

Unpermitted Vendors: A Growing Public Health and Safety Risk

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

March 24, 2026

Introduction

- Large increase in complaints in 2025.
- New and changing unpermitted vendor types.
- Unpermitted food operations are creating a significant health, safety, and economic impact
- Today's Focus: Mobile Vendors, Interagency Coordination, and Enforcement.



Legislative
Changes

SB 946 (2018)

Safe Sidewalk Vending Act

SB 972 (2023)

Compact Mobile Food Operations

SB 635 (2025)

Street Vendor Protection Act / Food
Vendors & Facilities Enforcement

Impacts



Risk of foodborne illness to customers.



Loss of revenue at permitted restaurants near unpermitted vendor locations.



Traffic hazards – Roadside operation at night.

Types of Violations

01

- Operating without a valid health permit.

02

- Unsafe food temperatures
- No handwashing
- No restrooms
- Unknown food source

03

- No business license
- Operating in right-of way
- No license plate

Investigation Process

01

- Complaint is submitted
- New complaint created.

02

- Site visit is conducted.
- Closure notice issued and food/equipment impounded if unpermitted vendor found operating.

03

- Follow up site visit conducted if no unpermitted vendors located.
- Property owner notified if closure notice issued.

Hazards: Inadequate Sanitation



Hazards: Unsafe Food

- Undercooked meat
- Unknown food source.
- Food prepared in dirt lot.
- Pictured: Pork El Pastor Meat



Hazard:
Unknown Food
Source



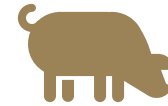
El Pastor Pork Hazards



Cross-contamination: Raw meat juices on food served to customers.



Bacterial hazards: Salmonella



Parasites: Pork tapeworm



Contamination: Unapproved utensils from hardware stores and heavy metals from makeshift utensils.

Hazards: Roadside Safety



Hazards: Cut Fruit Vendors

No handwashing.

No dishwashing.

No restrooms.

No mechanical refrigeration.

Unknown food source.



New Vendor Type: Full Outdoor Restaurants

Cooking, storing, and serving potentially hazardous foods.

Unenclosed cooking area.

High risk of foodborne illness.

Large crowds of customers.

Fire hazards.

Drywall tools used for food preparation.

Advertised on Facebook groups such as El Dorado County Chat.



