

**STAFF PERSON:
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

**Megan Yaniglos
June 10, 2015**

Staff Report for Special Exception for SDP2015-018 Carson Raymond Field- Lighting

County Code § 18-4.17.5 and §18-33.9 allow the requirement for a full cutoff luminaire to be waived by special exception.

County Code § 18-31.8(b) provides that the Board, when acting on a special exception, "shall consider the factors, standards, criteria, and findings, however denominated, in the applicable sections of this chapter, provided that the board shall not be required to make specific findings in support of its decision." In approving a special exception, County Code § 18-31.8(c) authorizes the Board to "impose reasonable conditions to address any possible impacts of the special exception."

County Code §§ 18-4.17.5(a)(1) and (2) (italicized below) set forth the factors to be considered in reviewing this request:

1. *Strict application of the standard would not forward the purposes of this chapter or otherwise serve the public health, safety or welfare, or that alternatives proposed by the owner would satisfy the purposes of these outdoor lighting regulations at least to an equivalent degree.*

The Musco light fixtures proposed have been approved at many other field locations across the County, and have been considered an alternative that would satisfy the purposes of the lighting regulations while allowing athletic facilities to be utilized during the dark hours, while also minimizing the level of spillover outside of the field of play.

2. *An outdoor luminaire, or system of outdoor luminaires, required for an athletic facility cannot reasonably comply with the standard and provide sufficient illumination of the facility for its safe use, as determined by recommended practices adopted by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America for that type of facility and activity or other evidence if a recommended practice is not applicable. (Amended 10-17-01)*

It does not appear that there are any lighting systems currently available that both reasonably comply with the requirement for a full cutoff luminaire and provide sufficient and safe illumination of athletic fields as recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. It was originally thought that an alternative lighting system on the market would meet the County's standard. However, over time, it has been determined that that system may not provide the lighting levels required and is significantly more costly to install. Even though they do not completely meet the County's requirement for a full cutoff luminaire, the proposed Musco luminaires have been determined to be a reasonable alternative that provide adequate lighting levels for safe field play, reduce spillover, and limit light emitted above the horizontal plane. Musco lights have been installed on numerous school play fields.

CONDITIONS: Staff recommends the following conditions:

1. The lighting fixtures installed shall be Musco (Light Structure Green System).
2. The height of the proposed pole shall not exceed 70 feet above ground level.
3. The Field shall not be illuminated after 10:00 p.m. each day.