

Isla Vista Preliminary Lighting Expansion Plan

Authored by:



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Body:	Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors
Staff preparing:	Jonathan Abboud, General Manager
Agenda item title:	Preliminary Lighting Expansion Plan
Agenda action:	Preliminary Approval

Background: Beginning during the District’s formation process in 2015 lighting has been identified as a chief need in the community to improve public safety. After the District formed, a survey titled “Better IV for You and Me” was conducted from November 2017 - January 2018 to assess the community’s priorities for a revenue measure. Lighting again rose to the top as one of the highest needs, with 37% of respondents listing it as one of the top 3 needs in Isla Vista. Staff and volunteers then performed a lighting survey in May 2018 to assess the direct lighting needs in neighborhoods around Isla Vista, followed by a similar study by Associated Students in the fall. Throughout the summer and fall of 2018 the Board also heard presentations from CSA 31 and County of Santa Barbara Public Works regarding current funding, lighting plans, and operations. Staff, President Brandt, and Associated Students worked together to analyze the results of the studies and put together this lighting expansion plan to meet the needs identified by the community for improved pedestrian focused lighting to ensure public safety.

Summary: This report details robust community support for an expansion of lighting in Isla Vista. Using data from the two lighting walks done in the past year and a lighting map produced by CSA 31, we identified specific and tangible recommendations to improve lighting for pedestrians and make Isla Vista safer by amplifying current lights and infilling gaps with new light fixtures.

Recommended Action:

1. Approve the Preliminary Isla Vista Lighting Expansion Plan.
2. Direct staff to conduct a community engagement process and work with the County to develop a final plan for board approval.

To Representatives and Members of the Isla Vista Community,

The Office of the External Vice President of Local Affairs (EVPLA) of the Associated Students of UC Santa Barbara (UCSB), in conjunction with UCSB Lobby Corps, conducted a study of lighting conditions in Isla Vista in September 2018. The results of this study indicate that the Isla Vista community is in great need of additional streetlights, streetlight maintenance, and other necessary lighting improvements that should be part of a comprehensive lighting plan. The current status of lighting in Isla Vista jeopardizes the safety and the sense of security for Isla Vista residents. The persistence of this problem is alarming and merits immediate action on behalf of the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) and the County of Santa Barbara.

As the elected voice of the students of UCSB, the External Vice President for Local Affairs is responsible for advocating for students and community members on issues involving Isla Vista and the County of Santa Barbara. The problem of inadequate lighting is an issue that students have repeatedly brought to the EVPLA office as a priority. We see it as both our responsibility and our privilege to serve students by creating this report and working to create a more safe, cohesive, and beautiful Isla Vista.

Studies documenting the multitude of issues surrounding lighting in Isla Vista stretch back several years. In 2013, motivated community residents conducted their own lighting report. Substantial improvements in the number and quality of streetlights have been made due to their efforts. Building off of this work, the Isla Vista Community Services district conducted their own lighting walk in Spring of 2018. Many of the same issues correspond to the 2013 report. Importantly, Santa Barbara County made significant progress in addressing the lighting issue. Due to their efforts, the streets of Del Playa and Sabado Tarde were retrofitted with 130 watt bulbs stretching the length of the streets. This has substantially improved visibility and the sense of security Isla Vista residents seek, especially on weekend nights. However, room for substantial improvement still exists. We understand the current lighting amount meets the minimum lighting requirements for IV as determined by the County. However, the bare minimum is not enough. Students feel unsafe at night due to inadequate lighting. The majority of residents walk or bike in Isla Vista; therefore, street lighting must be prepared for foot traffic rather than car traffic. This is an issue that Associated Students Senators and Executives put on their platform year after year. Even students with no formal leadership roles will frequently post petitions on the UCSB "Free and For Sale" Facebook page in hopes of bettering lighting conditions. It is evident that residents want a change. It is time to take action.

In the September walkthrough and community survey conducted by the EVPLA office and UCSB Lobby Corps, several residents expressed uneasiness in regard to the lighting problems of Isla Vista. When asked if lighting in Isla Vista was an issue, one respondent remarked that "many of my friends are scared to bike home to streets like Picasso or Abrego" due to the lack of properly maintained lighting. A respondent even reported that they chose to

live at their respective address “specifically for the fear of safety” that is a concern due to dismal amount of lighting in parts of our community. Our community has spoken. The problem of lighting restricts movement, eliminates potential places of residence, and is a detriment to the quality of life of members of our community. The consequences of delaying action on the lighting issue are far too great to be ignored.

For these reasons, we strongly recommend that the Isla Vista Community Services District take immediate action to address the issues elaborated throughout this report as a part of a comprehensive long-term lighting plan for Isla Vista. This plan should be created with input from community members, the County of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, the UC Police Department, business owners, long term residents, and other groups that are impacted by the Isla Vista lighting. We hope that the data from this study will be used to create a plan that sufficiently fulfills safety requirements, environmental mandates, and centers community needs in order to resolve the lighting issue for all Isla Vista residents.

Sincerely,

Tom Steel
Lobby Corps Co-Director

Jeike Meijer
External Vice President for Local Affairs

Alex Young
AS CSD Coordinator

Letters to County of Santa Barbara and IVCSB Board

Dear IVCSB Board,

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Isla Vista Foot Patrol is responsible for the safety of all Isla Vista residents and visitors. One way of making Isla Vista a safer place to be is ensure there is ample lighting. The primary purpose of the street lighting is to produce safe and comfortable vision during the night on public streets and sidewalks. Good lighting promotes personal safety and security. In most people's minds, there is a simple and direct relationship between lighting and crime.

Simply put, Criminals hate light! Better lighting will deter offenders who benefit from the cover of darkness. Improved lighting means that offenders are more likely to be seen by someone who might intervene, call law enforcement, or recognize the offender. This additional lighting is a huge win for Isla Vista and is going to result in a safer environment for everyone.

Thank you,

Lt. Juan Camarena

Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, Isla Vista Foot Patrol

Dear IVCSB Board,

As the Chief Law Enforcement Official for Santa Barbara County as well as a proud Gaucho and former IV resident, I strongly support your lighting expansion plan. I believe such a plan will make Isla Vista safer for all.