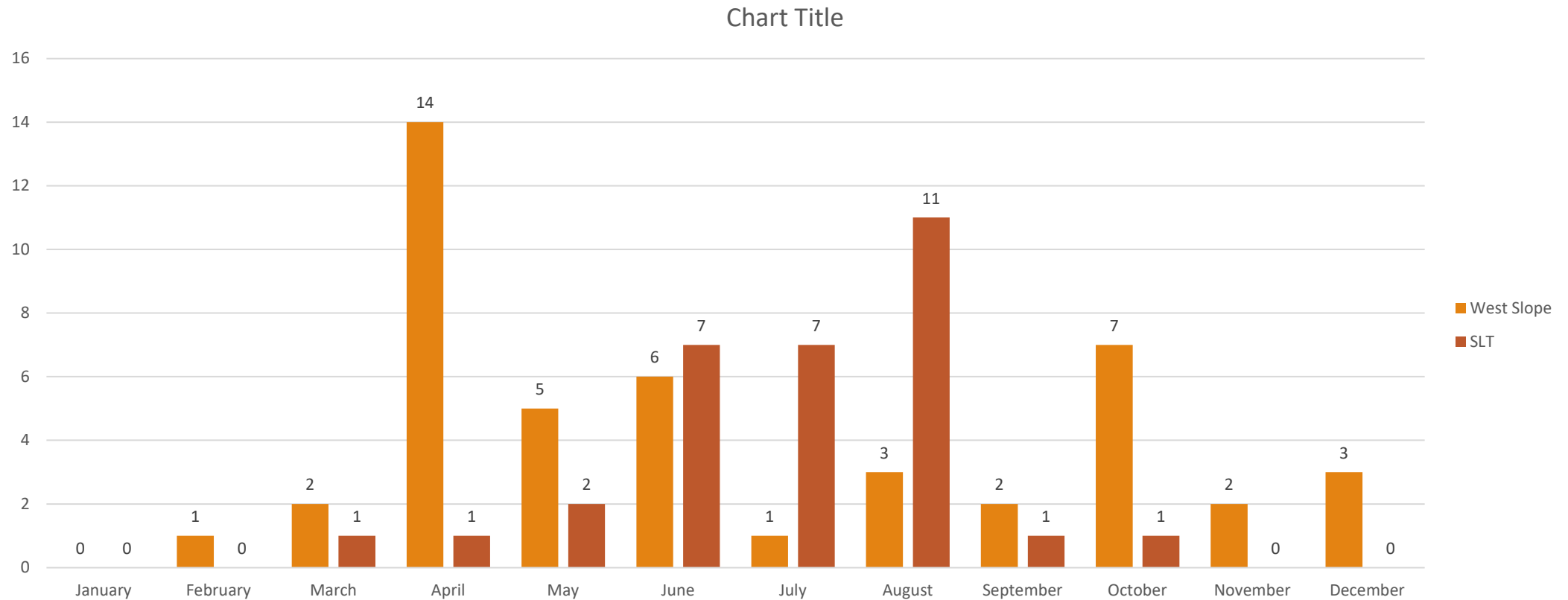
Mobile Vendors

Entire operation transported within a van.

Home-made equipment.



Vendor Complaints by Month May 2023 – December 2025



2025 Fiscal Impact

115 Staff Hours

\$ 11,640
Approximate
Overtime Cost

\$13,692
EMD permit
revenue lost

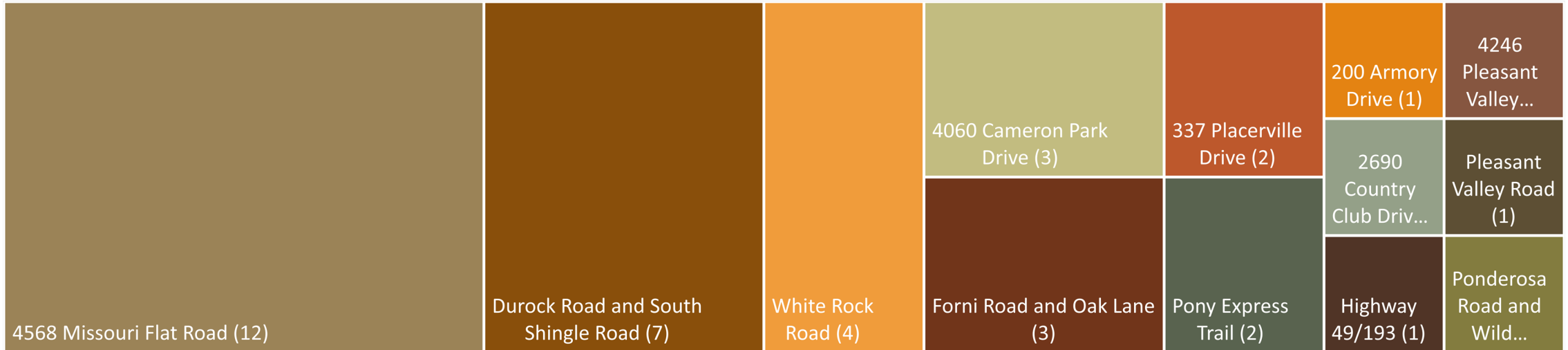
68 Complaints

\$25,332
Estimated Total
Fiscal impact

Additional revenue
lost for no
business license or
sales tax

Count by Street

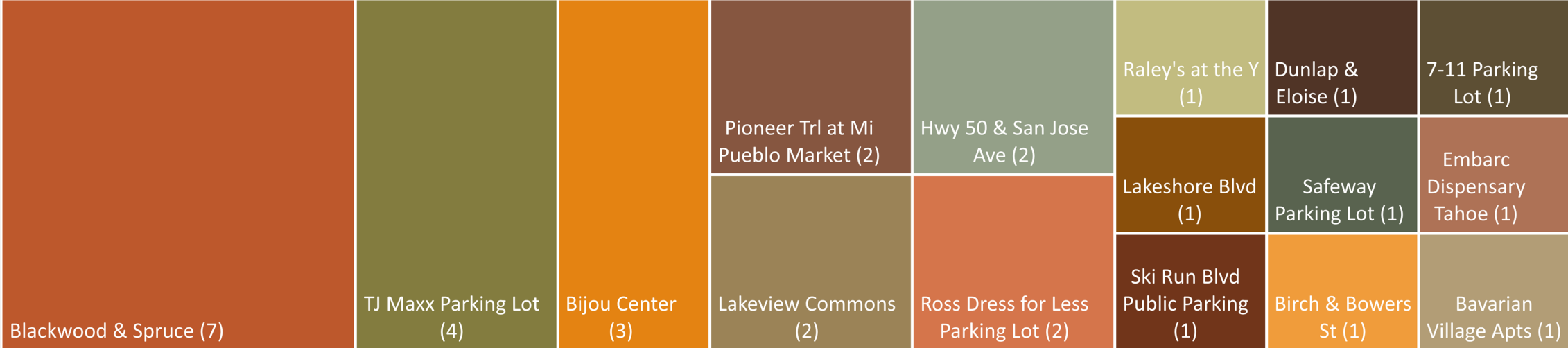
- 200 Armory Drive (1)
- 337 Placerville Drive (2)
- 4246 Pleasant Valley Road (1)
- 4568 Missouri Flat Road (12)
- 4060 Cameron Park Drive (3)
- 2690 Country Club Drive (1)
- Durock Road and South Shingle Road (7)
- Forni Road and Oak Lane (3)
- Highway 49/193 (1)
- Pleasant Valley Road (1)
- Ponderosa Road and Wild Chaparral Drive (1)
- Pony Express Trail (2)
- White Rock Road (4)



