exceptions to Subparagraph 8.E.(3) may be approved for existing signs provided the following findings can be made:
- (a) The exception is in harmony with the purpose and intent of the sign ordinance;
 - (b) There are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applicable to the property involved, or to the intended use of the property that are not contemplated or provided for by this ordinance;
 - (c) The approval of the exception will not be materially detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare;
 - (d) Alternative signage concepts that comply with the provision to which the exception is requested have been evaluated, and undue hardship would result if the strict adherence to the provision is required;
 - (e) A scenic quality analysis demonstrates that the exception, if approved, will be consistent with the threshold attainment findings listed in the Scenic Resources Management Package Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1989;
 - (f) The exception which is approved shall not increase the number, area, and height of the existing sign or signs for which the exception is requested; and
 - (g) The exception is the minimum departure from the standards.
- (5) Maintenance And Repair of Nonconforming Signs: Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to relieve the owner or user of a nonconforming sign, or owner of the property on which such nonconforming sign is located, from maintaining the sign in a state of good repair; provided, however, that any repainting, cleaning and other normal maintenance or repair of the sign or sign structure shall not modify the sign structure or copy in any way which makes it more nonconforming.

F. Gasoline Price Signs: Signs for gasoline or other motor fuel price signs shall conform to the following standards:

- (1) Motor Vehicles: A use which includes selling motor vehicle fuel to the public may be allowed one gasoline price sign on each street frontage providing direct vehicular entrance to the use. Such signs may be incorporated into a freestanding sign, however, the gasoline price sign shall not exceed ten feet in height and 15 square feet in area for each side. Gasoline price signs shall have no more than two sides. Portable gasoline price signs are prohibited. Sign area utilized for gasoline price signs shall be included in the total freestanding sign area allowed for each use.
- (2) Marina Gasoline Price Signs: A marina which sells motor fuel to the public may be allowed one gasoline price sign. Such sign may be incorporated into a freestanding sign, however, the gasoline price sign shall not exceed eight feet in height and nine square feet in area for each side. Gasoline price signs shall have

no more than two sides. Portable gasoline price signs are not allowed. Sign area utilized for gasoline price signs shall be included in the total freestanding sign area allowed for each marina. Gasoline price signs located on commercial marina piers shall not exceed four feet in height pursuant to Chapter 54, Development Standards Lakeward of High Water, of the TRPA Code.

G. Signs in Conservation Plan Areas: The following standards shall apply to signs located in Conservation Plan Areas:

- (1) Signs on National Forest Lands: Signs on National Forest lands, including sites permitted for private use, shall conform to standards enforced by the U.S. Forest Service as set forth in the Forest Service Catalog of Posters and Signs, FSH 7109.11a, 1980, as amended.
- (2) Signs on Nevada State Park Lands: Signs on Nevada State Park lands shall conform to the standards enforced by the State of Nevada as set forth in the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Sign Handbook, 1973, as amended.
- (3) Signs on Private Lands: Except as provided in Subparagraph 8.G(1), signs on private lands shall conform to the standards set forth in Subparagraph 8.I(3).

H. Signs in Recreation Plan Areas: The following standards shall apply to signs located in recreation plan areas:

- (1) Signs at Recreation Areas: Signs at recreation areas in recreation plan areas shall conform to the following standards:
 - (a) Recreation Areas and Facilities Operated by the U.S. Forest Service or Nevada State Parks: Signs at recreation areas and facilities which are operated by the U.S. Forest Service shall conform to the standards enforced by the U.S. Forest Service as set forth in the Forest Service Catalog of Posters and Signs, FSH 7109.11a, 1980, as amended. Signs at recreation areas and facilities which are operated by Nevada State Parks shall conform to the standards enforced by the State of Nevada as set forth in the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Sign Handbook, 1973, as amended.
 - (b) Recreation Facilities Operated By Permittees on National Forest Lands: Signs at recreation facilities operated by permittees on National Forest lands, or Nevada State Parks shall conform to the following standards:
 - (i) Recreation Area Identification Signs: One freestanding sign identifying the recreation area may be allowed for each recreation area. The sign shall conform to the freestanding sign setback, height, and area standards established in Subparagraph 8.J(2) with the following exception: two freestanding signs may be allowed, provided that: the combined sign area for the two freestanding signs does not exceed the maximum area allowed for said one freestanding sign, the height of the second sign is not greater than the first sign, and the setback of the second sign is not less than the first sign.

- (ii) Recreation Facility Identification Signs: Either one freestanding or one building sign may be allowed for each recreational facility or other use at a recreation area. Free standing signs shall have a maximum sign area of 20 square feet and a maximum height of 5 feet. Freestanding signs shall be located no further than 30 feet from any portion of the facility or other use. Allowable sign area for building signs shall be calculated based on the formula of one square foot of sign area for each one lineal foot of building frontage along the side where the sign is to be displayed up to a maximum of 20 square feet. The maximum height of building signs shall be 15 feet above grade. In instances where the facility has no building frontage as defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, of the TRPA Code, but does have a frontage without a public entrance on what is defined as a street, TRPA and Washoe County may allow building signage to be erected upon that alternate frontage. The sign area shall be calculated based upon that alternate frontage.
- (iii) Directory Signs: Directory signs identifying facilities at recreation areas may be allowed. Such signs shall have a maximum aggregate sign area of 10 square feet and a maximum height of 6 feet. An additional one foot of height may be allowed if the sign is incorporated into pedestrian seating or a landscape planter.
- (c) Signs at Other Publicly-Owned or Privately-Owned Recreation Areas: Signs at other publicly-owned or privately-owned recreation areas shall conform to the standards established in Subparagraph 8.H(1)(b).
- (2) Signs for Other Uses: Signs for uses other than recreation in recreation plan areas shall conform to the standards established in Subparagraphs 8.H(3), 8.H(4), and 8.I(3).
- (3) Pedestrian-Oriented Signs: Each use may be allowed one pedestrian-oriented sign per public entrance provided that the sign is displayed at or near the entrance, is not internally illuminated, has a maximum sign area of 5 square feet, and has a maximum height of 10 feet above grade.
- (4) Directional Signs: Directional signs which are no greater than four square feet in area, no greater than six feet in height, contain no advertising copy, and are not located within the yard setbacks required by Washoe County, may be allowed, and shall not be included in the total allowable sign area for each use. Directional signs which do not meet these standards may be allowed provided they are counted as part of the total sign area allowed for building signs or free standing signs, as applicable.

I. Signs in Residential Plan Areas: The following standards shall apply to signs located in Residential plan areas:

- (1) Subdivision Entrance Signs: Residential subdivisions may be allowed one freestanding or wall-mounted sign per public street entrance. Such sign shall be no greater than 40 square feet in area. Freestanding signs shall comply with the height and setback regulations established in Subparagraph 8.I(3). The height of wall-mounted signs shall be no greater than 10 feet above grade. Two freestanding or wall-mounted signs, or one of each, may be allowed per public

street entrance, provided the combined area of both signs is not greater than 40 square feet. Refer also to Section 4.3 of the TRPA Code.

