

COCHISE COUNTY

Amendment to the Cochise County Zoning Regulations Light Pollution (R-20-02)

Board of Supervisors
May 5, 2020

Cochise County
Development Services



Public Programs....Personal Service

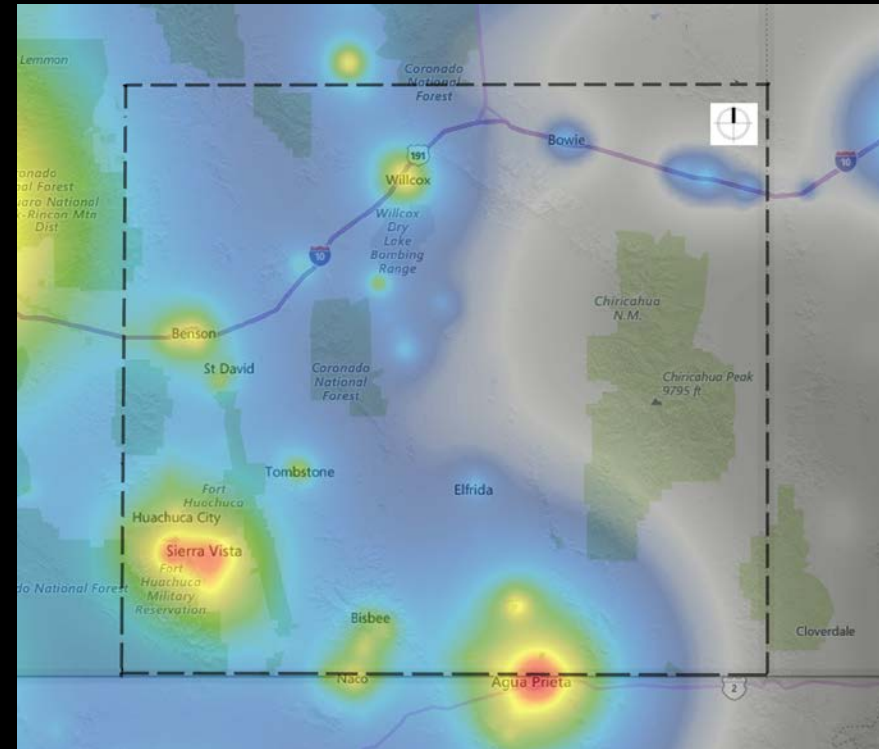
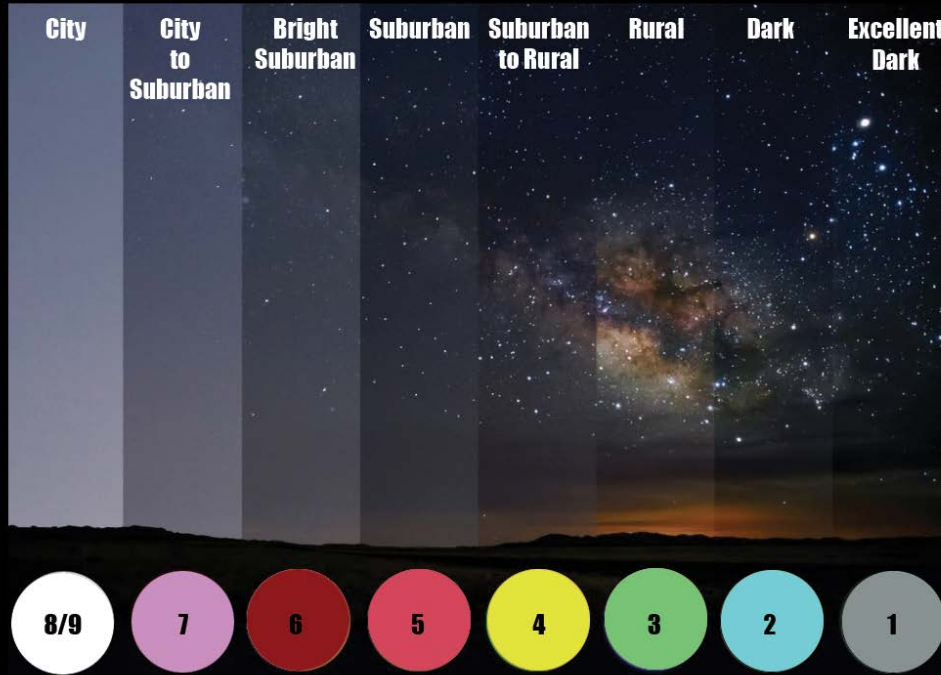
Why do we need Light Pollution Regulations?

