ORDINANCE NO. Draft

An Ordinance amending Title 22 - Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code, relating to establishment of a rural outdoor lighting district to regulate outdoor lighting in the rural areas of Los Angeles County. In addition, the community standards districts within the rural outdoor lighting district are modified to be consistent with the Ordinance.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

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SECTION 1. Part 9 of Chapter 22.44 is hereby added to add regulations for a Rural Outdoor Lighting District as follows:

PART 9 RURAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING DISTRICT

22.44.500 Purpose.

A. The purpose of this Part 9 is to establish and provide regulations for a rural outdoor lighting district that will:

- Permit reasonable uses of outdoor lighting for nighttime safety, utility, security, productivity and enjoyment;
- Minimize adverse offsite impacts including light trespass and obtrusive light;
- Curtail light pollution and preserve the nighttime environment;
- Protect the natural environment from the adverse effects of excessive outdoor lighting from artificial sources;
- Conserve energy and resources; and
- Promote dark skies for the enjoyment and health of humans and wildlife.

B. All outdoor lighting fixtures shall be installed in conformance with the provisions of this Part, the Building Code and the Electrical Code of the County of Los...
Angeles and the 2008 Building Energy Efficient Standards, Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations. The installation of an outdoor lighting fixture which is exempt under the Building Code or Electrical Code is also exempt from this Part.

22.44.510 **Description of district.** The Rural Outdoor Lighting District is depicted on Map No. 22.44.510-A found at the end of this Part.

22.44.520 **Definitions.**

A. **Abandoned Use.** A property where operations are discontinued and deserted by the property owner without any regard of resuming the use or occupying the structure.

B. **Accurate color rendition.** The ability of artificial lights to accurately represent colors.

C. **Drop-down lens.** A lens or diffuser that extends below a horizontal plane passing through the lowest point of the opaque portion of a light fixture.

D. **Foot-candle.** A unit of measure expressing the quantity of light received on a surface. Foot-candles shall be measured by a photometer.

E. **Fully shielded fixture.** A light fixture that emits no light in the area above a horizontal plane passing through the lowest point of the fixture and not more than 10 percent of its light in the area between zero and 10 degrees below such horizontal plane. A full cutoff fixture is a fully shielded fixture of a specific design, usually a box or oval shape with a flat bottom.

F. **Lamp.** Any source created to produce optical radiation (light), often called a bulb or tube.
G. Light pollution. Any adverse effect of artificial lighting, including glare, light trespass, sky glow, energy waste, compromised safety and security and impacts on the nocturnal environment.

H. Lighting fixture. Light fixtures include, but are not limited to, the lamp, pole, post, ballast, reflector, lens, diffuser, shielding, electrical wiring, and other necessary or auxiliary components.

I. Light trespass. Light falling across a property line onto an adjoining lot or onto an adjoining public right-of-way. Light trespass shall be determined by a measurement, taken at ground level at the property line. Light trespass shall be measured by a photometer.

J. Lumen (lm). A unit of light energy or the visual amount of light produced by a fixture, calculated as a rating by the manufacturer (distinct from a watt, which is measure of power consumption). For example, a 40-watt incandescent lamp produces approximately 400 lumens, and a 35-watt high-pressure sodium lamp produces 2,300 lumens.

K. Major additions. For purposes of this Part, the following is considered a major addition: additions of 25 percent or more, or 10 percent in the coastal zone, in terms of additions to dwelling units, gross floor area, seating capacity, parking spaces, or increase to dwelling units, either with a single addition or with cumulative additions subsequent to the effective date of this ordinance.

L. Obtrusive light. Light that causes light pollution and produces sky glow, light trespass, glare or other undesirable environmental impacts.

M. Outdoor lighting. Any equipment or fixture located or used to provide illumination of outdoor areas, objects or activities. Outdoor lighting includes, but is not
limited to, all lighting fixtures attached to buildings, structures, poles, or self-supporting structures and may be found on parking lots, walkways, building entrances, outdoor sales areas, landscaping, recreational fields, and building facades. Outdoor lighting excludes street lighting.

