

Nov 8, 2021

From: Cecilia Brown

To: Chair Branch and Members of the Design Review Board

Subj: DRB review of Hollipat Parking Lot Lighting

I would appreciate your acceptance of my written comments below for Tuesday's DRB preliminary review of the Hollipat parking lot lighting.

The staff report for Tuesday's DRB meeting was published on Thursday. but material needed for the DRB review of the parking lot lighting was not included with the report. Hopefully all the necessary info will be added to the City's website so it will be available for today, Monday 11/8/2021, in time for all to consider.

However, without the above info, I am can only write about one topic and that is about the finding that the DRB needs to ultimately make to approve the project's parking lot lighting which is: "all exterior lighting.... (is) Dark Sky compliant." While the info mentioned in the first para (listed on next page) isn't yet available but necessary to have in making that determination, there are other considerations to making a Dark Sky finding which the DRB can and should use. The lighting ordinance doesn't provide such standards, but these standards as advocated by the International Dark Sky Association [Outdoor Lighting Basics - International Dark-Sky Association \(\(darksky.org\)\)](https://www.darksky.org/) do and they are as follows.

Exterior 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

My comments below specifically address two of the above standards in achieving the aims of the City's lighting ordinance which to "to preserve the community's character and enhance the ability to view the night-time sky." Both standards described above: lights should "be no brighter than necessary" and "minimize blue light emissions" can be achieved by reducing the color temperature of the LED lights.

The draft mitigated negative declaration for this project indicates the parking lot lights are 3000 Kelvin. Using a 2700K light instead would reduce the intensity and brightness of the proposed parking lot lights and also help "minimize blue light emissions" from any light emitted from the fixture. Even when using a Dark Sky compliant full-cut off fixture which focuses light downward, there will still be upward blue light emissions which are reflected from the hard surfaces of the parking lot. And it is the blue light which contributes to "sky glow" and degrades the ability to "view the night-time sky."

(As background info: The City in its recently completed its LED street light conversion project and used 2700K lights instead of 3000K lights. I believe that the project should consider doing the same for the lights they are proposing to use.)

Further, I believe it is necessary to know about the current parking lot lighting: number of fixtures, total lumens (and/or individual light lumen output), bulb type (if not an LED) and color temperature, and wattage to compare to the proposed. This would aid in understanding if there is up-lighting of the parking lot lighting. My concern is that if there is, this parking lot will become an island of bright intense light incompatible with the surrounding uses, one of which is residential. Again, the objective for any new exterior lighting project must be that the new lighting preserves the community character and enhances the ability to view night-time sky.

I hope to make additional comments at Tuesday's DRB meeting to amplify or change what I have written here based on information yet to be received. Thank you for your consideration.

Cecilia Brown
Goleta Resident

Below are the Title 17 Lighting Ordinance requirements missing from the DRB staff report and documentation .

1. Lighting manufacturer supplied specifications ("cut sheets") that include photographs and manufacturer model number(s) of the fixtures, indicating the certified "cut off characteristics" of each fixture proposed)
2. Total lumens and light temperature for each fixture, and total square footage of areas to be illuminated;
3. Lamp source type (e.g., bulb type, lumen output, wattage, etc.);
4. Types of timing devices used to control the hours set for illumination, as well as the proposed hours when each fixture will be operated.