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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

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**From:** mikewondo@berkeley.edu  
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**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Supervisors Feb 11, Agenda Item #3  
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Attached please find our public comment letter for the SB County Board of Supervisors Hearing of Feb 11, 2025, Agenda Item 3: Outdoor Lighting, Signs, and Miscellaneous Ordinance Amendments.

Thank you,

Mike Wondolowski  
President  
Carpinteria Valley Association



# Carpinteria Valley Association

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*Protecting the beauty & natural resources of our valley since 1964*

Submitted via email to:  
sbcob@countyofsb.org

February 6, 2025

## Comments for:

**SB County Board of Supervisors Hearing of Feb 11, 2025**

**Agenda Item 3: Outdoor Lighting, Signs, and Miscellaneous Ordinance Amendments**

Members of the Board:

The Carpinteria Valley Association appreciates your consideration of amendments to the Outdoor Lighting, Signs, and Miscellaneous Ordinance that will reduce light pollution and its effects on our skies, on wildlife and habitats, and on the quality of life of neighbors.

Overall, we support the proposed amendments to the ordinance, and we have only a few recommendations for changes to the Outdoor Lighting section that we believe will better achieve the overall goals of making these amendments.

Note that the sections referenced below refer to:

“Attachment C1 – LUDC Amendments Changes Shown.pdf”

We make the same recommendations for all ordinances included in this agenda item.

### 1. SECTION 6 (35.30.120 – Outdoor Lighting), Sec A:

We recommend the second sentence explicitly include the benefit “protect neighbors and wildlife” after it says “preserve the nighttime sky”. The proposed amendments do a good job of addressing not only protecting the night sky, but also reducing the effect of light pollution on neighbors and wildlife. It is important to recognize these goals as part of the purpose of the amended ordinance.

### 2. SECTION 6 (35.30.120 – Outdoor Lighting), Sec C Prohibited Lights and Lighting, Sec 3:

The Montecito Planning Commission recommended that in the inland Montecito area, the prohibition of uplights be removed (i.e., uplights would still be allowed for specimen trees and the U.S. flag). Given that feasible and price-effective downlighting alternatives are readily available, we urge you not to remove that prohibition in the inland Montecito area, or anywhere in the County. Uplighting is fundamentally contrary to principles of protecting our night sky and avoiding light trespass that affects neighbors, and therefore should be avoided in all areas. Downlighting of trees and the U.S. flag is perfectly feasible and is common.

### 3. SECTION 6 (35.30.120 – Outdoor Lighting), Sec E General Requirements, Sec 1 Shielding:

We recommend removing the exception for string lights (item ‘a’ in this section). The function of string lights is still fully achieved when using fully shielded string lights which are readily

available and cost-effective. There is not sufficient reason to exempt string lights from the shielding requirement, and doing so would reduce the effectiveness of the ordinance.

**4. SECTION 6 (35.30.120 – Outdoor Lighting), Sec E General Requirements, Sec 6 Kelvin:**

We recommend reducing the “color temperature” (Kelvin) requirement to 2700K for all lighting. The proposed limits of 4000K for security lighting and 3000K for other are significantly higher than modern recommendations from light pollution experts. Bulbs that do not exceed 2700K color temperature are widely available and therefore reasonable to require.

**5. SECTION 6 (35.30.120 – Outdoor Lighting), Sec F Submittal of plans..., Sec 2:**

We recommend adding “Kelvin” to the list of information to be included in descriptions and drawings. Given that Sec E.6 has a requirement for the max Kelvin value, it is clear this specification should be included in the descriptions and drawings.

We appreciate your attention to our comments, and your efforts to better protect the night throughout the County.

Thank you,

Mike Wondolowski  
President  
Carpinteria Valley Association  
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