

## Scenic Update

On December 11, 2008, City Council passed an enabling ordinance to create “Dark Skies” zoning overlay districts to control lighting around San Antonio military bases. For Camp Bullis, low light levels are critical for nighttime training missions. Beginning in 2009, a second phase in the regulatory process will commence with zoning cases to apply the overlay designations to specific properties in the Camp Bullis area. The public will have the opportunity to comment.

In January 2009, City Council will receive a staff status report on the Digital Pilot Program. I understand the City staff report will include information on the number and location of new digital signs and data on traffic accidents.

Note - Staff spoke with Jerry Wachtel, nationally recognized traffic expert on driver safety. Mr. Wachtel advised staff that a meaningful study of the effect of digitals is extremely complicated and a simple listing of traffic accidents data does NOT constitute a reliable study.

The City Manager stated that the City Council can take action after receiving this report. Please let your city council representative know – again – what you think about digital billboards.

Also in January 2009, City Council will take up the changes to Chapter 10, which will relegate (‘gut’) the Electrical Supervisory Board (ESB) to an appeals role only. You may recall that the ESB citizen board has almost been alone over the past year in impartially hearing citizen inputs concerning the digital billboard pilot program.

Note – This change to Chapter 10, was kicked off by a request from Councilman Rowe, District 9, who stated that he did so because he had received complaints from ‘citizens in his district’. A check of other council representative has revealed no similar complaints. Councilman Rowe then appears to be unique in receiving complaints of this nature. By way of reference, Clear Channel is headquartered in his district.

For the latest information, please view the VJ website at [www.vjni.org/Issues](http://www.vjni.org/Issues) or our new Scenic San Antonio website at [www.scenicsanantonio.org](http://www.scenicsanantonio.org)

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