



City of Palm Springs Development Services Department Office of Sustainability

TO: Sustainability Commission
FROM: Tracy Sheldon, Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: Dark Sky
MEETING DATE: February 15, 2022

Commissioner Ocañas completed research on Dark Skies and found similar insights comparable to Palm Springs in Pima County, AZ and the City of Malibu with the following;

Tucson/Pima County Insights:

- [The Outdoor Lighting Code for The City of Tucson, Arizona and Pima County Arizona](#) was enacted in 2012. The Director of Transportation for the city of Tucson, in consultation with IDA, converted 20,000 street lights from high-pressure sodium to energy-efficient LEDs with adaptive controls (2016 – 2018).
- The provisions of this code apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement and installation of outdoor lighting throughout the City of Tucson, Arizona and Pima County, Arizona
- International Dark Sky Association (IDA) approved lighting: The IDA certifies friendly sky lighting with a seal of approval. While IDA-approved lighting is found at many retailers, not all lighting is IDA approved. A list of manufacturers and IDA-approved products can be found at darksky.org.

Malibu, CA Insights:

[Ordinance](#) (or [here](#))

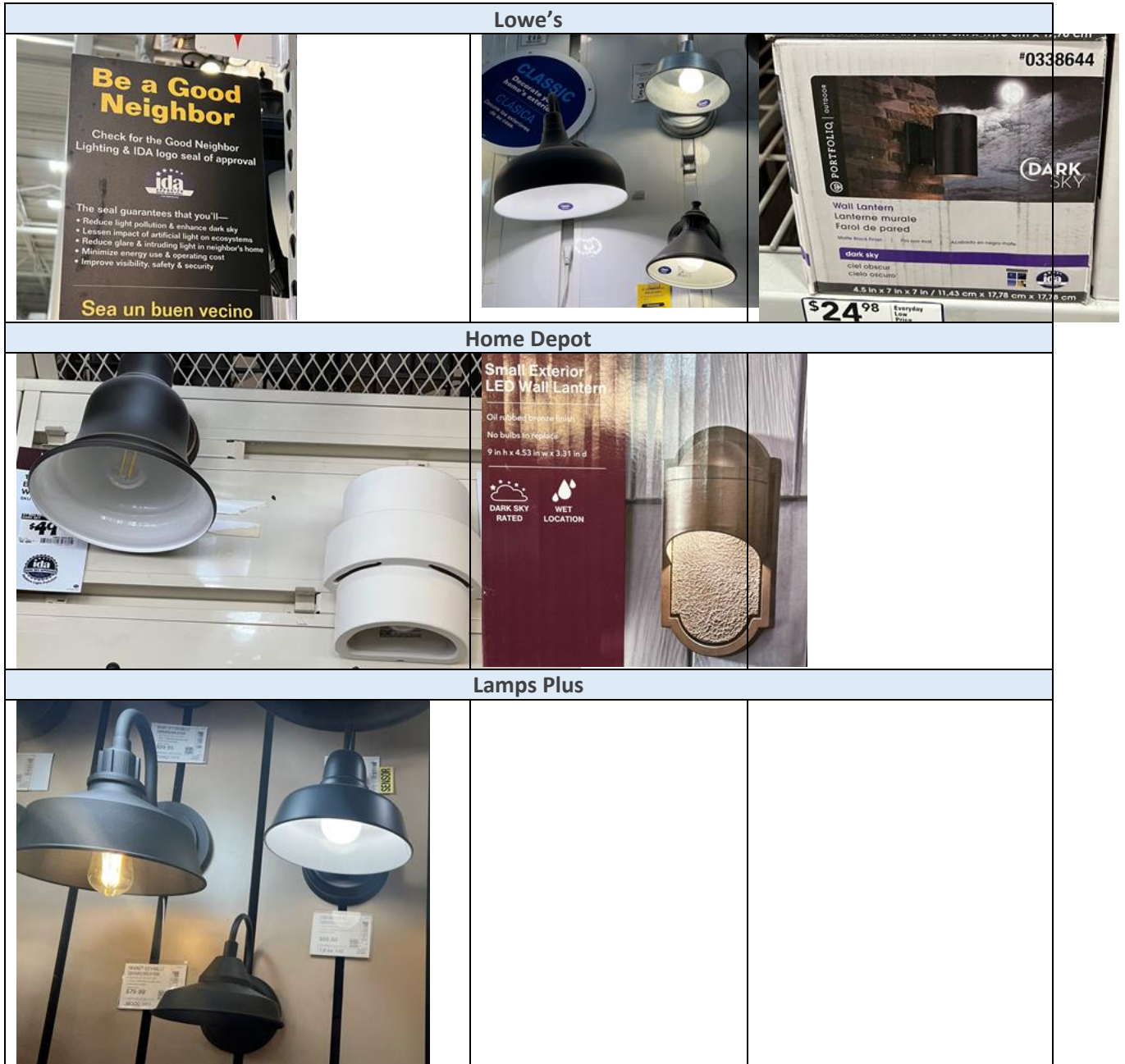
- The City Council enacted a citywide outdoor lighting ordinance that was created with assistance from the International Dark-Sky Association.
- The Dark Sky Ordinance regulates outdoor lighting through the addition of comprehensive, citywide outdoor lighting standards into Title 17 (Zoning) of the Malibu Municipal Code, [Chapter 17.41](#).
- **Requirements:**
 - Outdoor light fixtures must be fully shielded and directed downward
 - Outdoor light fixtures must not exceed 850 lumens
 - Maximum Kelvin temperature of 3000 K
 - Also included are requirements for motion detectors, string lights, and allowable light trespass from property lines, as well as additional lighting requirements based on zoning districts
- A widespread messaging campaign including newspaper advertisements, announcements on the City website and social media, direct mail, and email messages will help ensure that residents and businesses have enough time to make any changes necessary to meet the new requirements. ([Example](#)) The City's project webpage at www.MalibuCity.org/DarkSky offers examples of compliant lighting methods as well as relevant deadlines and other information.

