

# DRAFT

## Division XX - Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

### **Sec. XX-1. General**

The regulations contained in this article shall be known and referred to as the “Outdoor Lighting Regulations for the Summerland Community Plan Area.”

### **Sec. XX-2. Purpose**

The purpose of this article is to create standards for outdoor lighting that minimize light pollution, glare, and light trespass caused by inappropriate or misaligned light fixtures. These standards conserve energy and preserve the nighttime sky while maintaining nighttime safety, utility, security and productivity. The County of Santa Barbara recognizes that the unique development patterns and environment of Summerland make it an ideal area for astronomical observation and enjoyment of the nighttime sky. The County, through the provisions contained herein, intends to preserve and protect the nighttime environment of Summerland by regulating unnecessary and excessive outdoor lighting.

### **Sec. XX-3. Definitions**

For the purposes of this article the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this Section. The illustrations of the defined words or phrases are merely illustrative. If any conflict exists between the text of a definition and the corresponding illustration, the text shall govern.

**DIRECTIONAL LIGHTING METHODS:** Direction of light downward, rather than upward or outward, with the intention of directing light where it is needed; on the ground. Downward lighting also prevents unnecessary and unwanted spillover of light to adjacent areas and properties.

**FOSSIL FUEL LIGHTING:** Fossil fuel light produced directly or indirectly by the combustion of natural gas or other utility-type fossil fuels, for example: gas, propane and ceresin lighting.

**HIGH INTENSITY DISCHARGE LAMP:** High pressure sodium, mercury vapor, metal halide, low pressure sodium, and other similar lamps.

**LIGHT POLLUTION:** Any artificial light which causes a detrimental effect on the environment, astronomical research, enjoyment of the night sky or causes undesirable glare or light trespass.

**LIGHT TRESPASS:** Artificial light that produces unnecessary and/or unwanted illumination of an adjacent property.

**LUMINOUS TUBE LIGHTING:** Gas filled glass tubing which when subjected to high voltage becomes luminescent in a color characteristic of the gas used (neon, argon etc.)

**OUTDOOR LIGHT FIXTURE:** Artificial Illuminating Devices, outdoor fixtures, lamps and other similar devices, permanently installed or portable, used for flood lighting, general illumination or advertisement. Such devices shall include but are not limited to outdoor lighting for:

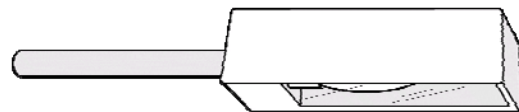
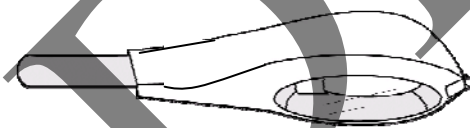
1. Buildings and structures
2. Recreational facilities
3. Parking lots
4. Landscape lighting
5. Signs
6. Street lighting
7. Walkway lighting

**OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY:** An area designated for active recreation, whether publicly or privately owned, including but not limited to, baseball and softball diamonds, soccer and football fields, equestrian arenas, golf courses, tennis courts and swimming pools.

**SHIELDING:** A barrier around a fixture that helps to conceal the lamp and control light distribution.

**FULLY SHIELDED:** Outdoor light fixtures with a solid barrier that emit no light rays above the horizontal plane and effectively obscure the visibility of the lamp.

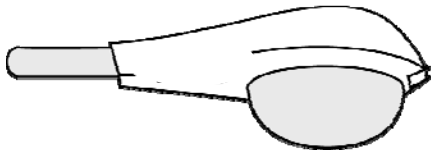
#### **Fully Shielded Fixtures**



PARTIALLY SHIELDED: A fixture that may allow some light to pass through a semi-translucent barrier, and/or may allow visibility of the lamp from certain perspectives.



UNSHIELDED: Unshielded means light fixtures lacking any means to restrict light emitted above the horizontal plane.



#### ***Sec. XX-4: Approved materials and methods of installation***

b. The provisions of this article are not intended to prevent the use of any design, material or method of installation not specifically proscribed by this article provided any such alternate has been approved by the County. The Planning and Development Department may approve any such alternate provided that the proposed design, material or method:

1. Provides approximate equivalence to the specific requirements of this article; or
2. Is otherwise satisfactory and complies with the intent of this article.

