



Communications Department

May 12, 2026

Accessibility Advisory Board
Civic Center Plaza
1200 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: Recommendation to Adopt Atkinson Hyperlegible Font for All City Communications

Dear Accessibility Advisory Board Members,

Thank you for your March 11, 2026, recommendation encouraging the City of San Diego to adopt the Atkinson Hyperlegible typeface as the standard font for all City communications. We appreciate the Board's continued leadership in advancing accessibility and ensuring that all residents, including those with low vision, are able to fully access City information and services.

The Communications Department shares your commitment to improving readability, consistency and ADA/WCAG-aligned practices across all public-facing materials. We have reviewed the Board's recommendation as part of our ongoing work to strengthen the City's communication standards and ensure that typography supports accessibility across both digital and print mediums.

As you may know, the City uses Open Sans and Merriweather as its primary working fonts. Both typefaces are WCAG-compliant when implemented with proper size, spacing, contrast and structured document formatting. These fonts are included in the City's current Visual Style Guide and are already integrated into templates, digital systems, document libraries and departmental workflows Citywide. Maintaining them as the City's primary fonts preserves consistency and prevents disruption to the many public materials currently in circulation.

Section 5.1 of our [Visual Style Guide](#) outlines use the use of Open Sans and Merriweather in various cases. We are in the process of updating this reference in the Visual Style Guide to include additional guidance for accessibility. This guidance will include information regarding the sufficient size and spacing of text, color contrast guidelines and the proper use of headings, lists, and reading order for assistive technologies.

We recognize the significant accessibility benefits of Atkinson Hyperlegible, particularly its enhanced character differentiation and design focus on legibility for individuals with low vision. As we begin the scheduled update of the City's Visual Style Guide later this year, the Communications Department will evaluate Atkinson Hyperlegible as a potential option for a City standard typeface. Your recommendation will be included directly in this review.

Thank you, again, for your thoughtful input and for your continued efforts to strengthen accessibility throughout the City of San Diego. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the Board as we work to improve clarity, usability and inclusion in all City communications.

Sincerely,



Nicole Darling
Director
Communications Department

Cc: Patricia Sieglen-Perry, Vice Chair
Mary Wolford, Member
Wayne Landon, Member
Jacqueline Jackson, Member
Elaine Mary Cooluris, Member
Diane Koczur, Member
Kate Pecora, Member
Chida Warren, Director of Appointments, Office of the Mayor
Randy Wilde, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Maureen Jugar, Deputy Director, Communications Department
Alex Handy, Assistant Deputy Director, Communications Department
Thyme Curtis, Program Manager & Citywide Accessibility Coordinator, ADA Compliance and Accessibility