

MBCA News
Friday, December 26, 2014

Mark your calendars

MBCA has received a request from Philip Klasky on behalf of Community ORV Watch and the Alliance for Responsible Recreation to attend a very important public meeting to address widespread off-road vehicle trespass on private and public lands. The meeting will look for solutions in light of limited resources to enforce codes and provide needed protections.

DATE: December 29th, 3pm

LOCATION: The Palms Restaurant in Wonder Valley

Representatives from the BLM, Sheriff's Department, Code Enforcement, Marine Corps Base, Supervisor James Ramos' office, local MAC and Joshua Tree National Park Superintendent Smith will be present. Residents from the Landers, Copper Mountain Mesa, Joshua Tree and Wonder Valley communities will relate their dissatisfaction with the lack of law enforcement to address widespread off-road vehicle trespass on private and public lands, wilderness areas and Desert Wildlife Management Areas.

Community OHV Watch and Alliance for Responsible Recreation cite a field report by BLM Chief Ranger Patrick Chassie that documents damage to invaluable cultural and natural resources; as well as the Sheriff's department scaled-back policies that attempted to stem the damage from illegal off-road vehicle activity in areas with county jurisdiction.

For more information about ORV Watch, visit their web site www.orvwatch.com.

Solar Power Update: Landers projects

MBCA Director Marina West has been actively tracking the appeal of the SPower/Bowman Solar Project and working to create a strategic plan to confront the proposal, as well as other projects that recently surfaced in Landers.

Marina notes: If we fail to kill this project then the "bar" for future projects is going to be very low. The Board of Supervisors need to be overwhelmed with comment on the inappropriate siting of solar farms in our communities.

Above all, take a moment to participate; don't rely on someone else to speak for you. Again, this is not just for Landers, our entire community is affected! The existing solar farms in Morongo Basin were constructed before the Solar Ordinance was in place so we are in a new ballgame.

Thanks for Marina and the other Landers residents who quickly mobilized in response to the recently discovered threats to their community. We'll keep you posted on how residents are responding, the success of their efforts and how you can become involved.

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2014 MBCA Board

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*MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment
that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth,
and economic well-being.*