Respectfully,

Joyce E. Dudley

District Attorney Santa Barbara County

Dear County of Santa Barbara and IVCSB Board,

My name is Emily. I am a fourth-year resident of Isla Vista, CA and I believe our community deserves adequate lighting.

Both myself and my friends have spent many nights walking home alone in the pitch dark, especially around the 68 blocks of Isla Vista. During these moments, I feel unsafe. I am forced to walk quickly and I have spent many walks on the phone with friends in order to experience even a small amount of security. We deserve to feel safe while walking the streets of our very own community— a community which is dependent on the Santa Barbara County's implementation of adequate infrastructure. Thus, it is the responsibility of the county to ensure that these infrastructures are produced and I ask that the Santa Barbara County highly prioritize the improvement of lighting conditions in Isla Vista.

Sincerely,
Emily Montalvo-Telford
President & Director of Students Against Sexual Assault
Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara and IVCSB Board,

My name is Brooke Kopel and I am the President of the Associated Students of the University of California, Santa Barbara. I have spent the last three years as both a resident of Isla Vista and as a student leader. Each and every year, I hear grievances from students about the lack of lighting in Isla Vista, and how this contributes to a general feeling of insecurity when walking the streets at night.

Attending UCSB and living in Isla Vista are almost one in the same. There is no UCSB without Isla Vista, and vice versa. An individual's experiences at UCSB are heavily impacted by their experiences in Isla Vista. First and foremost, students attend this academic institution in order to receive a valuable and quality education. As a result of the interconnectedness of UCSB and Isla Vista, students' education is influenced by the unsafe environment they feel in Isla Vista due to a lack of lighting. Students do not feel safe staying late at the library because they do not want to risk walking home alone through dark, unlit streets. A student's decision to study in the most productive space offered by the University should not be negatively impacted because of the insecurity they feel to commute to campus. Fundamentally, students' academic success should never be inhibited by a fear of danger, especially a danger that is as easily fixable as adding more street lamps to the streets of Isla Vista.

It is the responsibility of the County of Santa Barbara to provide adequate lighting infrastructure in order to make its residents feel safe and secure. A safe and secure Isla Vista is a better Isla Vista for everyone. I implore the County of Santa Barbara to not only invest funding into improving the lighting in Isla Vista, but also to dedicate themselves to the overall safety of UCSB students and all Isla Vista residents.

Sincerely,

Brooke Kopel
2018-2019 President, Associated Students of the University of California, Santa Barbara
Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

My name is Ashriful Dulla and I am an undergrad at UCSB.

I am writing to you to urge you to put lights up in the Isla Vista community. Particularly the 67 block of Sueno Road. From experience, I can say that skating around in the dark is a hazard when looking out for cars or other moving objects. It also brings about a general anxiety when

driving around in a car. Isla Vista has a huge student population that navigate the streets. There is no reason it should be this dark for the people riding bikes, skating, or driving around.

I want better lighting. Not just for me, I have been here for four years. I understand what this community needs. We need infrastructure that has our pedestrian population in mind. I want this change to happen for the students and community members to come after me. I deserved better, they deserve better, so I urge you to do better.

Sincerely,

Ashriful Dulla

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

Ayo, wassup. I'm a fourth-year student at UCSB who has lived in Isla Vista for nearly the three years. Over these past years, the poor lighting in IV has made me feel unsafe while walking at night and has restricted my mobility.

As someone trying to live a healthier lifestyle, I like to run outside. My schedule is typically busy and makes it difficult to run during daytime hours. The one time I ran alone at night, the little street lighting made me feel uncomfortable and caused me to constantly look over my shoulder to make sure I wasn't being followed. I shouldn't feel the need to run with my key in between my fingers or turn on "find my friends" in order to feel safe in IV's streets.

Our current standards do not meet community needs. The basic standards for the county may be met, but the community's is not. Do better and provide the necessary lighting for pedestrians.

Sincerely,

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

Hi I'm 4th year UCSB student. I had a friend get jumped by a man who came out of the bushes in IV. Fortunately my friend happened to escape because she had a pocket knife with her, but regardless, things like this stay with you. How is a person's life less valuable than lights put up in IV?

This does not fix the issue, but it definitely reduces potential attacks. I strongly believe that the county should be held, in part, responsible for these attacks and therefore I ask for the county to provide more lights for the Isla Vista community.

Sincerely,

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

I am a fourth year UCSB student who is concerned about the lack of lighting in Isla Vista.

There are many times over the past four years that I have felt unsafe while walking in Isla Vista at night. Specifically, towards the end of Del Playa and all along the 68 block. There have been times that I have had to call a friend while walking so that they could help me get home safe and I have even purchased a can of pepper spray in case I need to protect myself. I've been fortunate to not have anything bad happen to me, but the constant UCSB emails about people getting robbed or even physically injured in poorly lit areas of Isla Vista is alarming. I wish that more street lights would be installed so that the amount of these crimes would decrease and residents of IV could feel like they are safer.

I think that it is the responsibility of the County of Santa Barbara to provide adequate infrastructure in IV so that residents feel safe at night. Please prioritize this endeavor, as it will vastly improve the security of our community.

Sincerely,

Patxy Cordova

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

My name is Claudia Okuniewski, I am a 4th year Global Studies and Religious Studies double major at UCSB. As a student advocate and working within Associated Students, I have heard countless stories regarding the unfortunate lighting we have here in Isla Vista, some of which hit extremely to home.

On April 7, 2018 at around 12AM, my best friend and roommate experienced a serious collision while riding her bike. As she was making a right turn off of Trigo Road onto Camino Corto, a car failed to see her and Jenny sustained extremely serious injuries. Her face and head were the first points of impact, resulting in broken cheek bones, nose, and several breaks in her jaw. Due to these injuries, she underwent surgery, was hospitalized for three days, and had to take off two weeks of school. Her jaw was wired shut for 8 weeks, all of this due to lack of proper lighting and negligence on such corners. After witnessing such events and the repercussions of something that could have been avoided entirely, I feel I have to be hyper aware of drivers seeing me as I am biking or walking across streets.

