Purpose of the Dark Sky Overlay Zone:

- Protect and reclaim ability to view the night sky and stars;
- Greater tranquility and maintenance of the rural ambiance;
- Minimize light pollution by protecting against direct glare and excessive lighting;
- Provide standards for efficient and moderate use of outdoor lighting;
- Promote safe, energy-efficient and cost effective outdoor lighting.

EXISTING LIGHTING (Sec. 8109-4.7.2)

FOR ALL ZONES:
From November 1, 2019, unless exempt, existing lights shall be:
- Directed downward (if feasible); and
- Turned off during dark hours (generally after 10:00 p.m.), or when people are no longer present, whichever is later, until sunrise.

Note: Nonconforming essential lighting may remain in use until replaced, including during dark hours.

FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES:
From November 1, 2021, existing lighting for commercial and industrial uses shall comply with Sec. 8109-4.7.4. Property owners may apply for an extension to this deadline.

After November 1, 2021, existing lighting for commercial and industrial uses approved by a discretionary permit shall be conditioned to comply with Sec. 8109-4.7.4 within a reasonable time period. This condition will be applied when the permit undergoes a minor or major modification.

WHAT’S EXEMPT? (Sec. 8109-4.7.5)

- Temporary emergency lighting
- Temporary construction lighting
- Temporary, intermittent night lighting for agricultural uses, which are usual or customary
- Temporary lighting which has a permit
- Temporary lighting for outdoor events
- Wireless communication facilities lighting, as regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration
- Signage
- Seasonal or festive lighting
- Lighting of 60 lumens or less (includes solar lights)
- Lighting on public/private streets
- Facilities subject to state or federal regulations
- Lighting at public schools
GENERAL STANDARDS (Sec. 8109-4.7.4)

- **USE FULLY-SHIELDED FIXTURES, DIRECTED DOWNWARD:**
  Lights at building entrances (e.g., porch lights) may be partially shielded.

- **LIGHTING COLOR:**
  Maximum 3,000 Kelvin, except lighting for security cameras, which may be a cooler color temperature.

- **LIGHTING INTENSITY:**
  Maximum 850 lumens, except security lighting (2,600 lumens max.) and outdoor recreational facility lighting.

- **LIGHT TRESPASS LEVELS:**
  Limits to ensure minimal spillover beyond the property line are included in See §8109-4.7.4(i).

- **OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITY LIGHTING:**
  (for new public and private tennis courts, basketball courts, equestrian arenas, etc.)
  - Lighting levels not to exceed IESNA recommendations (See §8109-4.7.4(g)).
  - See maximum height allowances for attached and freestanding lighting.

- **DARK HOURS (time when lights must be turned off, unless exempt):** From 10:00 pm, or when people are no longer present, or close of business, whichever is latest, until sunrise.

  **Exception:** Essential Lighting can remain on during Dark Hours. Exemptions to Dark Hours are listed in the right sidebar.

- **MAXIMUM HEIGHT ALLOWANCE:**
  When Attached to -
  - Structures = 15 feet max.
  - Fences = no higher than height of fence

  Freestanding –
  - For walkways, driveways, or hardscaping – 2 feet max. (except commercial and industrial uses)
  - All other freestanding – 20 feet max., unless specified by permit.

- **SECURITY LIGHTING:**
  - Can be max. 2,600 lumens.
  - If security lighting is more than 850 lumens, must be on motion sensors & timer with max. 10 mins activation time, during dark hours.
  - No motion sensors for fully-shielded security lighting under 850 lumens, or for security lighting for agricultural uses in AE, OS and RA zones.
  - Security lighting is deemed essential lighting and is not subject to dark hours.
  - Security lighting used with cameras can be more than 3,000 Kelvin, as required by the system.

- **NIGHT LIGHTING FOR ENCLOSED TRANSLUCENT OR TRANSPARENT GREENHOUSES:**
  New lighting in greenhouses shall use fully- or partially-shielded directional lighting, and blackout screens on roofs and walls, from 10:00 p.m. until sunrise.

- **GAS STATIONS:**
  Canopies shall have recessed lighting, with no additional lighting on columns.

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**LIGHT ALLOWED AFTER 10:00 P.M.**

- **Essential lighting:**
  - Security lighting
  - Lighting for walkways, driveways, and at building entrances

- **Lighting for exterior areas where people are still present**
  - Lights under 60 lumens, including solar lights
  - Porch lights
  - Lighting used by businesses that are still open
  - Temporary lighting
  - Parking lot lighting, if permitted through a discretionary permit
  - Exempt lighting, including holiday lights
  - Lighting subject to pre-emptive state or federal standards for illumination

**WHAT IS ESSENTIAL LIGHTING?**

*Lighting that is used for safety purposes and for circulation, including:*

- Security lighting, subject to requirements in §8109-4.7.4(e)
- Illuminates walkways and driveways
- Illuminates a building entrance (such as porch lights)

*This essential lighting is allowed to remain on at all times.*

**PROHIBITED LIGHTING** (Sec. 8109-4.7.3)

- Flashing, blinking, strobe lights
- Perimeter lot lighting, unless used for security/safety purposes, or less than 60 lumens

**NOTE:** Existing lighting that is prohibited shall be turned off after November 1, 2019.

County of Ventura, Planning Division, November 1, 2018