- (2) Signs for Multi-Residential Uses: Signs for multi-residential uses of 5 or more dwelling units shall conform to the standards established in Subparagraph 8.I(1).
- (3) Signs for Non-Residential Uses: The following standards shall apply to signs for non-residential uses including non-residential uses in plan area special areas, located in Residential plan areas:
 - (a) Building Signs: Each primary use may be allowed one square foot of sign area for each one lineal foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 30 square feet of sign area per building frontage. Maximum height of building signs shall be 15 feet above grade, with a maximum of four building signs permitted per primary use. In instances where the primary use has no building frontage as defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, of the TRPA Code, but does have a frontage without a public entrance on what is defined as a street, TRPA and Washoe County may allow building signage to be erected upon that alternate frontage. The sign area shall be calculated based upon that alternate frontage. Up to fifty percent of the maximum allowable sign area for building signs may be used in a projecting sign. Projecting signs are defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, of the TRPA Code.
 - (b) Freestanding Signs: One freestanding sign per project area may be allowed if the eligibility standards listed in Subparagraph 8.J(2)(a) are met. Two freestanding signs per project area may be allowed if the eligibility standards listed in Subparagraph 8.J(2)(b) are met.
 - (i) Freestanding Sign Area: The maximum allowable sign area for freestanding signs is established in Table A.
 - (ii) Freestanding Sign Height: The maximum allowable height of freestanding signs is established in Table B.
 - (iii) Freestanding Sign Location: No portion of a freestanding sign shall be closer than five feet to any property line which is adjacent to a public right-of-way.
 - (iv) Additional Height for Freestanding Signs: Up to two feet of additional height for freestanding signs may be allowed when the freestanding sign is incorporated into a landscape planter, monument base, or pedestal. The additional height allowed will be the height of the landscape planter, monument base, or pedestal, up to a maximum of two feet. Examples of a landscape planter, monument base, and pedestal are found in the Design Review Guidelines.
 - (c) Pedestrian-Oriented Signs: Each use may be allowed one pedestrian-oriented sign per public entrance provided that the sign is displayed at or near the entrance, is not internally illuminated, has a maximum sign area of 5 square feet, and has a maximum height of 10 feet above grade.

- (4) Directional Signs: Directional signs which are no greater than four square feet in area, no greater than six feet in height, contain no advertising copy, and are not located within the yard setbacks required by the applicable local jurisdiction, may be allowed, and shall not be included in the total allowable sign area for each use. Directional signs which do not meet these standards may be allowed provided they are counted as part of the total sign area allowed for building signs or freestanding signs, as applicable.

J. Signs in Commercial and Public Service Areas: The following standards shall apply to signs located in Commercial, Public Service and mixed-use Neighborhood areas:

- (1) Building Signs: Each primary use may be allowed one square foot of building sign area for each one lineal foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 40 square feet of sign area per building frontage. Maximum height of building signs shall be 15 feet above grade, with a maximum of four building signs permitted per primary use. In instances where the primary use has no building frontage as defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, of the TRPA Code, but does have a frontage without a public entrance on what is defined as a street, TRPA may allow building signage to be erected upon that alternate frontage. The sign area shall be calculated based upon that alternate frontage. Up to fifty percent of the maximum allowable sign area for building signs may be used in a projecting sign.

- (2) Freestanding Signs: Freestanding signs shall conform to the following standards:

(a) One freestanding sign per project area may be allowed if:

- (i) The street frontage of the project area is greater than 100 feet in length; or
- (ii) The sign identifies a building with multiple tenants or a project area with multiple buildings; or
- (iii) The use does not contain a structure in its normal operation on which to place a building sign; or
- (iv) The building is set back at least 50 feet from the edge of the right-of-way; or
- (v) The freestanding sign is set back beyond the building facade closest to the roadway.

(b) Multiple Freestanding Signs Allowed: Two freestanding signs per project area may be allowed if:

- (i) The street frontage of the project area is greater than 300 feet in length; and
- (ii) The project area has more than one major entry point; and
- (iii) The freestanding signs face different streets or are at least 1,000 feet apart; and
- (iv) The distance between the freestanding signs is at least 100 feet.

- (c) Freestanding Sign Area: The maximum allowable sign area of freestanding signs is established in Table C.
- (d) Freestanding Sign Height: The maximum allowable height of freestanding signs is established in Table D.
- (e) Freestanding Sign Location: No portion of a freestanding sign shall be closer than five feet to any property line which is adjacent to a public right-of-way.
- (f) Additional Height for Freestanding Signs: Up to two feet of additional height for freestanding signs may be approved when the freestanding sign is incorporated into a landscape planter, monument base or pedestal. The additional height permitted will be the height of the landscape planter, monument base, or pedestal, up to a maximum of two feet. Examples of a landscape planter, monument base, and pedestal are found in the Guidelines.
- (3) Pedestrian-Oriented Signs: Each use may be allowed one pedestrian-oriented sign per public entrance provided that the sign is displayed at or near the entrance, is not internally illuminated, has a maximum sign area of 5 square feet, and has a maximum height of 10 feet above grade.
- (4) Directional Signs: Directional signs which are no greater than four square feet in area, no greater than six feet in height, contain no advertising copy, and are not located within the yard setbacks required by the applicable local jurisdiction, may be allowed, and shall not be included in the total allowable sign area for each use. Directional signs which do not meet these standards may be allowed provided they are counted as part of the total sign area allowed for building signs or freestanding signs, as applicable.

K. Signs in Tourist Plan Areas: The following standards shall apply to signs located in Tourist mixed-use Neighborhood areas:

- (1) Building Signs: Each primary use may be allowed one square foot of sign area for each one lineal foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 40 square feet of sign area per building frontage. Maximum height of building signs shall be 15 feet above grade, with a maximum of four building signs per primary use. In instances where the primary use has no building frontage as defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, of the TRPA Code, but does have a frontage without a public entrance on what is defined as a street, TRPA may allow building signage to be erected upon that alternate frontage. The sign area shall be calculated based upon that alternate frontage. Up to fifty percent of the maximum allowable sign area for building signs may be used in a projecting sign. Projecting signs are defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, of the TRPA Code
- (2) Freestanding Signs: Freestanding signs shall conform to the standards set forth in Subparagraph 8.J(2).
- (3) Pedestrian-Oriented Signs: Each use may be allowed one pedestrian-oriented sign per public entrance provided that the sign is displayed at or near the entrance, is not internally illuminated, has a maximum area of 5 square feet, and has a maximum height of 10 feet above grade.

- (4) Directional Signs: Directional signs, which are no greater than four square feet in area, no greater than six feet in height, contain no advertising copy, and are not located within the yard setbacks required by the applicable local jurisdiction, may be allowed, and shall not be included in the total allowable sign area for each use. Directional signs which do not meet these standards may be approved provided they are counted as part of the total sign area allowed for building signs or freestanding signs, as applicable.

L. Signs in the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood Area: The standards for tourist plan areas shall apply to signs located in the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood area, except that the following standards shall replace or modify the standards listed in Section 8.C, 8.E, 8.K, and 8.N as appropriate.

- (1) Definitions: Except as provided below, the definitions of Chapter 2 of the TRPA Code shall apply.

(a) Building Frontage: The two dimensional surface area of a building found within the perimeter bounded by the finished grade line, the cornice line, and exterior side walls in one plane not including intermediate walls perpendicular to such surface area which faces a street.