With this, there is also the additional fear of being a woman walking alone on dimly lit streets. I frequently am left with the choice to walk home alone from a friends house at night, and most times I will choose to sleep at a house that isn't my own instead of taking that kind of risk. Hearing about constant sexual assault cases which take place in our community is completely disheartening, and implements a level of fear of being taken advantage or abducted. I know many of my friends who are women share these same sentiments. Needless to say, I feel unsafe on a day to day basis being an Isla Vista resident on these atrociously dark streets for many reasons.

It is absolutely the responsibility of the government to provide adequate infrastructure for Isla Vista residents to feel safe at night. This is a neighborhood dominated by bike riders and I hear about accidents such as these too frequently. Santa Barbara County, please take action on providing more lighting in IV.

Sincerely,

Claudia Okuniewski

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

Hello! My name is Karla and lighting is important to me because anything can happen.

One night specifically resonates with me. I was at a friends house about a 10 minute walk from my apartment. At the time my bike had a really huge flat and I just never had gotten around to it getting fixed. I got there around 10:30-11 maybe, it was a weekday from what I remember. It was my friends housemates birthday and some of us showed up at midnight to wish her a happy birthday. I didn't plan on drinking because I had class early the next day and I was planning on going home early too. It was almost one and I planned on being home around 1. I started to say goodbye to everyone and telling everyone I was leaving. I got caught up in a conversation with my friend and ended up staying like 20ish more minutes then I planned on. My boyfriend had class early also the next day so I denied his offers to walk me home. He reluctantly told me okay but he wanted to know when I got home and I denied all other offers on getting walked home. I leave and start to make my walk home, it was late there was no one in IV at that time on this particular day. It was very empty but I walked around IV all the time around this time. I didn't think anything of it, I wasn't scared. I should of been. I got to the end of pardal and there was a guy trying to get my attention that made me feel uncomfortable but not super unsafe. I got home, texted everyone I was home and went to sleep. I don't remember times exactly but let's say I left my friend house around 1:20 and it's a 10 minute walk home, I arrived around 1:30. I was planning on leaving at 12:50ish because I wanted to be home around 1ish. I would of been home around 1-1:10.

The next day I find out that on the same route I used to walk home a girl was assaulted by a man hiding in the dark. The man supposedly hid until someone walked by. The women sadly was assaulted around 1:15-1:20.

I didn't think anything of it until, I realized that if I would of left when I planned... that would of been me. If I didn't lose track of those 20 minutes, I would of reached the man first. I would of reached him 5 minutes before she did. I also kept insisting that I had to leave and in the last minute got very into a conversation. Even tho nothing had happened to me it, it would of. Leaving 20 minute late saved me from trauma, assault, and attempt of rape. I was only a couple minutes away when it happened and had no realization when I walked past the scene. The dark gave a man a way to hide and wait for a victim.

I read all these stories about IV and never really thought it would ever happen to me until that night. If I would of started walking even 5 minutes earlier that would of been me. I also sometimes think that if I would of been a little early I could of helped her. That day I realized that all these stories we hear are not things we should take lightly. Basically a couple minutes saved me, but I had no way of knowing. A lot of people don't know what will happen on their way home. If the area I walked home in would of been lit maybe he wouldn't have waited in the shadows. Maybe he wouldn't have done it at all.

To this day I will never get over that I was minutes away from my life completely changing. I wish that it wouldn't have happened to anyone that night or I wish I would of been close enough to help. I also sometimes think that maybe the guy trying to get my attention on pardal could of been the perpetrator but being on pardal was too lit up or thought there was cameras... I don't know. There is millions of scenarios that ran through my head that day. After that I don't deny anyone ever walking me home and I bike everywhere. The main point is it could of been me, it could of been anyone!

Don't give people an opportunity to hide in the shadows to wait for victims!!!!!!!

It needs to be fixed. Less lights would be less incidents. Something needs to be done! I'm sad that I had to get this close to realize that nobody is really safe and less in the dark.

Sincerely,

Karla Ramos

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

I am currently a resident of Isla Vista and have been for about four years now. I and many others have taken notice of the lack of lighting in our community. Most of us who live here are young adult college students, and some are families with young children. We feel unsafe going out at night due to the lack of lighting. Students who have late classes cling to their belongings while walking to campus or waiting at the bus stop. Families limit their activity to daylight hours, which are, as we know, limited by the winter season and daylight savings.

It is easier for crimes to happen in the dark. I have personally felt unsafe while walking home from work, following the closest streetlights, which are dim, in order to get home. It is now, sadly, a part of IV culture to tell your friends "be safe" as they head out the door into the night. It is also common for Isla Vistans to call a friend or at least pretend they are on the phone while walking out at night to attempt to ward off any harassers or criminals. I am always on edge when walking at night, and feel I must be hyper-aware of my surroundings, even if there are other people out walking as well. College students are easy targets, and criminals realize this. We are young, sometimes naive, and being a young female student, I feel especially at risk due to the imbalance of strength if I were to be assaulted. The university

sends out alerts regarding sexual assaults, and many of them tell the story of a girl walking in IV at night.

I and other Isla Vistans feel it is the responsibility of our government to provide adequate infrastructure. Citizens have the right to feel safe in their community We are asking the county to act on the issue of poor lighting in IV.

Sincerely,

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

My name is Maria Nava Palma and I'm a 3rd year student at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I am involved in my community through my role as a Peer Mentor for first generation students through the Educational Opportunity Program. I am also involved in Lambda Sigma Gamma Sorority, Incorporated as our Chapter's Historian and Commissioner of Multiculturalism. On top of that, I assist the children of Isla Vista through tutoring services at the Isla Vista Elementary School and the Isla Vista Community Resource Building.

I am writing out to express the need for lighting in Isla Vista, not only for the benefit and safety of UCSB and SBCC students, but for the families residing in Isla Vista. As students bike or walk from/to campus, they risk the threat of harm due to the lack of lighting in Isla Vista. There have already been accounts of sexual assault, in which women have been assaulted late at night, specifically near Embarcadero del Mar and Picasso Road. These situations can be prevented in many different ways, but the lack of lighting in Isla Vista is something that can effectively help address this problem right now.

