Darker skies and better lighting coming to Ojai

Submitted by the Ojai Valley Green Coalition

The dark- and low-energy bills — and coming to Pat and Julie McPherson’s home. The McPhersons installed new exterior lights that will cast longer, more walking stays their annoyance and their drive. The lights also

interrupt nocturnal lighting through the night, but also encourage locals to upgrade inefficient lighting to more cost saving and effective lighting. At the heart of the ordinance is the order to save energy, to protect the environment and to prevent ‘light doming’ of the valley, which can confuse nocturnal animals, confuse migrating birds, and cause sleep disturbance in humans. The new ordinance requires that lights which are not shielded downward-directed be turned off at 10 p.m.

The McPhersons say they found it simple to install energy-efficient and ‘dark, air-friendly’ lighting products. They replaced the light-inefficient fixtures on their front gate and near their front door, and also constructed a new rock well adjacent to their driveway, complete with built-in vented lighting.

Ojai city residents should look for an informational postcard in the mail soon. There are other resources available for all valley residents as well. Visit Ojai City Hall or call OVGC at 609-8445.