(b) Conforming Sign: A sign that is existing or approved, including exceptions, under Chapter 26 of the TRPA Code is a conforming sign.

(c) Provisionally Conforming Sign: A sign that complies with the applicable standards set forth in this section is a provisionally conforming sign. A provisionally conforming sign shall become a conforming sign once the scenic and community design improvements which are set forth in Appendix C of the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood have been implemented, in accordance with the schedule of implementation.

(d) Nonconforming Sign: A sign that is existing as of the effective date of this chapter which has not been approved under Chapter 26 of the TRPA Code or which does not comply with the applicable standards set forth in this Section is a nonconforming sign.

- (2) General Standards: Except as provided below, the standards set forth in Section 8.C shall apply.

(a) Sign Illumination: No sign shall be illuminated by or contain blinking, flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights except:

(i) The time and temperature portion of a sign, and

(ii) The message portion of an electronic changeable message sign. The message and sign area illumination must remain constant except for that period of time when the message is being changed, which shall not exceed four (4) message changes per one (1) hour. Bulbs shall be 5 watts or less, fitted with color sleeves, and screened so as not to be visible when not in operation. The brightness of the sign shall be limited to the minimum necessary to accurately read the message.

- (3) Building Signs: Except as provided below, the standards set forth in Subsection 8.K(1) shall apply to building signs:
- (a) Each primary use with a project area greater than 5 acres, a total floor area of 100,000 square feet or greater, and more than 100 linear feet of frontage along a public street may be allowed one square foot of sign area for each one linear foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 200 square feet of sign area per building frontage. Each use shall be allowed a maximum of two building frontages against which to calculate allowable sign area and on which to place the signage. No transfer of allowable building sign area between building frontages shall be permitted. Maximum height of building signs shall be 30 feet above grade.
 - (b) Each primary use with a project area greater than 1 acre, a total floor area between 50,000 and 99,999 square feet, and more than 100 linear feet of frontage along a public street may be allowed one square foot of sign area for each one linear foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 150 square feet of sign area per building frontage. Each use shall be allowed a maximum of two building frontages against which to calculate allowable sign area and on which to place the signage. No transfer of allowable building sign area between building frontages shall be permitted. The maximum height of building signs shall be 20 feet above grade.
 - (c) Each primary use with a project area greater than 1 acre, a total floor area between 14,000 and 49,999 square feet, and more than 100 linear feet of frontage along a public street may be allowed one square foot of sign area for each one linear foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 80 square feet of sign area per building frontage. Each use shall be allowed a maximum of two building frontages against which to calculate allowable sign area and on which to place the signage. No transfer of allowable building sign area between building frontages shall be permitted. The maximum height of building signs shall be 15 feet above grade.
 - (d) All other primary uses which do not meet the minimum project area size, minimum total floor area and the minimum linear street frontage as set forth in subparagraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection shall comply with the provisions shown in subsection 8.K(1) for building signs.
- (4) Freestanding Signs: Except as provided below, the standards set forth in subsection 8.K(2) shall apply to freestanding signs.
- (a) Each project area which is greater than 5 acres, has a primary use with a total floor area of greater than 100,000 square feet and has more than 100 linear feet of frontage along a public street may be permitted one freestanding sign. The maximum sign area for a freestanding sign which may be permitted shall be no greater than 500 square feet and have a maximum height no greater than 40 feet. TRPA may approve more than one freestanding sign per project area provided that the criteria for permitting multiple freestanding signs found in subsection 8.J(2) are met and provided that the total sign area for the signs does not exceed 500 square feet.

- (b) *Each project area which is greater than 1 acre, has a primary use with a total floor area between 50,000 square feet and 99,999 square feet and has more than 100 linear feet of frontage along a public street may be permitted one freestanding sign. The maximum sign area for a freestanding sign which may be permitted shall be no greater than 330 square feet and have a maximum height no greater than 30 feet. TRPA may approve more than one freestanding sign per project area provided that the criteria for permitting multiple freestanding signs found in subsection 8.J(2) are met and provided that the total sign area for the signs does not exceed 330 square feet.*
- (c) *Each project area which is greater than 1 acre, has a primary use with a total floor area between 14,000 square feet and 49,999 square feet and has more than 100 linear feet of frontage along a public street may be permitted one freestanding sign. The maximum sign area for a freestanding sign which may be permitted shall be no greater than 100 square feet and have a maximum height no greater than 20 feet. TRPA may approve more than one freestanding sign per project area provided that the criteria for permitting multiple freestanding signs found in subsection 8.J(2) are met and provided that the total sign area for the signs does not exceed 100 square feet.*
- (d) *Project areas which do not meet the minimum project area size, minimum total floor area, and the minimum linear street frontage as set forth in either subparagraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection shall comply with the provisions shown in subsection 8.J(2) for freestanding signs.*
- (e) *The minimum setback from the property line for freestanding signs which may be permitted in either subparagraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection shall be 10 feet. In instances where a 10 foot setback does not exist, TRPA may approve a minimum setback from the property line of five feet for a freestanding sign provided the area and height of the sign is reduced by a minimum of 10 percent of what would otherwise be approved.*
- (f) *All freestanding signs which may be permitted by either subparagraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection shall be incorporated into a landscape planter.*
- (5) *Pedestrian-Oriented Signs:* *Each primary use may be allowed one pedestrian-oriented sign per public entrance provided that the sign is displayed at or near the entrance, is not internally illuminated, has a maximum sign area of 5 square feet, and has a maximum height of 10 feet above grade.*
- (6) *Directional Signs:* *The following standards shall apply to directional signs.*
 - (a) *Directional signs which are no greater than four square feet in area, no greater than 6 feet in height, contain no advertising copy, and are not located within the yard setbacks required by the applicable local jurisdiction, may be allowed, and shall not be included in the total allowable sign area for each use. Directional signs which do not meet these standards may be allowed provided they are counted as part of the total sign area allowed for building signs or freestanding signs, as applicable.*

- (b) *For project areas which meet the minimum area size, minimum total floor area and minimum street frontage criteria established in either subparagraphs 4(a), (b), or (c), the maximum area of directional signs may be increased up to 24 square feet provided all such signs are designed and installed using a consistent set of colors, materials, and mounting devices, without being counted in the total allowable sign area which is otherwise permitted.*
 - (c) *For project areas which meet the minimum area size, the maximum height of directional signs on buildings, parking garages and porte cochere entrances/exits may exceed 6 feet, but shall be the minimum necessary to identify the entrance/exit. The sign shall not project outside or above any building wall or surface to which it is attached or appears to be attached.*
- (7) Regulation of Existing Signs in the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood: *Existing signs for purposes of this subsection are signs which are located within the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood areas which are legally existing or approved on the effective date of this chapter. Existing signs may include conforming, provisionally conforming, and nonconforming signs as defined in subsection 8.L(1). Existing signs shall be regulated as follows:*
- (a) Conforming Signs: *Conforming signs may remain.*
 - (b) Provisionally Conforming Signs: *Provisionally conforming signs may remain provided the scenic and community design improvements which are set forth in Appendix C of the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood are being implemented in accordance with the implementation schedule set forth therein.*
 - (c) Replacement of Provisionally Conforming and Nonconforming Signs:
 - (i) *Nonconforming signs may be replaced with conforming or provisionally conforming signs.*
 - (ii) *The replacement or modification of existing signs with conforming or provisionally conforming signs shall be permitted without requiring the entire project area or building frontage or other signs to come into immediate conformance provided that the project area is proceeding in accordance with the scenic and community design improvements implementation schedule set forth in Appendix C of the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood.*
 - (iii) *The replacement or relocation on the same building or street frontage of conforming or provisionally conforming signs is permitted so long as the height or the sign area is not increased or the setback is not decreased.*
 - (d) Removal of Nonconforming Signs: *Nonconforming signs shall be brought into conformance or provisional conformance with the standards in this section, or removed in accordance with the following schedule:*

