
Betsy Knaak Chair, Borrego Springs Dark Sky ...

Betsy Knaak Chair

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| Submission Date | Jan 29, 2024 1:27 PM |
| Date | Jan 22, 2024 |
| International Dark Sky Place Name | Borrego Springs, California |
| International Dark Sky Place Category | International Dark Sky Community |
| Designation Year | 2009 |
| Guidelines Version | 2007 |
| Your Name | Betsy Knaak Chair, Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition |
| Email Address | abdnha2@att.net |
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| Secondary Contact Email Address | mshirly@borregovalleyrealty.com |
| Secondary Contact Phone Number | +1 (760) 1121 |
| What is the physical address of the Place? | Borrego Desert Nature Center, 652 Palm Canyon Drive Borrego Springs, CA, 92004 |


United States

Is the site currently under Provisional Status? **No**

Are you a DarkSky Delegate, Affiliate, or Chapter Representative? **No**

Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading for this reporting period: **21.46**

Upload your night sky quality raw data documents for this reporting period:



Borrego Springs SQM Summary v01.pdf
1.19 MB

Upload a map (PDF or image) that shows the locations and names of the places that were used to take SQM measurements. If you provided a map last year and your sites have not changed, you may skip to the next section:



Map DeAnzaCountryClub_Borrego Spri... .jpg
103.62 KB

Describe any changes detected in night sky quality from receiving your certification to the present:

Borrego Springs has not had a consistent program of night sky brightness measurements sufficient to detect changes over time. That program just started with installation of first recording SQM a few months ago. It will take at least 3 years of such data to detect a statistically significant trend.


Parks, Sanctuaries, and Communities, please fill out the applicable row to describe your lighting compliance rate (%) with your Lighting Management Plan/Policy (whole numbers only):

| | Year of Certification | Compliance % in Original Application | Current Compliance % | Anticipated % for Next Reporting Period |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Parks | | | | |
| Sanctuaries | | | | |
| Communities | 2009 | 100 | 80 | 85 |

What actions have you taken to meet the requirements of your Lighting Management Plan/Policy during this reporting period? Include a summary of any actions taken with privately owned lighting that helped improve your night sky quality as well:

Contacted several private property owners in response to complaints from neighbors. Documented and contacted Wells Fargo Bank regarding ATM upgrade lighting. Borrego Springs Mall parking lot lighting replaced. The Center parking lot fixture luminaires replaced.

Upload any relevant documentation showing examples of lighting changes made during this reporting period:



BorregoSpringsMall_Old-vs-NewLightin... .pdf
7.28 MB

Have you used any fixtures from the IDA Fixture Seal of Approval (FSA) Program? **Yes**

If you answered yes to the previous question, please describe:

**Product code: ABPL-ATR2-T5-4Q1-70 (35W)-27K
Description: 120/277/-PT30-ANSI 70 GREY**

By CALAFATA Electric
27 fixtures

For International Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, have there been any changes to your local outdoor lighting ordinances? If yes, please describe and provide a link to the updated policy if available:

No

Configurable list

| Name of Event/Program | # of Times Offered | Estimated # of Attendees |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Farmers Market Information Table | 32 | 900 |
| Star Parties and Programs | 17 | 550 |
| Bi-monthly Newsletter | 5 | 3500 |
| High School Program | 1 | 20 |
| Full Moon Walk | 10 | 240 |

Did you promote DarkSky and its mission during your outreach programs/events? If so, describe:

Yes, distributed DarkSky literature, provided informative presentations.

Is there any programming, ongoing or planned, blending the arts and/or culture with dark skies? If so, describe:

Our Full Moon Walks have a meditation element to them. Night Sky Photography has become a popular artform in our Dark Sky Community.

What have you noticed about your visitors' experiences? For example, is attendance/visitation of dark-sky programs consistent, growing, or dropping off? Have visitors provided any feedback on their experiences at your site? Please describe:

Programs popular, well-attended, with attendance increasing; do not have the human resources to meet the potential demand.

Provide up to five photos of events you hosted this year:



Grace, Dottie, Sandy at Christmas Circle...jpg
133.19 KB

Provide social media handles or website links used to promote dark skies (these will be added to your Place's DarkSky page):

<https://www.abdnha.org/borregodarksky/>
[facebook.com/borregospringsdarkskycoalition/](https://www.facebook.com/borregospringsdarkskycoalition/)

Has your Place participated in any DarkSky-led initiatives such as International Dark Sky Week, the Under One Sky conference, or other relevant promotions during this reporting period?

No

Upload files of any media coverage (articles, interviews, etc.) about your site or dark-sky efforts you are involved with. This may also be a document



Publications List_Borrego Dark Sky Coali...jpg
165.95 KB

with a list of links to the respective coverage.

Has your site erected signage identifying your site as an International Dark Sky Place?

