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LA CONSERVATION CORPS SHOWCASES WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

In partnership with Boeing and other local non-profits, young people learn green job skills and put them to work harvesting rainwater in the Southland

LONG BEACH, CA, September 22, 2011 – The LA Conservation Corps, through a grant from Boeing, developed a training program with the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) to teach young people water conservation strategies that can be put to use immediately to create sustainable water sources in the Southern California region. The program included hands-on job training through projects such as the recently installed rain catchment system at an urban garden in the city of Long Beach that is managed by the Long Beach Community Action Partnership (LB CAP).

“With a workforce of about 22,000 employees, along with their families, living in the Los Angeles and Orange County region, Boeing has a significant interest in the conservation of California’s water resources,” explained Jim Herr, senior manager for Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship. “We want to be part of the solution by partnering with effective nonprofits such as the LA Conservation Corps to develop alternate sources of water. The rainwater harvesting project is one such solution.”

Nearly 50 corpsmembers have learned green job skills and gained hands-on experience through the program, which will also yield water and energy savings for municipalities, non-profit organizations and parks in the Southland.

Using commonly available components, the corpsmembers – under the direction of an ARCSA trainer – have designed and built a rainwater harvesting system at LB CAP’s demonstration garden as the culmination of a four-month training program. The project showcases the integrated potentials of rainwater harvesting. Rainwater flowing from an approximately 200 square foot roof is collected in a 650-gallon cistern with overflow water directed to a vegetated

bioswale. Up to 120 gallons of water flows off this roof with every inch of rain, making the total for an average rainfall year of 15 inches approximately 1800 gallons. The rainwater collected will be used to supplement existing on-site demand for the chickens and ducks and growing vegetables and other plants.

Bruce Saito, Executive Director of the LA Conservation Corps, commented, "We are extremely grateful for our corporate supporters, like Boeing, that recognize the tremendous potential for our young people to gain green job skills that they can put to work right now to help build successful futures for themselves while providing important conservation services in the community. By partnering with Long Beach CAP and other nonprofits, we can greatly increase the impact of Boeing's investment by extending water conservation educational opportunities from our small group of corpsmembers into the broader community."

In addition to the project with LB CAP, the LA Corps has installed rainwater harvesting systems at the Shipley Nature Center in Huntington Beach in Orange County and underground cisterns at Compton Creek Park, which is currently being built adjacent to Washington Elementary School in Compton in Los Angeles County.

About the LA Conservation Corps: The Los Angeles Conservation Corps is a 501(c)3 private non-profit organization founded in 1986 by former U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Trade Ambassador Mickey Kantor. Its primary mission is to provide at-risk young adults and school-aged youth with opportunities for success through job skills training, education and work experience with an emphasis on conservation and service projects that benefit the community. The Corps is a national leader in workforce development and alternative education for inner-city youth and is currently the largest urban conservation corps in the nation with a full-time staff of over 150 employees serving 17,000 young people each year.

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The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSEA), headquartered in Austin, TX, promotes sustainable rainwater harvesting practices to help solve potable, non-potable, stormwater and energy challenges throughout the world.

Long Beach Community Action Partnership (LB CAP) is committed to providing dynamic pathways to self-sustainability for low income individuals and families through advocacy, education, and energy assistance. With our collaborative partners, community resources, and strength-based leadership, we coordinate and mobilize comprehensive training and technical assistance vital to building and sustaining an enriched community.