N. Outdoor recreation facility. An area designed for active recreation, whether publicly or privately owned, including, but not limited to, sports fields, race tracks, stadiums and riding arenas. A recreation field within the outdoor recreation facility refers to the area where the primary activity takes place and includes fields, riding areas and tracks.

O. Rural. A low density environment that does not contain high-intensity land uses, such as regional commercial centers and suburban density housing tracts, and has an absence of the infrastructure generally found in urban and suburban areas, including but not limited to curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street lighting and traffic signals. This environment typically contains agricultural and equestrian uses, wildlife and undistributed natural vegetation.

P. Sky glow. The brightening of the nighttime sky that results from scattering and reflection of artificial light by moisture and dust particles in the atmosphere. Sky glow is caused by light directed upwards or sideways and reduces one's ability to view the night sky.

22.44.530 Applicability

A. New lighting. Unless otherwise expressly stated, this Part shall apply to outdoor lighting on all new and major additions to land uses, developments and buildings.
B. Major additions. If a major addition occurs on a property, the entire property shall comply with the requirements of this Part.

C. Replacement lighting.
   a. Unless otherwise expressly stated, the standards of this Part apply whenever additions or replacements to existing outdoor lighting fixtures are installed, including upgrades and replacements to damaged or destroyed fixtures; and
   b. Section 22.44.550.C shall not apply if only one fixture is being replaced or less than 50 percent of all outdoor lighting fixtures on the property are being replaced.

D. Resumption of use after abandonment. If a property or use with non-conforming lighting is abandoned, then all outdoor lighting shall be reviewed and brought into compliance with this Part before the use is resumed.

E. Existing Nonconforming Lighting. Existing nonconforming lighting includes:
   1. All outdoor lighting on all residential or agriculture zoned properties; or
   2. Any nonresidential zone property where outdoor lighting causes light trespass onto a residential or agriculture zone property;
   3. All outdoor lighting per subsections 1 and 2 above in use after (insert actual effective date of the Ordinance) that does not meet the requirements of this Part shall be removed or made to comply with the following:
      a. Light Trespass. Within six months after (actual effective date) if such light causes light trespass; or
      b. Without Light Trespass. Within three years after (actual effective date) if such lighting does not cause light trespass; and
c. If the Director determines that a nonconforming lighting fixture results in light trespass, the Director may require the light be shielded, filtered, redirected or replaced with a less-intense light source or otherwise modified (including removal) to eliminate the light trespass.

22.44.540 Development Regulations

A. Lighting allowance. Outdoor lighting shall not exceed the lighting allowance within the 2008 Building Energy Efficient Standards for Lighting Zone 2 of 0.045 watts per square foot and comply with the lighting trespass regulations in subsection B below;

B. 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 besides residential, open space or agricultural.

C. Shielding. All outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded.

D. Maximum height. The maximum height for outdoor lighting shall be as follows, measured from finished grade to the top of the fixture, unless noted otherwise in Section 22.44.560:

1. Residential, agricultural, open space and watershed zones – 20 feet. Each outdoor light installed above 15 feet in height shall have a manufacturer’s maximum output rating of less than 400 lumens;

2. Zoning on the property is any other zone besides residential, agricultural, open space, watershed or industrial – 30 feet; and
3. Industrial zones – 35 feet.

D. Maintenance. Outdoor lighting shall be maintained in good repair, intact and free of severe cracks, with shielding securely attached and functional as designed.

22.44.550 Additional Requirements for Mixed Use Buildings and Commercial Uses

A. Building entrance lighting. All building entrances shall install light fixtures that provide accurate color rendition so that persons entering or exiting the establishment can be easily recognized. Building entrance lighting shall be used between sundown and 10 p.m. or within one hour past the close of the business, whichever is later.

B. Hours of operation.

1. Outdoor lighting shall be turned off between the hours of 10 p.m. and sunrise, except where uses operate past 10 p.m., in which case lighting shall either be turned off within one hour after the close of business or regulate lighting in compliance with Section 22.44.560.C.

