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Los Angeles County Planning

*For more information, or to view this brochure
in Spanish or Chinese, please visit:*

<https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/rold>

“Los Angeles County is home to geographically diverse communities. Our natural resources and precious ecosystems are vital to the wellbeing of our residents and our neighborhoods. When we eliminate light pollution from our sky, it helps our environment and communities thrive.”

—Supervisor Kathryn Barger

EYES ON THE SKIES



Why are dark skies important?

The inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light—known as **light pollution**—can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate.

ENERGY



Research shows that much of artificial light at night is wasted by being poorly aimed, unnecessary, or unshielded, wasting money and energy.

WILDLIFE



Plants and animals are dependent on the Earth's daily light and dark cycle for activities such as hunting and navigation. Artificial light can have deadly effects on many species.

HUMAN HEALTH



Artificial light at night can disrupt our internal clocks and hormonal systems, leading to health problems such as obesity, sleep disorders, depression, diabetes, breast cancer, and more.

Did you know: You live in the Rural Outdoor Lighting District?

What is the Rural Outdoor Lighting District (ROLD)?

The Rural Outdoor Lighting District (ROLD) is a supplemental district for the rural areas of the County to promote and maintain dark skies for the health and enjoyment of individuals and wildlife.

LOW LIGHT POLLUTION



HIGH LIGHT POLLUTION



Photos by Los Angeles Astronomical Society

ROLD Regulations

- Shield lights to direct light downward and away from the sky.
- Angle lights in a way that prevents light spilling onto adjacent properties.
- (For businesses only) Exterior lights off by 10PM unless controlled by a motion sensor.

Want to do more? Additional best practices include:

- Household exterior lights off by 10PM unless controlled by a motion sensor.
- Subdued warm lighting recommended at night (ex. lighting with the same color as incandescent bulbs).
- Purposeful lighting: only use the light you need.