West Slope - Complaints by Location

Count By Street

- Bijou Center (3)
- Blackwood & Spruce (7)
- Pioneer Trl at Mi Pueblo Market (2)
- Lakeview Commons (2)
- Raley's at the Y (1)
- Hwy 50 & San Jose Ave (2)
- Lakeshore Blvd (1)
- Ski Run Blvd Public Parking (1)
- Dunlap & Eloise (1)
- 7-11 Parking Lot (1)
- TJ Maxx Parking Lot (4)
- Safeway Parking Lot (1)
- Birch & Bowers St (1)
- Ross Dress for Less Parking Lot (2)
- Embarc Dispensary Tahoe (1)
- Bavarian Village Apts (1)



South Lake Tahoe – Complaints by Location

EMD Laws & Capabilities

Laws

- California Retail Food Code
- EDC Ordinance Code Chapter 8.05 “Environmental Health Permit”

Enforcement Options

- Immediate closure
- Impoundment of food & equipment
- Fines \$25 - \$1000 per violation
- Referral to District Attorney

Customer Conversations

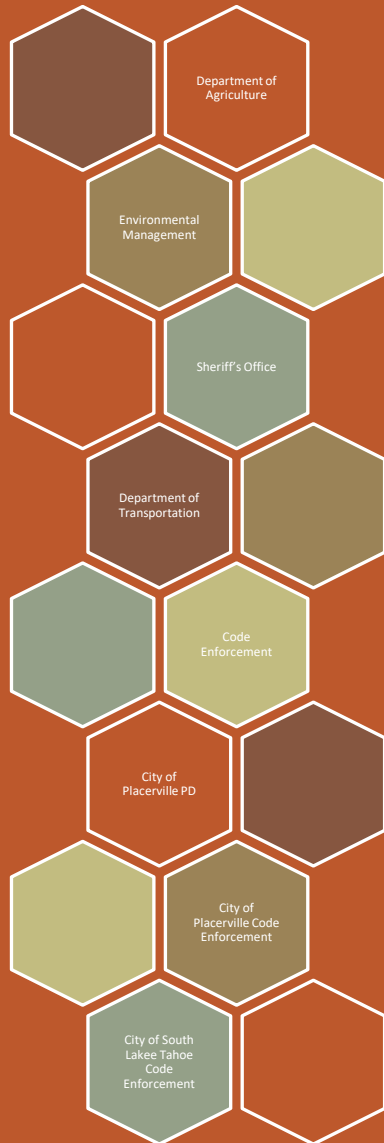
1. Did not know the vendor was unpermitted.
2. No other restaurants open at that time.
3. Food prices were lower than sit down restaurants.
4. Enjoyed buying "street food".
5. Convenient location.

