

County of Pecos



Fort Stockton, Texas 79735



JOE SHUSTER

County Judge
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PAM HARRIS
Administrative Assistant

To: Oil and Gas Companies in Pecos County

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to all operators and contractors involved in oil and gas exploration and production in Pecos County to inform them of the county's outdoor lighting ordinance and request that they light nighttime activities accordingly. We are one of seven counties set aside by the State as part of a Dark Sky Reserve in West Texas. The goal of the county ordinance is to prevent light from shining into the sky and interfering with astronomical research at the University of Texas McDonald Observatory near Fort Davis.

We recognize the need to light activities at night for safety. A joint project between McDonald Observatory and Pioneer Energy Services (see the report on the "Dark Skies Initiative" page at the observatory's public website: mcdonaldobservatory.org) has demonstrated that glare from poorly aimed light fixtures can impair visibility. Installing optional glare shields and aiming lights down improves visibility, puts more light on the worksite, enhances safety, and protects the dark skies of West Texas.

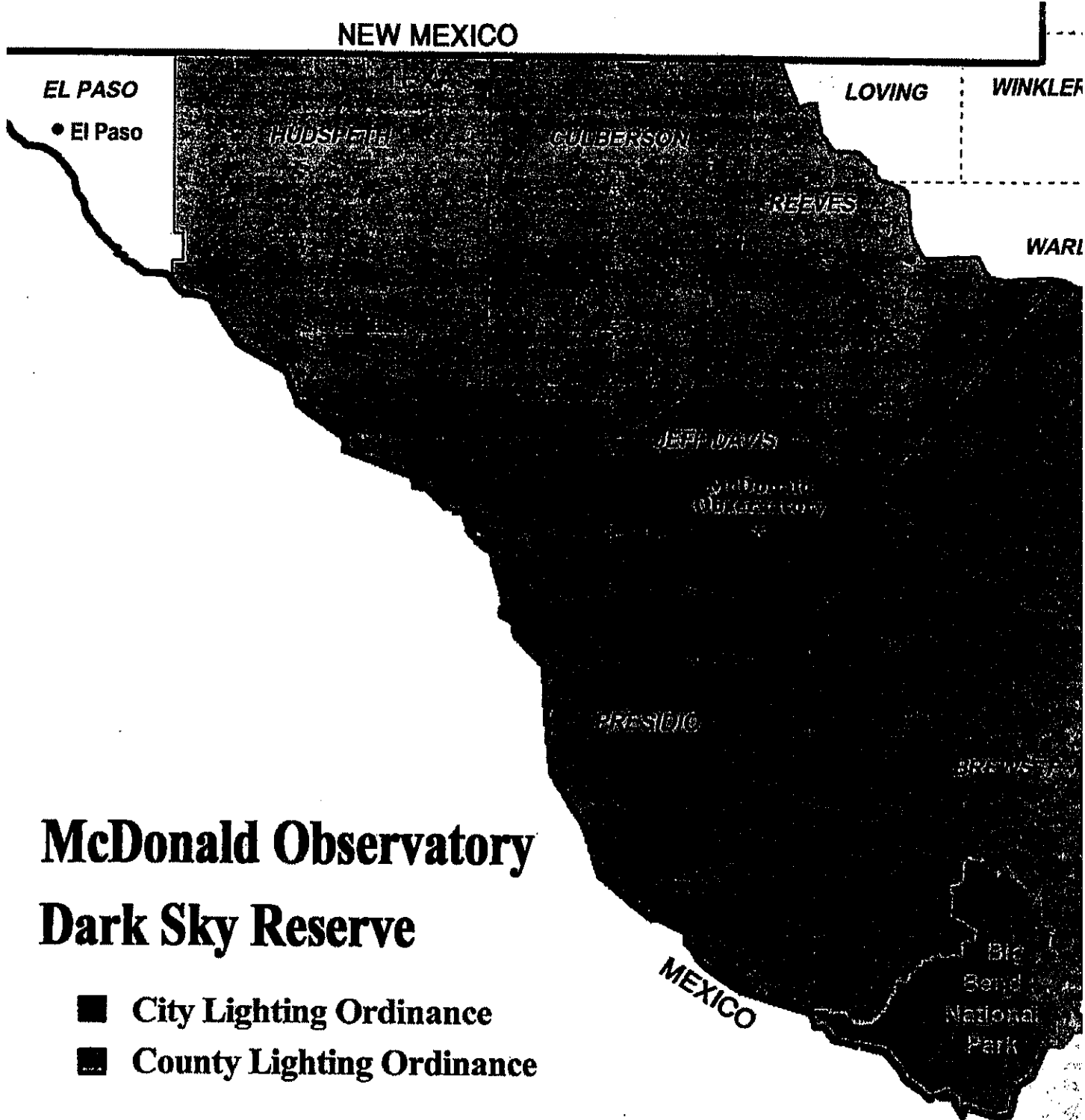
We ask that you take the following steps for all outdoor lighting fixtures which you own, operate, maintain, or rent:

- 1) Shielding - Shield all fixtures to prevent light from shining above the horizon. Most lighting manufacturers offer optional shields that reduce glare and reflect wasted uplight back down onto the worksite for better visibility.
- 2) Adjustable fixtures - Aim all adjustable floodlights down to prevent light from shining above the horizon or off the worksite. This applies particularly to portable light towers.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Honorable Joe Shuster
Pecos County Commissioners Court



McDonald Observatory Dark Sky Reserve

- City Lighting Ordinance
- County Lighting Ordinance