- While developing the ordinance (~ 5 years) Malibu held numerous community workshops and meetings, providing education about the impacts of light pollution on people and nature, model lighting ordinances that have been adopted in other cities, and light pollution-reducing lighting technologies.

Working Group Meetings:

Commissioner Ocañas, Chair Clark, Commissioner Futterman and Program Coordinator Sheldon met on February 1, 2022 and February 9, 2022 and discussed the following:

- The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is the recognized authority on light pollution and is the leading organization combating light pollution worldwide.
- Chair Clark completed a lighting survey and identified IDA approved lighting and Lowe’s and Home Depot in Palm Springs. Comparable lighting is also available at Lamps Plus and a sales consultant can confirm IDA approval on selected lighting.



- The IDA advocates that any required lighting be used wisely. To minimize the harmful effects of light pollution, lighting should:
 - Only be on when needed
 - Only light the area that needs it
 - Be no brighter than necessary
 - Minimize blue light emissions
 - Be fully shielded (pointing downward)
- The group discussed outreach methods to include communications with Palm Springs lighting retailers and posting signage and information on IDA approved lighting. Signage messaging to include:
 - *The IDA logo seal of approval guarantees that you'll:*
 - Reduce light pollution & enhance dark sky
 - Lessen impact of artificial light on ecosystems
 - Reduce glare & intruding light in neighbor's home
 - Minimize energy use & operating cost
 - Improve visibility, safety & security
- Outreach could include partnerships with the Astrological Society.
- The group discussed incentivizing IDA approved lighting as part of the Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program. Applicant lighting would be approved with lighting displaying the IDA approval and/or meeting the requirements listed under the City of Malibu.
- Vice Chair Freedman stated in an e-mail that he believed the IDA standards are fully integrated into the 2022 Energy Code, which should be the standard for rebate eligibility, and will confirm at the Sustainability Commission meeting.

Action:

The working group respectfully asks the Sustainability Commission to provide direction on:

- 1) Including IDA approved lighting in Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program.
- 2) Conduct outreach to Palm Springs lighting stores.