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.

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.”

Borrego Dark Sky Coalition members hosted Steve Owens, visiting astronomer from Glasgow, Scotland, the UK coordinator for the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. Steve was awarded the International Dark-Skies Astronomer of the Year 2010 award. He visited Borrego Springs as the Winston Churchill Travelling Fellow on tour of all North American Dark Sky Places.

While in Borrego Springs in September 2011, Steve met with the Dark Sky Coalition, presented a program to business owners about Dark Sky Astro-Tourism, and gave an excellent program at an all-school assembly at Borrego Springs Elementary about the universe and the dark night sky.

**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!”