



1241 Knollwood Drive, PMB 113, Cambria, CA 93428
www.beautifycambria.org | 805 927 1934

Dear Neighbor,

You are an Important Force for Protecting a Unique Central Coast Asset

Our portion of the Central Coast is rightly known for its historic villages, oak-studded hills and spectacular ocean vistas. Less well known is its dramatic night sky.

Far from major sources of light pollution, our communities sit under a precious resource — a magnificent starry sky where we can still see the splendor of the Milky Way.

> To preserve this gift, Beautify Cambria, a regional non-profit dedicated to helping maintain Cambria and the Central Coast as one of California's most desirable places, developed our Dark Skies Initiative, which seeks to reduce excess night lighting. The deleterious effects of wasteful exterior lighting include disrupted ecosystems, harm to humans and wildlife, wasted energy, and destruction of the precious natural heritage of star-filled skies that inspired our ancestors. Wasteful lighting doesn't even fulfill its primary purpose — it turns out that smart lighting provides better safety and security.

> Our initial goal is to obtain certification for Cambria from the International Dark Skies Organization as a Dark Skies Community, only the third in California and a superb enhancement to our region's standing nationally and internationally. To that end, we are working with SLO County to update the lighting code to include recent advances in LED lighting, host stargazing and astrophotography events, and hold educational seminars on appropriate lighting. We also assist neighboring towns that wish to join our effort to preserve our cherished star-filled skies across the region.

You are integral to the preservation of our beautiful night skies! Use outdoor lighting on an "as-needed basis," in other words, leave outdoor lights off unless someone is outside doing something. For security purposes, use short-duration motion detectors. Make sure the beams from your outdoor lights are shielded to shine downward and don't spill beyond where they're needed. And use warmer color lights where possible. Visit beautifycambria.org/projects/dark-skies for more information, including tips on buying Dark Skies-compliant outdoor lighting.

The Central Coast is one of the ever-diminishing areas in California where we still maintain some of the state's original splendor. We hope we can count on your cooperation to maintain that legacy and enhance the beauty and quality of life in our community.

For questions or more information, please contact us at 805 927 1934 or visit beautifycambria.org.

Sincerely,

Claudia Harmon Worthen, President