

## Jacob, Melinda

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**Subject:** FW: DRC August 17 Item IV #1, 600 Addison lighted exterior signs

**From:** Erin Diehm <erindiehm@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 12, 2023 4:10 PM  
**To:** Burns, Anne M <ABurns@berkeleyca.gov>  
**Cc:** Kelly Hammargren <kellyhammargren@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** DRC August 17 Item IV #1, 600 Addison lighted exterior signs

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DRC,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting on August 17th so am writing now, quickly, to express my deep concern about the signage planned for 600 Addison. Given the close proximity to our park I am shocked by the proposed and unnecessary illumination of signage and ask you to deny this Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) especially on the west facing signs up high near the roofline and also the ground level backlit signs. Illumination of the signage along the roofline violates the spirit of our own BMC mentioned in the Staff Report:

From pg 6:

Properties within Vicinity of Public Park (BMC 20.32.050) This Sign Program is consistent with the intent of the requirement in our Sign Ordinance that any sign within 100 feet of a park in our manufacturing districts be non-illuminated as the face-lit wall signs, as measured from the park edge of Bolivar, are set back further on that 3rd floor under the horizontal canopy.

It may be true that the signs are very slightly further away than 100' from the park edge but they can't be that much further and, if illuminated, they will be completely visible and will violate our community's goals to promote a peaceful experience by minimizing the commercialized branding of our public parks.

I AM ESPECIALLY DISTURBED BY THE EXCESSIVE LIGHT POLLUTION CAUSED BY THIS BUILDING AS ILLUSTRATED ON PAGE 6 of 27.

Look at all that light reflecting off the top of the water!! This is ALAN and is very very bad for aquatic and other species who depend on the dark nights for survival, and this includes insects. This light pollution - from interior spaces and exterior signage- must not be allowed in such close proximity the park.

ALAN

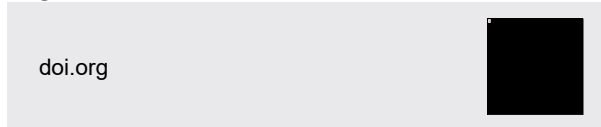


Artificial Light at Night: State of the Science 2022  
Report  
darksky.org

It is not enough for the property owners to promise to turn the signs off from 10pm-5am. And it is not enough to promise dimmers. Who will monitor these parameters over the long term?! Will staff have time over the next years? Or will it fall on the shoulders of community members?!

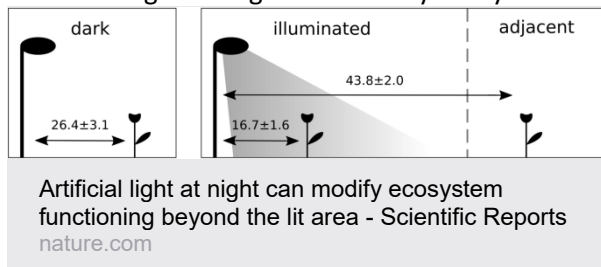
Light pollution is a significant contributor to insect declines, interferes with plants life cycles, and causes cancer in humans, to name just a few serious negative impacts. For example,

“Light Pollution is a Driver of Insect Declines”



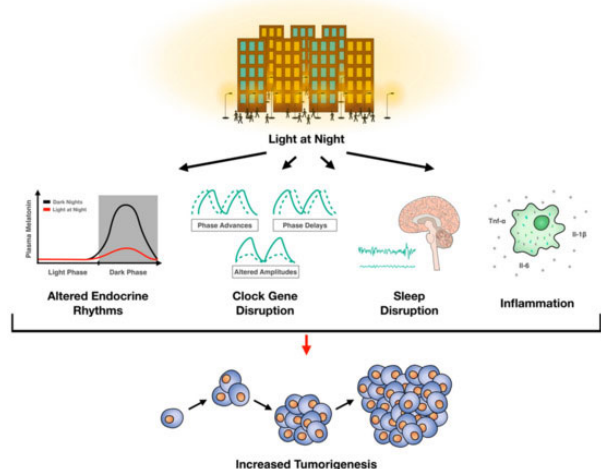
“Insects around the world are rapidly declining. Concerns over what this loss means for food security and ecological communities have compelled a growing number of researchers to search for the key drivers behind the declines. Habitat loss, pesticide use, invasive species, and climate change all have likely played a role, but we posit here that artificial light at night (ALAN) is another important—but often overlooked—bringer of the insect apocalypse. “

“Artificial Light At Night Can Modify Ecosystem Functioning Beyond the Lit Area”



“We conclude that ALAN can also affect ecosystem functioning in areas not directly illuminated, thereby having ecological consequences at a much larger scale than previously thought.”

“Light Pollution and Cancer”



Light Pollution and Cancer mdpi.com

“Although initially assumed to be innocuous, exposure to artificial light at night (ALAN) is associated with several disorders, including increased incidence of cancer,”

Night light spreads in all directions. Please demonstrate Berkeley's goal to lead on protecting the health of the public and wildlife and do not allow illuminated signs along the top of the building.

In addition, do not allow the ground level signs on Bancroft and Addison to be illuminated, as described (bolding and underline added)

From page 9 of 27:

"GENERAL SPECIFICATION

Fabricated aluminum sign cabinet with dimensional letterforms and logoforms shown as project color gray. Sign finishes shall match or resemble architectural finishes for integrated look.

**Sign is internally illuminated with push-through acrylic letters**

12 and logoforms."

Please enforce the spirit of BMC 20.32.050.

Please protect human and ecosystem health.

Please reject all illuminated signage at 600 Addison which directly borders one of our most wildlife-rich parks, Aquatic Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Erin

Sent from my iPhone