Property Owner Coordination

- Education
- Explain Impacts of Vendor Activity
- Answer Owner Questions
- Develop Joint Solutions



Taskforce



El Dorado County Agencies

Department of Agriculture

Environmental Management Department

Department of Transportation

El Dorado Sheriff's Office

Code Enforcement

External Agencies

City of Placerville PD

City of Placerville Code Enforcement

South Lake Tahoe Code Enforcement



EL DORADO COUNTY

UNPERMITTED FOOD VENDOR TASKFORCE

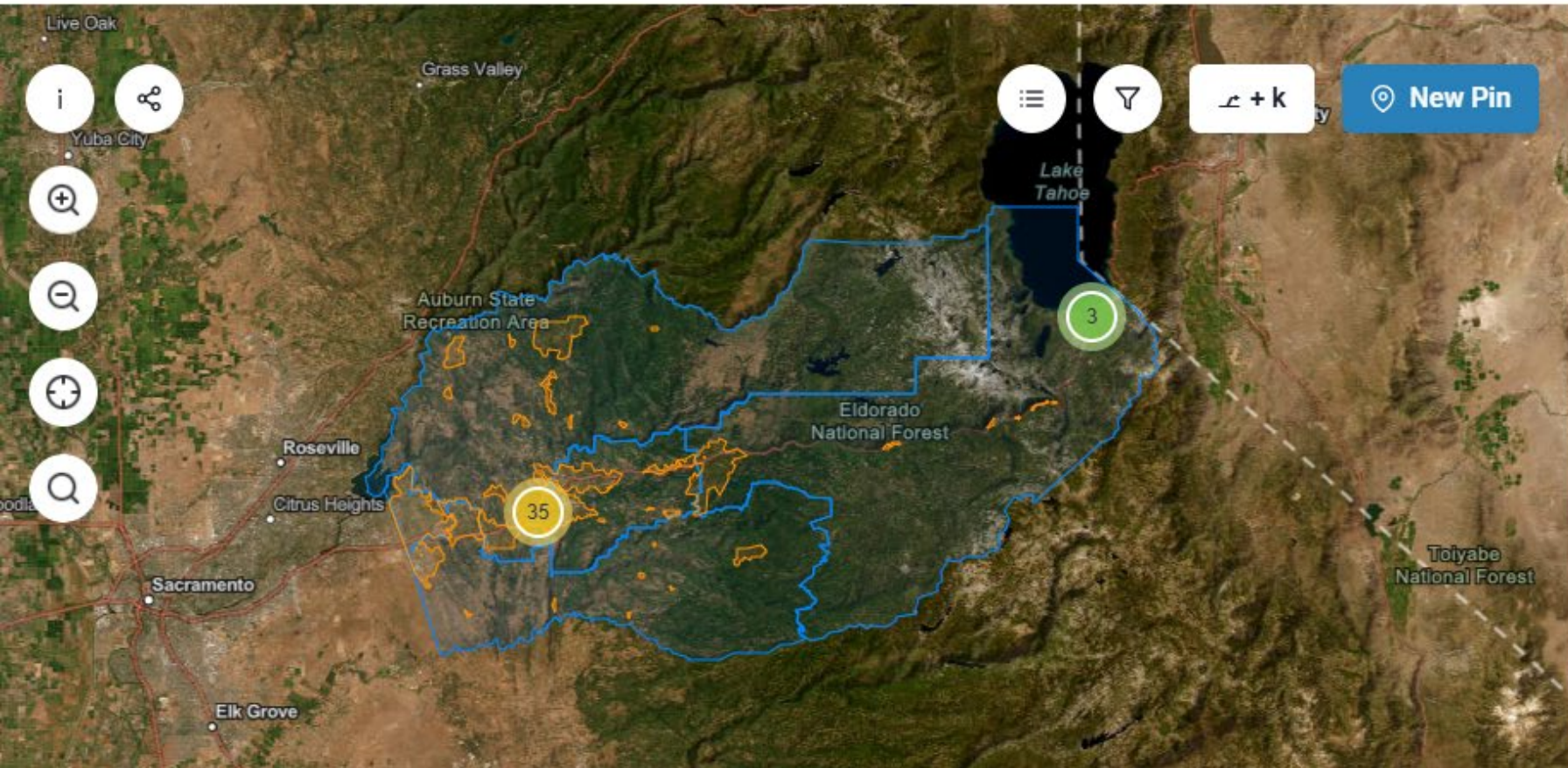
Placerville Office: 2850 Fairlane Court Building C, Placerville, CA 95667 | Phone #: 530-821-5300
 South Lake Tahoe Office: 924 B Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 | Phone#: 530-573-3450