C. Automatic controls. All outdoor lighting systems shall install automatic time switch control devices or system used to turn lighting off after 10:00 p.m., and controls shall:

1. Be capable of programming different schedules for weekdays and weekends; and

2. Have program backup capabilities that prevent the loss of the device’s schedules for at least 7 days, and the device’s time and date setting for at least 72 hours if power is interrupted.
3. Either subsection 3.a or 3.b below may be used to regulate lighting between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise;
   a. Motion sensors used to turn on lighting after 10 p.m. when activity is detected. The motion sensor shall be capable of automatically turning off all the lights in an area no more than 10 minutes after the area has been vacated. The motion sensor fixture shall be fully shielded; or
   b. In lieu of turning all lighting off, commercial and industrial uses may reduce light levels or eliminate (turn off) by a minimum of 50 percent between 10 p.m. and sunrise.

4. Exemptions to hours of operation.
   a. Building code-required lighting for steps, stairs, walkways, and points of ingress and egress to buildings.
   b. Lighting governed by a discretionary use permit in which types of lighting and times of operation are specifically identified.
   c. Security and operations lighting for public facilities.

22.44.560 Requirements for Specific Uses.

A. Street lighting for rural areas.
   1. Street light(s) may be installed at intersections along County roads and at driveways on County roads 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. Such new street lighting shall utilize full-cutoff (flat glass lens) luminaries as approved by the
Director of Public Works. For existing street lighting with drop glass luminaries, shielding approved by the Director of Public Works shall be utilized.

2. Street lights shall be compatible with the road section as required by the Director of Public Works.

3. Street lights shall be placed apart at distances that meet the minimum average foot-candles required by the Department of Public Works.

B. Outdoor recreation facility.

1. Fields.
   a. High pressure sodium or metal halide lamps are the preferred lighting source;
   b. Where playing fields or other special activity areas are to be illuminated, lighting fixtures shall be mounted, aimed, and fully shielded so that their beams fall within the primary playing/activity area and immediate surroundings to prohibit light trespass onto adjacent properties;
   c. The height for outdoor lighting for recreational fields shall be the minimum necessary to illuminate the field in compliance with subsection b. above, but shall not exceed 75 feet;

2. Facilities.
   a. Outdoor lighting shall be shut off by 10:00 p.m., or within one hour after the completion of the activity; and
   b. All site lighting not directly associated with the fields shall conform to the lighting standards of this Part.
C. Signs. Outdoor lighting for all new signs, including outdoor advertising (billboards), business signs and roof and freestanding signs, installed after the effective date of this Ordinance shall be as follows:

1. Any externally-mounted light fixtures shall be mounted to the top of the sign and shall be oriented downward;
2. The lights shall be fully shielded; and
3. Externally-mounted bulbs or lighting tubes that are not filled with neon, argon or krypton shall not be visible from any portion of an adjacent public right-of-way or adjoining property.

**22.44.570 Prohibited Lighting.** The following types of outdoor lighting shall be prohibited:

A. Drop-down lenses;
B. Mercury vapor lights;
C. Ultraviolet lights; and
D. Searchlights, laser lights, or any other lighting that flashes, blinks, alternates, or moves.

**SECTION 2.** Section 22.44.122 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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C. Community-Wide Development Standards.

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4. Exterior Outdoor Lighting. Public street lighting shall be prohibited except where necessary to comply with safety lighting standards as determined by the department of public works. Lighting on private parcels shall be designed to prevent off-
site illumination. Hooding may be used to deflect light away from adjacent parcels and public areas. Outdoor lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.

