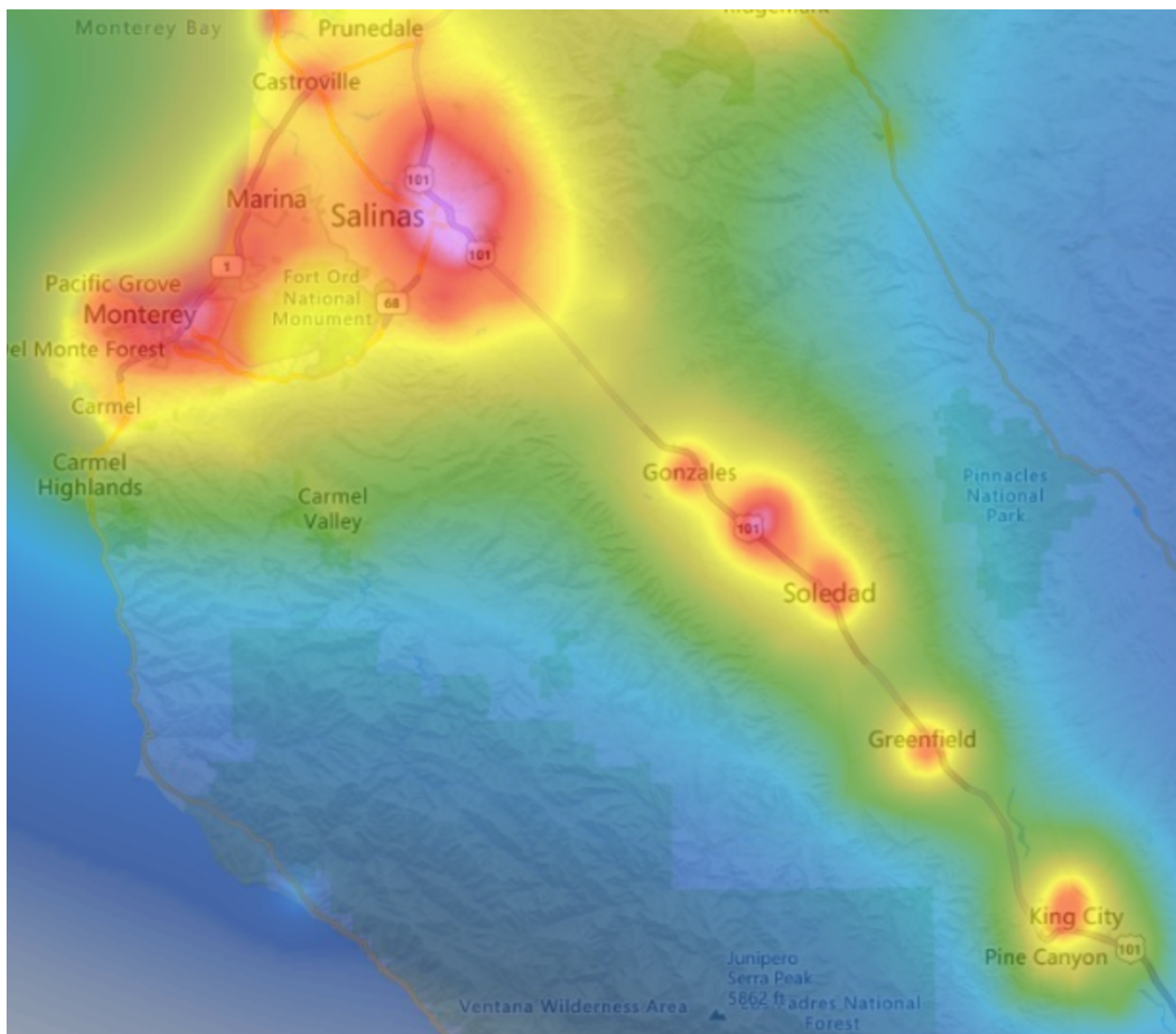


The Carmel Valley Association (CVA) works with residents, businesses and government agencies to preserve the rural nature of Carmel Valley. Inevitably, that goal has guided CVA's efforts to preserve and celebrate our naturally dark and starry skies. Through community education and adoption of simple best practices for outdoor lighting, CVA seeks to reduce excessive nighttime lighting that spills glare into the community and obscures our treasured night sky. In many cases, simply turning off lights at night by timer or motion sensor can meet these goals.

CVA's long-term effort has taken many forms, ranging from working toward recognition of [Garland Ranch Regional Park](#) as a Dark Sky Place or Reserve under the auspices of [Dark Sky International](#) (DSI) to the installation of dark-sky-friendly lighting fixtures in local areas. Our work intends to ensure that the Carmel Valley doesn't lose its naturally dark and starry skies. The encroachment of light pollution from more developed urban areas is striking.

This image from a [Light Pollution Map](#) demonstrates the intense night lighting to our north (Monterey, Seaside, and Marina) and northeast (Salinas) contrasted with the relatively dark areas of Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands, and Big Sur.



CVA can't do this important work alone. A new and exciting collaboration with Hartnell College is a central element of CVA's Dark Sky initiative. Begun in summer 2023, this collaboration provides funding, guidance, and hands-on experiences for students and CVA to learn about how light pollution affects humans, animals, and communities.

