FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 2024

Judith Carey
(562) 335-2443
jcarey@cclb-corps.org

LOCAL YOUNG ADULTS HEAD ACROSS COUNTRY TO AID HURRICANE VICTIMS IN NORTH CAROLINA

LONG BEACH, CA – On Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 8:10 a.m., one crew supervisor and four Corpsmembers from the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) will depart from Long Beach Airport for Black Mountain, North Carolina to serve the communities most affected by Hurricane Helene. The crew is part of an AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team (A-DRT). A-DRTs are a coalition of service programs from across the country dedicated to mobilizing members to provide critical services at disaster sites.

Over the past 10 years, Conservation Corps' have sent crews to respond to Hurricane Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Irma, and Florence. Administered and led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), this crew will help address local needs due to Hurricane Helene.

The CCLB crew of five will be in North Carolina for 30-60 days. Historically, crews have participated in disaster response services such as using chainsaws to remove downed or hazardous trees, cleaning mud and debris from damaged homes, food and emergency supply coordination and distribution, and community shelter assistance.

"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," said Dan Knapp, Executive Director and CEO of the Conservation Corps of Long Beach. "As a Conservation Corps and with a call to serve, we run toward disasters, not away from them". Our organization was integral in the City's response during the Pandemic and supported regions in Florida after last year's rough hurricane season. We partner with the San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School and together, we ensure our staff and Corpsmembers are equipped, trained, and have the skills necessary to serve communities during times of need. We could not be prouder of our staff and participants willing to volunteer to go across the country during the holiday season to answer the call to serve."

###

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 currently manages a $15 million budget, 72 full-time staff and more than 150 Corpsmembers.

CCLB is the 4th largest Conservation Corps in the State of California and 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.