- (i) *Where the cost of conforming the sign is less than \$100 or where the sign is valued at less than \$100, within one year after the effective that of this chapter.*
 - (ii) *If a nonconforming sign is destroyed or damaged to an extent in excess of 50 percent of the sign value, immediately.*
 - (iii) *If the sign is relocated, immediately.*
 - (iv) *If the sign is altered structurally, or if the sign face is altered, except for changeable copy signs and maintenance, immediately.*
 - (v) *By not later than January 1, 2002, all signs shall conform to Chapter 26 of the TRPA Code or the applicable provisions of Section 8.L.*
- (e) *Conversion of Provisionally Conforming Signs to Conforming Signs:* *Provisionally conforming signs shall become conforming signs following the implementation of the scenic and community design improvements set forth in Appendix C of the Crystal Bay Tourist Neighborhood. If all scheduled improvements have not been implemented by January 1, 2002, and a scenic analysis indicates inadequate progress in meeting scenic threshold interim targets, TRPA, and the Crystal Bay Casino Association shall develop an action plan to ensure threshold attainment by July 1, 2007.*
- (f) *Exceptions:* *Exceptions to subparagraphs (a) through (e) of this subsection may be approved for existing signs provided the following findings can be made for a sign package for the entire project area. Exceptions approved under these provisions shall be considered as conforming signs.*
- (i) *The exception is in harmony with the purpose and intent of the sign ordinance;*
 - (ii) *There are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applicable to the property involved, or to the intended use of the property that are not contemplated or provided for by this ordinance;*
 - (iii) *The approval of the exception will not be materially detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare;*
 - (iv) *Alternative signage concepts that comply with the provision to which the exception is requested have been evaluated, and undue hardship would result if the strict adherence to the provision is required;*
 - (v) *A scenic quality analysis demonstrates that the exception, if approved, will be consistent with the threshold attainment findings listed in the Scenic Resources Management Package Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1989;*

- (vi) *The exception which is approved shall not increase the number, area, and height of the existing sign or signs for which the exception is requested;*
 - (vii) *The exceptions which is approved for a primary use or project area, whichever is applicable, shall not exceed the total permissible sign area for all signs;*
 - (viii) *The exception is the minimum departure from the standards.*
- (5) *Qualified Exempt Activities:* *In addition to the provisions of Section 8.N, the following activities are considered qualified exempt.*
- (a) *The replacement of a corporate logo, provided the dimension, configuration and location of the sign are the same.*
 - (b) *Any sign which is located within a building complex or under a porte cochere and which is clearly intended to be visible primarily to people located within the building area.*

M. *List of Exempt Activities:* *The following sign activities are not subject to review and approval by TRPA and Washoe County provided they do not result in the creation of additional land coverage or relocation of land coverage, and they comply with all restrictions set forth below:*

- (1) *The changing of the advertising copy of a message on a lawfully erected changeable copy sign;*
- (2) *Maintenance or cleaning of a sign. This exception shall not include any structural, electrical, copy or color changes of a sign;*
- (3) *For each street frontage of the primary use, one sign not over one square foot in area advertising that credit is available;*
- (4) *For each parcel, one identification sign containing no advertising matter, nonelectrical, nonilluminated, two square feet or less in area, which is permanently affixed in a plane parallel to a wall located entirely on private property;*
- (5) *For each parcel, one temporary sign per street frontage which is not greater than 12 square feet in area, is not internally illuminated, and is not displayed for more than 30 days in a calendar year, except that for 60 days preceding a general or special election more than one such sign may be placed on each parcel, provided they are removed immediately after the election;*
- (6) *Construction site identification signs, which may identify the project, the owner or developer, architect or other designer, engineer, contractor and subcontractors, funding sources, and other related information. Not more than one such sign shall be erected per site, and it shall not exceed 32 square feet in area or eight feet in height. Such signs shall not be erected prior to the issuance of a building permit and shall be removed within ten days of site or building occupancy;*
- (7) *Signs or tablets with names of buildings and dates of erection, when cut into masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other metal;*

- (8) *Signs of public service entities indicating danger and/or service and safety information.*
- (9) *In residential areas, signs not exceeding four square feet in area such as (i) signs giving property identification names or numbers or names of occupants, (ii) signs on mailboxes or newspaper tubes, (iii) signs posted on private property relating to private parking or warning the public against trespassing or danger from animals;*
- (10) *Any sign not visible from a street, public recreation area, bicycle trail, or from Lake Tahoe;*
- (11) *Any sign which is located within a building and which is clearly intended to be visible primarily to people located within the building.*
- (12) *Signs located within structures, including inside window signs intended to be seen from outside of the building when such signs are limited to five percent (5%) of the area of each window. See also Subsection 26.6.R.;*
- (13) *Signs on private property 12" x 18" or smaller which limit access, provide direction, parking admittance or pertain to security provisions; signs 18" x 18" or smaller defining entrance or exit; and octagonal stop signs 24" or smaller;*
- (14) *Signs which are reviewed and approved consistent with this Code [Except for Subparagraph 26.14.C.(10)] by the U.S. Forest Service, a state agency, or a local government pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with TRPA;*
- (15) *Signs which are reviewed and approved by a local government provided the standards used in the review and approved are adopted as substitute standards by TRPA pursuant to Section 26.5;*
- (16) *Replacement of street signs and other regulatory or directional signs when the area or height of the replacement sign does not exceed the area or height of the sign to be replaced, and when the sign conforms to the applicable standards of the Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 1978 as amended. Installation of new street signs and other regulatory or directional signs or replacement of such signs where the area or height of the replacement sign is greater than the area or height of the sign to be replaced shall be reviewed as a project unless specifically exempted by means of a memorandum of understanding or other agreement.*

N. List of Qualified Exempt Activities: *The following sign activities are not subject to review and approval by TRPA provided the applicant certifies on a TRPA Qualified Exempt form that the activity fits within one or more of the following categories, and the activity does not result in the creation of additional land coverage or relocation of existing land coverage and complies with all restrictions set forth below. The statement shall be filed with TRPA at least one working day before the activity commences and shall be made under penalty of perjury.*

- (1) *Installation or replacement of subdivision identification names or letters, provided the name or lettering is installed on an existing wall or similar structure, is not over 12 inches high, and is not internally illuminated; and*
- (2) *Replacement of sign faces on signs approved by TRPA pursuant to this chapter provided the new sign face remains in compliance with this chapter.*

Table A
 Maximum Allowable Sign Area for Freestanding Signs for Non-Residential Uses in
 Residential Plan Areas

Distance of Sign from Property Line	Maximum Sign Area
5 ft.	15 sq. ft.
6 ft.	16 sq. ft.
7 ft.	17 sq. ft.
8 ft.	18 sq. ft.
9 ft.	19 sq. ft.
10 ft.	20 sq. ft.
11 ft.	21 sq. ft.
12 ft.	22 sq. ft.
13 ft.	23 sq. ft.
14 ft.	24 sq. ft.
15 ft.	25 sq. ft.
16 ft.	26 sq. ft.
17 ft.	27 sq. ft.
18 ft.	28 sq. ft.
19 ft.	29 sq. ft.
20 ft. or greater	30 sq. ft.