- Encourage effective and efficient lighting while preserving safety and security of residents
- Protect dark skies while encouraging energy conservation
- Minimize sky-glow, glare and light trespass
- Ensure compatibility of signage with the County's rural character



COCHISE COUNTY

Current Light Pollution



Cochise County falls between 1-5 on the Bortle Scale and 20.07 – 21.99 on the Zenith Sky Brightness Scale

Purpose of this Docket

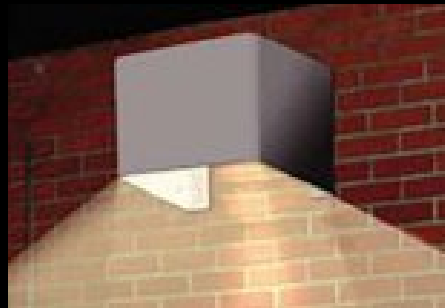
- Amend acceptable levels of light trespass and how light trespass is measured in residential areas.
 - Restrict the use of unshielded lighting on residential lots.
- Amend enforcement procedures to follow those of the general zoning regulation.

Applicability

New houses/ Additions to existing houses
(the addition must comply)/Change of use
/Resumption after abandonment (3 or more years)

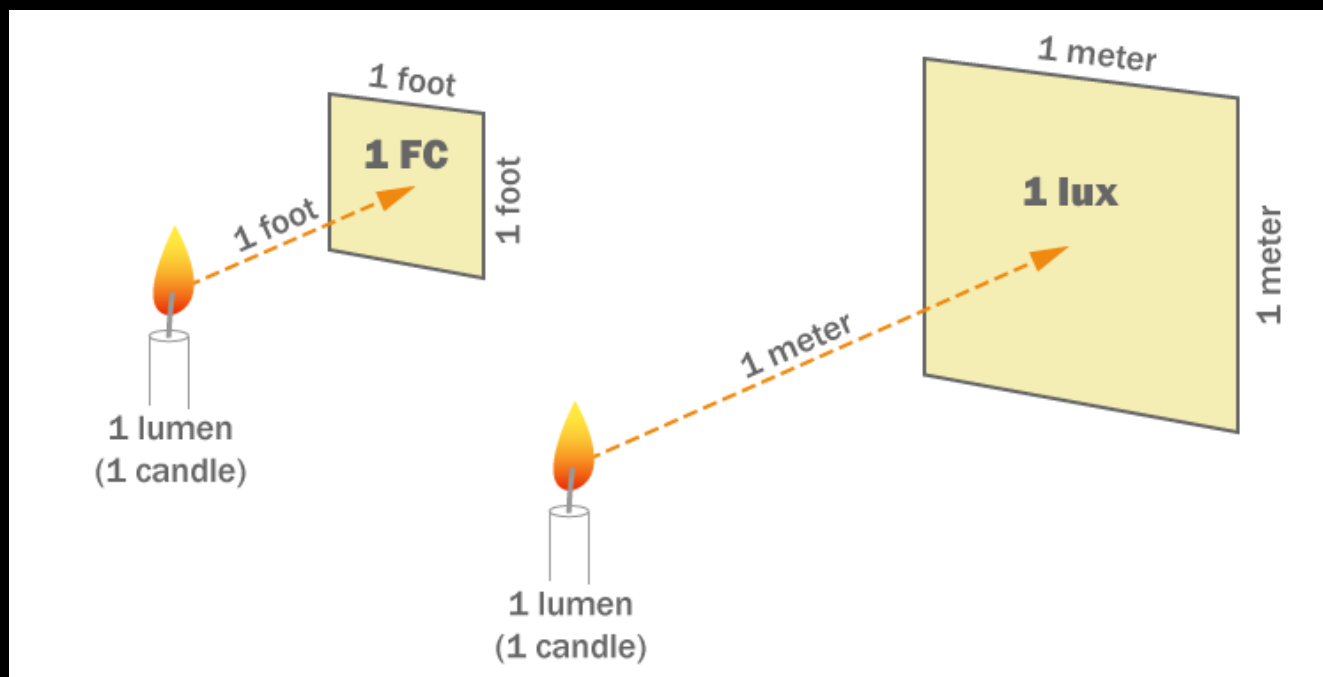


What is “shielded” light?



Recommendations

Section 1603 Definitions – add light meter definition, amend foot candle and lumen definitions



Recommendations

Section 1605.01 Light Trespass and Glare

- Residential – 0.2 FC Max
- Non-residential – 0.5 FC Max

(Measured at property line)



Recommendations

Section 1605.03 Lighting Types, Shielding and Curfew Requirements

- Residential – ALL permanently used lamp types must be shielded
 - Shielding not required if under a roof or porch under hang and meets the light and trespass limits
 - Seasonal decorations using low-lumen incandescent lamps permitted Thanksgiving to January 15
 - Table 16.1 *Maximum Total Outdoor Light Output Standards Lumen Caps* amended to correspond to the above changes

Recommendations

Section 1611 Enforcement/Article 23 Enforcement

- The enforcement of this Article will fall under the regulations contained in Article 23, which regulate all other zoning articles.



Recommendation and Sample Motion

The Cochise County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval (vote of 7-0) at their April 8, 2020 meeting.

Sample Motion: I move to approve Docket R-20-02 amending Article 16, Light Pollution, and Article 23, Enforcement, of the Cochise County Zoning Regulations.

