Planning Commission Discussion
October 13, 2014

Outdoor Lighting/Dark Skies

Statement of need

- Outdoor lighting can
  - Create visual distractions and cause momentary blindness

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- Outdoor lighting can
  - Spillover onto adjacent properties

Statement of need

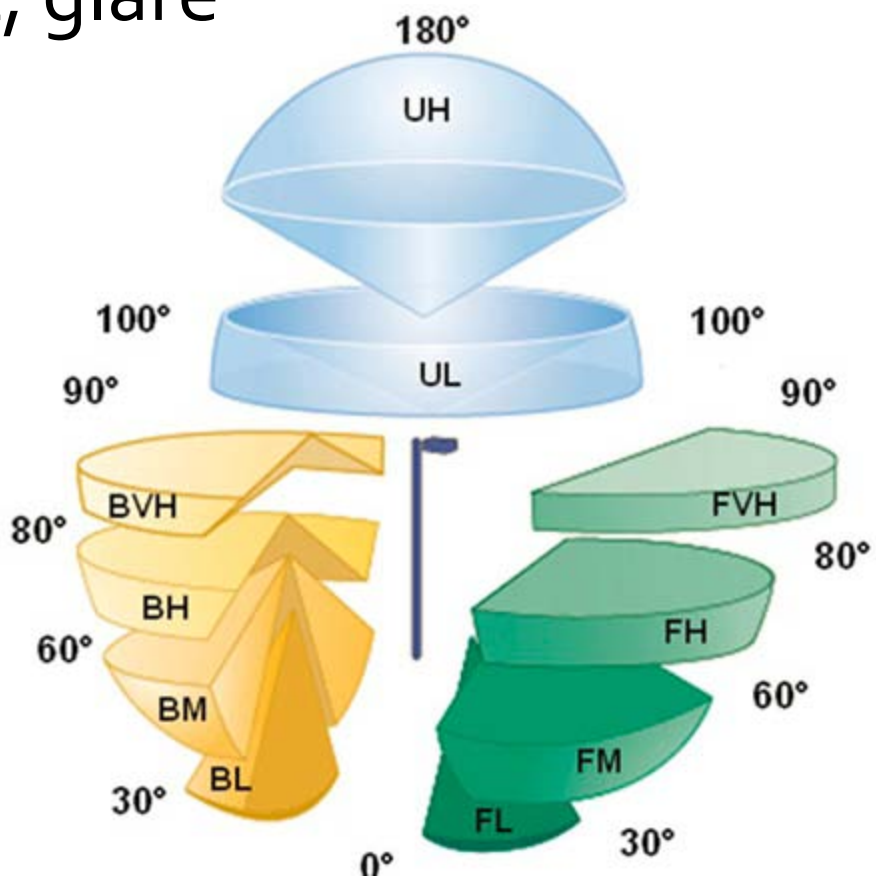
- Outdoor lighting can
  - Degrade views of night sky and community character, and harm nocturnal animals

Statement of need

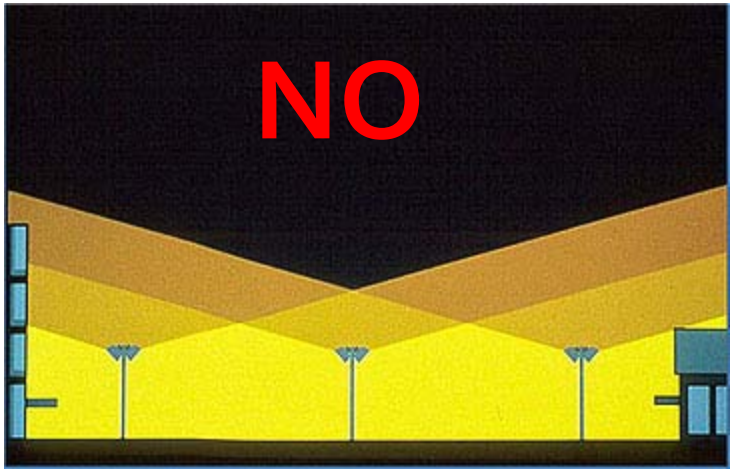
- To establish standards for outdoor lighting that
  - Reduce unnecessary ambient light that impairs unobstructed viewing of the night sky
  - Promote that is consistent with Phoenix's identity as a small town
  - Eliminate outdoor lighting that creates unsafe conditions for motorists

Things to consider

- Backlight, uplight, glare



Things to consider



Current standards

- 2.4.4 C-H zone, architectural guidelines and standards:

  B. Lighting. *Project lighting shall be provided for security reasons. Fixture types shall be down mounted or shielded when located adjacent to residential development.*

  F. Parking lot lighting. *Parking lot lighting shall be provided for parking lots containing more than 10 spaces. The light fixtures shall be designed to light the parking area using down-mounted, low profile light fixtures. Parking lots with more than 10 vehicle parking spaces shall also include low profile lighting of pedestrian walkways and bicycle parking areas.*

Current standards

- 2.4.5 C-H zone, special standards:

  F. Parking lot lighting. *Parking lot lighting shall be provided for parking lots containing more than 10 spaces. The light fixtures shall be designed to light the parking area using down-mounted, low profile light fixtures. Parking lots with more than 10 vehicle parking spaces shall also include low profile lighting of pedestrian walkways and bicycle parking areas.*

Current standards

- 2.5.9 Industrial design standards:

E. Outdoor Lighting. *Building-mounted lighting and aerial-mounted floodlighting shall be shielded from above in such a manner that the bottom edge of the shield shall be below the light source. Ground-mounted floodlighting or light projection above the horizontal plane is prohibited between midnight and sunrise. All lighting shall be shielded so that the direct illumination shall be confined to the property boundaries of the light source.*

Current standards

- 3.2.3 Design standards, access & circulation:

A.4. Pathways shall have adequate lighting for safety purposes. The City may require lighting as a condition of development review.