Table B
 Maximum Allowable Height for Freestanding Signs for Non-Residential Uses in
 Residential Plan Areas

Distance of Sign from Property Line	Maximum Sign Height
5'-0" - 10'-0"	6 ft.
10'-1" - 15'-0"	8 ft.
15'-1" or greater	10 ft.

Table C
**Maximum Allowable Sign Area for Freestanding Signs in Commercial/Public Service
and Tourist Plan Areas**

Distance of Sign from Property Line	Maximum Sign Area
5 ft.	25 sq. ft.
6 ft.	26 sq. ft.
7 ft.	27 sq. ft.
8 ft.	28 sq. ft.
9 ft.	29 sq. ft.
10 ft.	30 sq. ft.
11 ft.	31 sq. ft.
12 ft.	32 sq. ft.
13 ft.	33 sq. ft.
14 ft.	34 sq. ft.
15 ft.	35 sq. ft.
16 ft.	36 sq. ft.
17 ft.	37 sq. ft.
18 ft.	38 sq. ft.
19 ft.	39 sq. ft.
20 ft. or greater	40 sq. ft.

Table D
**Maximum Allowable Height for Freestanding Signs in Commercial/Public Service and
Tourist Plan Areas**

Distance of Sign from Property Line	Maximum Sign Height
5'-0" - 10'-0"	6 ft.
10'-1" - 15'-0"	10 ft.
15'-1" or greater	12 ft.

GUIDELINES

1. **Sign Design:** Sign design should conform to the architectural character of the building in terms of historic time period, style, location, size, configuration, materials and color. Signage attached to a building should be designed to be integral with the building and not obscure or conceal architectural elements. Standardized or corporate signing which does not relate to the building architecture is discouraged.
2. **Sign Area:** To reduce the visual competition between signs, sign area should be limited to the minimum amount necessary to identify the use. Total sign area permitted for each building can be divided for use in more than one sign. The use of a number of smaller signs rather than one larger sign is encouraged when such use would not contribute to visual clutter and would more clearly identify the business.
3. **Internally Illuminated Signs:** Internally illuminated signs are discouraged, as is the use of plastic as the principal sign material. Internally illuminated signs should only be used when just the individual letters and/or symbols are illuminated (i.e. the background is of a dark color, not translucent or illuminated) and illumination is of low intensity. However, the use of this type of signage is not encouraged for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Can type or cabinet signs with translucent backlit panels will be approved only if the panel is a dark color. Acceptable dark colors are listed in Appendix E of this manual, and generally include dark shades of red, green, blue, brown, gray, orange, violet, and black.
4. **Freestanding Signs:** Where permitted, freestanding signs should be low-profile monument signs. (The optimum sign height for viewing by motorists is approximately four (4) feet). Signage should be integrated with the landscaping and architecturally related to and compatible with the main structure. Additional sign height is provided for in Chapter 26 when a freestanding sign is incorporated into a landscape planter, pedestal or monument design.
5. **Color:** Bright colors are generally discouraged on signs except when used as accent colors. Sign colors on permit applications should be specified using the Pantone Matching System (PMS) standard color charts.
6. **Sign Location:** Architectural details of a building often suggest a location, size, or shape for a sign. Signage should complement the architectural features of a building.
7. **Develop a Coordinated Sign Plan for Multiple-Tenant Complexes:** Multiple-tenant buildings and complexes should develop a sign program that minimizes the potential visual conflicts and competition among tenant signs, yet insures adequate identification for each tenant.

Freestanding signs used to identify such complexes should include the name and address of the complex and not include the name of every tenant. Tenant identification should be provided by wall or projecting signs within the complex.
8. **Sign Lighting:** It is preferable that signs be externally illuminated. Both direct and indirect lighting methods are acceptable provided that the illumination is not harsh or unnecessarily bright. The light source for externally illuminated signs should be positioned so that light does not shine directly on adjoining properties, cause glare, or shine in the eyes of motorists or pedestrians.
9. **Projecting Signs:** Projecting signs other than pedestrian- oriented signs are not generally encouraged for the Tahoe Basin except in urban areas where the mixed-use

Neighborhood calls for a smaller scale, pedestrian-oriented community character or within a multiple tenant complex. It is intended that projecting signs be small in size and preferably use a graphic depiction (rather than verbal) of the business or service offered. See Chapter 26 for specific regulations addressing pedestrian-oriented signs.

10. **Signs in Transition and Natural Scenic Highway Corridors:** The back of any one-sided regulatory, directional, or informational sign located in a Transition or Natural Scenic Highway Corridor should be painted or otherwise colored to closely match the color of the adjacent natural landscape.

11. **Maximum Area of sign in Copy:** Sign should have no more than 60% of the sign area in copy. Sign Copy includes all letters, numbers, characters, symbols and other graphic which are part of the sign. This guideline does not apply to signs which consist of individual letters, characters, or other symbols and which have no perimeter or border.

Chapter Nine

WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation is accepted as a practical and economical water management technique. Water Conservation measures increases supplies, saves energy, and saves money. Water use includes water used indoors and outdoors. The largest share of that typically used for landscape irrigation. Bathroom fixtures typically account for the largest share of indoor water use. Water-using fixtures and appliances have, in the past, been designed with little or no regard for water efficiency. Today's appliances, however, are designed with a greater sensitivity towards efficiency and are recommended. The guidelines in this section suggest ways to reduce water consumption without significantly altering lifestyles.

STANDARDS

- A. **Water Conservation Standards:** *The following appliances and fixtures shall be installed in new facilities or when replaced in existing facilities: low flow flush toilets; low flow showerheads (3 gpm rated maximum flow); faucet aerators; and water-efficient appliance (e.g., washing machines and dishwashers).*

GUIDELINES

1. **Water Conserving Fixtures:** The following water conservation fixtures shall be considered appropriate to meeting Section A, Water Conservation Standards:

- q Toilets - maximum 3.5 gallons per flush
- q Showerheads - maximum flow: 3 gallons per minute
- q Faucets - must contain either a pressure compensating aerator or a non-pressure compensating aerator with low flow setting
- q Appliances - shall be water-efficient
- q Irrigation systems - shall be equipped with a moisture sensing device or automatic timer.

Note: The list of low-flow plumbing fixtures may also be found in TRPA's application packets.

2. **Irrigation System Design:** The following guidelines are recommended when designing an irrigation system.

- (a) Incorporate low flow sprinkler heads.
- (b) Incorporate soil moisture sensing device or automatic timer in all irrigation systems.
- (c) Incorporate drip emitter heads for shrubs and trees.