Besides students, there is a big risk to the children who reside in Isla Vista and walk to or from the YMCA and the Isla Vista Elementary School. Although it is more ideal for parents to walk with them, many are not able to due to their line of work and the pressure to pay rent, feed their family and clothe themselves. These children are the ones who reside in Isla Vista longer than the students who attend the Colleges nearby, therefore it is also important for their safety that they are able to roam around Isla Vista under safe conditions.

I believe that it is the responsibility of the government to provide adequate infrastructure, i.e. lighting, for residents to feel safe. Therefore, I ask the county to act on providing more lighting in Isla Vista for the safety of the children and students who reside here.

Sincerely,

Maria Nava Palma

Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

My name is Skyler DePaoli and as a student living in Isla Vista, lighting is of extreme importance to me.

I have had to walk home from my radio show on KCSB at 4 a.m. on multiple occasions, consistently filling my water bottle in case I need to bludgeon a perpetrator in the dark, or wearing a ballcap so I don't look as much like a woman who could be perpetrated. It is beyond eerie at this time of night, with the only people still awake and on the streets being the homeless men of I.V. While I'm not assuming they are inherently violent, I have had them follow me or make comments to me.

An improvement in lighting would help students feel safer, but more importantly to allow us to sense danger before it is too late. It is absolutely the government's responsibility to ensure its citizens' safety, and this is a primary way to accomplish this. I urge you to act on my and my peers' testimonials so Isla Vista can continue to grow into the community we are collectively working towards.

Sincerely,
Skyler DePaoli
Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Dear County of Santa Barbara,

I am a fourth year Psychology major at UCSB, and this is my third year living off-campus in Isla Vista. Isla Vista does not always feel like the safest place to live. Often when I feel the least safe is when I am walking back to my apartment through IV at night, and I think adding more lighting would make me, and others like me, feel safer.

Although I can't think of specific blocks off the top of my head that need more lighting, I have walked from the 65 block to the 68 block of Trigo numerous times, and I know that there are some dark patches during which I would always clutch my keys a little tighter. As a woman, walking alone in Isla Vista at night, especially through these "dark patches", does not feel safe. Additionally, because there are not consistent sidewalks, people often walk in the street. Without proper lighting, it may be difficult for cars to see pedestrians and bicyclists, which may lead to unfortunate and preventable accidents.

I believe it is the responsibility of the government to provide adequate lighting on the streets of Isla Vista so that residents can feel safer at night, and I implore the county to take action on this issue and help provide more lighting.

Sincerely,
Sarah Allen-Sutter
Resident of Isla Vista, CA

Testimonials

Anonymous

Hey this is a reply about the lighting situation.

Obviously as a girl walking through dim or dark streets is sketchy as it is and it keeps you on edge, especially with the reports of sexual assaults that go out by SBPD and i mean it could easily be argued "just don't walk at night" but the thing is I live in Manzi and work at Portola and my dinner shift ends at 9:30pm and I'm forced to walk home because bus 27 (the only one that takes you to Manzi) stops running at 7pm. Similarly, I have a breakfast shift that starts at 6:30 so I have to leave Manzo at 5:50 to get there on time which is still really dark and creepy and seeing literally any other person walking on the same street as me will raise my anxiety because you just never know who it could be. So yes, we really need more lighting

Nathalie Politron Meza

I have had at least two bad experiences with men lurking in the dark and following at a distance through Estero park. There was a time during the summer where NONE of the lights were on, and me and my housemates had no choice but to cross through there to get to and from campus.

Bongi Makatini

my freshman year I lived at san cat and would hang out a lot with friends at manzi until late at night and was always terrified biking back through iv at night on my lil beach cruiser. I would always cut through abrego and that street is so dark all the way down from camino pescadero to camino corto and would be terrified that something would happen while getting back home. There's never been anything done to increase lighting on the end of 66 block and on and usually that's where i would get alerts about robberies, assaults, etc so I would really like to see the university take responsibility for that as many of its students live there to protect their safety.

Marissa Scofield

Hey! I would love to add about the no lighting! So the first thing is one i'm so blind at night period and clumsy so I have tripped soooo many times walking at night in IV because I just can't see lol. But also chem 1C lab fall quarter for me got out 10pm it went from 6-10. So for me it was astounding that UCSB would have a class that got out that late when they one have barely any lighting and two it isn't a secret that campus isn't safe with all of the campus warnings about sexual assaults that we get. Also I live in Tropicana del Norte and majority of my walk both to IV and to campus has no lighting. Someone could just jump out at me because I can't see. But also, when it's dark, no one can really see you.

Emma Kroencke

If I had a dollar for every time I've been flung off my board because I couldn't see a crack or rock or stick or SOMETHING in the road.... I could actually afford the tuition here.

Not to mention just how uneasy I get as a woman walking alone down the poorly lit streets.

Kimia Hadidi

The lack of lighting in iv on 66 trigo, and especially trigo-pasado Park has made me feel extremely unsafe. Most of my friends as well as myself live on the 66 block and the lack of lighting has allowed for strangers to follow me or for my male friends to feel like they need to walk me home since they worry I will not be safe. When I walk by myself I basically run.

Anais Moore

I once walked from middle of 65 sabado to 68 trigo at 4 am because i had no transportation or desire to sleep over at a guy friends house. (Some may say that was a dumb choice but i was also not comfortable being there) Probably one of the scariest experiences of my life because there isn't any lighting at the middle of sabado or at some points in Trigo. I know lighting would've made this a lot better for me because i know that when there's light there is a lesser chance of crime happening.