The 2024 Dark Sky Intern, Jonathan Herrera, is documenting levels of incident light and dark sky quality at many locations throughout the Carmel Valley from the Village to the mouth of the Valley. His science-based evidence will help us to develop an analysis of how excessive lighting can be mitigated and managed to preserve our starry night skies.

Last summer the Hartnell intern, Julie San Pablo, helped to establish CVA's relations with DSI, attended Regional Park Board meetings, inventoried exterior lighting in Carmel Valley Village and at the Garland Ranch Regional Park buildings, and facilitated and publicized a star gazing party at Hidden Valley Music Seminars with the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA)'s help providing instruments and volunteer stargazing guides.

Each summer intern presents a poster on their work at a STEM Fair held the second Saturday in September at Hartnell College, further spreading concepts of sensible lighting and dark sky preservation.

CVA also teamed up with Friends of the Carmel Valley Library, Monterey Lighting, and several local HOAs to provide forums to advocate for low impact lighting and best exterior lighting practices. Monterey County Board of Supervisors recognized international Dark Sky Week in a proclamation sponsored by Mary Adams, our 5th District Supervisor.

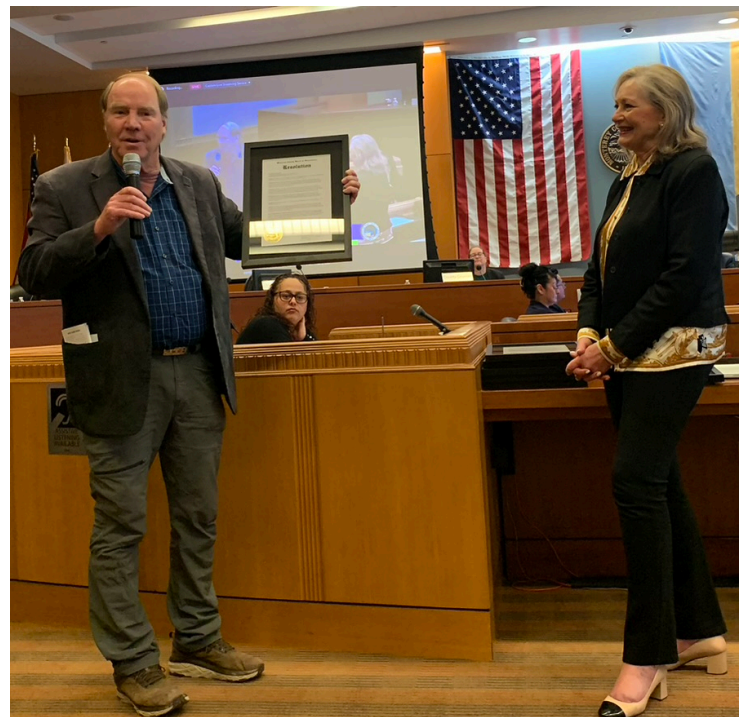
Through these ever-expanding efforts, CVA and its local partners hope to keep our shared natural heritage Dark and Starry.

Additional Photographs:

*2023 Intern & Hartnell Professor Dr. Pimol*



*John Heyl of CVA receives Dark Sky Week recognition from Supervisor Mary Adams*



# CVA Dark & Starry Advocacy: A Summary of Work to Date

**Monterey County Board of Supervisors**

## Resolution

**Resolution No.: 23-108**  
 Adopt a Resolution Proclaiming April 15-April 22, 2023, as  
**International Dark Sky Week in Monterey County.....** )

**WHEREAS**, Monterey County is blessed with many excellent areas of dark sky at night where residents and visitors can enjoy viewing stars, planets, and the Milky Way; and

**WHEREAS**, Maintaining dark skies has been shown to be beneficial to humans and animals and "ample evidence has shown that LAN (Light at Night) impacts many metabolic parameters" (Fleury G, Masis-Vargas A, Kalsbeek A. Metabolic Implications of Exposure to Light at Night: Lessons from Animal and Human Studies. 2020 Jul;28); and

**WHEREAS**, Monterey County's Board of Supervisors has previously adopted new construction exterior lighting design guidelines (Resolution 16-010 adopting the Design Guidelines for Exterior Lighting, REF130036, Exterior Lighting Criteria, non-coastal area) consistent with "Dark Sky Friendly Lighting" and the Fixture Seal of Approval from the International Dark Sky Association; and


**WHEREAS**, Monterey County Codes require exterior lighting that "shall be unobtrusive and constructed or located so that only the intended area is illuminated, long range visibility (of light) is reduced, and off-site glare is fully controlled" while maintaining adequate lighting for safety and business visibility; and

**WHEREAS**, Public recognition of the positive qualities of maintaining Dark Sky is beneficial to all in Monterey County; and

**WHEREAS**, The International Dark-Sky Association is the globally recognized authority on light pollution and has created **International Dark Sky Week** to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, declare April 15-April 22, 2023, as **International Dark Sky Week** in Monterey County and asks each resident and governmental agency to join, not only in observing and pondering upon this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark skies resources.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.



*Mary L. Adams*  
Supervisor Mary L. Adams

*Luis A. Aléjo*  
Supervisor Luis A. Aléjo, Chair

*Glenn Church*  
Supervisor Glenn Church, Vice Chair

*Chris Lopez*  
Supervisor Chris Lopez

*Wendy Root Askew*  
Supervisor Wendy Root Askew

