

**City of Solana Beach Municipal Code
Exterior Lighting Regulations
(Dark Sky Overlay)**

17.60.060 Exterior lighting regulations.

A. Purpose and Intent. It is the purpose of this section to control excessive or unnecessary outdoor light emissions which produce unwanted illumination of adjacent premises within the city. Additionally, it is the intent of this section to prescribe standards for the maintenance of designated "dark sky" neighborhoods as set forth in the Solana Beach general plan. Such neighborhoods seek to preserve their traditional semirural character, a major component of which is very low levels of nighttime illumination.

B. Lighting Regulations (Citywide). Lighting permitted shall be subject to the following regulations:

1. Light Usage. All lights, exclusive of approved signage, shall be used for the purposes of illumination only, and not designed for or used as an advertising display. The operation of searchlights for advertising purposes is prohibited. The illumination of outdoor billboards is prohibited.

2. Horizontal Cutoff. Luminaries, including street lighting, shall be so designed and shielded by horizontal cutoff to eliminate all light directed above the horizontal. The lower edge of the luminary housing shall extend below the entire light source and all glassware so that any light emitted above the horizontal is eliminated. Light-directing refractors shall be considered to be light sources.

3. Light Trespass. The illumination of adjacent premises by spill light shall not exceed a value of 0.02 foot candles measured in the horizontal or vertical plane at a point five feet inside the adjacent property.

4. Removal. Poles and lights shall be removed at the owner's expense when property on which they are located is utilized for street widening.

C. Dark Sky Areas. The following additional regulations are applicable only to those areas designated as "Dark Sky" areas on Map Drawing 17.16.060-A, on file with the city clerk and the department of community development:

1. No new street lighting standards shall be installed, unless the city engineer recommends and the city council, after a noticed public hearing, approves such standard(s) upon finding that such lighting is necessary to protect the public safety.

2. The lighting of subdivision entrances, entrance signs and residential identification signs is prohibited. Security lighting and external illumination of building address signs are exempted.

3. The outside illumination for aesthetic or dramatic purposes of any building and/or surrounding landscape, including environmentally sensitive habitat areas (public or private) is prohibited.

4. Area lighting for any purpose, public or private, is prohibited, except where a temporary use permit has been issued by the director of community development for a special event.

5. The lighting of outdoor commercial parking areas shall be prohibited between 9:00 p.m. and dawn. Security lights may be exempted pursuant to a conditional use permit issued by the director of community development.

6. Commercial wall signs or monument signs (within the "dark sky area") which are visible from a residentially zoned area immediately adjacent to the commercial premises shall not be internally lighted. External illumination is permitted subject to the provisions of subsection B of this section. Internally illuminated signs which are not visible from residentially zoned areas immediately adjacent to the commercial premises shall be permitted.

D. Temporary Exemptions. Upon written request from any individual, the director of community development may grant a temporary exemption from the requirements of this section for a period not to exceed 30 days within any one-year period. Such exemption may be allocated cumulatively for recurring events.

Within 10 days of receiving an exemption request, the director shall notify all contiguous property owners of such request by mail 10 days prior to the director's decision. The request for the exemption shall contain as a minimum the following information:

1. Specific exemption requested.
2. Type and use of outdoor light involved.
3. Duration of time for the requested exemption.
4. Type of illumination.
5. Total lumen of lamp or lamps.
6. Proposed location of exterior light.
7. Previous temporary exemptions, if any.
8. Physical size of exterior light.

9. Any additional information the director deems necessary to make a reasonable evaluation of a temporary exemption request.

The decision of the director may be appealed in accordance with SBMC 17.72.070 (Appeals). (Ord. 185 § 2, 1993)