

# MBCA



## **morongo basin conservation association**

P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree, California 92252 <http://www.mbconservation.org/>

June 5, 2016

Board of Directors  
International Dark Sky Association  
3223 North First Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85719-2103

IDA Board of Directors,

The Board of the MBCA and its members are proud to support Joshua Tree National Park's application to become a Dark Sky Park. Park visitors will exceed two million in 2016 and we know from visitor surveys that over 65% travel away from the bright lights of their home cities to experience the phenomena of darkness. The Park staff are diligent in their efforts to insure that IDA standards are met and that visitors have opportunities to stare in awe at the Milky Way arching across the heavens and track the rising of the planets and constellations. For every camper the entry fee includes the hours to sit under the star studded heavens while bathed in the utter stillness of the desert night.

Those of us who live here do not take the dark sky as a given; we know we must work to keep our communities' lights dim and pointing down. Partnering with the Park and our local Sky's The Limit Observatory and Southern California Video Astronomers we get out into the county and communities to help craft dark sky friendly lighting ordinances and practices. The Park's designation as a Dark Sky Park will bring pride to our gateway communities, and importantly, encourage residents and businesses to be aware of their lighting choices and make changes as needed.

We add our voice to those requesting that the Board of Directors at IDA accept Joshua Tree National Park's request and approve their application for status as a Dark Sky Park.

Sincerely,



Sarah Kennington, President MBCA

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association is a 501 (c)(3), community-based, California Nonprofit Corporation, incorporated in 1969. MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth and economic well-being.