#### ***Sec XX-5: Prohibited Lights***

1. All illuminated advertising signs on and off premises shall be off between 11:00 p.m. and sunrise, except that on-premises signs may be illuminated while the business is open to the public.

2. All outside illumination for aesthetic, recreational, and/or decorative purposes for any building and/or surrounding landscape that is not fully shielded shall be prohibited between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise. All illumination between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise shall be shielded.
3. No outdoor recreational facility with lights that are not fully shielded shall be illuminated between 9:00 pm and sunrise except to complete a specific organized recreational event, in progress and under illumination in conformance with this ordinance at 9:00 p.m. Shielded lights are not subject to a time restriction.
4. Search lights, laser source lights, or similar high intensity lights shall not be permitted except in emergencies, by police and/or fire personnel, or for the purposes of gathering meteorological data.

### **Sec. XX-6: Exemptions**

The following are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance:

1. All outdoor lighting fixtures existing and legally installed prior to the effective date of this ordinance (existing lighting fixtures shall be subject to the requirements of Section 5 requiring lights that are not fully shielded to be turned off at 10:00 p.m; shielded lights are not subject to a turn-off time).
2. Fossil fuel light.
3. Traffic control signals and devices.
4. Street lights installed prior to the effective date of this ordinance.
5. Temporary emergency lighting (i.e. fire, police, public works).
6. Moving vehicle lights.
7. Seasonal decorations with individual lights.
8. Lighting for special events as provided by Section XX-9 (temporary exemptions) of this ordinance.
9. Temporary lighting for agricultural activities of a limited duration, not including unshielded arena lights.
10. Security lights of any wattage that are controlled by a motion-sensor switch and which do not remain on longer than 10 to 12 minutes after activation.
11. Projects with approved construction plans prior to the effective date of this ordinance are excluded from compliance with the ordinance in the initial installation only.
12. Solar walkway lights.

## ***Sec XX-7: General Requirements***

All non-exempt light fixtures requiring a County permit for their installation shall be subject to the following general requirements:

1. All outdoor light fixtures installed after the effective date of this article and thereafter maintained upon private property, public property, or within the public right-of-way shall be fully shielded.
2. All replaced or repaired lighting fixtures requiring a permit shall be subject to the requirements of this ordinance.
3. Light trespass and glare shall be reduced to the maximum extent feasible through directional lighting methods.
4. Externally illuminated signs, advertising displays and building identification shall use top mounted light fixtures which shine downward and are fully shielded.
5. Outdoor light fixtures used for outdoor recreational facilities shall be fully shielded except when such shielding would cause an 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 Planning and Development Department.
6. Illumination from recreational facility light fixtures shall be shielded to minimize glare extending towards roadways where impairment of motorist vision might cause a hazard.

## ***Sec XX-8: Submission of Plans and Evidence of Compliance***

The applicant for any permit required by the County of Santa Barbara for work involving outdoor light fixtures (except those exempted by Section XX-6 and XX-9) shall submit as part of the permit application evidence that the proposed work will comply with this ordinance.

The submission shall contain:

1. Plans showing the locations of outdoor lighting fixtures
2. Description of the outdoor lighting fixtures including, but not limited to manufacturers catalog cuts and drawings. Descriptions and drawings should include lamp or bulb type, wattage, beam angle, and shielding.

The above plans and descriptions shall be sufficiently complete to enable the plan examiner to readily determine whether compliance with the requirements of this ordinance have been met.

**Sec. XX-9: Temporary Exemption**

- a. The Planning and Development Department may grant a temporary exemption, as defined herein, for such activities, including, but not limited to circuses, fairs, carnivals, sporting events, and promotional activities, if P&D finds the following:
  - 1. The purpose for which the lighting is proposed is not intended to extend beyond thirty (30) days
  - 2. The proposed lighting is designed in such a manner as to minimize light pollution as much as feasible; and
  - 3. The proposed lighting will comply with the general intent of this article.
  
- b. The application for a temporary exemption shall include the following information:
  - 1. Name and address of applicant and property owner;
  - 2. Location of proposed fixtures;
  - 3. Type, wattage and lumen output of lamp(s);
  - 4. Type and shielding of proposed fixture(s);
  - 5. Intended use of lighting;
  - 6. Duration of time for requested exemption;
  - 7. The nature of the exemption;
  - 8. Such other information as the Planning and Development Department may request.