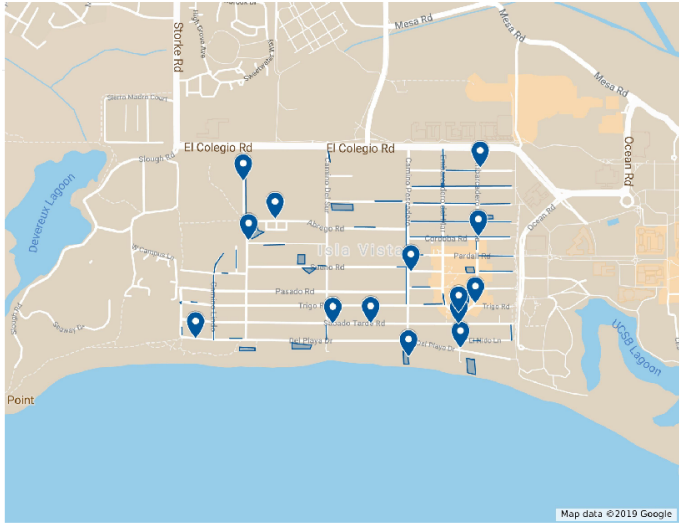
Also there is a light in the alleyway of my apartment that is hella bright. I kinda hate it because it doesn't let me sleep but I know that it probably makes someone feel safe

Anonymous

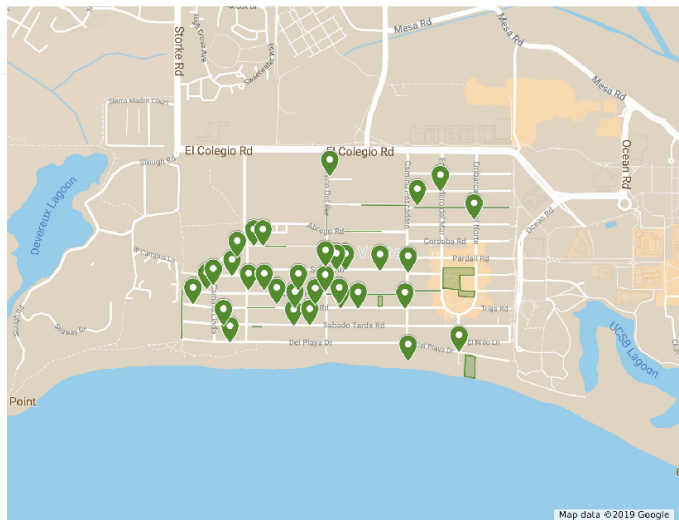
Due to inadequate lighting conditions in Isla Vista, the general population feels unsafe. Being one of those people that feels threatened by the dangerous intricacies of the night, it is time for change. The installation of street lights in Isla Vista would ignite change in the harmful behaviors of individuals that currently contribute to the crime rate for the area. It is time to feel safer in our community by brightening the place up!

Lighting Walk Data

In the Spring of 2018, IVCSA conducted a 'lighting walk' which employed volunteers to go out into Isla Vista and record data about lighting. Data collected included dark areas, broken lights, and tree coverage.



In the Fall of 2018, EVPLA conducted a follow-up 'lighting walk' to get updated and new data.

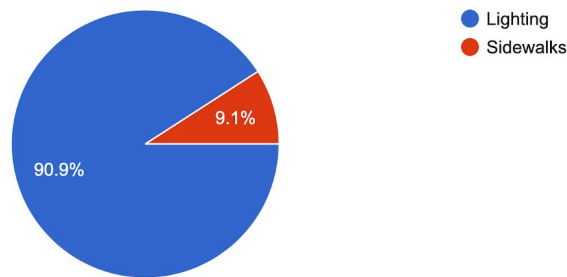


Community Priorities for Capital Investments

In January 2019, the Office of the External Vice President for Local Affairs of Associated Students began collecting community input in response to a specific question: How should improvement money designated for Isla Vista be spent given the choice between expanded sidewalks or expanded lighting? The principle was to give the community a voice in how funds designated for the IV could be spent and give local representatives and agencies the opportunity to better understand the needs of the community. 187 people responded to the survey. The results of the survey are shown below, as well as the demographics of the respondents.

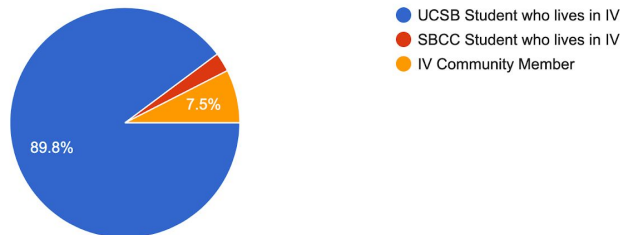
Do you want more lighting in IV or more sidewalks?

187 responses



I am a...

187 responses



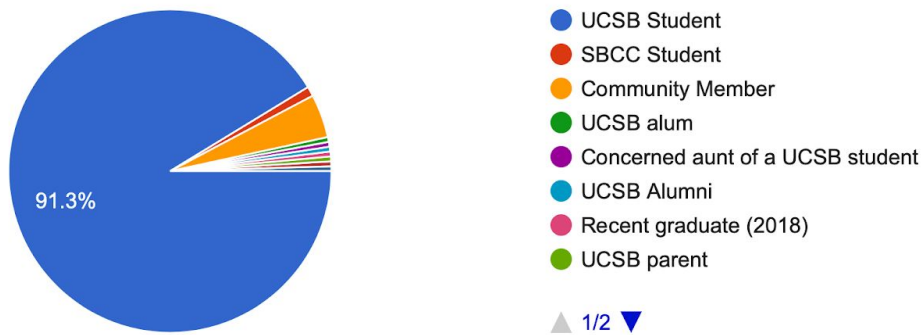
As shown above, over 90% of respondents responded that they would prefer money designated for Isla Vista improvement be used for lighting over sidewalk improvements. In addition, respondents included UCSB students, SBCC students, and IV community members.

Associated Students Petition on Isla Vista Lighting

In November 2018, the Office of the External Vice President for Local Affairs of Associated Students UCSB began collecting responses for a petition (see Appendix) asking the IVCS and County of Santa Barbara to take action on and prioritize lighting expansion and improvements in Isla Vista. The petition gained 207 signatures from UCSB students, SBCC students, IV Community Members, and other concerned and related parties. The breakdown of the characteristics of the signatories is below.

