



## Agenda Report

**Meeting Date:** November 21, 2024

**Prepared By:** Nick Zornes

**Subject: Zone Text Amendments for Bird Safe Design and Lighting Performance Standards.**

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### **COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA**

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Housing
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- General Government

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Consider draft ordinance and provide recommendation to the Los Altos City Council for adoption of the proposed ordinances which include the addition of Chapter 14.90 for Bird Safe Design and Chapter 14.91 for Lighting Performance Standards and find that the proposed amendments are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Not Applicable.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed amendments are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

### **BACKGROUND**

In late 2023, the Los Altos City Council directed staff to develop an ordinance in coordination with the Environmental Commission regarding Bird Safe Design and Dark Skies. The Los Altos Municipal Code does not presently regulate either of these two provisions.

In late spring the Environmental Commission voted on the general requirements of what should be included within a Bird Safe Design and Dark Skies ordinance. Following the discussion regarding the general requirements for the ordinance an Environmental Commission Subcommittee worked directly with the Development Services Department, Management Analyst II and Assistant City Manager on the draft ordinances under consideration. Additionally, the draft ordinances were reviewed by the Environmental Commission on October 9, 2024; the

Environmental Commission made a unanimous decision for the Draft Ordinance to advance to the following stages for adoption.

Since the draft regulations will largely affect housing developments within the City of Los Altos it is essential for these provisions to be included within the Zoning Code which will allow for universal application of standards.

**DISCUSSION**

The proposed Lighting Performance Standards Ordinance is to protect and enhance the city’s natural environment and public health by reducing light pollution at night through reasonable restrictions on outdoor lighting.

	New Builds	Existing Structures
<b>Applicability</b>	Residential, Commercial, City Buildings	
<b>Prohibited Lighting</b>	Blinking, flashing, rotating lights, searchlights, spotlights, high-intensity discharge lighting, aerial lasers	
<b>Compliance Period</b>	Immediate	Residential: 10 years; Commercial: 5 years, City: 10 years
<b>Color Temperature</b>	2700k or lower (warmer yellow light)	
<b>Street Lighting</b>	Shielded and directed downward; Extinguished by 11 PM (exceptions for seasonal or timer-controlled lighting)	

The proposed Bird Safety Ordinance is to protect the natural environment and promote wildlife by minimizing adverse effects of development on resident and migratory birds.

	Requirements
<b>Applicability</b>	Multi-dwelling residential and commercial buildings
<b>Building Features</b>	Avoid highly reflective/transparent glass on facade; Avoid funneling flight paths along buildings; Avoid planting trees close to facades
<b>Facades</b>	Ground to 60 ft: No more than 10% untreated glass; Above 60 ft: no more than 5% untreated glass
<b>Glazing Treatments</b>	Opaque glass, window muntins, exterior insect screens, exterior netting, etc. Treatments must have high color contrast and be applied to the outermost surface

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. **Draft Ordinance Chapter 14.90**
2. **Appendix A**
3. **Draft Ordinance Chapter 14.91**
4. **Appendix A**