

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BCPUD

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November 16, 2023

DRAFT

VIA E-MAIL: bos@marincounty.org

Marin County Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 328
San Rafael, California 94903

Re: Letter of Support for County-wide Lighting Ordinance per Guidelines set forth by the International Dark Sky Association.

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District (“BCPUD”), I am writing to urge your support for the establishment of a County-wide lighting ordinance compliant with guidelines set forth by the International Dark Sky Association (“IDSA”). We believe such an ordinance is a worthy goal, consistent with measures already in place to preserve and protect our County’s abundant natural resources.

The effort to secure dark sky certification for Marin County already has received extensive media coverage; articles detailing the intent of the initiative have appeared in the Point Reyes Light, the Marin Independent Journal, the San Francisco Chronicle, editions of both the New York and Los Angeles Times, and Esquire Magazine. Features have also been broadcast on Bay Area television and radio, including ABC and KQED’s Forum. Meanwhile, local events to educate the public on the value of dark skies are on-going under auspices of Dark Sky West Marin.

The benefits of preserving the dark sky as a natural resource include: better sleep for citizens; support for wildlife attuned to the dark; and, energy savings in both private and public sectors. We understand that funding to implement a County lighting ordinance compliant with the guidelines set forth by the IDSA has been a barrier. We believe, however, that the costs for an ordinance and its implementation can be minimized by: adopting ordinances already in use elsewhere (from IDSA and other Dark Sky communities); realizing long-term energy savings to the County; and minimizing enforcement costs by only enforcing complaints from citizens.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to establish dark skies as a priority for funding, and support a county-wide lighting ordinance compliant with requirements per IDSA. With light pollution increasing at the rate of 10% per year, the time for informed action is upon us. Thank you for your time and earnest consideration.

Very truly yours,

Jennifer Blackman
General Manager