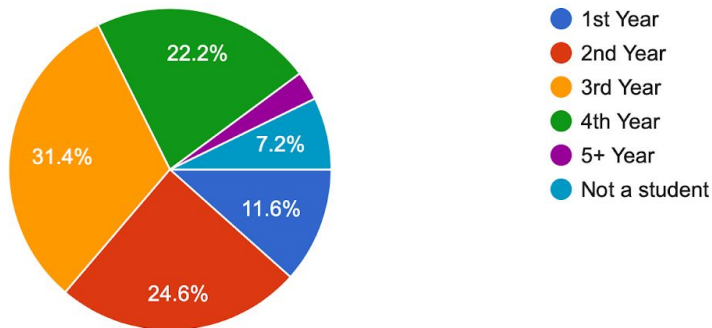
I am a...

207 responses



Grade level

207 responses



The text of the petition, as well as the list of signatories, is included in the appendix.

Solutions

After analyzing current lighting maps of Isla Vista and drawing from information gathered from testimonials and data collected from community lighting walks, we identified three types of improvements to take first steps toward expanding lighting in Isla Vista to create a more safe and secure environment for residents: wattage increases, switches from HPSV to LED, and installation of additional lighting fixtures.

I. Wattage Increases

We recommend wattages increased to the standard of 130W LED lights (*the standard for Del Playa Drive, Sabado Tarde Road, and Trigo Road for 65, 66, and 67 blocks and 66 & 67 blocks of Abrego Road*) for the 66 & 67 blocks of Pasado Road and Sueno Road; 65 & 66 blocks of Picasso Road; 65 block of Cordoba Road, Segovia Road, El Greco Road and Cervantes Road; Estero Road; and Camino Corto between Pasado Road and Abrego Road.

Recommended Wattage Increases:

- Light 1256054E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6606 Pasado Rd]
- Light 4129784E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6622 Pasado Rd]
- Light 1133751E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6640 Pasado Rd]
- Light 4365339E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6656 Pasado Rd]
- Light 1286837E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6690 Pasado Rd]
- Light 365340E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [948 Camino Del Sur]
- Light S18368Y (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6724 Pasado Rd]
- Light 644931E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6730 Pasado Rd]
- Light 1188960E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6750 Pasado Rd]
- Light 1188961E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6776 Pasado Rd]
- Light 1256611E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6634 Sueno Rd]
- Light 661334E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6652 Sueno Rd]
- Light 1286843E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6666 Sueno Rd]
- Light 1286425E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6680 Sueno Rd]
- Light 4427390E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6708 Sueno Rd]
- Light S18917Y (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6708 Sueno Rd]
- Light S18916Y (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6736 Sueno Rd]
- Light 4427391E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6764 Sueno Rd]
- Light 524927E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6778 Sueno Rd]
- Light 1664695E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6796 Sueno Rd]
- Light 1413476E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6509 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1413475E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6525 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1413474E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [796 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- Light 1608360E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [795 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- Light 4892667E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6550 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1524686E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6565 Picasso Rd]
- Light 4365341E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6586 Picasso Rd]
- Light S27875Y (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6626 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1372731E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6626 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1412802E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6656 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1412803E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6674 Picasso Rd]

- Light 1412804E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6694 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1346045E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6524 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 1346044E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6524 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 1346043E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6524 Cordoba Rd]
- No light number listed (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6548 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 1256053E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6570 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 1256052E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6570 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 1188579E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6576 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 1188582E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6595 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 1413478E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6512 Segovia Rd]
- Light 1413477E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [840 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- Light 1413604E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6552 Segovia Rd]
- No light number listed (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6555 Segovia Rd]
- Light 1413603E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [828 Embarcadero Del Mar]
- Light 1523388E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6575 Segovia Rd]
- Light 1453462E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6588 Segovia Rd]
- Light 1664962E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6504 El Greco Rd]
- Light 1413473E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6510 El Greco Rd]
- Light 1133765E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [760 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- Light 1481694E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [765 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- No light number listed (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [760 Embarcadero Del Mar]
- Light 4365342E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [777 Embarcadero Del Mar]
- Light 469505E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6584 El Greco Rd]
- Light 4733710E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6510 Cervantes Rd]
- Light 675046E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6520 Cervantes Rd]
- Light 1216913E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [732 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- Light 1372726E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6549 Cervantes Rd]
- Light 1372727E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6587 Cervantes Rd]
- Light 4835294E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6768 Estero Rd]
- Light 4835293E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6773 Estero Rd]
- Light 4835292E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6789 Estero Rd]
- Light 1217152E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [938 Camino Corto]
- Light 1345337E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6795 Sueno Rd]
- Light S18915Y (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [6798 Sueno Rd]
- Light 1631412E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [Camino Corto]
- Light 4835290E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [Camino Corto]
- Light 4835291E (increase from 54W LED to 130W LED) [Camino Corto]

Total: 69

In addition, we recommend that the wattage of lights on Camino Lindo be increased to 90W LED bulbs, as North-South streets such as Camino Lindo are typically more brightly lit.

Recommended wattage increases:

- Light 1256813E (increase from 54W LED to 90W LED) [998 Camino Lindo]
- Light 1256605E (increase from 54W LED to 90W LED) [960 Camino Lindo]
- Light 1345333E (increase from 43W LED to 90W LED) [925 Camino Lindo]
- Light 1217258E (increase from 54W LED to 90W LED) [915 Fortuna Rd]

Total: 4

Grand total: 73

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SERVICE AREA 31 (ISLA VISTA) STREET LIGHTING - BASE MAP 2018



Document Path: G:\GIS\GISD\GISD\Projects\Area_31_Area_Vista\STREETLIGHTING_BASE_MAP_2018.mxd

NOTE: 2018 SUMMERED DATA WAS COLLECTED BY TRIMBLE & JAMES HANCOCK/D OVERHI

II. HPSV to LED Changes

We recommend that remaining HPSV lights be changed to LED lights (not including HPSV lights on Pardall Road or El Embarcadero), which are more efficient and have longer lifespans. Most of the lights in Isla Vista have already been changed to LED from HPSV, except a few remaining individual lights. These remaining lights are spread out across Isla Vista.

