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The Bay Foundation Continues Partnership with Los Angeles World Airports to Restore the LAX Dunes

Los Angeles, CA (November 20, 2019) Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) announced that it has signed a three-year agreement with [The Bay Foundation](#) to continue its successful work at the LAX Dunes, the largest remaining contiguous coastal dune ecosystem in Southern California. The agreement, signed earlier this year, builds upon the shared efforts of both organizations to carefully monitor and guide restoration efforts of the Dunes ecosystem.

The contract allows TBF to continue habitat restoration, maintenance and monitoring in the northern dunes' 48 acres, which has been TBF's focus the last few years, while expanding efforts into an additional 52 acres. Since 2014, TBF has partnered with LAWA and the Friends of the LAX Dunes (FOLD) to build a successful community restoration program that has recruited over 2,000 volunteers, many of whom are K-12 students, to participate in stewardship and habitat restoration of an important coastal resource. This agreement also continues work that began in a 2017 agreement, under which TBF provides a variety of services to accomplish maintenance and restoration objectives in conformance with conditions set forth by the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

"Collectively, we've achieved a great deal. The expansion of our partnership to address a new area of the LAX dunes is very exciting," states Tom Ford, TBF Executive Director. "To have such a diversity of students and people come out to support and study the results of this work is very rewarding. Building awareness, restoring the dunes, and gaining scientific understanding of this special place will play a central role in our efforts to develop and support plans for the next 52 acres. I'm grateful to everyone involved."

Since 2013, through the Coastal Dunes Improvement Project (CDIP), LAWA has removed about four acres of road and infrastructure, removed acres of non-native invasive plant species, scattered native seed collected onsite, co-founded the FOLD in partnership with TBF, and employed experienced maintenance and landscaping staff to support restoration efforts.



In 2015, TBF began donating staff time to participate in, and eventually lead, monthly and special volunteer restoration events (e.g., Coastal Cleanup Day) – with special focus on the 6-acre CDIP area. Over 2,000 volunteers have contributed 5,000+ hours across 50 community restoration events – exceeding all projected estimates – as part of the Explore the Coast Grant Program through the State Coastal Conservancy.

In addition, TBF interns – many part of Loyola Marymount University’s Coastal Research Institute (CRI) – have gained valuable fieldwork experience through monitoring and data collection. With the broadened scope of this relatively unexplored 52 acres, TBF’s staff and CRI interns will conduct monitoring and research this coming winter to assess and then develop restoration recommendations and priorities. Monthly and special volunteer events, student internship projects, and expanded outreach efforts will continue. (For 2019 report, please [click here](#).)

"Our partnership with The Bay Foundation is an important piece of LAWA's sustainability strategy," says Samantha Bricker, Chief Environmental and Sustainability Officer, LAWA. "As we modernize LAX and build the airport of the future, we are ensuring that this vision keeps environmental sustainability at the forefront, including working with students and community members to restore the LAX Dunes and protect native wildlife."

This new agreement partners with Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC). TBF will coordinate with RSABG to collect and propagate seed to supplement restoration efforts in the CDIP area, and to support rare plant monitoring and out-planting experiments. TBF staff will also work with LACC – who have previously helped at the LAX Dunes – to conduct non-native vegetation management on site.

Additional partners involved are Coastal Restoration Consultants (advisors), PSOMAS (advisor/El Segundo Blue Butterfly Surveys), Cooper Ecological (birds/wildlife monitor), and IO Environmental and Infrastructure (restoration work, service-disabled veteran-owned small business).

Says Karina Johnston, TBF Science Director, "We are so pleased to have partners as dedicated as LAWA in restoring this vital coastal system. The benefits that this site provides to rare wildlife are substantial and should be celebrated. Volunteers are always excited to see animals such as burrowing owls and horned lizards."

The significant LAX Dunes are nestled between Los Angeles International Airport and the Pacific Ocean, and are home to over 900 species, many rare and threatened, including the federally endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly. Its protection and enhancement are good for biodiversity and good for the community. For more information and volunteer opportunities: www.santamonicabay.org.



About The Bay Foundation (TBF)

The Bay Foundation (TBF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula). The Bay Foundation is a partner in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program along with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and many other organizations. TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and community members. TBF engages scientists and conducts research while mentoring student interns and volunteers in conjunction with the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering through the Coastal Research Institute at Loyola Marymount University. (TBF: www.santamonicabay.org, CRI: lmu.edu/cri)

About Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

LAX, the fourth-busiest airport in the world and second busiest in the United States, was named a top-10 U.S. airport by SKYTRAX. LAX served more than 87.5 million passengers in 2018 and offers an average of 700 daily nonstop flights to 109 cities in the U.S. and 1,281 weekly nonstop flights to 93 markets in 47 countries on 69 commercial airlines. LAX ranks 10th in the world in air cargo tonnage processed, with more than 2.4 million tons of air cargo. LAX handled 707,883 operations (landings and takeoffs) in 2018.

LAX generated 620,600 jobs in Southern California, with labor income of \$37.3 billion and economic output (business revenues) of more than \$126.6 billion, according to an economic study based on 2014 operations. This activity added \$6.2 billion to local and state revenues and \$8.7 billion in federal tax revenues. The study also reported that LAX's ongoing capital improvement program creates an additional 121,640 annual jobs with labor income of \$7.6 billion and economic output of \$20.3 billion; \$966 million in state and local taxes; and \$1.6 billion in federal tax revenues.

LAX was honored as having the "Best Overall Customer Service Program" by Airports Council International-North America; named the "Best Airport for Breastfeeding Moms" by Mamava; selected for the Top 10 "Best of the U.S.'s Big Airports" (Wall Street Journal) and "Most Pet-Friendly Airports in the U.S. (Mental Floss); named the second-most improved airport in the U.S. by JD Power; received an "Innovation Award" from the L.A. Better Business Challenge for its Central Utility Plant; and named a "Business Leader in Air Quality" by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

LAX is also the second-most popular airport in the world to appear on Instagram, according to wego.com. LAX is part of a system of two Southern California airports – along with Van Nuys general aviation – that are owned and operated by Los Angeles World Airports, a proprietary department of the City of Los Angeles that receives no funding from the City's general fund.

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