

Council Meeting Staff Report

May 1, 2018

Agenda No.:	C.
Indexes (Council Goals):	2018 Council Goal – Economic Vitality – Promote vitality in our neighborhood and downtown areas and eliminate blight in Los Alamos and White Rock as part of an overall property maintenance and beautification effort.
Presenters:	Philo Shelton; Eric Martinez
Legislative File:	10449-18

Title

Council Designation of Roadway Lighting Design Categories for roadways within Tract A-19, Mirador Subdivision

Recommended Motion

I move that Council designate Roadway Lighting Design Categories for roadways within the Mirador Subdivision as follows: La Vista Drive between NM 4 and Mirador Boulevard and Mirador Boulevard between NM 4 and the western lot line of commercial Tract D, shall be designated as RLDC-5, Continuously Lighted Roadway; Mirador Boulevard between the western lot line of commercial Tract D and Cadena Loop, Confianza Street, and Cadena Loop shall be designated as RLDC-4, Roadway with Lighted Intersections and Partial Lighting.

County Manager's Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that Council approve this motion as requested.

Board, Commission or Committee Recommendation

On April 11, 2018, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the Final Subdivision Plat for the Mirador Subdivision, a development containing 161 single-family residential lots and a 2.26 acre commercial lot within Tract A-19 in White Rock. All new roadways within the development as shown in Attachment A will be dedicated to the County.

Body

In accordance with County Code Chapter 16, the Roadway Lighting Design Category (RLDC) for a roadway shall be determined by Council upon advice of the County Engineer. The County Engineer's RLDC category recommendation for a given roadway, or portion thereof, shall occur only after a study of local conditions and shall take into account the community lighting goals stated in section 16-276(e), which states in part, "Recognizing that outdoor lighting is an important component of the nighttime ambiance of the community and acknowledging that the night skies are a valuable natural resource which should be protected, the community lighting goals shall be to keep outdoor lighting to a safe minimum and to eliminate or reduce to the maximum extent feasible, light pollution and light trespass..." A copy of Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Chapter 16, Article VII, Section 16-276 pertaining to Outdoor Lighting is attached for reference (Attachment B).

It is important to note that the RLDC addresses *roadway safety*, not aesthetics. All roadway lighting fixtures shall be LED and shall meet or exceed NM Night Sky Protection Act requirements.

Based upon an evaluation of local conditions of existing nearby collector and local streets adjacent to the development (i.e. Sherwood Blvd. and La Vista Subdivision south of NM 4) and the interest in pedestrian safety expressed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, the County Engineer is recommending that Council designate the following streets within the development as follows:

RLDC-5 Continuously Lighted Roadway for La Vista Drive between NM 4 and Mirador Boulevard;

and Mirador Boulevard between NM 4 and the western lot line of commercial Tract D. Both roadways function as collector streets containing sidewalks and bike lanes.

RLDC-4 Roadway with Lighted Intersections and Partial Lighting (at points of road curvatures) for Mirador Boulevard between the western lot line of commercial Tract D and Cadena Loop, Confianza Street, and Cadena Loop. All roadways function as residential local streets with on-street parking and sidewalks.

Council should note that in addition to the recommended roadway lighting, the design of the of street lighting within the designated RLDC-5 collector streets above will include the White Rock commercial light standard utilized on Sherwood Boulevard adjacent to the White Rock Library. This design was chosen in response to streetscape recommendations discussed in the White Rock Center Master Plan/Economic Development Strategy, which Council adopted in June 2008.

..Alternatives

Council may prefer a different RLDC for this corridor. The RLDC options are:

RLDC-1 Unlighted Roadway;

RLDC-2 Roadway with Partial Lighting;

RLDC-3 Roadway with Lighted Intersections;

RLDC-4 Roadway with Lighted Intersections and Partial Lighting Between Intersections; and,

RLDC-5 Continuously Lighted Roadway.

Fiscal and Staff Impact/Planned Item

Once Council designates Roadway Lighting Design Categories, the developer will continue with design. Costs for the lighting fixtures are the responsibility of the developer yet once the street infrastructure is completed and dedicated to the County, the ongoing costs of electricity and maintenance will be the burden of the County.

Attachments

A - Mirador Subdivision Street Map

B - Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Chapter 16, Article VII, Section 16-276 pertaining to Outdoor Lighting