Recommended changes from HPSV to LED:

- Light 4855704E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6525 Picasso Rd]
- Light 4855376E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [840 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- Light 4855355E (change from 22000L HPSV to 130W LED) [6521 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 2320731E (change from 5800L HPSV to 130W LED) [6505 Trigo Rd]
- Light 4805919E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6545 Trigo Rd]
- Light 4857923E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6525 Picasso Rd]
- Light 4857922E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [750 Embarcadero Del Mar]
- Light 4855703E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [765 Embarcadero Del Norte]
- Light 1675403E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [760 Embarcadero Del Mar]
- Light 4604896E (change from 22000L HPSV to 130W LED) [Camino Pescadero]
- Light 4855706E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6587 Cervantes Rd]
- Light 1664854E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6565 Segovia Rd]
- Light 4857939E (change from 22000L HPSV to 130W LED) [850 Camino Pescadero]
- Light 4855358E (change from 22000L HPSV to 130W LED) [6575 Cordoba Rd]
- Light 2320719E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [939 Embarcadero Del Mar]
- Light 4855374E (change from 22000L HPSV to 130W LED) [6599 Madrid Rd]
- Light 4855375E (change from 22000L HPSV to 130W LED) [6591 Seville Rd]
- Light 413069E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6631 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1482123E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6639 Picasso Rd]
- Light S28328Y (change from 5800L HPSV to 130W LED) [6682 Picasso Rd]
- Light 1524080E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [851 Camino Pescadero]
- Light 4829101E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6624 Sueno Rd]
- Light 4604895E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6525 Picasso Rd]
- Light 4855377E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [785 Camino Del Sur]
- Light 1345347E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6706 Abrego Rd]
- Light 1413650E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6706 Abrego Rd]
- Light 1413405E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6764 Abrego Rd]
- Light 1286424E (change from 5800L HPSV to 130W LED) [6740 Sueno Rd]
- Light S18921Y (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6710 Pasado Rd]
- Light 1345334E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6796 Pasado Rd]
- Light 4855378E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6701 Trigo Rd]
- Light 1345334E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6796 Pasado Rd]
- Light 4855379E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [6807 Pasado Rd]
- Light 4855380E (change from 9500L HPSV to 130W LED) [999 Camino Corto]

Total: 36

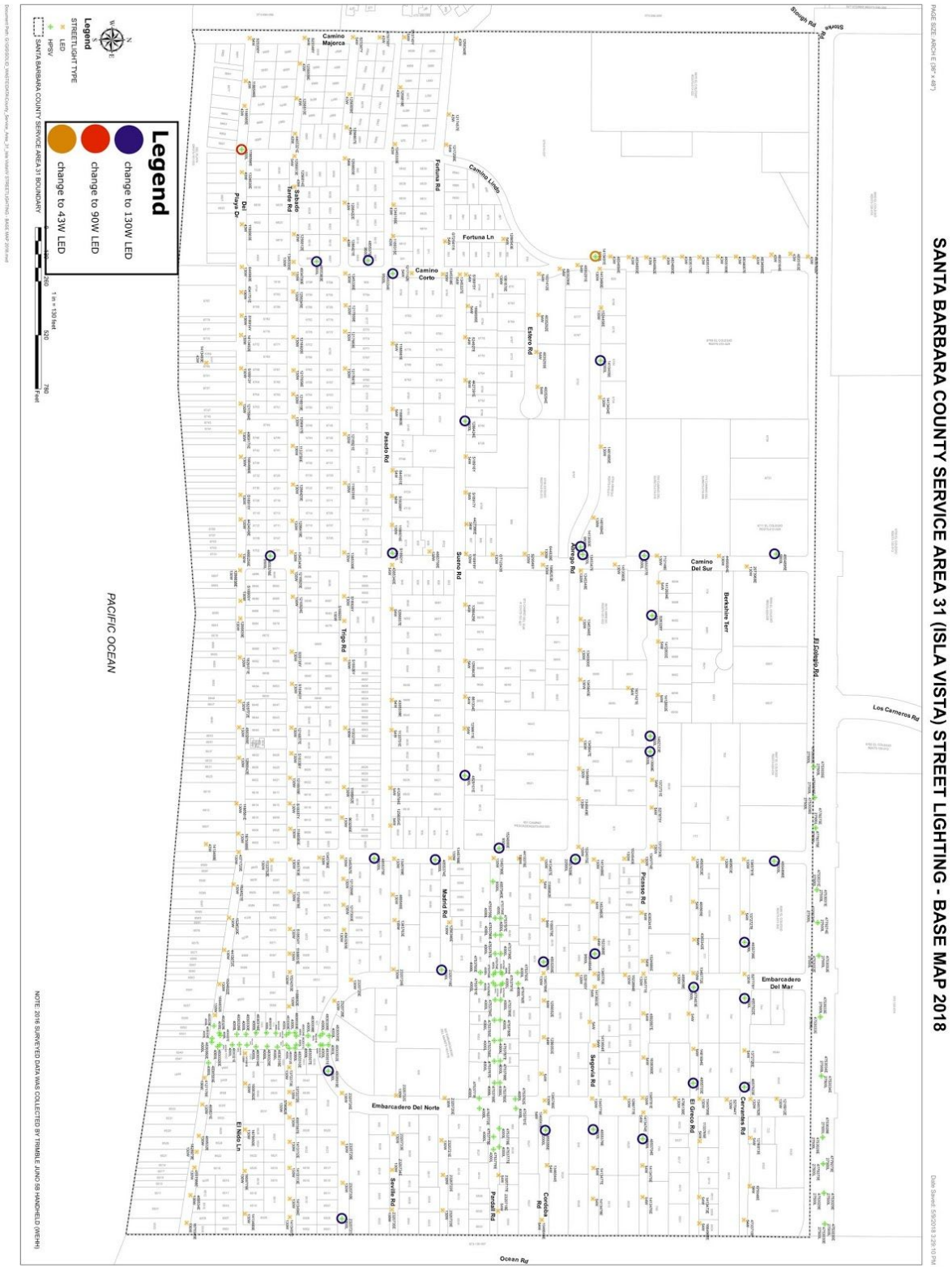
- Light 1413491E (change from 9500L HPSV to 43W LED) [820 Camino Corto]

Total: 1

- Light 1188564E (change from 9500L HPSV to 90W LED) [6850 Del Playa Dr]

Total: 1

Grand total: 38



III. Installation of New Light Fixtures

We recommend locations in Isla Vista that would be best improved by the installation of a new light fixture. These locations are generally area that contain gaps between existing streetlights and new fixtures act as fill-ins to the existing lights.

