

Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle Phase-out Policy at Los Angeles World Airports

I. Background

Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) has a long-standing commitment to environmental sustainability in its operations. In the early 1990s, LAWA introduced waste diversion and recycling programs at its airports, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Van Nuys Airport (VNY). In 2007, LAWA adopted one of the first sustainability plans for any airport in the nation. In 2019, LAWA's Board of Airport Commissioners adopted the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). The SAP presents a new sustainability vision for LAWA and outlines an ambitious set of prioritized goals for reducing environmental impacts associated with airport operations.

Reducing waste and eliminating single-use plastics are important goals for LAWA and the City of Los Angeles (LA City). The LA City Green New Deal (also known as Sustainable City pLAn) and Mayor Eric Garcetti's Executive Directive No. 25 call for City departments to phase out single-use plastic by 2028 and achieve 100% waste diversion by 2050. The SAP calls for LAWA to phase out the sale and provision of single-use plastic water bottles and develop a zero-waste plan for LAWA.

The sustainability benefits of eliminating plastic bottles are numerous and include reducing the amount of waste going to the landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and combating plastic pollution in the environment.

II. Definitions

'Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle' is defined as drinking water packaged in a sealed plastic box, bag, can, bottle, or other container intended primarily for single-service use.

'Single-Use Plastic Bottle' is defined as any liquid other than drinking water packaged in a sealed plastic box, bag, can, bottle, or other container intended primarily for single-service use.

'Drinking water' includes purified water, mineral water, carbonated or sparkling water, and electrolyte-enhanced water.

'Reusable' is defined as designed to be used again or more than once.

III. Policy

- Effective June 30, 2023, LAWA and all existing businesses operating at LAX and VNY, including concessionaires, restaurants, and airline lounges, shall not sell or distribute single-use plastic water bottles at LAX or VNY.
- The Policy is effective immediately for new lease and operating agreements executed with LAWA before June 30, 2023.
- This Policy extends campus-wide and includes vending machine providers and on-campus events.

- Bottled water served onboard aircraft is exempt.

Only water bottles made from recyclable aluminum, glass, or certified compostable plastic may be sold or distributed at LAX and VNY. If there is a dispute pertaining to the acceptability of material, then LAWA's Chief Executive Officer and/or his/her designee will determine what is acceptable.

III. Reporting Requirements

Affected businesses must report annually to LAWA the brand(s), type of material(s), and number of water bottles sold or distributed at LAX and VNY no later than January 31st of the following year.

Data will be reported on an electronic form provided by LAWA.

Please submit all questions and comments to sustainability@lawa.org.

IV. Enforcement

- A. **Non-compliance.** The following circumstances shall constitute non-compliance with the Policy:
 - a) Failure to comply with the Policy by June 30, 2023.
 - b) Failure to submit an annual report to LAWA as set forth in Section III. Reporting Requirements.
- B. **Notice of Non-compliance/Notice to Comply.** Businesses operating and LAX or VNY found to be in non-compliance with the Policy shall be given a Notice to Comply (NTC) and will have 30 days from the receipt of notice to correct the deficiencies documented in the notice. Failure to receive the NTC does not relieve concessionaires', restaurants', airline lounges,' and other businesses' obligations to comply with Policy.
- C. **Default.** Non-compliance with Policy requirements as defined in Sections II or III may be considered a default of the applicable LAX or VNY permit, license, contract, agreement, lease, Non-Exclusive License Agreement (NELA), concessionaire/lounge agreement, and/or Certified Service Provider (CSP) Program. LAWA's Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee may, pursuant to the applicable terms provided therein, suspend, or cancel a permit, license, contract, lease agreement, NELA, or certified provider certification of LAX or VNY businesses that are not in compliance with this Policy. In addition, LAWA may seek to recoup administrative costs from non-compliant businesses.
- D. LAWA reserves the right to assess compliance through unscheduled audits.

V. Periodic Review

This Policy may be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by LAWA at any time.

June 2021