

★ NIGHT SKY QUIZ ★

Can You Spot the Light Pollution?

A DarkSky Compliance Challenge — Kerrville, Texas

7 buildings · Real photos · Article X violations · Points for precision

SCORING

1 point per violation identified

+2 bonus points for exact Article X section number

+1 bonus point per practical fix suggestion

HOW TO PLAY



LOOK

Study the photo carefully. What lighting choices would make DarkSky International cry?



DISCUSS

Call out every violation you can find — shielding, color temperature, light direction, spill.



CITE IT

For +2 bonus points, name the exact Kerrville Article X section (Sec. 26-278) that applies.



REVEAL

Flip to the answer slide to see how you did. Tally your points!

KEY STANDARD: Kerrville Article X (Ord. No. 2023-03) · CCT ≤ 3,000K · Fully Shielded · No Uplight · 11pm Curfew



WHAT'S THE VIOLATION?



Peterson Health — Country Drive

 Major healthcare facility · Country Drive

A major medical campus — brand new construction. It looks impressive at night! But wait...
How many Article X violations can YOU spot before the answer slide?

Points available: **3 + bonus**

Article X: Sec. 26-275 to 26-282 · Ord. No. 2023-03 · Adopted Jan. 24, 2023

|| PAUSE HERE — Discuss before flipping to the answer slide!

Think about: shielding · color temperature · uplight · light trespass · curfew · lumen caps · flagpoles · signs

DING DING DING! The verdict is in...



Peterson Health — Country Drive

TALKING POINT

24-hour facility — exempt from 11pm curfew per Sec. 26-278(g)(1)(c). But CCT and shielding apply 24/7.

COOL WHITE INTERIOR LIGHT

Interior lights shining through the glass curtain wall are classified as "outdoor lighting" under Article X. They appear to be 4,000–5,000K — well above the 3,000K limit.

CCT EXCEEDS 3,000K

All visible exterior fixtures appear to exceed the 3,000K correlated color temperature limit. Cool-white/blue-white light is prohibited — warm amber or white ($\leq 3,000\text{K}$) is required.

UNSHIELDED FIXTURES

Ground uplighting — Unless exempted, all outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded.

BONUS — Sec. 26-278(e)(1)

CCT of luminaires shall not exceed 3,000 Kelvins. Sec. 26-276 defines "outdoor lighting" to include nonresidential indoor fixtures that cause light to shine outdoors through translucent surfaces.

Points possible this round: 3 regular + 2 bonus = 5 total



The Main Wash Car Wash

 Carwash facility · Kerrville

A freshly opened car wash — bright, shiny, and very... illuminated.

It has a canopy. Article X has a canopy rule. Do you know it?

Points available: **3 + bonus**

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The Main Wash Car Wash

TALKING POINT

This is exactly why Sec. 26-278(f) was written — canopy wash-out lighting is one of the worst light pollution offenders in commercial areas.

CCT WAY EXCEEDS 3,000K

The fixtures are clearly 4,000–5,000K cool white or "daylight" LED — the harsh blue-white appearance is a giveaway. Warm white $\leq 3,000\text{K}$ is required.

CANOPY FIXTURES NOT FULLY SHIELDED

Light visibly spills sideways beyond the canopy edges. Article X Sec. 26-278(f) states canopy fixtures must be fully shielded AND limited to 3,500 lumens per fixture max.

LUMEN CAP LIKELY EXCEEDED

The intensity suggests these fixtures far exceed the per-fixture lumen limit for canopies, and possibly the 100,000 lumens/net acre nonresidential cap.

BONUS — Sec. 26-278(f)

"All luminaires mounted on or recessed into the lower surface of service station canopies or other overhangs shall be fully shielded and utilize a maximum output of 3,500 lumens per fixture." A car wash canopy qualifies.

Points possible this round: 3 regular + 2 bonus = 5 total



Kerr County Courthouse

 County/government building · Downtown Kerrville

A government building — and it actually has WARM colored lights! Give credit where it's due. But look carefully at the wall fixtures. One rule is still being broken...

Points available: **2 + bonus**

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 **Kerr County Courthouse**
 **TALKING POINT**

The fix is simple and cheap: replace bi-directional sconces with fully shielded downward-only wall lights at the same warm color temperature. Same look, no sky glow.

 **WALL SCONCES SHINE UPWARD**

The decorative wall sconces are bi-directional — they emit light both up AND down the wall. Article X requires ALL outdoor lighting to be FULLY SHIELDED, meaning zero light above the horizontal plane. The upward component is a direct violation.

