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LOCAL CORPSMEMBERS MOBILIZED TO SUPPORT WILDFIRE RECOVERY IN LOS ANGELES

LONG BEACH, CA – At 1 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2025, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) will deploy 15 dedicated Corpsmembers to serve the communities most affected by the Los Angeles wildfires by aiding in critical recovery efforts. These young adults have chosen to give of themselves on a full-time basis through their work with CCLB. Not only are they being provided job training and wraparound services, but also the opportunity to learn about and embrace what it means to give back through service. Being deployed to service on the day the nation recognizes the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shows their commitment can help restore communities, help emergency first responders, and help victims feel hopeful.

Answering the call to provide disaster relief support is part of CCLB's mission. Over the past 10 years, Conservation Corps' have sent crews to respond to Hurricane Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Irma, and Florence. Currently, CCLB also has a crew in North Carolina on their second deployment providing relief to residents recovering from Hurricane Helene.

Wildfire recovery efforts will include removing debris and hazardous materials, installation of erosion control systems, repairing infrastructure, and providing aid for residents. "Most people don't know that a key component of what Conservation Corps' do is provide support and relief to regions hardest hit by natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires," said Dan Knapp, Executive Director and CEO of the Conservation Corps of Long Beach. "These trained and certified young leaders will be on the ground, working diligently to rebuild damaged infrastructure and support affected communities. The impact and devastation of these wildfires has been intense and unimaginable, but our Corpsmembers are stepping up to meet the challenge by giving of themselves on a round-the-clock basis. Their dedication and skills will drive real progress as we work together with local, regional, and State agencies to heal both the environment and the impacted communities."

This call to action by the State's Office of Emergency Services is being done in collaboration with the California Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, as well as with private partners. Through this shared commitment, all responding agencies are better equipped to address wildfire recovery in the face of climate challenges.

THE CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH

Since 1987, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach has been providing youth workforce development and education services to young people ages 18-26. Many of the young people served come from and live in historically under-resourced communities, as well as communities where environmental justice issues like inadequate access to healthy food, air and water pollution, and inadequate transportation are prevalent. The Conservation Corps of Long Beach's 150 Corpsmembers are led by a dedicated team of professionals. Staff have expertise in project management, construction, architecture, ecology, wildland fire fighting, resource management as well as education, social services, and case management.

CCLB is one of 14 State-certified Local Conservation Corps. As a certified Corps, CCLB operates under the California Public Resources Code which mandates important and essential program standards and components such as job skills training, education, life skills training and post-program transition, retention, and supportive services. Certified Corps may also be called upon to provide local disaster relief. CCLB maintains its certification each year through an annual review process conducted by the California Conservation Corps. To learn more about the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, visit www.cclb-corps.org.