Dark Sky Committee:

The committee is composed of Denise Buchan and Rich Bieling

The current Outdoor Lighting Code (OLC) code is circa 2012 with a 2025 redline non approved code pending ratification. The 2025 code for residential areas is essentially unchanged for our purposes.

Pima County, Arizona, has a long-standing "Dark Sky Initiative" rooted in its status as a world leader in astronomy. The county and the City of Tucson first adopted outdoor lighting ordinances in 1972 to protect the visibility of the night sky for nearby astronomical observatories like Kitt Peak and Mount Hopkins.

Current Outdoor Lighting Code (OLC)

The Outdoor Lighting Code applies to all unincorporated areas of Pima County and the City of Tucson. Its primary goals are to minimize light pollution, reduce energy waste, and support the local astronomy industry.

- **Shielding Requirements:** Most outdoor fixtures must be fully shielded (directed downward) to prevent "sky glow" and light trespass onto neighboring properties.
- **Color Temperature:** The code encourages or requires warm lamps (amber color) with a correlated color temperature (CCT) of **3000K or below** to reduce blue light emissions.
- **Lumens: 550 lumens or lower** per fixture (approx. 40W incandescent) for up to 4 fixtures
- **Lighting Areas:** The county is divided into "Lighting Areas" based on proximity to observatories. Green Valley is in one of the most restrictive zones (E1a/E1b) because it is within 25 miles of the Mount Hopkins observatory.
- **The Flag of the United States** night time illumination shall be a pole-top, downward illuminating light fixture.
- **Curfew Requirements:** sign lighting shall be extinguished between 11:00PM and sunrise the following day, controlled by a time clock

Currently we have a few issues that are in violation of the Outdoor Lighting Code (OLC).

1. The monument has non shielded lighting and an upward facing light that is used to illuminate the flag of the United States. The decorative lanterns on the monument cast light in all directions and are not in compliance with OLC.

2. The second issue is the original FairField outdoor wall sconce on each house that does not meet the OLC requirement of downward illumination without modification. Some homeowners have already taken action to comply. Secondarily, numerous light bulbs used in those wall fixtures are not compliant with the 3000K or lower color temperature and 550 or lower lumen output.

The committee is looking at a few options to make our HOA more compliant with OLC.

- Purchase a downward solar powered LED light fixture for the flag pole
- Remove the spot lights that are upward facing and replace them with downward illuminating LED fixtures. (The monument at Canoa Ranch Northwest at Calles Tres and Camino Del Sol has this style of fixture).
- Remove the noncompliant decorative lanterns on the monument wall or consider OLC compliant replacements.
- Home owners need to purchase the correct LED bulb for the wall sconce (550 Lumens and 3000K temperature, or lower, when replacing the bulb for the fixture
- In addition, home owners can paint the inside of the glass of the outdoor wall sconce to only cast light downward, illuminating the house number, 1465 W Camino de la Oca and 3587 S Via de la Grulla have done this.

We will be working on getting submittals for the next few weeks to present to the board and Architecture committee for opinions and the next steps.