



Borrego Springs is the world's second official International Dark Sky Community & the first in California!

## BORREGO SPRINGS DARK SKY COALITION

### Report to the International Dark Sky Association

2011-2012

#### BACKGROUND

- July 31, 2009, the International Dark-Sky Association designates Borrego Springs, CA, USA, the second International Dark Sky Community (IDSC) in the world.
- Borrego Springs is recognized for its exceptional commitment to dark sky protection and restoration throughout the community.
- The successful community application was a two-year effort by the volunteers who make up the Borrego Spring Dark Sky Coalition.
- A formal presentation was held on October 24, 2009, when IDA representatives presented the community of Borrego Springs with the designation.



## DARK SKY PROTECTION EFFORTS

Examples of our recent efforts to work with local business owners and managers to provide night-sky friendly lighting and reduce light pollution in Borrego Springs:

- Secured commitment from the Vice President of Solar Development for the **NRG Borrego Solar Project** to minimized permanent lighting on the project; to provide shading for fixtures; to point fixtures down; and to use a motion sensor at the facility's entrance.
- **Synergy Company** installing residential outdoor fixtures for San Diego Gas & Electric – changed to installing shielded outdoor fixtures at our request.
- **Wells Fargo Bank** – authorized a company representative to reduce lighting and add shades to the two bright wall-packs, while staying within required specifications for ATMs.
- **A Local Lodging Establishment** – lighting reduced on their entrance sign.

#### New Brochure for 2013....

The Borrego Dark Sky Coalition producing a brochure about Borrego Springs dark skies, the IDA designation, and night-sky friendly outdoor lighting for distribution throughout the community in 2013.



View of Medical Center outdoor light taken from visitor parking lot area. The light shines out onto the S-3. Photo taken on October 1, 2012



View of Medical Center outdoor lights from S-3, Yaqui Pass Road on Oct 1, 2012



Medical Center outdoor lights are not shielded and shine out at 90 degrees across parking lot. Photo taken October 1, 2012

#### Example of Documentation

We documented the excessively bright lights and light trespass were documented at the **Borrego Medical Center**. We are currently working with the administrators to improve the lighting.

*“Thank you for your welcoming letter. NRG Energy is excited about becoming a member of the Borrego Springs Community and, as a new neighbor, is supportive of your coalition and the efforts you have made to protect the night sky. As a solar energy generation facility, most all of our operations will be during the daylight hours. But, we were aware of the unique requirements during the development of the Borrego Solar 1 project and have integrated “Dark Sky” into its design.”*

Vice President of Solar Development

NRG Borrego Solar Project

July 2012

# DARK SKY: BORREGO SPREADING THE WORD

Borrego Dark Sky Coalition members hosted South Korean documentary filmmakers in July 2011. Director Young Soo Kim (on the right) made a stop in Borrego Springs to film “For Those Who Have Been Deprived of Night Sky” an hour-long film for the South Korean PBS TV. “The hope,” Kim said, “is for South Korea to make laws that bring the dark skies back.”



## Dark skies can add sparkle to local tourism, astronomer says

By Craig Johnson  
 It's a common theme in the dark sky movement: the night sky is a resource. "The night sky is free, and you can't see it," Owens said. "If you're not here, you can't see it, and you can't see it if you're not here." Owens has been visiting officials, dark sky advocates, and astronomy clubs in Borrego Springs, and he's been spreading the word about the benefits of dark sky tourism. Owens said he's been to Borrego Springs several times, and he's been to other dark sky locations in the United States and around the world. Owens said he's been to Borrego Springs several times, and he's been to other dark sky locations in the United States and around the world. Owens said he's been to Borrego Springs several times, and he's been to other dark sky locations in the United States and around the world.



## Elementary students urged to appreciate Borrego's dark sky

By Craig Johnson  
 Borrego Springs elementary school students were urged to appreciate the dark sky over Borrego Springs. Owens said he's been to Borrego Springs several times, and he's been to other dark sky locations in the United States and around the world. Owens said he's been to Borrego Springs several times, and he's been to other dark sky locations in the United States and around the world.



STEVE OWENS, indicated dark sky movement concepts to elementary school students at Borrego Springs Elementary School, Sept. 27.

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## TOURISM: 'Huge' potential for business

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## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Special school programs in cooperation with NightFall
- Participation in the Julian Star Fest
- Borrego Energy Day programs
- Talk by Scott Kardel on the history of Palomar Observatory
- Participation in the San Diego IDA Chapter meetings and the October 2012 public program in San Diego
- Interview on KPBS Public Radio

Articles in the San Diego Union-Tribune Newspaper: “Borrego Leads Dark-Sky Movement” and “Dimming the Lights at Night”



Star programs are offered throughout the year.



Borrego Days Parade....Proving that Borrego Springs is “Not Afraid of the Dark!”

