

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
REPORT OF CONVERSATION Page 1 of 1



**Energy Facilities Siting Division,
 Environmental Protection Office**

FILE: 09-AFC-9

PROJECT TITLE: Ridgecrest Solar Power Project

Email Exchange zearl.email@gmail.com **Meeting Location:** None

NAME: Earl Wilson **DATE:** 02-17-10 **TIME:** 10:07 p.m.

WITH: President, China Lake Astronomical Society (CLAS)

SUBJECT: Use of location within project site boundaries for Star Parties

Mr. Earl Wilson, President of CLAS, addressed the Committee at the January 6, 2010 Ridgecrest Informational Hearing regarding CLAS's historic and ongoing use of a specific site south of Brown Road, within the proposed project footprint, for CLAS Star Parties. Meetings have occurred at that site for over 20 years.

I sent Mr. Wilson an email on 2/15/10 to confirm the location. His response on 2/16/10 confirmed the location, as reflected in the SA and attached emails. On 2/18/10, he followed up with maps and Lat/Long information.

DOCKET	
09-AFC-9	
DATE	<u>FEB 17 2010</u>
RECD.	<u>MAR 16 2010</u>

cc: Eric Solorio
 Dockets (09-AFC-9)

Signed:
Name: Shaelyn Strattan

Record of Conversation: Email string with Earl Wilson 2/14/10 – 2/18/10

On Mon, Feb 15, 2010 at 10:04 PM, Shaelyn Strattan <SStratta@energy.state.ca.us> wrote:

> ** High Priority **

>

> Mr. Wilson - We spoke at the last public meeting for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project. I am hoping you can confirm something for me. You mentioned that your group has been using a site within the proposed project boundaries for many years. It is my understanding that this site is located on the buttes, north of Brown Road, near the end of any existing OHV access road. Is this correct? If not, could you give me a more accurate description of the site? Please give me a call or drop me an email if you have any questions. Thank you so much.

>

> Shaelyn Strattan, Environmental Planner II
> California Energy Commission
> Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection
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> Sacramento, CA 95814
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>>> Earl Wilson <zearl.email@gmail.com> 2/17/2010 10:07 PM >>>

Hi,

No, that is not the correct location. The site is actually under SE'ly part of the project footprint.

The star party site is the large clearing on the fan S'ly of Brown Rd. that is occasionally used by RV campers.

The access road is along the W'ly side of the wash and has good access to ordinary cars and is why we use this site for the public out reach.

Please see below for specific directions to the location which are the same that is used in the local newspaper and also a copy of the 2009 schedule for verification of our frequency of use at the site. (2010 schedule is pending)

(COPY FROM CHINA LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER)

Volume 46 No. 3 March 1, 2009

*STAR PARTY SCHEDULE FOR THE 2009 SEASON:

*Star Parties will be held on the dates listed below. Star Parties are an activity where members and guests come together to view the skies. If you have a telescope, bring it; if not, come and look through someone else's.

They are held at a site in the open desert south of Ridgecrest. To reach the site from Ridgecrest, go south on China Lake Boulevard 6.5 miles from its intersection with Ridgecrest Boulevard. Continue straight across Highway 395 and you will be on Brown Road (Old Highway 395). Follow Brown Road as it curves to the right and goes west. After 2.3 miles there will be a 30-inch orange cone on the left. Turn left and follow the dirt road marked by 12-inch cones. The CLAS star party is 0.5 miles along this road. Signs and cones will be put out about a half hour before viewing starts.

Call Carroll Evans 760-375-5681, or Bruce Churchill 760-375-7247, for more information.

Friday, March 27: Signs out at 7:30 p.m., Star viewing at 8:00 p.m

Friday, May 22: Signs out at 8:30 p.m., Star viewing at 9:00 p.m.

Friday, June 19: Signs out at 8:30 p.m., Star viewing at 9:00 p.m.

Friday, July 17: Signs out at 8:30 p.m., Star viewing at 9:00 p.m.

Friday, August 21: Signs out at 8:30 p.m., Star viewing at 9:00 p.m.

Friday, September 18: Signs out at 7:30 p.m., Star viewing 8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 16: Signs out at 7:00 p.m., Star viewing at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 13: Signs out at 5:30 p.m., Star viewing at 6:00 p.m.

I don't have the GPS location handy but can get it for you along with a Google Map if that would help???

