ABOS Vote No On Dark Sky Ordinance, And Hear Latest COVID Report

The Amador Board of Supervisors heard a report in the county’s impending addition to the COVID-19 watch list and voted down a proposed dark sky ordinance. The meeting began with a presentation from the Amador Health Official Dr. Rita Kerr, who reported that with the recent rise in Corona Virus cases, Amador County now met the criteria for the state watch list. According to Kerr, only problems with state data collection has prevented Amador County from being put on the list, and once the state resolves these issues, the county more than likely will be placed on the watch list. The board also held a public hearing on a proposed dark sky ordinance that would have placed restrictions on outdoor lighting in the unincorporated areas of the county. Many members of a divided public testified in the hearing, with supporters saying that the ordinance would prevent light pollution and continue to allow stargazing and appreciation in the night sky. Opponents were concerned about imposing additional regulations on property owners. The ordinance was voted down on a 3-2 vote with supervisors Crew, Brown and Oneto opposed with Axe and Forster in favor.