 **CCT APPEARS COMPLIANT (partial credit!)**

The amber/warm color of the wall sconces appears to be in the 2,700–3,000K range — this is actually COMPLIANT for color temperature. Well done on that one!

 **BONUS — Sec. 26-278(a)(1)**

"Unless exempted elsewhere in this article, all outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded." Fully shielded = ALL emitted light projected below the horizontal plane. Any upward component fails this standard.

Points possible this round: 2 regular + 2 bonus = 4 total



WHAT'S THE VIOLATION?



McDonald's — Kerrville

 Fast food restaurant · Kerrville

Everyone's favorite late-night stop. The arches are golden... but the lighting situation? Not so golden. Can you identify at least THREE separate Article X issues?

Points available: **3 + bonus**

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McDonald's — Kerrville

TALKING POINT

McDonald's Corporation has committed to LED upgrades globally. The conversation to have: "Your new fixtures here could be 2,700K shielded and still meet your brand standards."


COOL WHITE WALL PACKS

The wall pack fixtures over the entrance appear to be 4,000–5,000K cool white. Required: $\leq 3,000$ K warm white per Sec. 26-278(e)(1).


BI-DIRECTIONAL SCONCES

The decorative fixtures on the wall of the building appear to emit light both upward and downward — not fully shielded per Sec. 26-278(a)(1).


INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED SIGNS

The illuminated sign panels (and any internally lit canopy fascia) constitute outdoor lighting. These must also meet CCT requirements under Article X.


BONUS — Sec. 26-278(a)(1) & (e)(1)

Shielding (a)(1): all outdoor lighting fully shielded. CCT (e)(1): shall not exceed 3,000K. Both apply to sign illumination AND architectural fixtures. Note: 24-hour operation = exempt from Sec. 26-278(g)(1) curfew.

Points possible this round: 3 regular + 2 bonus = 5 total



Townhome Complex — Kerrville

 Multifamily residential development · Kerrville

A new apartment/townhome complex. Someone really wanted to make sure nobody is ever in the dark. Look at the center of the photo. That's... a lot of light. Let's count the problems.

Points available: **4 + bonus**

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📍 Townhome Complex — Kerrville

💡 TALKING POINT

This is a new construction — no amortization grace period applies. Per Sec. 26-277(g), all new construction must comply immediately.

✘ MASSIVELY OVER-LIT WALL FIXTURE

The central wall-mounted fixture produces extreme glare and appears to be an unshielded or semi-shielded floodlight. The source is clearly visible from the street — violating both shielding and light trespass rules.

✘ LIGHT TRESPASS

Light from these fixtures is clearly falling on neighboring units and the public street well beyond the property being lit. Light trespass is prohibited per Sec. 26-278(b)(1).

✘ CCT EXCEEDS 3,000K

The harsh cool-white/blue-white color of the primary floodlight clearly exceeds the 3,000K maximum.

✘ RESIDENTIAL LUMEN CAP LIKELY EXCEEDED

Residential properties are capped at 25,000 lumens per net acre. A single unshielded floodlight of this intensity likely approaches or exceeds that entire allocation.

★ BONUS — Sec. 26-278(b)(1) & (h)(1)(b)

Light trespass: "Light trespass is prohibited. No luminaire installed within the city... may create conditions of light trespass." Residential lumen cap: "Total outdoor light output installed on any residential property shall not exceed 25,000 lumens per net acre."

Points possible this round: 4 regular + 2 bonus = 6 total



The Bank & Trust

 Bank · Kerrville (photographed June 18, 2026)

A beautiful, architecturally impressive new bank building. The landscaping is gorgeous. But count the light sources and ask: which ones are breaking the rules? There are at least THREE issues.

Points available: **4 + bonus**

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The Bank & Trust

TALKING POINT

This building is a great example of how thoughtful design can look stunning AND be compliant — with shielded downward sconces and static signage, it would be just as beautiful.

WALL SCONCES SHINE UPWARD

The decorative wall sconces across the entire facade are bi-directional — they visibly project light both up AND down the wall. Not fully shielded. Sec. 26-278(a)(1).

LIGHT CURFEW

All light up past 11pm curfew per Sec. 26-278(g)(1)(c).

DYNAMIC ELECTRONIC DISPLAY SIGN

The monument sign with the scrolling date/temperature display is an "electronic display" under Sec. 26-276. Sec. 26-278(k)(4) prohibits any light that "dynamically varies its output by intermittently fading, flashing, blinking, or rotating."

BONUS — Sec. 26-278(k)(4)

Electronic display: prohibited if it "dynamically varies its output by intermittently fading, flashing, blinking, or rotating."

Points possible this round: 4 regular + 2 bonus = 6 total



WHAT'S THE VIOLATION?



