

OVERVIEW OF RURAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Purpose: Provide regulations that will permit reasonable uses of outdoor lighting for nighttime safety and security, promote dark skies for the enjoyment and health of humans and wildlife and conserve energy and resources. The Ordinance establishes a Rural Outdoor Lighting District.

Application: Applies to all new lighting, major additions, replacement lighting, resumption of use after abandonment, and nonconforming lighting.

Nonconforming Lighting: Existing nonconforming lighting includes all outdoor lighting on all residential or agriculture zoned properties and any nonresidential zone property where outdoor lighting causes light trespass onto a residential or agriculture zone property. All outdoor lighting in use on the effective date of this Ordinance that does not meet these requirements shall be removed or made to comply within six months of the effective date of this Ordinance if such light causes light trespass or within three years of the effective date of this Ordinance if such lighting does not cause light trespass.

Light Trespass: Outdoor lighting shall not cause light trespass. The following is considered light trespass: 1) over 0.5 foot-candles where the zoning on the adjacent parcel is a residential, open space, or agricultural zone, or public right-of-way; or 2) over 1.0 foot-candles where the zoning on the adjacent parcel is any other zone.

Shielding: All outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded. Fully-shielded means that the top of the fixture is covered and the sides are covered to a point where light is projected below a horizontal plane.

Lighting Height Limits: Maximum height limits established to avoid light pollution and light trespass. Height limits for residential, agricultural, open space and watershed zones is 20 feet, except each outdoor light fixture installed above 15 feet shall have an output rating of less than 400 lumens. Height limit for commercial zones is 30 feet, and height limits for industrial zones is 35 feet. Exception for outdoor recreation fields, which may be mounted up to 75 feet in height.

Hours of Operation: Outdoor lighting shall be turned off between the hours of 10 p.m. and sunrise. Where uses operate past 10 p.m. lighting shall either be turned off within one hour after the close of business or light levels shall be reduced a minimum of 50 percent between 10 p.m. and sunrise.

Street Lighting: Street lights shall be installed at intersections along County roads and driveways where the Director of Public Works determines that street lighting would be beneficial due to the proposed use of the property to alleviate traffic hazards, improve traffic flow, and promote safety and security, while maintaining to the maximum extent possible the dark skies characteristics of the area. Street lights shall be placed the maximum distance apart with the minimum lumens allowable by Public Works.

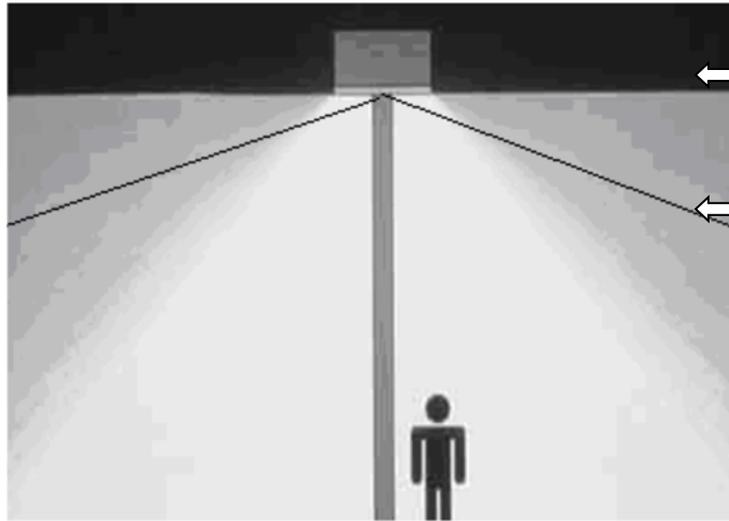
Outdoor Recreation Facilities: Lighting for playing fields shall be fully shielded and aimed so their beams fall within the primary activity area and not cause light trespass onto adjacent properties.

Signs: Outdoor lighting for all new signs shall be mounted to the top of the sign and be oriented downward and the lights shall be fully shielded.

Prohibited Lighting: These types of lighting are prohibited: drop-down lenses, mercury vapor lights, and searchlights, laser lights, or any other lighting that flashes, blinks, alternates or moves.

CSD Modifications: The Ordinance modifies specific Community Standards Districts (Leona Valley, Acton, Santa Monica Mountains North Area, Castaic Area, Juniper Hills, Southeast Antelope Valley, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, and San Francisquito Canyon) that address outdoor lighting. CSD regulations have been amended to remove duplicate or conflicting regulations.

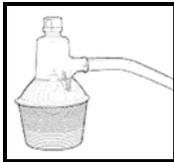
**Cutoff
Performance**



Cutoff fixture may emit not more than 2.5 percent of its light in this area. Full cutoff fixtures do not emit any light in this area.

Cutoff fixture and full cutoff fixtures emits not more than 10 percent of its light in the area between zero and 10 degrees below the horizontal

Drop-down lens



**Full cutoff and
fully
shielded
fixtures**

