

State of Texas *

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County of Comal *

Proclamation

Recognizing October 2024 as Hill Country Night Sky Month in Comal County

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of Comal County and are therefore worthy of celebration; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts tourists to our region and therefore economic benefit to Comal County; and

WHEREAS, preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of Comal County is important to its residents; and

WHEREAS, "light pollution," which is wasted light that performs no function or task and artificial light that goes where it is not supposed to go, is created by glare, light trespass, sky glow, and overlighting; and

WHEREAS, light pollution wastes natural resources amounting to at least \$3 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and

WHEREAS, the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the universe; and

WHEREAS, the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and the accompanying light pollution from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise; and

WHEREAS, solving the problem of light pollution involves making better use of outdoor lighting to direct light down to where it is needed instead of upward into the sky, putting outdoor lights on timers and using outdoor lighting only where necessary; and

WHEREAS, Hill Country communities are increasingly dedicated to the preservation of the region's night skies, as evidenced by the frequent educational activities conducted in our region and by the increasing number of places in our region: Order No. 367 Order Amending Order No. 199 For Regulation Of Outdoor Lighting In The Unincorporated Areas of Comal County, Texas Within 3 Miles Of The Camp Bullis Boundary, Guadalupe River State Park Star Parties in partnership with San Antonio Astronomical Association, New Braunfels Astronomy Club Star Parties, Comal County Friends of the Night Sky, and the Comal County Dark Sky Resolution No. 2018-26, the cities of Bulverde and Spring Branch are in the certification process to become International DarkSky communities after the adoption of Dark Sky Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, this regional effort and the preservation and celebration of our night skies is worthy of a month-long celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by Commissioners Court of Comal County, that October 2024 is hereby recognized as Hill Country Night Sky Month and encourages citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in the Comal County and Hill County regional events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it and encourages citizens to learn about light pollution and why it matters, night sky friendly lighting, and lighting regulations, and to implement practices and lighting improvements that will reduce light pollution, thereby preserving our night skies.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 24th day of October, 2024.

Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1

Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2

Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3

Jen Crossover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:
Bobbie Koepf, County Clerk

