



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BLUE SKY CENTER REOPENS HISTORIC NEW CUYAMA AIRPORT**

*Opening our Cuyama skies once again*

**Date:** December 14th, 2022

Cuyama Valley, CA – On December 14th, 2022

The Cuyama Valley's beloved L88 airstrip is managed and maintained by Blue Sky Center, a community nonprofit whose mission is to strengthen our Cuyama Valley communities by supporting entrepreneurs and building our creative and economic resources. As a community center with entrepreneurship at its core, Blue Sky has worked diligently to create accessible and engaging facilities that house small business incubation, hospitality accommodations, and a resource development center.

New Cuyama's airstrip is critical to emergency support for Cuyama communities. It also serves as a portal for flying visitors to experience all the Cuyama Valley has to offer.

*"As pilots, we are keenly aware of how few destination-worthy airstrips remain open, and how many are at risk of being closed. L88 has always been a premier destination due to its proximity to many local flight schools, and since its recent reopening, has grown into a true jewel."* —Katerina Barilov & John Kurtz, [Recreational Aviation Foundation](#)

With a generous donation from the San Simeon Fund and over \$20,000 raised through individual contributions, the airstrip was resurfaced over the summer, allowing for its permit to be reinstated in October, 2022. A ribbon cutting was hosted on October 13th at the airstrip featuring first district representatives from the County of Santa Barbara, Airport Commissioners from the County of San Luis Obispo, and eighty supporters from both the local communities as well as regional aviation enthusiasts. The [Cuyama Buckhorn](#) sponsored a meal and accommodations for the L88 volunteers who worked tirelessly over the summer to ensure that the project was completed on time.

On November 12th, 15 kids from the Cuyama Valley received free Young Eagle introductory flights at L88. We want to thank EAA Chapter 77 and the pilots who flew in and volunteered their planes to give these kids an incredible experience.

L88 volunteers are transitioning focus to support airport maintenance and planned improvements that will increase airport use and safety. All of which will rely significantly on donations and volunteers. Consider supporting L88 through a donation, maintenance equipment, supplies or by volunteering.

**More information about L88 can be found at <https://www.visitcuyama.com/l88>**

#### **More about Blue Sky Center**

Blue Sky Center is building models for resilient, thriving, and inclusive rural economies in the Cuyama Valley. As a place-based organization, our creative team prioritizes projects and collaborations that celebrate the abundance of Cuyama. Blue Sky Center's mission is to strengthen our rural communities within the Cuyama Valley by supporting entrepreneurs and building our regional creative and economic resources.

**More information about Blue Sky Center can be found at <https://www.blueskycenter.org/>**

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If you would like more information please call Em Johnson at 805-770-0926 or email at [em@blueskycenter.org](mailto:em@blueskycenter.org).