Hope this answers your question,
Earl Wilson
Pres. - China Lake Astronomical Society
Treas - Western Amatuer Astronomers

<http://www.chinalakeastro.org/>

<http://www.waa.av.org/>

>>> Earl Wilson <zearl.email@gmail.com> 2/17/2010 10:07 PM >>>

Hi,

Sorry about the delay but that thing called work got in the way.

It seems that the starparty site is on one of the un-approved roads. S of Brown Rd. it branches off E'ly of the approved road just W'ly of the planned wash crossover.

Attached are Google satellite photos, one showing a close up of the area and another a wide view.

Caution the locations can be off somewhat using Google - they even vary between satellite and topo but this is the best I can do for now as I live about 90 miles away in Lone Pine and unable to actually take a GPS location for you until at the earliest Feb. 22. If you need it more precisely please let me know and I will have one of the CLAS members get the GPS coordinates.

The location specific can be readily identified by a large fire circle maybe > 3ft. diameter. The area pictured is at least as large in area as a football field and is centered on what I think is the fire ring - in the Google attachments.

Hope this helps,
Earl Wilson Pres. - China Lake Astro Soc.

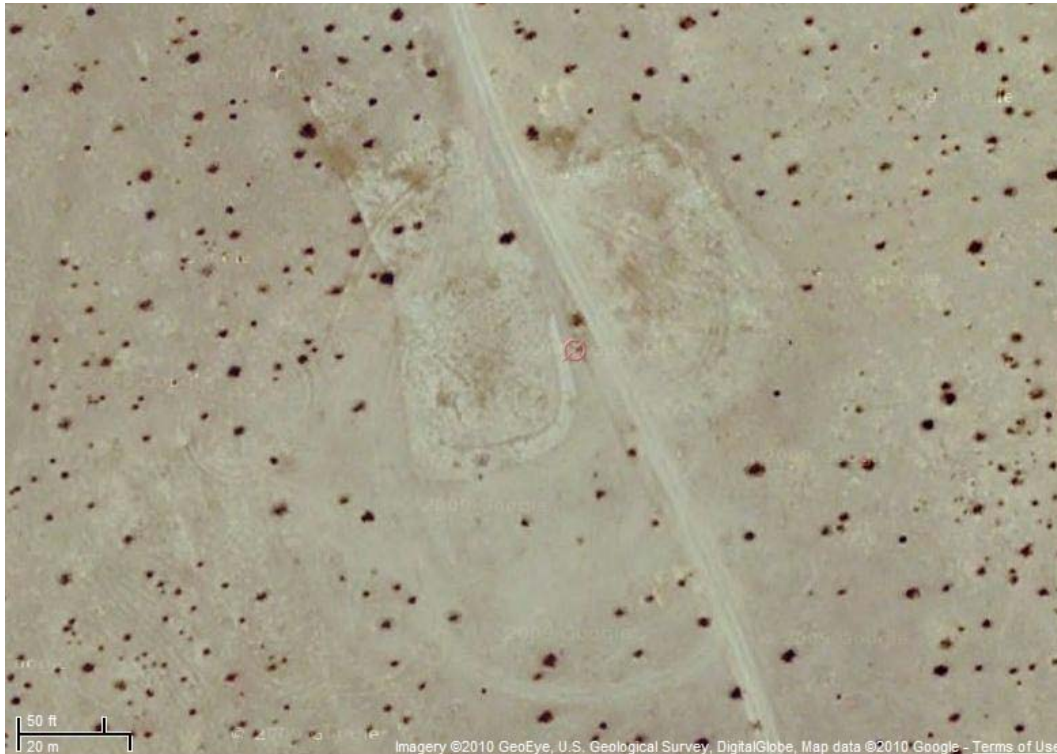
Attachments – ROC Earl Wilson (CLAS) 2/18/10



(Map center is at (WGS84 datum) Lat = 35.551748, Lon = -117.748493, which is 78.338 Km from path center.)

China Lake Astronomical Society – Star Party location

Source: Earl Wilson, Pres. - China Lake Astro Soc. (CLAS)



(Map center is at (WGS84 datum) Lat = 35.551748, Lon = -117.748493, which is 78.338 Km from path center.)

China Lake Astronomical Society – Star Party location

Source: Earl Wilson, Pres. - China Lake Astro Soc. (CLAS)