

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

APRIL 9, 2024

RECOGNITION OF DARKSKY-LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHAPTER

International Dark Sky Week is a global initiative aimed at increasing awareness on the issue of light pollution, advocating for solutions, and celebrating the beauty of natural darkness. Originally envisioned by Jennifer Barlow in 2003, now spearheaded by DarkSky International, this annual event seeks to safeguard the night sky and cultivate an appreciation for its importance in our lives.

The draw of the natural night sky extends far and wide, captivating the imaginations of individuals of all ages and backgrounds. From the tranquil expanses of the high desert in North Los Angeles County's Antelope Valley to the mountain passes, and the pristine wilderness of the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains, our region boasts diverse landscapes where the night sky serves as a source of wonder and inspiration.

Yet, amidst this natural beauty, light pollution casts a shadow, disrupting ecosystems, affecting human health, and obscuring the celestial wonders above. Research highlights the adverse impacts of light pollution on our well-being, from disrupting circadian rhythms to exacerbating sleep disorders and depression.

In acknowledging these challenges, Los Angeles County has taken proactive steps to address light pollution, including the establishment of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District (ROLD) in 2012. This initiative aims to preserve dark skies in rural areas, fostering environments where both people and wildlife can thrive under the cover of natural darkness. The preservation of dark skies is vital for iconic landmarks like the Griffith Observatory and Mount Wilson Observatory, which play pivotal roles in scientific education and discovery. Moreover, our parks and natural habitats provide refuge for a diverse array of nocturnal wildlife species, whose existence relies on the sanctity of the night environment.

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The leadership of the DarkSky-Los Angeles County Chapter has augmented the efforts of both local government and philanthropy and set an example for light pollution mitigation efforts, serving as a beacon for preservation of dark skies across the county. DarkSky International and DarkSky-Los Angeles County Chapter stand at the forefront of the battle against light pollution, offering education, resources, and solutions to safeguard our dark sky heritage and promote responsible outdoor lighting practices.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Recognize DarkSky-Los Angeles County Chapter for their contributions in promoting International Dark Sky Week in Los Angeles County, raising awareness, and fostering support for the preservation of our precious dark sky resources, ensuring that future generations can continue to marvel at the splendor of the night sky.

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