

# The Land Conservancy

OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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## DRAFT -- NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Land Conservancy Elects New President & Vice President

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County appointed a new President, **Lisa Wise**, and Vice President, **Herb Kandel**, to lead its growing land conservation efforts countywide. Along with Treasurer, **Valerie Endres**, Past President **Gary Felsman**, and Secretary, **Bob Hill**, the Land Conservancy's Executive Committee is tasked with developing key strategies for diversifying funding for local land conservation projects and increasing income to support the growing nonprofit. Each officer serves a minimum 1-year term with an option to renew.

*"The Land Conservancy has never had better conservation projects in the queue or greater support for protecting local lands. I'm thrilled to turn the reins over to my capable and energetic colleagues during this exciting time in our organization's history,"* said Gary Felsman, former Land Conservancy President from 2006-2010.

**Lisa Wise** is an urban planner and Certified Public Accountant with nearly 20 years of professional experience in land use planning, public accounting, and finance. She is the principal and owner of Lisa Wise Consulting. Wise has a City and Regional Planning Masters Degree from Cal Poly, a Masters Degree in Accountancy from DePaul University, and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati. From 1990 to 1999, Wise was a manager in the securities and commodities division at Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP in Chicago and New York City. She also worked for both the County of San Luis Obispo in the Housing and Economic Development Division and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

**Herb Kandel** is a California native and a 25-year resident of Nipomo. A State Licensed Acupuncturist, Kandel has a private practice in Santa Maria and is renowned for his healing abilities. Kandel has a Doctorate in Chinese Medicine from the Samra University in Los Angeles, a Masters Degree in Chinese Medicine from the Santa Barbara College of Oriental Medicine with postgraduate studies at the Nanjing College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and a Bachelors Degree in Cultural Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara, with field studies at the University of Accra, Ghana West Africa. Kandel initiated the Nipomo Chapter of the Land Conservancy in 2003 and directed key conservation efforts in South County including the Nipomo Creek Watershed Management Plan, acquisitions in Black Lake Canyon, and yearly creek cleanups.

**Valerie Endres** is a retired real estate agent and has served on The Land Conservancy Board of Trustees for over 20 years. A resident of San Luis Obispo since 1969, Endres served as Chairwoman on the City of San Luis Obispo's Planning Commission and is a past president of the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival. Her extensive involvement in youth activities, the San Luis Obispo Association of

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Realtors, the League of Women Voters and other community groups has established Endres as a veteran leader and local philanthropist.

*“The dynamic of President Lisa Wise’s business acumen and keen financial sense combined with Vice President Herb Kandel’s grassroots community expertise and incredible healing abilities makes for a uniquely powerful duo. When mixed with Treasurer Valerie Endres’ tenure in local real estate and community leadership, the sky is the limit on what these Executive Trustees will embolden The Land Conservancy to achieve,”* said Bob Hill, Executive Director.

More professional biographical information about Land Conservancy Trustees can be found at:  
[http://www.lcslo.org/our\\_board\\_of\\_trustees.html](http://www.lcslo.org/our_board_of_trustees.html)

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**The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County** is a local nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore special landscapes for the benefit of people and wildlife. The land trust’s efforts help protect drinking water sources, prevent poorly planned development, restore wildlife habitat and promote family farmlands and ranches in our region. Since its formation in 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 11,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org) or call (805) 544-9096.

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