- (d) Select low water usage plant materials, including drought tolerant turf grasses.
- (e) Develop and follow an irrigation schedule.
- (f) Water at night or early in the morning.
- (g) Optimize use of irrigated turf grass.
- (h) Minimize the area of turf grass area.

Chapter Ten

SCENIC HIGHWAY CORRIDOR

The Lake Tahoe Region offers many outstanding opportunities to view and photograph scenic resources. Many of these opportunities are available while driving around the Lake on the main highways (U.S. Highway 50, State Routes 28, 89, 207, 267 and 431, and Pioneer Trail). The highways listed are also travel routes used in TRPA's scenic quality thresholds. Maintaining and in some cases upgrading the scenic quality of the view from the road is the primary goal behind both scenic highway corridors and scenic quality thresholds.

STANDARD

A. **Scenic Highway Corridor Design Standards:** *All projects which are within the scenic highway corridors established in Section 30.13, Design Standards, of the TRPA Code shall meet design standards listed in (1) and (2) in addition to applicable design standards. All projects which are within the highway corridor shall also meet the design standards listed in (3) in addition to applicable design standards.*

(1) Utilities:

(a) *All new electrical lines which are 32 kilovolts or smaller, including service connection lines, shall be placed underground exceptions to this requirement will be based on TRPA and Washoe County finding that undergrounding would produce a greater environmental impact than above ground installation. When new electrical lines are permitted to be installed above ground the new lines, poles, and hardware shall be screened from view of the scenic highway to the maximum extent possible.*

(b) *All new communication lines including telephone lines, cable television lines, and service connection lines shall be placed underground. Exceptions to this requirement will be based on TRPA and Washoe County finding that undergrounding would produce a greater environmental impact than above ground installation. When new communication lines are permitted to be installed above ground the new lines, poles, and hardware shall be screened from view of the scenic highway to the maximum extent possible.*

(2) Highway Fixtures: *Guardrails and other highway fixtures including but not limited to retaining walls, safety barriers, traffic signals and controllers, light standards, and other structures, shall be limited to the minimum length, height, and bulk necessary to adequately provide for the safety of the highway user. Earthtone colors of dark shades and flat finish shall be used on all highway fixtures except guardrails. New and replacement guardrails shall not have a shiny reflective finish. Retaining walls and other erosion control devices or structures shall be constructed of natural materials whenever possible and shall, to the maximum extent possible, be designed and sited as to not detract from the scenic quality of the corridor. Such structures shall incorporate heavy texture or articulated plane surfaces that create heavy shadow patterns.*

- (3) Siting of Development: All projects, excluding signs, driveways, parking for scenic vista points, trailheads, and pedestrian/bicycle paths, when viewed from a distance of not less than 300 feet, shall be sited in such a manner that they are not visually evident from the highway. All projects, when viewed from a distance of not less than 300 feet should meet the visual magnitude/contrast ratings for rural scenic highway corridors established in Appendix D, Rural Visual Magnitude/Color Contrast Rating System.

GUIDELINES

1. **Minimize Visual Impact of Utility Lines and Poles:** Site utility lines and poles out of the viewshed of the highway using one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) Use landform and vegetation to provide screening and visually absorb utility lines.
 - (b) Use dark colors with flat finishes which blend with the forest landscape on utility poles and all hardware or appurtenances. Utility lines should also be of a dark color.
 - (c) Run the lines and poles along a secondary street using the screening opportunities of existing structures and vegetation.
 - (d) Hang all utility lines vertically on one pole, thereby minimizing the visual mass associated with the horizontal crossbar. Sierra Pacific Power Company specifies this pole design on many of its jobs.
2. **Use Non-Specular Lines:** Whenever possible use electrical or other utility lines (conductors) which have a non-specular (non-reflective) finish. Where non-specular lines are not available for a particular application, use a wire or cable which is coated with a black covering or other dark color.
3. **Install and Maintain Plumb Poles:** This is an often overlooked solution to remedy a visual eyesore. Make sure utility poles are installed and maintained plumb. Recognize common construction practices, poles at angle points should be "raked into the angle" in order to maintain a plumb pole.
4. **Design of Highway Fixtures:** Consider the following design solutions when designing projects including highway fixtures. See also Retaining Wall guidelines listed in Section 1, Site Design.
 - (a) Use dark colors with flat finishes.
 - (b) Articulate plane surfaces to create shadow lines.
 - (c) Wherever possible, use materials, rough textures or surfaces to create heavy shadow patterns.
 - (d) Minimize reflective surfaces on all fixtures except directional and regulatory sign faces. Limit reflective surfaces to lettering and other graphics wherever possible (not including sign background).
 - (e) Treat metal beam guard rails with a mild acid bath (vinegar) or equal process to dull the silver metallic finish.

5. **Siting of Development to be Visually Subordinate to the Natural Landscape (Natural Corridors only):** All new development when viewed at a distance including those things specifically excepted in 30.13.E(1) of the design standards chapter should meet the visual magnitude/color contrast rating for Rural Scenic Highway Corridors found in Appendix D, Rural Visual Magnitude/Color Contrast Rating System, of this manual.
- (a) Use landform and topography as a screen. This is especially effective in siting buildings and other structures. In mountainous landscapes numerous opportunities exist to hide structures behind small changes in landforms or topography.
 - (b) Use vegetation as a screen. This is particularly important in screening as much of the perimeter of the structure as possible. Straight lines of buildings and other structures are often what makes them stand out in an otherwise natural landscape.
 - (c) Blend the structure into the landscape by using appropriate colors. In most cases appropriate colors are dark shades of earthtone colors. Flat finishes also help blend structures into the surrounding landscape.
 - (d) In some cases, road cuts for which retaining walls or other remedial erosion control measures are designed, consist of light colored soils. In these situations, light shades of earthtone colors may be more appropriate in order to blend the wall or other solution into the landscape.

Chapter Eleven

SHOREZONE

The shorezone of Lake Tahoe is a resource of regional significance. Site planning in the shorezone requires added levels of sensitivity on the part of the designer for many reasons, including visual interest in the land/water edge, sensitive ecological processes at work, and the visual vulnerability of shorelines. These guidelines focus on considering the design of man-made development as seen from the Lake.

GUIDELINES

1. **Site Structures Away from Open Prospects:** Use vegetation and landform to conceal structures from view of the Lake. There are many historical precedents for this at Lake Tahoe such as the Whittel Estate and the Glenbrook Hotel. Siting structures at the ecotone (forest/shoreline edge) or further into the forest landscape can help minimize visibility and soften the structure's appearance. View corridors to the Lake can still be incorporated into the building and site design by careful siting of and by selective tree pruning or thinning. This can produce more dramatic framed views.
2. **Use Colors which Blend or Recede:** Use dark colors and flat finishes which blend rather than contrast with surrounding landscape to help minimize the apparent visibility structure.
3. **Use Vegetation to Screen Structures:** Using existing or planted vegetation to screen and soften the structure's appearance from the Lake will help "fit" the structure into the landscape.
4. **Compatible Scale:** The scale of new development should be proportional with the scale of the surrounding vegetation and the screening ability of the vegetation.
5. **Minimize Reflectivity** of All Structures and Surfaces Visible from the Lake or Adjacent Scenic Highway Corridors:
 - (a) Use flat or matte finishes on all visible surfaces including walls and roofs.
 - (b) Articulate large glass surfaces, avoid large flat surfaces which face the Lake.
 - (c) Use non-glare glass.
6. **Protect Shorezone Vegetation:** Protect existing shorezone (backshore and foreshore) vegetation against disturbance or mechanical injury during construction activities by using temporary fencing or other barriers. See also the Handbook of Best Management Practices for additional measures.
7. **Minimize Pier Cross Section When Viewed from Lake:** The pier design should be a sleek, streamlined structure with minimal apparent mass or bulk. This includes boatlifts, pilings, handrails, signs, lighting, catwalks below piers, and other appurtenances. Boats should not be stored out of the water on boatlifts. Consider using floating piers as a

method to reduce the apparent mass. Dimensions and material sizes should be limited to the minimum necessary to insure function and safety.