- 3.6.3 Definitions and calculation standards

C.2. Glare reduction. No sign may be illuminated or use lighting where such lighting is directed at any portion of a traveled street or will otherwise cause glare or impair the vision of the driver of a motor vehicle or otherwise interfere with the operation thereof.

Current standards

- No standards for …
  - Maximum illumination
  - Size and scale of luminaires and armatures
  - No standards for "unusual" or complex lighting applications like sports stadiums

Draft standards

- Draft ordinance is produced by IES and IDO, allows flexibility, based on science
- 2 methods
- Could consider a 3rd solely on estimated modeled performance

Draft standards

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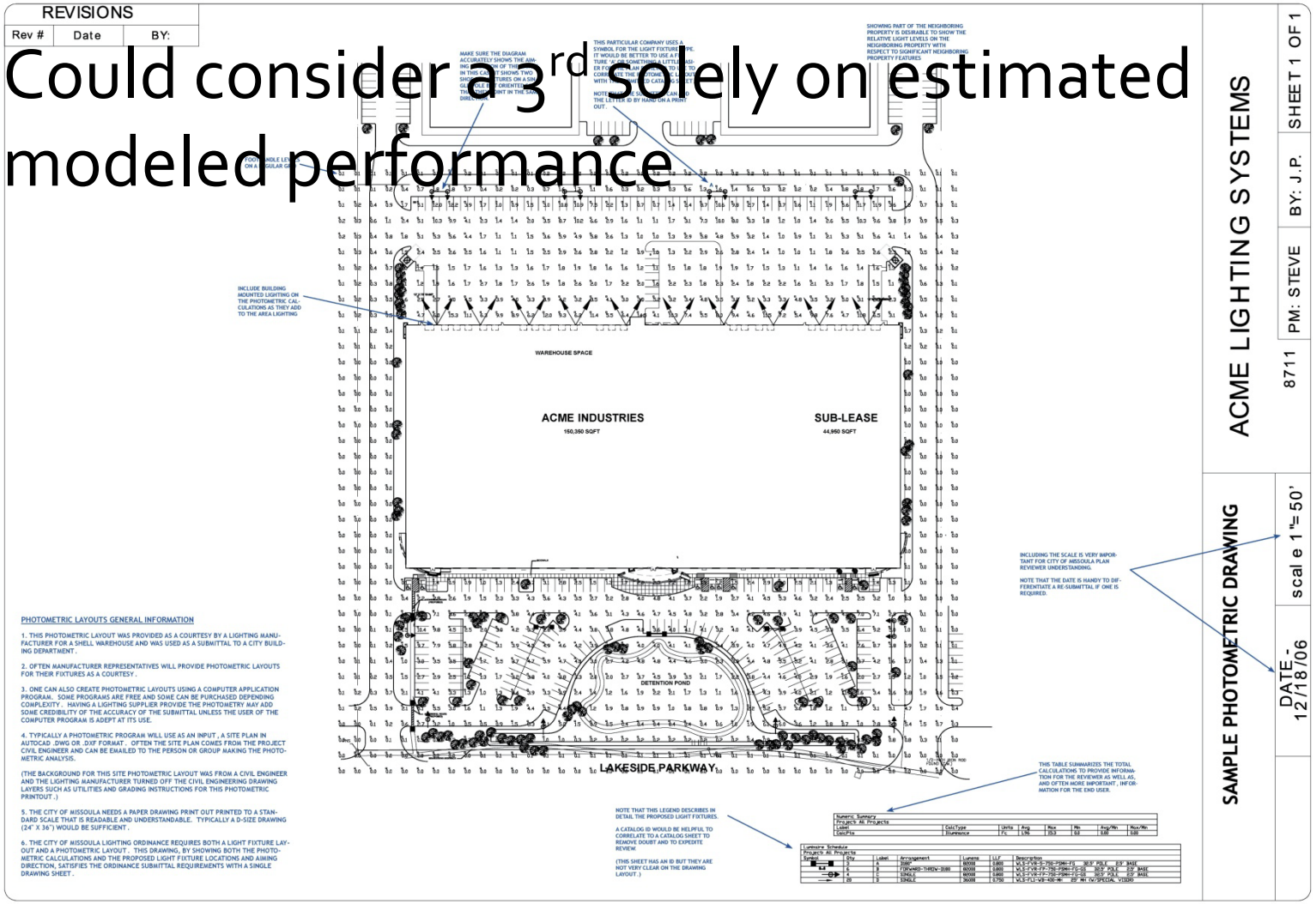

Next steps

- Public hearings