



48412 N. Black Canyon HWY, #299, New River, AZ 85087

Wednesday, July 30th, 2008

Theresa H. Evidente
Coe & Van Loo Consultants, Inc.
4550 N. 12th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85014

Dear Ms. Evidente,

I appreciate the time you've taken to answer my questions over the phone. I know yours is a very busy job. With all my questions answered, and now that I have a good idea of the scope of your Gavilan Peak Estates project, I'd like to provide some additional input on behalf of the Desert Foothills Astronomy Club, many of whose members live within visual range of this project.

We are concerned about the additional light pollution from 70 homes located above the visual horizon for most of New River. I was pleased to hear that no streetlights or up-lighting were part of your plan. I would suggest that, for whatever residential porch and yard lighting is employed, you use LPS (low pressure sodium vapor) lighting rather than incandescent or halogen lights. I would also suggest that all outside lighting fixtures be *fully shielded*, even if below the statutory 150 watt limit (Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance Section 1112).

Of course, this would *exceed* the code requirements for Maricopa County, but *meet* the guidelines of the IDA (International Darksky Association), and further mitigate the development's impact on our local night sky. Their website (www.darksky.org) provides an extensive listing of manufacturers with approved fixtures to meet every need, including the high-end, customized, architectural needs of a project such as yours. And this could be done without compromise to the quality or aesthetic appeal of your homes. This is what I and other members of DFAC have done with our homes. We'd like to see it done in your project too.

I have been personally involved in the effort to preserve our dark sky throughout the north Valley for some 10 years now, with presentations to local civic and educational groups, as well as through the newspapers. I have studied the issue from all angles — social, legal, economic, and aesthetic. I know you have your own staff of highly competent engineers and planners, but would be happy to further clarify our specific concerns on lighting should you have any questions. I am particularly interested in feedback on my suggestions in this letter, and look forward to continuing our dialog. My sincere thanks for your time and attention.

Dan Heim
DFAC President
dan@heimhenge.com
623-465-7307