

Issues Related to Proposed Lighting Installation

At the meeting held on 1/22/11 at the Crowell Public Library – Thornton Room, it became apparent that one of the concerns is that the Foundation comply with the City of San Marino (“City”) Residential Lighting requirements for External Recreational Court lighting found in the City’s Municipal Code (“Code”) at Chapter 23.02.06 entitled Exterior Recreational Court Lighting as this would be more agreeable to the immediate neighbors.

Proposed Lighting Installation – Design of Installation

The City reached out to the Foundation to receive its feedback as well as feedback from the proposed lighting expert as to suggested requirements for installation if lighting for the tennis courts at the tennis facility was going to be capable of being approved by the City. In accordance those discussions, the City directed a lighting study under the following guidelines for the installation prior to the City Council’s decision on 1/12/11:

There will be a total of 24 fixtures on 16 poles. Located on top of the poles at a height of 22 ft each fixture will contain a 1000 watt metal halide lamp that will produce a white light suitable for tennis. Each fixture shall provide light for no less than 900 sq ft of court space. Each court can be lit between the hours of 7am and 10pm.

The proposed installation comports with the Code residential code for exterior recreational court lighting except the 22 foot fixture height. This exception was recommended by the lighting manufacturer to minimize any potential reflected light impacts.

The 22 foot height of the fixtures was derived from the reduced amount of reflective light observed from the court surface. The fixtures and corresponding light shields limit direct light source effects to less than 5 feet from the property line, consistent with the Code. In the computer model of the lit courts the direct light effects are limited to the access road and paths that surround the courts. This means the bulbs and direct fixture lighting will not be observable beyond these boundaries.

The reflected light, that is, light coming mainly off the court surface is more intrusive. To minimize the potential impacts of this reflective light a height of 22 feet was selected because at that height the installation would create less concentrated light at the court surface which in turn creates less reflective light.

Although this proposed installation height is beyond the residential limit as set forth in the Code, the City Park is not limited to residential requirements and the stated goal of the proposed installation was to reduce the impact of nighttime tennis on neighbors adjacent to the tennis facility.

Summary of Lighting Report

The following is a summary of the lighting report approved by the City for lighting the courts in Lacy Park. The study does not account for the foliage either at the Park or on the neighbor's property as it is impossible to enter these obstructions into the report since the consultant did not have access to neighbor's property and cannot change the report for each property's characteristics. The effects listed are ignoring foliage and using direct line of sight, a most affected case scenario:

Someone standing at Virginia Road and the courts would see approximately 1 foot candle of light. That is a distance of 75 feet and an elevation of 25 feet from the courts. One foot candle is equivalent to twilight. At the properties above Virginia Road the light level diminishes to 0.1 foot candles, a distance of 125 feet and an elevation of 100 feet. This level of light, 0.1 foot candles, is deep twilight, and is considered not discernable. With the addition of the foliage both in the Park and on the neighbors' properties these non discernable effects are reduced further.

The Foundation expects that the proposed lighting installation will meet or exceed all Code requirements for Residential exterior court lighting excepting the height of the fixtures. Moving the installation height to the Code requirement of "eighteen feet (18') from the court surface" will actually increase the reflective light, although the reflective light impact on the neighbors would be still be of minimal impact. This proposed variance from the residential requirement contained in the Code would increase the ability of the Foundation to meet the goal of reducing the impact on the neighbors adjacent to the facility.

Thank you,

SMTF