

ATTACHMENT C: COUNTY LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
ORDINANCE NO. 5238

SECTION 6:

ARTICLE 35.3, Site Planning and Other Project Standards, of Section 35-1, the County Land Use and Development Code, of Chapter 35, Zoning, of the Santa Barbara County Code, Section 35.30.120, Outdoor Lighting, is hereby amended to repeal the existing Section 35.30.120, Outdoor Lighting, and to adopt a new Section 35.30.120, Outdoor Lighting, to read as follows:

35.30.120 - Outdoor Lighting

A. Purpose. The purpose of this Section is to create standards for outdoor lighting that minimize light pollution caused by inappropriate or misaligned light fixtures. These standards conserve energy, preserve the nighttime sky, and protect neighbors and wildlife while maintaining night-time safety, utility, security and productivity. The County of Santa Barbara recognizes that the unique development patterns and environments of the County created ideal areas for astronomical observation and enjoyment of the nighttime sky. Additionally, resources in the County warrant the protection of nighttime viewsheds and wildlife corridors from light trespass. The County, through the provisions contained herein, intends to preserve and protect the nighttime environment of the County by regulating unnecessary and excessive outdoor lighting.

1. See "Lighting" within Article 35.11 {Glossary} for definitions related to outdoor lighting used within this Section.

B. Applicability. The standards of this Section apply to all new or replaced outdoor light fixtures or systems and to existing lighting as provided below unless specifically exempted or required pursuant to any other applicable code or regulation.

1. **Existing Lighting.** All outdoor lighting fixtures lawfully installed prior to the effective date of this Section are subject to only Subsections E.4 (Glare Prevention) and E.7 (Timing Controls) of this Section.
2. **New and Replaced Lighting.** The standards of this Section apply to all new or replaced outdoor light fixtures or systems, except as specifically exempted pursuant to Subsection B.4 (Exemptions) below.
3. **Additions and Remodels.** Additions totaling 50 percent or more of the existing gross floor area of a structure or exterior alterations affecting

50 percent or more of a building's exterior shall require that all existing lighting on the lot be brought into compliance with the provisions of this Section.

4. **Exemptions.** The following types of lighting are exempt from the provisions of this Section.
 - a. Fossil fuel lights.
 - b. Traffic control signs and devices.
 - c. Street lights installed prior to the effective date of the Ordinance adding this section.
 - d. Temporary construction or emergency lighting under direction of a public agency (e.g., fire, police, public works).
 - e. Navigation lights (e.g., airports, heliports, radio/television towers).
 - f. Seasonal lighting decorations illuminated no longer than 60 days per calendar year.
 - g. Light fixtures with a maximum output of 60 lumens, including solar lights.
 - h. Underwater lights used to illuminate swimming pools, spas, fountains, and other water features.
 - i. Temporary lighting for agricultural activities of a limited duration, not including unshielded arena lights.
5. **Alternative Compliance.** The provisions of this Section are not intended to prevent the use of any design, material or method of installation not specifically prescribed by this Section provided any such alternate has been approved by the Director as part of a planning permit. The Director may approve any such alternate provided that the proposed design, material or method:
 - a. Provides approximate equivalence to the specific requirements of this Section; and
 - b. Is otherwise satisfactory and complies with the purpose of this Section.

C. Prohibited Lights and Lighting. The following lights and lighting are prohibited

1. Search lights, strobe lights, laser source lights, or similar high intensity lights except as specifically exempted or for the purposes of gathering meteorological data.
2. Mercury vapor lights.
3. Uplighting.

D. Maximum Light Levels. Outdoor lighting shall comply with the following maximum light levels except where otherwise allowed through the approval of the Conditional Use Permit or Development Plan, as applicable.

1. Light Levels Within Designated Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas and Buffer Areas.

- a. Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas shall not be illuminated, including illumination of the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat area from a light source located outside of the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat area.
- b. The maximum lighting level within designated Environmentally Sensitive Habitat areas shall not exceed 0.0 foot-candles.
- c. No light fixture located within an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat buffer area shall exceed 630 lumens.

2. Light Levels at Property Lines. The light level at property lines shall not exceed 0.1 foot-candles, except as provided below.

- a. **Multi-family Zoned Property Abutting or Within a Multi-family, Commercial, or Industrial Zone.** Where a property is located within a Multi-family Zone and the neighboring property is located within a Multi-family, Commercial, or Industrial Zone, the maximum lighting level at the shared property line shall be 0.2 foot-candles.

b. Commercial and Industrial Zoned Property.

(1) Abutting a Multi-family Zone. Where a property is located within a Commercial or Industrial Zone and the neighboring property is located within a Multi-family Zone, the maximum lighting level at the shared property line shall be 0.2 foot-candles.

(2) Abutting or Within a Commercial or Industrial Zone. Where a property is located within a Commercial or Industrial Zone and the neighboring property is located within a Commercial or Industrial Zone, the maximum lighting level at the shared property line shall be 0.25 foot-candles.

E. General requirements.

- 1. **Shielding.** All outdoor light fixtures shall be fully shielded or full cut off, except as provided below.
 - a. Decorative string lights are not required to be shielded.
 - b. Lights at building entrances located under an overhang or building element are not required to be shielded provided that none of the light emitted by the fixture projects above the horizontal of the

edge of the overhang or building element.

