

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JANUARY 23, 2012**

**CONTACT: JERRY MATTOS 760-285-53111**

## **County Grant Will Facilitate Observatory Dome Construction**

Sky's The Limit – a grassroots nonprofit organization working to build an Observatory and Nature Center in Twentynine Palms – has received a \$10,000 grant from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors for the construction of an observatory dome.

The funds were allocated by Third District Supervisor Neil Derry from his budget allocation to help finance unbudgeted priorities in his district. The funds will be administered by the Basin Wide Foundation (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization).

This much-anticipated project will house the large C-14 telescope given to STL by Celestron in 2011, and will facilitate a program of astronomy education that is a key element in the mission of Sky's The Limit.

The 15' diameter rotating and operable dome is a donation to STL from Joshua Springs Christian School in Yucca Valley. Sky's The Limit's challenge is to dis-assemble the fiberglass dome and to transport it to the Observatory and Nature Center site in Twentynine Palms adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park. There, it will be re-assembled and placed atop a new structure. Volunteers will provide much of the labor.

Bidders and donors at STL's recent holiday silent auction made possible the purchase of two specialized eyepieces and a state-of-the-art adjustable pier for the telescope. The pier will make the telescope accessible to people in wheelchairs and to stargazers of all ages.

Sky's The Limit is grateful to Supervisor Derry and to volunteers and supporters who are helping to realize the goal of appreciating and preserving the desert night sky.