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SECTION 3. Section 22.44.126. is hereby amended to read as follows:

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C. Community-Wide Development Standards. Except where a more specific application is prescribed, or prior to the approval of a new structure or addition to an existing structure where the cumulative area of all additions made after the adoption of this section adds at least 400 square feet to the footprint of either primary or accessory structures, a site plan shall be submitted to and approved by the planning director to assure compliance with the following development standards:

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8. Exterior Outdoor Lighting. Exterior Outdoor lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44, designed to minimize off-site illumination, within the requirements for public safety.

a. Exterior lighting on residential parcels shall be of top shielded design to prevent direct off-site illumination; hoods shall be used to direct light away from adjacent parcels. Exterior Outdoor lighting on nonresidential parcels shall be prohibited except where necessary for the safety of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, as determined by the County. To minimize off-site illumination where lights are required, cut-off fixtures in keeping with the Western frontier architectural style will be specified.

9. Street Improvements. Street improvements shall complement the rural character of the Acton community.

a. Street lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.
new subdivisions where lots exceed an area of 20,000 square feet, streetlights on local streets will be required only where necessary for the safety of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, as determined by the department of public works.

SECTION 4. Section 22.44.133 is hereby amended to read as follows:

D. Community-wide Development Standards.

2. Exterior Outdoor Lighting. Exterior Outdoor lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44, low intensity, directional and/or screened to prevent glare or direct off-site illumination. Street lighting shall be permitted only where required by the department of public works or Caltrans for public safety.

SECTION 5. Section 22.44.137 is hereby amended to read as follows:

D. Community-wide Development Standards.

2. Street improvements. In residential land divisions where at least 75 percent of the lots exceed a net area of 15,000 square feet, local streets shall comply with the following standards, as approved by the county department of public works and the county fire department:

   d. Regardless of lot size, street lights shall:

      ii. Be placed the maximum distance apart with
the minimum lumens allowed by the county department of public works. Shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.

3. Trails

10. Lighting. Exterior Outdoor lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44, designed to prevent off-site illumination and glare upon adjacent parcels, public areas, environmentally sensitive areas, and the night sky.

SECTION 6. Section 22.44.140 is hereby modified as follows:

E. Community-wide Development Standards.

3. Street Lighting.

c. Street lights shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.

ii. Street lights shall be placed the maximum distance apart with the minimum lumens allowable by the department of public works; and

iii. Street lights shall be designed to prevent off-street illumination and glare.

Hooding and shields shall be used to deflect light away from adjacent parcels.

12. Lighting. Exterior Outdoor lighting to be installed in new development shall be designed to prevent off-site illumination and glare. Hooding and shields shall be used to deflect light away from adjacent parcels and public areas shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.
SECTION 7. Section 22.44.141 is hereby modified as follows:

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D. Community-wide Development Standards.

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3. Exterior Outdoor Lighting. New exterior outdoor lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44 designed to minimize off-site illumination and glare by deflecting light away from adjacent parcels, public areas, and the night sky, using shields and hoods such that the lighting source is not visible outside the site.

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5. Street Lights. Street lights shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44. To preserve the community character, the following shall apply:

a. Street lights shall be required only where necessary for the safety of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, as determined by the department of public works; and

b. Street lights shall be placed the maximum distance apart with the minimum lumens allowable by the department of public works.

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SECTION 8. Section 22.44.143 is hereby modified as follows:

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D. Community-wide Development Standards.

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2. Street Lighting. The addition of street lights is prohibited unless deemed necessary by the Department of Public Works. Where installed:

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b. Street lights shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.
shall be placed the maximum distance apart with the minimum lumens allowable by the Department of Public Works; and

c. Street lights shall be designed to prevent off-street illumination and glare. Fully shielded fixtures shall be used to deflect light away from adjacent parcels.

3. Exterior Outdoor Lighting. (Reserved) Outdoor lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.

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SECTION 9. Section 22.44.144 is hereby modified as follows:

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D. Community-wide Development Standards.

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2. Street Lighting. The addition of street lights is prohibited unless deemed necessary by the Department of Public Works. Where installed:

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b. Street lights shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44. placed the maximum distance apart with the minimum lumens allowable by the Department of Public Works; and

c. Street lights shall be designed to prevent off-street illumination and glare. Fully shielded fixtures shall be used to deflect light away from adjacent parcels.

3. Exterior Outdoor Lighting. (Reserved) Outdoor lighting shall be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44.

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10/26/2011