Recommended new light fixtures:

- 6650 Abrego Rd (130W LED)
- 6672 Abrego Rd (130W LED)
- 6706 Abrego Rd (130W LED)
- Between 6608 & 6612 Sueno Rd (130W LED)
- Between 6628 & 6632 Pasado Rd (130W LED)
- Between 6658 & 6664 Pasado Rd (130W LED)
- Between 6668 & 6672 Pasado Rd (130W LED)
- 6740 Pasado Rd (130W LED)
- 6762 Pasado Rd (130W LED)
- Between 6782 & 6796 Pasado Rd (130W LED)

Total: 10

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SERVICE AREA 31 (ISLA VISTA) STREET LIGHTING - BASE MAP 2018



PROVIDED BY: GIS/SDGIC, INTERSECTION, Service Area 31, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

NOTE: 2018 SURVEYED DATA WAS COLLECTED BY TERRIBLE JACO BS HANDED OFF (MCH)

Light Pollution Mitigation

The External Vice President for Local Affairs (EVPLA) is aware of the concern that some community members have about increased lighting in Isla Vista. Some in our community are worried that the addition of more street lights would increase the level of pollution and take away Isla Vista's natural serenity. Therefore, the EVPLA has heard these concerns and decided to use LED lights in the new street lighting. LED lights have many economic and environmental benefits which would light Isla Vista in a cost-effective and earth-friendly manner. On top of these benefits, LED lights also possess positives that specifically avoid light pollution and do not threaten Isla Vista's natural tranquility.

The EVPLA chose LED lights because these lights are more advanced in energy efficiency and lifespan. To be exact, LED light bulbs are 80% more efficient in using energy than the traditional light bulb. For example, fluorescent lights convert 95% of the electric energy they receive into heat, with the remaining 5% into light. LED lights, however, possess a much more impressive ration. These newer lights spend 5% of electricity on heat and the other 95% on lighting. Shifting to their impressive life span, LEDs last up to six times longer than other types of lights. These lights' quality energy efficiency and life span shows the cost-efficiency of LEDs. Less light bulbs would need to be purchased, curbing expenditure.

On top of energy efficiency and a longer lifespan, LED lights possess no toxic elements, with mercury as a prime example. Mercury, however, is found in many fluorescent lights. This mercury mostly poses a threat to the environment, specifically when fluorescent lights end up in landfill waste, instead of properly processed by waste removal personnel. In the landfill, the mercury leaks out of the fluorescent lights and into the soil, infecting it. LED lights are a necessary alternative to avoid this environmental threat.

Finally, addressing our community members' demands, LED lights are more efficient in light distribution. They are better at orienting light in necessary spaces such as sidewalks and streets, and not into the sky. To further ensure the unlikelihood of light pollution, EVPLA recommends that the street lights should possess covers to block light from tarnishing the sky. This advantage does play into avoiding light pollution but also being economical. Fluorescent lights shine light all around, wasting energy. Because of LED's better light distribution, less light bulbs would need to be purchased.

The External Vice President for Local Affairs speaks for the students on local matters. This office has heard its constituents concerns about light pollution and addressed them by laying this blueprint. In its mission to make Isla Vista safer but also represent all community members' opinions, the EVPLA will support LED lights in its lighting project. These LED lights have a variety of advantages which helps the community by being economical and relieves our environment from any further pressures and threats.

Source: Solar Electric Power Company, Posted April 4th, 2013, Accessed January 27th, 2019
<https://www.sepco-solarlighting.com/blog/bid/145611/the-advantages-of-led-lights-for-the-environment>

Funding

This project will incur both one-time capital costs as well as ongoing maintenance and electricity costs. Capital costs should be funded through County Service Area 31's reserve of \$610,000 (as of July 2018) and ongoing costs funded through CSA 31's benefit assessment and property tax revenue, currently as a surplus of approximately \$7,500 (total revenue ~\$81,500 and expenditures \$74,000).

The following outlines the rough one-time costs for each type of lighting improvement:

Attach a new light to wood pole: \$300

New standard pole: \$6-9,000

- ~\$90,000

Decorative Pedestrian Light: \$11-15,000

LED Upsize: \$300

- ~\$21,9000

Outreach

In order to ensure this lighting expansion is in line with the community's desires the District will conduct extensive outreach to the community to solicit feedback before moving onto the implementation stage.

Outreach will be conducted in the following manner:

1. Lighting Expansion Forum - Associated Students and IVCSD will co-host a session to serve as an opportunity for community members to review the plan, maps, and provide input.
2. Door to Door Canvassing - Volunteers will be dispatched to neighborhoods with the targeted lighting expansions to inform residents of the proposed changes, invite them to the forum, and record feedback.
3. Social Media - Lighting expansion maps will be uploaded to the District's social media to garner additional input and awareness of the project.

Long Term Plan

Development of community-specific lighting standards

The population density and pedestrian-oriented nature of Isla Vista warrant the creation of minimum lighting standards that are distinct from base County lighting standards.

Community-specific standards should address:

- Minimum fixture luminance levels
- Maximum pole spacing
- Type of fixture (HPSV/LED)
- Light pollution prevention methods

Annual surveying of lighting stock

Various community groups including UCSB Associated Students and the District have regularly conducted lighting surveys to identify dark areas, disabled lights, and foliage blocking lights.

The District should continue to work with partner organizations to evaluate the lighting stock on an annual basis in order to monitor emerging needs.

Additional light fixtures in areas identified by the community as underlit

Additional light fixtures should be installed in order to meet community-specific lighting standards and address areas identified by the community as underlit.

Appendix

- A. [Isla Vista Lighting petition signatories](#)
- B. [Better IV Survey Results](#)
- C. [Grand Jury on Lighting 1994 and 2002](#)
- D. [University of California 1970 Report of the Commission on Isla Vista \(Trow Report\)](#)
- E. [2014 UCSB Trustees Report](#)
- F. 2013 Lighting improvements
- G. [Isla Vista Government Options Study](#)
- H. AB 3
- I. [2016 IVCSD Service Plan](#)