Kerrville Utilities Lab

 Rural yard/industrial property · Kerr County area

This one's from the road — a rural property at night with some serious lighting going on. You can even see the orange glow of Kerrville on the horizon behind it.
Special question: does Article X even apply here?

Points available: **3 + bonus**

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DING DING DING! The verdict is in...



Photo: Building 7

Kerrville Utilities Lab

TALKING POINT

Notice the sky glow on the horizon — that's Kerrville's light dome, visible from miles away. Every unshielded light in the area contributes to that orange haze. And this one light is a major contributor.

UNSHIELDED HIGH-INTENSITY POLE LIGHT

The bright bare-bulb or exposed-lamp pole light produces severe glare in all directions with zero shielding. This violates Sec. 26-278(a)(1) and (b).

CCT LIKELY EXCEEDS 3,000K

The light appears cool white or very bright white — likely 4,000K+. Warm sources ($\leq 3,000$ K) produce a distinctly amber/golden color at distance. Sec. 26-278(e)(1).

JURISDICTION QUESTION

Article X applies "within the city limits" per Sec. 26-275(b)(1). If this property is in the ETJ or unincorporated Kerr County — Article X does NOT legally apply. But voluntary compliance still matters! This facility is within the city limits, so Article X applies.

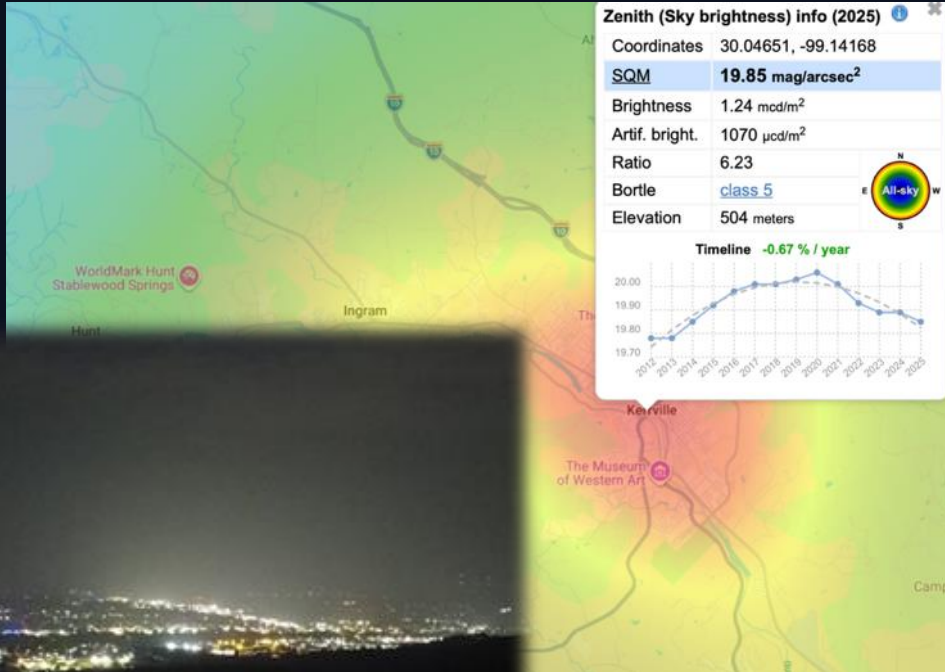
BONUS — Sec. 26-275(b)(1) & (2)

"This article shall apply within the city limits." ETJ application is optional per (b)(2). This is why Kerrville's outreach to ETJ businesses matters.

Points possible this round: 3 regular + 2 bonus = 5 total



WHAT'S THE VIOLATION?



Kerrville's Light Dome

Kerrville, Ingram

This one's from above— can you see any stars? The Glow Dome is growing and what might that mean?

In 2020 the Milky Way was visible - Bortle (3 - 4).

Today at Bortle 5, the Milky Way is fading; sky has a greyish, washed-out appearance

At Bortle 7, very few stars visible; bright, hazy background.

|| PAUSE HERE — Before the Scoring and Reflect !!



FINAL SCORE

Maximum possible: 22 regular + 14 bonus = 36 points

DARK SKY CHAMPION

22+

You could pass the Article X compliance exam. Have you considered a career in lighting enforcement?

NIGHT SKY ADVOCATE

**15–
21**

Solid knowledge. You know your warm from your cool and your shielded from your scatter.

GETTING THERE

8–14

Good instincts! A re-read of Sec. 26-278 and you'll be citing violations like a pro.

JUST STARTING OUT

< 8

The good news: the stars are still up there. The better news: now you know what to look for!