

September 18, 2008

Light and Light Pollution: Proposed Revision to the City of Ojai Outdoor Lighting Ordinance - summary of ordinance

This ordinance was compiled from a comparison of several towns' ordinances. The towns used are surrounded by hills and mountains and are similar to Ojai in their rural, tourist dependent and size qualities. The towns were Santa Ynez, CA; Santa Cruz, CA; Santa Monica, CA; Tucson, AZ; Ketchum, ID; and Boulder, CO.

The objective of this ordinance is to promote high quality lighting, and efficient use of energy, and to reduce negative aspects of lighting such as light pollution and wasted energy. This ordinance serves to assist staff, and applicants with an understanding of concepts behind good lighting design and means to achieve that goal.

The ordinance includes a comprehensive definition of terms with photographs to insure efficient use of light energy.

The ordinance establishes regulations and a review process. (Section 3 to 3.11)

The applicability of this ordinance is for new land use, development, buildings and structures that require a building permit or a site plan review. Special focus is to eliminate and prevent light trespass. (Section: 4 to 4.20)

Within the ordinance there are exemptions, prohibitions and some general requirements which will further guide applicants to being efficient. (Sections: 5, 6 and 7)