



# WORKSHOP – OUTDOOR LIGHTING STANDARDS

Community & Economic Development Department

Land Use Committee

April 14, 2025



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## BACKGROUND

November  
2018

City Council adopts comprehensive update to Outdoor Lighting Standards that:

- Comply with new State Legislation at the time.
- Address community concerns about Night Sky preservation.



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## PROHIBITED EXTERIOR LIGHTING

Exterior Lighting Prohibited by RMC Chapter 19.556:

- Dynamic lighting for any purpose other than serving as a traffic signal, safety light, or aviation or marine marker
- Luminaires exceeding 500,000 peak candelas or 50,000 lumens
- Aerial laser lighting
- Lighting within Lighting Zone 0 except as permitted by Title 24, Part 6, Section 140.7
- Sport facility lighting (unless exempt).

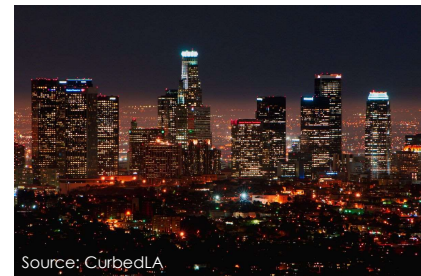


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## LIGHTING ZONES

Lighting Zone	Area of Applicability	Exterior Lighting Level
Lighting Zone 0	Undeveloped areas of parks, recreation areas, and wildlife preserves.	Little to no exterior lighting
Lighting Zone 1	Developed portions of parks, recreation areas, wildlife preserves, and the area within the Mt. Palomar Observatory boundary	Low levels of exterior light at night
Lighting Zone 2	Areas zoned RA-5, RC and RR	Modest levels of exterior lighting at night.
Lighting Zone 3	All other areas not included in lighting zones 0-2.	Medium to high levels of exterior lighting at night.



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## 19.556 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Restriction	Lighting Zone 3: Residential including multifamily with less than eight units.	Lighting Zone 3: Nonresidential and multifamily properties more than eight units
Unshielded and decorative lighting	Three per residence, not to exceed 900 lumens per luminaire and 2000 lumens per residence	Maximum 900 lumens per luminaire, not to exceed 18000 lumens per acre
Maximum mounting height of luminaires (above adjacent grade)	25 feet	25 feet
Landscape lighting per luminaire	Downlight and/or shielded uplight, not to exceed 600 lumens	Downlight and/or shielded uplight not to exceed 900 lumens
Maximum allowable light trespass	0.5 footcandle (5 lux)	0.5 footcandle (5 lux)



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## 19.590 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Standards for all development that aim to prevent disruption/annoyance from excessive outdoor lighting and ensure public safety

- Lighting for safety shall be provided at entryways, walkways, between buildings and within parking areas
- Flickering, flashing, or strobe light are prohibited
- All lights shall be shielded to prevent light spill
- Lighting shall not be directed skyward
- Lighting for advertising signs shall not impact surrounding properties.



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## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

### ENVISION RIVERSIDE 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN



#### Strategic Priority 5 – High Performing Government

Goal 5.3 Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making

#### Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee:

- 1. Receive and file** Workshop on the existing outdoor lighting regulations within Chapter 19.556 of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC); and
- 2. Provide staff direction** to maintain current code or explore any potential changes to policies or regulations.



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