- c. Outdoor light fixtures used for outdoor recreational facilities shall be fully shielded except when such shielding would cause impairment to the visibility required in the intended recreational activity. In such cases, partially shielded fixtures and downward lighting methods shall be utilized to limit light pollution, glare, and light trespass to a reasonable level as determined by the Director.
 - d. Partially shielded light fixtures may be allowed provided the light source is obscured by translucent glass or other means, the light fixture does not exceed 850 lumens, and the lighting complies with all other provisions of this Section.
2. **Externally Illuminated Signs, Advertising Displays and Building Identification.** Externally illuminated signs, advertising displays and building identification shall use top mounted light fixtures which shine downward.
3. **Maximum Height.** Lighting fixtures shall be installed at the lowest height required to achieve the design purpose of the lighting fixture.
- a. **Building Mounted.** Light fixtures shall not exceed the height of the building upon which it is attached.
 - b. **Freestanding Light Fixtures.** The maximum height of freestanding light fixtures and lighting fixtures mounted on a structure or feature other than a building is as follows:
 - (1) Within 100 feet of a Residential Zone: 15 feet from finished grade.
 - (2) Other Locations: 20 feet from finished grade.
 - c. **Exceptions.** The Director may allow additional height for activities, uses, or development with unique lighting needs; for accentuating historic architectural features of a building, accentuating signage and/or landscape features; lighting of recreational facilities; or for security purposes.
4. **Glare Prevention.** All lights shall be directed and oriented to prevent light spillover and glare onto adjacent properties. No unobstructed beam of exterior light shall land off-site.
5. **Traffic Safety.** Lighting shall be designed so as not to interfere with vehicular traffic on any portion of a street.
6. **Kelvin.** Light fixtures for outdoor security lighting shall not exceed 4,000 Kelvin. All other outdoor light fixtures shall not exceed 2,700 Kelvin.

7. **Timing Controls.** Outdoor lighting shall be turned off during daylight hours and between 9:00 p.m. and sunrise the following day, except as provided below.
- a. **When People are Present.** Outdoor lighting may remain on when people are present in the outdoor areas being illuminated, except as provided below.
 - {1} In Residential Zones and any area adjacent to a Residential Zone, outdoor lighting shall be turned off as follows:
 - {a} Sunday through Thursday: between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise the following day.
 - {b} Friday and Saturday: between midnight and sunrise the following day.
 - b. **Code Required Lighting.** Building or other construction and safety code required lighting for steps, stairs, walkways, entrances, parking areas, and other building and site features that is dimmed to the minimum light level necessary to meet code requirements.
 - c. **Safety and Security Lighting.**
 - (1) **Motion-Controlled Security Lighting.** Security lighting may be controlled by a motion-sensor switch between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and sunrise the following day provided the lighting does not remain on longer than five minutes after activation.
 - (2) **Commercial and Industrial Zones Not Adjacent to Residential Zones.** Outdoor security lighting in Commercial and Industrial Zones not adjacent to a Residential Zone may remain on between 9:00 p.m. and sunrise the following day provided lights are dimmed to the minimum level to meet safety and security requirements and are on a timer or sensor that automatically extinguishes the light when sufficient daylight is available.
 - (3) **Additional Security Lighting.** Additional security lighting may be allowed through the approval of the Conditional Use Permit or Development Plan, as applicable.
 - d. **On-Premise Signs.** All illuminated advertising signs shall not be illuminated between 11:00 p.m. and sunrise the following day, except that on-premises signs may be illuminated while the business is open to the public.
 - e. **Private Recreational Courts.** Private lighting of recreational sports courts shall be prohibited between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and sunrise the following day.

F. Submittal of plans and evidence of compliance. Any application for a permit that includes outdoor light fixtures subject to the standards of this Section shall include evidence that the proposed outdoor lighting will comply with all of the standards of this Section. The application shall include:

1. Plans showing the locations of all outdoor lighting fixtures.
2. Description of the outdoor lighting fixtures including manufacturers catalog cuts and drawings. Descriptions and drawings should include lamp or bulb type, wattage, lumen output, beam angle, and shielding.
3. Photometric plans showing foot-candle readings every ten feet within the property or site and ten feet beyond the property lines, except as provided below.
 - a. Applications for outdoor lighting associated with residential development of four or fewer units and property-owner installed lighting are not required to submit photometric plans unless requested by the Director due to project location, size, use, and proposed lighting.
4. The above plans and descriptions shall be sufficiently complete to enable the plan examiner to readily determine whether compliance with the requirements of this Section have been met.

G. Temporary exemption. The following temporary exemptions may be allowed in accordance with the provisions of Section 35.42.260 (Temporary Uses and Trailers).

1. The Director may grant a temporary exemption from one or more requirements of this Section for such activities, including, but not limited to circuses, fairs, carnivals, sporting events, and promotional activities, only if all of the following findings are first made:
 - a. The purpose for which the lighting is proposed is not intended to extend beyond 30 days.
 - b. The proposed lighting is designed in such a manner as to minimize light pollution as much as feasible.
 - c. The proposed lighting will comply with the purpose of this Section.
2. The application for a temporary exemption shall at a minimum include all of the following information:
 - a. Name and address of applicant and property owner.
 - b. Location of proposed fixtures.
 - c. Type, wattage and lumen output of lamp(s).

- d. Type and shielding of proposed fixtures.
 - e. Intended use of lighting.
 - f. Duration of time for requested exemption.
 - g. The nature of the exemption.
3. Such other information as the Department may request.