8. **Minimize Pier Profile When Viewed from Shoreline:** Consider the visual impact of the pier when viewed from along the adjacent shoreline. The pier design should effect a incorporate sleek or streamlined structure which does not appear bulky or massive.
9. **Develop Multiple Use Piers:** Whenever possible, develop multiple use piers between adjacent parcels. This minimizes the overall number of shoreline structures, and helps maintain the natural character of the shoreline. The Code provides the ability to vary from certain design and construction standards in exchange for developing multiple use facilities, including piers.
10. **Minimize Use of Reflective Colors and Materials on All Structures Visible from the Lake or Adjacent Scenic Highway Corridors:** Use dark colors or colors which blend with the immediate background and flat finishes.
11. **Use Single Pile Construction Technique:** Consider using single pile pier design and construction techniques rather than the traditional double pile construction. This can minimize the apparent mass of the pier. All residential piers should, whenever possible, use the single pile design, and should avoid pier widths which are unable to be supported by the single pile design.
12. **Pier Lighting:** Lighting the pier may be done to increase safety and visibility. Lighting should be done only to the minimum extent necessary. Lighting heights must comply with height standards established in Section 54.4.B, Development Standards Lakeward of Highwater, of the TRPA Code. Lighting should generally be directed downward and incorporate cutoff shields where necessary.
13. **Minimize Boat Ramp Cross Section When Viewed from Lake and Shoreline:** Design the boat ramp using materials which do not appear bulky or use streamlined materials of minimum dimensions to insure function and safety. This includes boatlifts, handrails, signs, lighting, ramps and other appurtenances.
14. **Minimize Use of Reflective Colors and Materials on All Structures Visible from the Lake Or Adjacent Scenic Highway Corridor:** Use dark colors or colors which blend with the immediate background, and flat finishes.
15. **Minimize Mass:** Design the floating dock or platform using streamlined materials which do not appear bulky or massive. Use minimum dimensions and material sizes to insure function and safety. Also see Pier Guideline (7) in this section for additional recommendations regarding minimizing cross section.
16. **Minimize Use of Reflective Colors and Materials on All Structures Visible from the Lake or Adjacent Scenic Highway Corridors:** Use dark colors or colors which blend with the immediate background, and flat finishes.
17. **Lighting:** Lighting the floating deck may be done to increase safety and visibility. Lighting should be done only to the minimum extent necessary. Lighting heights must comply with height standards established in Section 54.4.B, Development Standards Lakeward of Highwater (listed above), of the TRPA Code. Lighting should generally be directed downward and incorporate cutoff shields where necessary.

18. **Use Natural Materials:** Whenever possible, use rocks instead of sheet piling. Gabion baskets are not recommended unless used underwater only and then overlaid with rocks. Refer also to the Handbook of Best Management Practices.
19. **Keep Fences Above the High Water Line Whenever Possible:** Fences ending or running into the water are unsightly and seldom necessary. Appropriate signage can be used to discourage trespassing. A linear element in the landscape such as a fence should be resolved and ended on land and not in the water.
20. **Decks on Top of Jetties or Breakwaters:** Decks constructed on top of jetties or breakwaters should be made of natural materials (typically wood). Avoid using bright-colored or untreated metal. Avoid bright-colored deck coverings
21. **Keep the Height of Jetties and Breakwaters Above Water to an Absolute Minimum Height Necessary to be Effective:** Large masses of jetties and breakwaters above water are seldom necessary and are visual impacts.
22. **Auxiliary Structures Should be of a Consistent Style and Design:** This includes the color of boat lift equipment and storage facilities.
23. **Screen Boat Service and Storage Areas from View from the Lake and Any Adjacent Scenic Highway Corridors:** This can be accomplished by site planning and screening. See the screening guidelines in Section 1. Site Design.
24. **Parking Areas:** Locate parking areas away from shoreline and screen them by landform vegetation, low walls so that they are not readily visible from the Lake and any adjacent Scenic Highway Corridors.
25. **Signs at Marinas:** Please refer to the guidelines in Section 8, Signs.
26. **Preserve Existing Vegetation:** Preserve existing mature vegetation when modifying existing marinas or constructing new marinas. The vegetation can often be used as a screen for undesirable views of parking, service and storage areas.
27. **Use Non-Reflective Glass on Windows Which Face the Lake:** This will minimize the reflectivity of man-made structures seen from the Lake and present a more natural appearing shoreline.
28. **Minimize the Use of Reflective Colors and Materials on All Structures and Surfaces Visible from the Lake or Adjacent Scenic Highway Corridors:** Use dark colors or colors which blend with the immediate background, and flat finishes
29. **Use Sloping Rock Revetments Whenever Possible:** Refer to the Handbook of Best Management Practices for construction and installation specifications. The use of bulkheads as shoreline protective structures is generally not recommended, except in specific situations (e.g. marinas, areas with little or no slope). Rock revetments can take on the appearance of a natural shoreline while walls, bulkheads, and other structural solutions contrast with the natural character of the shoreline.
30. **Create Slopes Which are Similar to Adjacent and Nearby Natural Slopes:** When using rock revetments, create slopes which mimic the form of nearby stable natural slopes (those which are not being undermined or undercut) in order to create a more natural appearing shoreline.

31. **Use Vegetation to Soften the Visual Impact of a Rock Revetment:** Where possible, add landscape or revegetation plantings along the top and the sides of a shoreline protective structure to soften the visual impact and help blend it into the surrounding landscape.
32. **Use Colors Which Blend With the Surrounding Natural Backshore Landscape:** This is particularly important when designing structural (man-made) protective structures. When used, walls and other structures should be constructed of natural materials whenever possible, or should be colored (tinted concrete, masonry) to closely match the surrounding natural landscape.
33. **Design Shoreline Protective Structures to Have the Least Possible Impact on Surrounding Shoreline Properties:** When designing your shoreline protective structure you should take into account its effects on surrounding shorezone lands. Do not create structures which will cause significant erosion or modification to the foreshore. The overall goal should be to protect your shoreline property while not destroying or substantially impacting your neighbor's

Appendix A

PARKING DEMAND TABLE

The following represents a minimum parking demand or requirements for projects. The maximum limit is established by multiplying the minimum number of requirements by 1.1.

