

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisor John Tavaglione

SUBMITTAL DATE: October 19, 2010

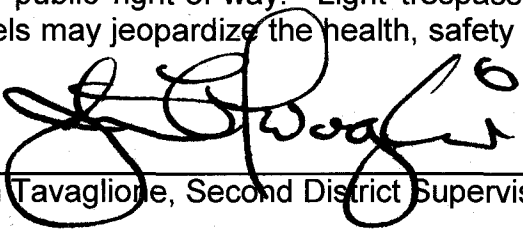
SUBJECT: Initiation of Ordinance That Would Regulate Outdoor Lighting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Pursuant to Board Policy A-67, adopt an order initiating an ordinance that would regulate Outdoor Lighting; and
2. Direct County Counsel to prepare and process the ordinance.

BACKGROUND: In 1988, the Board of Supervisors passed Riverside County Ordinance No. 655 (RCO 655) to restrict the permitted use of certain light fixtures emitting into the night sky undesirable light rays which have a detrimental effect on astronomical observation and research conducted at the Palomar Observatory. With such intent, RCO 655 only regulated outdoor lighting within a forty-five (45) mile radius of the Palomar Observatory and did not specifically address the nuisance created by *light trespass*.

Light trespass occurs when light from a light fixture on one property falls across a property line onto another lot or parcel of land or onto a public right-of-way. Light trespass results in a waste of natural resources and at certain levels may jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of Riverside County residents.


John Tavaglione, Second District Supervisor

(Continued on next page)

Dep't Recomm.: ☐ Policy

Per Exec. Ofc.: ☐ Consent

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Prev. Agn. Ref.

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3.1

Form 11**SUBJECT:** Initiation of Ordinance That Would Regulate Outdoor Lighting

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Currently, the Riverside County Zoning Ordinance, No. 348, addresses light trespass in a limited fashion and only in particular zones. The proposed ordinance would establish a countywide standard for outdoor lighting that would generally prohibit light trespass. Existing nonconforming outdoor light fixtures that were not regulated by previously enacted development standards would be authorized for a limited amortization period. Additionally, consideration will be given to limited exceptions when appropriate, e.g., law enforcement activities.

FISCAL: The issue of light trespass was considered prior to passage of Board Policy A-67. At that time, County Counsel researched the issue and prepared a draft ordinance. Therefore, further County Counsel time to finalize the proposed ordinance will be nominal.