UNPERMITTED FOOD VENDOR NOTICE OF VIOLATION INSPECTION REPORT

Name of Business:			Inspection Date:		FACILITY STATUS	
Address:			Reinspection Date:		CLOSED	
Owner/Operator:		Owner/Operator Email:		Owner Phone #:		
Complaint Number/Case Number:		PE:	Service Code:	Start Time:		
FOOD VENDOR OPERATION CLASSIFICATION						
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepackaged no PHF		<input type="checkbox"/> Whole Uncut Fruit		<input type="checkbox"/> Prepackaged with PHF		<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Prep
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Prep Including Raw Meat						
FOOD OPERATION SET UP						
<input type="checkbox"/> Cart		<input type="checkbox"/> Trailer		<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Food Truck or Van		<input type="checkbox"/> Pop Up Tent
<input type="checkbox"/> Vending from Body						
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CONDUCTING INSPECTION (Select all that apply):						
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Management Department	<input type="checkbox"/> El Dorado County Agriculture Department	<input type="checkbox"/> County Code Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> El Dorado County Sheriff's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer Tax-Collector	<input type="checkbox"/> City of Placerville Code Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> City of South Lake Tahoe Code Enforcement						
CORRESPONDING LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT APPLY TO VIOLATIONS						
EL DORADO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT						
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 8.05.180 Violation						
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 114381 Permits, fees, and posting; California Retail Food Code						
EL DORADO COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT						
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 10.12.190 Roadside selling						
EL DORADO COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT						
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 9.02.040 Public nuisance						
EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE						
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 10.12.190 Roadside selling						
EL DORADO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION						
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 12.37 Special Events						
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy G1 - Encroachments Within the County Road Rights-of-Way						
EL DORADO COUNTY TREASURER TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE						
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 5.08.060 Businesses subject to license						
CITY OF PLACERVILLE CODE ENFORCEMENT						
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-15-3: Operation Without Permit Unlawful						
CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE CODE ENFORCEMENT						
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 4.36.020 Permit required						
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS						
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Citation Issued	<input type="checkbox"/> Condemnation and Destruction of Food	<input type="checkbox"/> Impoundment of Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Closure of Unpermitted Vendor Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Notice Issued	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fines Assessed	<input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprinting and Identification	<input type="checkbox"/> Referral to the District Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> THIS REPORT IS AN OFFICAL NOTICE OF VIOLATION.			
Received by (Print):		Received by (Signature):			Title:	
Enforcement Agent (Print):		Enforcement Agent (Signature):			Title:	
Secondary Inspectors:						

Inter-Agency Coordination

- Agriculture Department
- EDC Code Enforcement
- EDC Sheriff
- City of Placerville
- City of South Lake Tahoe



Activity feed 38 / 38

- K** KNich
4 months ago

Food Cart

4210-4352 Pleasant Valley Rd, Placerville, CA, 95667, USA
operating at 10 pm on Tuesday

0
- E** EMD
5 months ago

Food Cart

6835 Oak Ln, Placerville, CA, 95667, USA

Online Complaint Portal

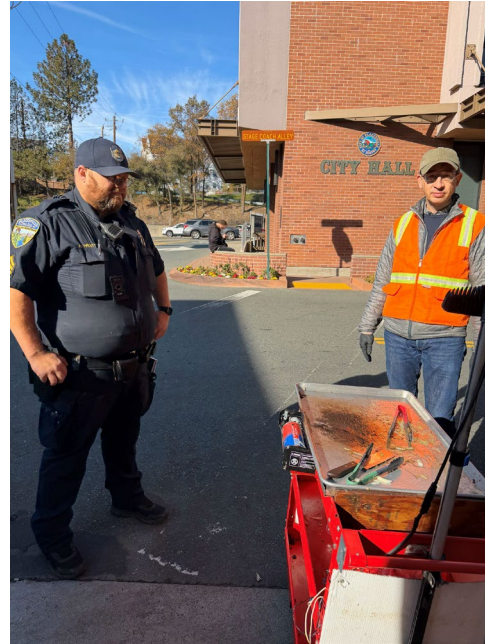
[Unpermitted Food Vendor Reporting 2025/26 | Engage El Dorado](#)

City of Placerville Christmas Parade

- City of Placerville Police Department coordination
- 10+ unpermitted vendors identified and prevented from selling food.



2025 Christmas Parade



EDC Sheriff's Office Coordination

- Civil Standby for safety
- Assist answering questions from onlookers
- Support EMD closures of unpermitted food facilities
- Daytime/Weekend/Evening support as needed.



Success Stories

- Out of County Permitted Vendors



Keeping Residents and Visitors Safe

“I’m glad you are out here. Last year my friend bought food from one of these vendors and was sick!”

“I thought that these vendors had permits to sell food.”

Questions