I. RESIDENTIAL

Employee Housing

Use Multiple family Dwelling Rate

Mobile Home

2 spaces / unit; and

1 space / 6 units (guest parking)

Multiple Family Dwelling

1 space / 2 beds; and

1/2 space per bedroom

Multi-Person Dwelling

1 space / 2 beds; and

1 space / live-in employee; and

1 space / 10 beds (guest parking)

Nursing and Personal Care

1 space / 3 beds; and

1 space / employee

Residential Care

1 space / 4 beds; and

1 space / live-in employee; and

1 space / 2 other employee; and

1 space / 5 beds (guest parking)

Single Family Dwelling

Single family house - 2

other, e.g., condos, vacation rentals, guest houses, secondary residences, etc. - (Use Multiple Family Dwelling rate)

Summer Home

Use Single Family House Rate)

II. TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Bed and Breakfast Facilities
Use Hotel / Motel Rate

Hotel, Motel, and other Transient Dwelling Units
1 space / full-time administrative employee; and
1 space / 2 other full-time employees; and
1 space / 3 part-time employees; and
1 space / guest room or unit; and
1 space / 250 s.f. meeting/display area; and
1 space / 400 s.f. commercial-retail area

Time Sharing (Hotel / Motel Design)
Use Hotel / Motel Rate

Time Sharing (Residential Design)
Use Hotel / Motel Rate

III. COMMERCIAL

A. Retail

Auto, Mobile Home and Vehicle Dealers
1 space / employee; and
1 space / 500 s.f. gross sales area

Building Materials and Hardware
1 space / 300 s.f. GFA; and
1 space / 200 s.f. gross site area

Eating and Drinking Places
1 space / 100 s.f. GFA; or
1 space / 4 customers or seats

Food and Beverage Retail Sales
1 space / 150 s.f. GFA

Furniture, Home Furnishings and Equipment
Furniture 1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area
Other 1 space / 300 s.f. GFA

General Merchandise Stores
Convenience Store 1 space / 150 s.f. GFA
Other 1 space / 300 s.f. GFA

Mail Order and Vending
1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and

1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Nursery

1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 300 s.f. GFA

Outdoor Retail Sales

1 space / employee; and
1 space / 500 s.f. gross sales area

Service Station

1 space / 300 s.f. retail / office area; and
3 spaces / service bay

B. Entertainment

Amusements and Recreation Services

Arcade 1 space / 150 s.f. GFA
Bowling 5 space / lane
Health Spa/ Gym 1 space / 300 s.f. GFA
Ice/ Roller Rink 1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 200 s.f. GFA
Tennis (indoor)
Racquetball, etc. 1 space / employee; and
3 spaces/ court
Theater 1 space / employee; and
1 space / 3 seats
Other 1 space / 35 s.f. GFA]

Gaming-Nonrestricted Only

1 space / 1.5 full-time employees; nad
1 space / 3 part-time employees; and
1 space / 250 s.f. casino floor area

Privately Owned Assembly and Entertainment

Auditorium 1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 150 s.f. GFA; or
1 space / 3 seats
Cabaret 1 space / 2 employees; and
1 space / 4 seats
Convention 1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 400 s.f. GFA

Outdoor Amusements

Miniature Golf 3 spaces / hole; and
1 space / 250 s.f. commerical area
Other Case-by-case

C. Services

Animal Husbandry Services

1 space / 250 s.f. GFA outside of kennel

Auto Repair and Service

1 space / 300 s.f. retail / office area; and
3 spaces / service bay

Broadcasting Studios

1 space / 300 s.f. GFA

Business Support Services

1 space / 300 s.f. GFA

Contract Construction Services

1 space / 1,500 s.f. GFA storage; and
1 space / 300 s.f. GFA office

Financial Services

1 space / 200 s.f. GFA

Health Care Services

1 space / 150 s.f. GFA; and
1 space / 2 employee

Laundries and Dry Cleaning Plant

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Personal Services

Laundromat	1 space / 150 s.f. GFA
Other	1 space / 250 s.f. GFA

Professional Offices

1 space / 250 s.f. GFA

Repair Services

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Sales Lots

1 space / employee; and
1 space / 500 s.f. gross sale area

Schools - Business and Vocations

1 space / 75 s.f. GFA; and
1 space / employee

Schools - Preschool

1 space / employee; and
1 space / 5 students

Secondary Storage

1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

D. Light Industrial

Batch Plants

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Food and Kindred Products

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Fuel and Ice Dealers

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Industrial Services

1 space / 350 s.f. GFA

Printing and Publishing

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Recycling and Scrap

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Small Scale Manufacturing

1 space / 400 s.f. GFA

E. Wholesale / Storage

Storage Yards

1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Vehicle and Freight Terminals

1 space / employee; and
1 space / bay

Vehicle Storage and Parking
1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Warehousing
Mini-warehouse 1 space / 5 rental units; and
1 space / employee
Other 1 space / 1,000 s.f. GFA

IV. PUBLIC SERVICE

A. General

Churches
1 space / 3 seats

Collection Stations
1 space / 500 s.f. non-storage area; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f. storage area

Cultural Facilities
1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 250 s.f. GFA

Day Care Centers
1 space / employee; and
1 space / 5 students

Government Offices
1 space / 250 s.f. GFA

Hospitals
1 space / 2 employees; and
1 space / 2 beds; and
1 space / 300 s.f. emergency room area

Local Assembly and Entertainment
(Use Privately Owned Assembly and Entertainment Rate)

Local Public Health and Safety Facilities
1 space / employee; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f.

Power Generating
1 space / full-time employee

Publicly Owned Assembly and Entertainment
(Use Privately Owned Assembly and Entertainment Rate)

Public Utility Center
3 spaces / 2,500 s.f. of facility area

Regional Public Health and Safety Facilities
1 space / employee; and
1 space / 1,000 s.f.

School - Colleges
1 space / employee; and
1 space / 2 full-time students; and
1 space / 4 seats in auditorium, stadium, or gymnasium; and
1 space / 100 s.f. non-classroom meeting area

Schools - Kindergarten through Secondary

Elementary	1 space / employee; and 1 space / 50 s.f. non-classroom area
High School	1 space / employee; and 1 space / 3 students; and 1 space / 4 seats auditorium, etc.; and 1 space / 100 s.f. non-classroom meeting area

V. RECREATION

A. Urban Recreation

Recreation Centers
1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 500 s.f. GFA

Participating Sports Facilities

Swimming	1 space / full-time employee; and 1 space / 3 part-time employee; and 1 space / 75 s.f. pool area
Tennis	1 space / 3 courts
Other	Case-by-case

Sports Assembly
1 space / 3 seats

B. Developed Outdoor Recreation

Developed Campgrounds
1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 3 part-time employees; and
1 space / campsite or cabin; and

1 space / 10 campsites or cabins (guest parking)

Golf Course

Driving Range	1 space / full-time employee; and 1 space / tee
Executive (par 3)	1 space / full-time employee; and 40 spaces / 9 holes
Other	1 space / full-time employee; and 1 space / 3 part-time employees; and 10 spaces / hole

Group Facilities

1 space / 1,000 s.f. park area

Marinas

1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 3 moorings or slips

Recreational Vehicle Park

1 space / full-time employee; and
1 space / 3 part-time employees; and
1 space / RV site; and
1 space / 10 RV sites (guest parking)

VI. ALL OTHER USES

All Other Uses Case-by-case

Notes:

1. Where used above, "Employee" refers to the number of employees for the largest shift.
2. GFA - Gross Floor Area