



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 5, 2025
TO: Distribution
FROM: Rania Amen, City Engineer
SUBJECT: Street Lighting Design Standards Change to 3000 Kelvin CCT Citywide

This memo is to announce a revision to the City standards for street lighting correlated color temperatures (CCT).

City Council Resolution R-306251 and the current 2017 Street Design Manual requires that all street lighting shall be broad spectrum light sources no greater than 4000K CCT except for areas that are designated for a maximum of 3000K CCT within 35 miles radius of Palomar observatory. Effective February 5, 2025, all new or replaced streetlights shall be 3000K CCT. Lower CCT may be used only for off-street pathways where potential lighting impacts or requirements related to sensitive habitats or biological reasons are identified.

This change provides a step toward a more neutral lighting color, which has shown health benefits for residents in regulating circadian rhythms and improved sleep quality, a decrease in ambient light pollution and to meet the American Medical Association guidelines on LED streetlights. Caltrans and other major cities have already implemented a 3000K CCT lighting standard.

These changes will also be incorporated into the 2025 Street Design Manual update which is currently under revision.

Rania Amen
City Engineer & Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Department

cc: Eric K. Dargan, Chief Operating Officer
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