

From: [Tom Infusino](#)
To: [Planning Commission Clerk](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Michelle Plotnik](#); [Timothy Laddish](#); [Annette Huse](#); [Gina Kathan](#); [Don Parker](#); [Hector Lozano](#); [Julie Moss-Lewis](#); [Peter Maurer](#)
Subject: RE: CPC Comments on the Zoning Ordinance Update re Lighting and Illumination
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 1:57:26 PM

CAUTION: This email comes from outside the County. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you are unsure, use the Phish Alert button.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for your very thoughtful additions to the proposed illumination ordinance.

I understand that the ordinance only applies to new and replacement lighting, so that it will not result in any immediate out-of-pocket cost to anybody. Consistent with that concept, the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC) would like the Planning Commission to consider one additional provision.

There are cases in which the mere redirection of light from an existing adjustable fixture could prevent the disturbance of neighbors. This redirection does not involve the purchase of new fixtures, or timers, or motion sensors, or poles. This redirection does not require removing or not using the existing fixtures. It just requires somebody getting on a ladder, loosening some hardware, and redirecting the fixture or adjusting the shields. We at the CPC believe that such minimal efforts do not overburden property owners with exterior lighting. We suspect that most good neighbors are willing to redirect their adjustable light fixtures when asked. In fact, one of our volunteers recently adjusted her own outdoor light fixtures without the neighbor even having to ask.

However, other neighbors may be unwilling to voluntarily redirect their existing adjustable lights to reduce light pollution, glare or light trespass. Nevertheless, we believe that some of these neighbors may be inspired to redirect their adjustable lights in order to avoid complaints to and inspections from Calaveras County Code Enforcement. To inspire such action, we recommend that you add the language below to the Zoning Code Update:

17.16.105 Existing Exterior Lighting

A. Purpose. The purpose of this Section is to create standards for existing outdoor lighting to minimize light pollution, glare, and light trespass caused by misaligned light fixtures, while limiting the costs of implementation and maintaining night-time safety, utility, security and productivity.

B. Standards and Applicability. In the R1, R2, R3, RR, and RA zones, when the orientation of existing fixtures can be easily adjusted to do so, all lights shall be directed and oriented to prevent light spillover and glare onto adjacent properties to the degree feasible. Implementation of this section does not require the purchase of new light fixtures, timers, motion sensors, or poles. Implementation of this section does not affect the hour or duration of light fixture use. The standards of this Section apply unless specifically exempted below or unless exemption is required pursuant to any other applicable code or regulation.

1. The following lighting is exempt from the provisions of this Section.

- a. Public and Private Street Lighting.
- b. Athletic Field Lights. Athletic field lights used within a school campus or park.
- c. Safety and Security Lighting. Security lighting as necessary for public safety facilities.
- d. Construction and Emergency Lighting. All construction or emergency lighting fixtures provided they are temporary and are discontinued immediately upon completion of the construction work or abatement of the emergency.
- e. Temporary Seasonal Lighting. Temporary seasonal lighting displays related to cultural or religious holidays and celebrations and that do not remain up for more than four weeks after the holiday or celebration.
- f. Luminaries with a maximum output of 60 lumens, including solar lights.

g. Underwater lights used to illuminate swimming pools, spas, fountains, and other water features.

h. Temporary lighting for agricultural activities of a limited duration.

For the most part, we have re-used language from Section 17.16.100 of your own draft zoning ordinance dated February of 2024. We understand that you may be adjusting the language in that section of your draft ordinance. Where you chose to adjust the language of that section of your draft zoning ordinance, we would welcome a similar adjustment to our proposed ordinance above.

We respect the Commission's right to support or oppose our proposed ordinance in the Commission's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Those recommendations fulfill an important role of the Commission. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

With Gratitude,

Tom Infusino, Facilitator
Calaveras Planning Coalition