



# Updates to the County of San Diego Light Pollution Code

## SAVE THE DARK - SEE THE STARS

The County of San Diego Light Pollution Code protects the night skies for the enjoyment of San Diego residents, businesses, and world-class observatories.

Proposed updates will bring the Julian Community Planning Area and Borrego Community Planning Area into the Dark Sky Zone (Zone C).

### 10 YEAR GRACE PERIOD

Residents and businesses in Zone C will have a 10-year "grace period," during which residents and businesses will be allowed to bring applicable lighting into conformance with the proposed standards.

### GUARD YOUR GLOW

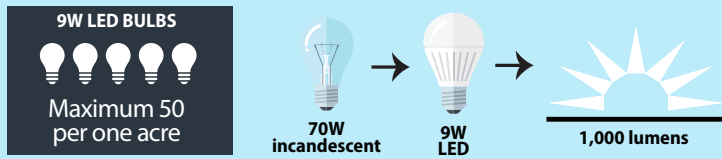


Output of bulbs and fixtures is measured in lumens. Any lighting over 1,000 lumens must be fully shielded. This includes security and safety lighting and decorative/aesthetic lighting for residents and businesses. All color-important commercial lighting must be fully shielded.



### LOWER YOUR LUMENS

Keep your total outdoor lighting below 50,000 lumens per acre, per site. For decorative and aesthetic lighting, don't exceed 20% of the total allowable lighting. For color important commercial lighting, don't exceed 50% of the total allowable lumens.



### TURN ON THE NIGHT

Turn off your outside lights two hours after sunset to one hour before sunrise except as necessary for security and business operations

For more information:  
[www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/advance/lightpollution.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/advance/lightpollution.html)

### COLOR IT RIGHT

Color of light is rated on the kelvin (K) scale. The lower the number, the warmer the light, & the less impact on the night sky. All light in Zone C must be below 3,000K. Use "warm white" or lower for all other outdoor lighting.



LOWER COLOR TEMPERATURES HAVE LESS BLUE AND LESS IMPACT ON NIGHT SKY VIEWING.

## SIGNS

Between sunset and sunrise, brightness of signs must be less than or equal to 100 nits (approximately 100 candles per square meter).

The illuminated area of each sign must be less than 200 square feet.

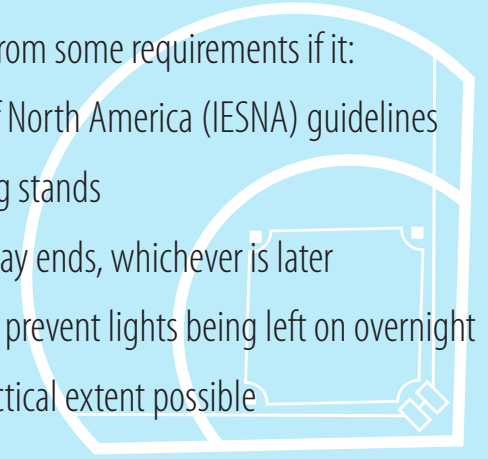
Signs must be turned off one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise, unless the business is operating.

## ATHLETIC FIELDS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

Dark sky zones do not mean the end of nighttime play!

Outdoor recreation lighting can be exempt from some requirements if it:

- Meets Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) guidelines
- Lights only the surface of play and viewing stands
- Is turned off by 10 PM or one hour after play ends, whichever is later
- Uses timers or other automatic controls to prevent lights being left on overnight
- Limits off-site impacts to the greatest practical extent possible

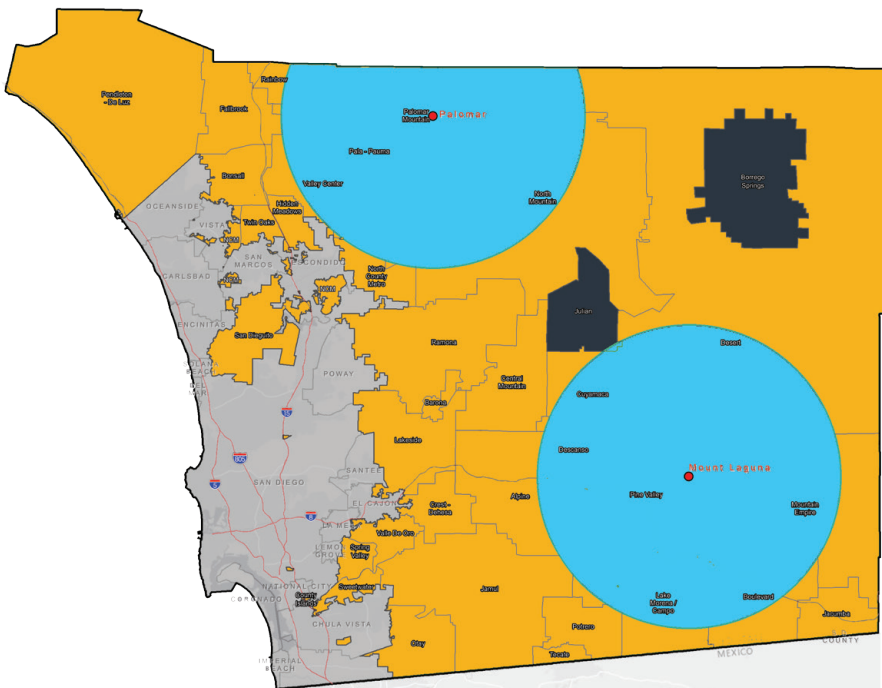


## EXEMPTIONS

Some outdoor lighting is exempt from the Dark Sky Zone requirements. Please read the Code for more details.

- Combustion sources, like kerosene lanterns and gas lamps
- Holiday lights used for less than 60 days and turned off between 11 PM and sunrise
- Some lighting used for United States or California flags and the associated flagpoles
- Outdoor lighting for a facility required by state or federal law to have outdoor lighting that does not comply with this chapter of the Light Pollution Code

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO LIGHT POLLUTION CODE ZONES



**A** The bright blue areas are Zone A, which is area within a 15-mile radius of each of the two world-class observatories in San Diego County: Palomar Observatory and Mount Laguna Observatory.

**B** The gold areas are Zone B, which is the unincorporated areas of the County not included in Zones A or C.

**C** The dark blue areas are part of the Dark Sky Zone (Zone C). This includes the Julian and Borrego Community Planning Areas.