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ESA Builds Team of FAA-Certified Drone Operators

Firm Gears Up to Meet Growing Demand for New Geospatial Service Offerings

San Francisco, California, February 28, 2018: Environmental Science Associates (ESA), a leading environmental consulting firm, is pleased to announce that the firm has five pilots certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fly drones. The pilots—Russ Burdge, Jonathan Kemp, Julie McNamara, Brian Pittman, and Brendon Quinton—are being dispatched to project sites to conduct real-time site monitoring and reconnaissance, and to collect orthomosaic imagery and high-definition video for clients in the Pacific Northwest, Northern California, Southern California, and Southeast regions.

Certification includes passing the FAA aeronautical knowledge test and a Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) screening for security purposes. Once certified, ESA's drone operators fly under the FAA's Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Rule (Part 107 of the Code of Federal Regulations) and are able to survey project sites for biological, hydrologic, and vegetation monitoring; habitat restoration; and other investigative purposes. As the service line for unmanned aerial vehicles grows across the country, ESA has four additional pilots who are preparing for their FAA exam in the coming months.

"With a team of licensed drone pilots in partnership with our in-house geospatial services team, we can quickly capture high-resolution aerial imagery and 4k HD video, enhancing our monitoring and analysis capabilities across all of our disciplines," explains Mike Leech, ESA's Director of Geospatial Services. "We expect to have a team of more than a dozen certified pilots by the end of the year to better serve our clients and the growing demand for drone services."

To learn more, visit the [Geospatial Services](#) page on the firm's website.

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ESA is an environmental planning and design firm committed to the principles of sustainability with a focus on community planning, ecosystem restoration design, technical studies and investigations, environmental impact assessment and documentation, and environmental compliance. The firm has offices in San Francisco, Oakland, Petaluma, Irvine, Santa Monica, Pasadena, Camarillo, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, California; Seattle, Washington; Portland and Bend, Oregon; and Tampa, Orlando, Sarasota, Destin, and Delray Beach, Florida. To learn more about ESA, visit our website at www.esassoc.com.