



County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services

PRIVATE OUTDOOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS

BUILDING DIVISION

The San Diego County Light Pollution Code regulates outdoor lighting with the intent to minimize light pollution in San Diego County and to protect against its detrimental effects on astronomical research at the Palomar and Mount Laguna observatories. **This handout is intended to provide a summary of the code for lighting zones A and B, it does not include Zone C, and should be used as a general guide only.** Section 6322 of the County Zoning Ordinance, as well as Title 24 (State Energy Conservation regulations) may also apply. For additional information regarding these and other requirements, please contact the San Diego County Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical Coordinator.

The Ordinance classifies lighting requirements into three different categories:

- Class I: Commercial/Industrial Uses
- Class II: Parking and Security – All Uses
- Class III: Decorative – All Uses

The Ordinance also identifies two of three different lighting zones within the County (see map on reverse):

- Zone A: The areas bounded by 15-mile radii from Laguna and Palomar mountains.
- Zone B: The unincorporated area of the County not included in Zone A
- Zone C: The unincorporated area of Julian and Borrego Community Planning Areas. Regulations not included in this handout.

The following is an aid to determining allowable lighting for a specific Zone and Class:

CLASS	LAMP TYPE	ZONE A	ZONE B
Class I Off 11pm to sunrise	Low Pressure Sodium Lamps/Narrow Spectrum Amber	Fully Shielded	Fully Shielded
	Lamps, above 4050 Lumens	Prohibited	Fully Shielded
	Lamps, 4050 Lumens or below	Fully Shielded (unless lighting is for commercial signs, then shielding is only required where feasible)	Fully Shielded (unless lighting is for commercial signs, then shielding is only required where feasible)
Class II	Low Pressure Sodium Lamps/Narrow Spectrum Amber	Fully Shielded	Fully Shielded
	Lamps, above 4050 Lumens	Prohibited	Prohibited, except fully shielded HPS is allowed for private roadways (private driveways excluded)
	Lamps, 4050 Lumens and Below	(a) Fully shielded fixture (luminaire) with motion sensor; or (b) Unshielded fixture (luminaire), 2000 lumens maximum with motion sensor; or (c) Entrance Luminaire	(a) Fully shielded fixture (luminaire); or, (b) Unshielded fixture (luminaire), 2000 lumens maximum with motion sensor; or, (c) Entrance Luminaire
Class III Off 11pm to sunrise	Low Pressure Sodium Lamps/Narrow Spectrum Amber	Fully Shielded	Fully Shielded
	Lamps, above 4050 Lumens	Prohibited	Prohibited
	Lamps, 4050 Lumens or Below	Prohibited	2000 Lumens maximum

Examples of lamps, 4050 lumens:

- Standard Incandescent: 200 watt
 - Tungsten-Halogen (Quartz): 150 watt
 - Mercury Vapor: 75 watt
 - High Pressure Sodium: 50 watt
 - Metal Halide: 50 watt
 - Fluorescent: 40 watt
 - LED: 50 watt
- always refer to mfg. specific lumen outputs.

Examples of lamps, 2000 lumens:

- 100 watt Incandescent
 - 26 watt Florescent
 - 20 watt LED
- These values are approximate, always refer to mfg. for specific lumen outputs.

"Fully Shielded" means a luminaire constructed in a manner such that all light emitted by the luminaire, either directly from the light source or a diffusing element, or indirectly by reflection or refraction from any part of the luminaire, is projected below the horizontal plane, as determined by photometric test or certified by the manufacture.

"Entrance Luminaire" means an exterior luminaire mounted on a building required by the California Electrical Code or California Building Code to illuminate an outdoor entrance or exit

"Narrow Spectrum Amber LED" means a type of LED that appears amber in color, as it produces its peak spectral intensity within a narrow range of approximately 589 to 595 nanometers.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO OUTDOOR LIGHT CONTROL ORDINANCE

ZONE MAP

(NOT TO SCALE)

