



SENT TO COUNCIL:

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City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Joseph Horwedel

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 21, 2011

Approved

Date

4/25/11

**SUBJECT: ENERGY EFFICIENT EXCEPTIONS TO COUNCIL POLICY #4-3
OUTDOOR LIGHTING ON PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT**

INFORMATION

This memo informs the City Council of proposed limited exceptions to the Policy on Outdoor Lighting on Private Development (City Council Policy #4-3) to be implemented with new development applications by the Director of PBCE. The proposed change in Policy implementation allows for energy efficient alternatives to the Policy's provision requiring use of low-pressure sodium (LPS) lighting for outdoor, unroofed areas. Recent requests from primarily commercial and industrial property owners and tenants have asked to improve the energy efficiency and quality of outdoor lighting in outdoor areas, such as parking lots and walkways. Projects that can demonstrate improved energy efficiency and general consistency with the provisions in the City's recently revised Policy for public streetlights would be granted an exception to the use of LPS lighting. Other Policy parameters, including the requirement that lighting be fully shielded (full cutoff) to prevent light aimed skyward (light pollution) will continue to be implemented.

This change in implementation of the City's Policy on Outdoor Lighting is consistent with the recent revision to the Public Streetlight Policy (Council Policy 4-2) and the City of San Jose's Public Streetlight Design Guide both adopted in February 2011. These documents specify the conversion of the City's LPS streetlights to more energy efficient, longer lasting, and programmable LED lights. The City completed the Advanced Street Lighting Assessment Project (August 2010) to determine the types and attributes of recent technologies which might provide the greatest energy savings while minimizing light pollution. Field testing and public surveys concluded that a change in streetlight technology from the low-pressure sodium to an advanced streetlight technology using broad spectrum LED lighting yields a number of benefits including reduced energy consumption and improved visibility for motorists and pedestrians at lower light levels with more accurate color representation.

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Project applications for private development proposing the conversion of LPS lighting to another light source will be subject to Planning review with a Permit Adjustment and will be required to provide information documenting higher energy efficiency (efficacy) than LPS lighting as well as consistency with the California Energy Code, CALGreen and the City's technical specifications for public streetlights. Staff will continue to coordinate with the University of California Lick Observatory to ensure that the lighting is designed to be operated in a manner that limits the potential to adversely affect astronomical research.

Staff intends to proceed with a comprehensive update to the Policy on Outdoor Lighting on Private Development (City Council Policy #4-3) within the next two years upon further study of the preferred approach for providing outdoor lighting on private development.

/s/

JOSEPH HORWEDEL, DIRECTOR
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

For additional information please contact Richard Buikema at (408) 535-7835.