Yes

Briefly describe how educational materials are being dispersed/provided at your Place:

Weekly information table at Farmers Market and Library, community newsletter articles

Upload examples of new (not developed/provided by the IDA) printed educational materials that have been created this reporting period. These may include brochures, handouts, policy-related materials such as utility notices, and/or informative messages distributed through utility companies:



dark-sky-5-principles-final2.pdf
364.99 KB

Describe any permanent or temporary exhibits that have been created this reporting period (these may include trails, informative waysides, interpretation signs, gift shop items, etc.):

Developed a new children's t-shirt "Borrego Springs Star Watcher" with several glow in the dark constellations.

Briefly describe any efforts undertaken to reach new audiences. If this was not part of your efforts last year, describe what you plan to do to engage new visitors in the 2024 reporting period:

Information table at Library started end of 2023, will become weekly event in 2024.

Have you worked with any external partners to promote the dark-sky movement within and outside of your Place's boundaries? If so, identify these partners and explain the result of this collaboration:

Julian Dark Sky Network - exchange information, give permission to use materials/brochures we develop.
Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce - give permission to use our text in their materials promoting Borrego Springs dark sky; they contacted Wells Fargo Bank headquarters on our behalf about lighting at their branch in Borrego Springs.
San Diego County - chair a committee that worked with the County to improve county lighting ordinance for dark sky designated communities (Borrego and Julian)
Borrego Springs County Library - work with library on dark sky programs; for 2024 setting up a display in the lobby of the library
Borrego Springs High School - provide a program for students enrolled in their Interpretive and Host class.
DarkSky Oregon - work with DarkSky Oregon for assistance with SQM for Borrego Springs.

Were you awarded any grants or funding for projects during this reporting period? If yes, please describe:

No

Have you collaborated with a DarkSky Delegate or Chapter on dark-sky issues since the last reporting period? If so, please describe:

Michael McKeag DarkSky Delegate, DarkSky Oregon, DarkSky San Diego, Julian Dark Sky Network.
One of our Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition members (Mary) is a board member of the San Diego IDA Chapter, and reports back to us after each meeting, and brings our news to the Chapter.

Are there any ongoing conservation and/or research programs at the site? If so, who runs them, and what are the goals?

There are invasive plant conservation programs run by the state park and San Diego County to control the spread of invasive plants into the desert. There is an official Borrego Valley Hawkwatch run by the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association to monitor the spring migration.

Briefly describe future plans (in

Borrego Springs Library information table and displays.

2023 and beyond) to engage with existing and new partners and how you will expand the dark-sky movement:

For Dark Sky Communities, briefly describe any new or ongoing projects and/or renovation activities that have taken place during this reporting period:

Have the "threats" identified in your application for certification:

If the "threats" identified in your application for certification have increased or decreased, please provide a brief explanation of how they have changed (i.e., increased/decreased visibility of light domes, new sources of glare/problematic lighting, new industry/development, etc.):

Provide a brief description of how you will continue to manage "threats" over the next year:

Add one (or more) continuous recording SQMs to increase geographic coverage with technical support from DarkSky Oregon.

New working relationship with Borrego Springs Library.

Increased

Since the pandemic, there's a proliferation of AirB&Bs increasing, with renters and absentee owners uniformed of dark sky lighting practices.

We are working to provide information about dark sky lighting regulations to new property owners as part of real estate purchase process.

Our rep from Borrego Springs who is on the board of the San Diego County is working on this, trying to get the lighting regulations for dark sky areas in San Diego County into required disclosure documents published by the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors (SDAR), of which she is a member. The document is Local Area Disclosures for San Diego County (LAD). It is held in a Forms Library that realtors can obtain the latest version by selecting the document.

It recently came to the attention of our rep that real estate offices outside of San Diego County are using similar documents, but for the area where they are located, even if the property is located in San Diego County. So they are without the benefit of information specific to this area.

However, the suggestion has been made that the DarkSky parent group should be pushing to get these disclosures required for the area where the property is located. The issue is that realtors from all over the California aren't aware of this. The recommendation is that this needs a higher authority at the state or national level to make these lighting disclosures required for all realtors selling real estate in all areas of Dark Sky or potential Dark Sky locations.

FYI: In order to have access to these disclosures you must be a member of the National Association of Realtors, the California Association of Realtors (CAR), and a local association of realtors of which there are many associations in California.

What is the total size of your Place (in square kilometers only)?

112

For Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, what is the current population size?

3500

Have there been any changes to the size, access and/or boundaries of your Place (this could be property acquisition, sale, road development/closure, easement access, etc.)? If so, please describe:

No

What do you consider the greatest single benefit of the Dark Sky Places certification to your location?

Dark sky tourism. Tourism is the keystone of the local economy.

Did you have any dealings with DarkSky over the last 12 months regarding any certification issues? How were they handled by DarkSky?

None
