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SGVPG.org

September 9, 2022

Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Support for Dark Sky Ordinance for Marin County

The San Geronimo Valley Planning Group supports the creation of a Dark Sky outdoor lighting ordinance for Marin County in an effort to reduce light pollution and energy waste.

Artificial lighting has a negative effect on wildlife by turning night into day. This causes problems for migrating birds, insect populations and amphibians. It is also a waste of energy when lighting is not shielded, contributing to increased carbon emissions. Higher lighting temperatures create “blue light”, which is hazardous to human health. Artificial lighting makes it difficult to see the stars at night.

A Dark Sky lighting ordinance will encourage Marin County residents to consider using fixtures that reduce light pollution while at the same time reducing energy use. Please direct the Community Development Agency and County Counsel to draft an ordinance for your approval that includes shielded lights; restricted illumination levels; encouragement for low-temperature yellow lighting (not blue); establishment of three lighting zones, including a Dark Sky Zone; limited outdoor lighting; restricted sports arena lighting; restricted illuminated signs; ordinance enforcement; and ten years to fully comply.

Sincerely,

Eric Morey, Chair

The San Geronimo Valley Planning Group  
SGVPG Steering Committee