§142.0740 Outdoor Lighting Regulations

(a) Outdoor lighting shall be regulated by the State of California Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards outdoor lighting requirements. If a conflict between the requirements of this Division and the State of California Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards arises, that which produces the least glare shall apply.

(b) Outdoor lighting fixtures that are used to illuminate a premises or an architectural feature on private property shall be directed or shaded so that light does not fall onto surrounding properties or create glare hazards within public rights-of-way.

(c) Outdoor lighting on commercial and industrial properties shall be equipped with automatic timing devices.

(d) Outdoor lighting fixtures that are existing and were legally installed before October 28, 1985, shall be exempt from Sections 141.0740(a) and (b), unless work is proposed over any period of time to replace 50 percent or more of the existing outdoor light fixtures or to increase the number of outdoor light fixtures by 50 percent or more on the premises.

(e) All outdoor lighting, including search lights, shall be turned off between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. except:

(1) Outdoor lighting in conjunction with industrial uses that continue to be fully operational after 11:00 p.m. such as sales, assembly, and repair may remain lighted after 11:00 p.m., provided that all lights are shaded, equipped with automatic timing devices, and utilize only the minimum amount of light necessary to conduct such uses;

(2) Outdoor lighting used for security purposes or to illuminate walkways, roadways, equipment yards, and parking lots may remain lighted after 11:00 p.m. only when low-pressure sodium outdoor lighting fixtures are used. Where the lighting meets the following criteria:

(A) Where located within 30 miles of the Palomar Observatory, lighting fixtures below 4,050 lumens are permitted. Lighting fixtures above 4,050 lumens shall be limited to low pressure sodium or high pressure sodium and equipped with full cut-off optics (fixtures with flat lenses that limit illumination to below the horizontal plane of the fixture or 0% up-light). Where high pressure sodium lighting fixtures are proposed, a photometric study or lighting power density calculation of ground lighting levels shall be required to
demonstrate that a 3 footcandle or 0.19 watts per square foot average will not be exceeded.

(B) Where located a minimum of 30 miles from the Palomar Observatory, lighting fixtures below 4,050 lumens are permitted. Lighting fixtures above 4,050 lumens shall be limited to low pressure sodium or high pressure sodium and equipped with cut-off optics (fixtures that limit illumination to less than 2.5% up-light).

(3) Outdoor lighting used to illuminate recreational activities that are not in a residential zone may continue after 11:00 p.m. only when equipped with automatic timing devices and shaded to minimize light pollution; and

(4) Illuminated on-premises signs for businesses that are open to the public after 11:00 p.m. may remain lighted during business operating hours only. Illuminated off-premises advertising display signs shall not be lighted after 11:00 p.m. Signs located both on- and off-premises shall be equipped with automatic timing devices.

(f) On properties which are adjacent to or contain sensitive biological resources, any exterior lighting shall be limited to low-level lights and shields to minimize the amount of light entering any identified sensitive biological resource areas.

(g) Exemptions from Outdoor Lighting Regulations:

(1) Outdoor lighting for automated teller machines and associated parking lot facilities are subject to the California Financial Code Section 13040-13041. Lighting fixtures shall be directed or shielded so that light does not fall onto surrounding properties or create glare hazards within public rights-of-way.

(2) Outdoor lighting producing light directly by combustion of fossil fuels, such as kerosene lanterns or gas lamps, are exempt from the requirements of this Division.

(3) Luminous tube outdoor lighting fixtures, defined as gas filled tubing, which when subjected to high voltage becomes luminescent in a color characteristic of the particular gas used (e.g. neon, argon, etc.), are exempt from the requirements of this Division provided that they comply with the following restrictions:

(A) Where the lighting is located on a property abutting residentially zoned property, no luminous tube light source shall exceed 800 lumens total.
(B) Where lighting is located on a property abutting residentially zoned property, luminous tube lighting that exceeds 800 lumens must be equipped with cut-off optics so that the light source is not visible to persons on a residentially zoned property.

(C) Where lighting is located on a property abutting residentially zoned property and the luminous tube lighting is used as a sign to highlight architectural features, only one luminous tube light source not to exceed 800 lumens is permitted per building facade, and the light source must be shut off outside of normal operating hours for the specific use.

(4) Outdoor lighting on facilities or lands owned, operated, controlled or protected by the United States Government, State of California, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, or other public entity or public agency not subject to City of San Diego ordinances is exempt from the requirements of this Division. Voluntary compliance with the intent of Section 142.0740 is encouraged.