

San Elijo Hills Homeowners Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 232, Solana Beach, CA 92075

Dear Neighbors

At the February 1, 2023, board meeting, the idea of encouraging homeowners to consider neighbor friendly or responsible outdoor lighting was presented during owner input. Following discussion, Board members voted 5-0 to appoint a homeowner to chair the ad-hoc Neighbor Friendly Lighting (NFL) Committee. The purpose of the committee is to educate our homeowners about easy ways to incorporate neighborhood friendly lighting in our community. Everyone present felt that excessive and misdirected outdoor lighting can intrude on the privacy of others as light or glare does not stop at property lines. Additionally, such neighbor-friendly lighting wastes less energy and the warmer color would be another appealing feature of our community.

Purpose

This document is intended to provide outdoor lighting principles for San Elijo Hills 1 homeowners to consider when planning to install or modify outdoor lighting.

Principles

In 2020, the International Dark-Sky Association partnered with the Illuminating Engineering Society to promote five principles for responsible outdoor lighting that meet human needs for artificial light at night while protecting the integrity of natural nighttime conditions to the greatest practical extent.

1. Use light only if it is needed.
2. Direct light so it falls only where it is needed.
3. Use light only when it is needed.
4. Light only to the brightness needed.
5. Minimize blue light to the amount needed.

Definitions

“Fully shielded” means lighting whose design prevents the direct emission of light at angles above the local horizontal. Fully shielded lighting generally consists of lighting products whose light sources (i.e., lamps) whose light is only directed toward the ground.

“Correlated color temperature “ (CCT) means a numerical rating characterizing the color qualities of a light source. It is measured in units of kelvins (K) Under U.S. Energy Department rules, CCT must appear on the packaging of all new lighting products sold in the U. S.

“Light trespass” means a condition in which light emitted on one property is directly visible from any other property. Light trespass is defined to exist regardless of whether the receiving property owner finds the light objectionable.

Recommendations

Use light only if it is needed

- The purpose of outdoor lighting should be evident from its design, including placement, aiming angle, brightness, and other characteristics.
- Note that this does not preclude the use of architectural, landscape and similar ‘aesthetic’ lighting, including lighting of water features and swimming pools, provided that their design minimizes any impacts on other property owners.

Direct light so it falls only where it is needed

- All outdoor lighting should be designed, installed, and aimed such that it only illuminates its intended target and prevents emission of light into the night sky.
- Allowable outdoor lighting should strictly avoid creating conditions of light trespass.
- Property owners should ensure that architectural, landscape and similar lighting is, to the greatest practical extent, confined to the surfaces and objects it intends to highlight.

Use light only when it is needed

- Outdoor lighting can enhance nighttime security through the use of active controls such as timers and motion-sensing switches.
- Homeowners are encouraged to properly maintain control equipment in good working order.
- Motion sensors should be adjusted according to manufacturers’ specifications in terms of both trigger sensitivity and trigger duration.
 - Sensitivity should be set such that triggering occurs only upon sensing large objects such as animals and people.
 - Trigger duration should not exceed five (5) minutes, at which point the lamp is extinguished
- Controls must fail into the “OFF” condition and not the “ON” position

Light only to the brightness needed

- Light should be neither too bright nor too dim for the task
- Selecting the proper amount of light, along with properly directing the light and limiting the duration of its use, is important to minimize glare.

Minimize the emission of blue light

- Lighting should use lamps with the “warmest” color appearance possible
- For general applications, the correlated color temperature of lamps should not exceed 3,000 kelvins. 3,000 kelvins is an ideal color temperature.
- It is not possible to determine the Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) of a lamp by visual inspection, so consult manufacturer data sheets or product packaging for the specification of a particular lighting product.

Committee members of the Neighbor Friendly Lighting Committee are Chair-Phil Klein, Sharon Costello, Chuck Ettari

Resource links

- 1.) <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-citizens/lighting-basics/>
- 2.) To request partial or circular light shields on streetlights contact City of Solana Beach Public Works Manager, Luis Carrillo's at email lcarrillo@cosb.org

The photographs on the following pages show the difference between light polluting fixtures and non-light polluting fixtures.







New Floodlights



Original Motion Activated Floodlights

