

SNC moves dirt without TRPA permission

By Associated Press

Environmental regulators at Lake Tahoe say Sierra Nevada College failed to obtain a permit necessary to move dirt and protect plants while building a new home in Incline Village for the school president.

As a result, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency issued a cease and desist order on Oct. 8 for the college to immediately stop work, except to stabilize the site and prepare it for winter, agency spokesman Tom Lotshaw said.

"It's a minor violation," he said, adding that the agency's Governing Board would have to approve any penalty beyond a possible \$1,002 filing fee.

A filing fee for the grading permit costs \$501, but agency regulations call for doubling that amount if there's a violation.

The college plans to submit an application for the house, which will incorporate garden modifications, to the agency and Washoe County in December, said Dianne Severance, the college's director of grants and sponsored programs.

Lotshaw said the violation will not determine the outcome of the college's application.

Lotshaw said the college moved and mounded on-site about 20 cubic yards of dirt. Any project within the basin that moves more than 7 cubic yards of dirt requires a grading permit from the agency.

The college currently leases a house for the president about a mile from campus. The planned one-floor, 3,000-square-foot

structure will host events for students, faculty and staff, and existing and potential donors.

College president Lynn Gillette said a donation made by an anonymous individual is covering a large majority of the \$1.6 million project cost, including garden improvements.