

# The Land Conservancy

OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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VISIT US ONLINE AT: [WWW.LCSLO.ORG](http://WWW.LCSLO.ORG)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

April 22, 2009

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## Local Nonprofit Headlines US Congress on Earth Day 2009 Senator Barbara Boxer Praises Land Conservancy of SLO County

Senator Barbara Boxer recognized *The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County* for 25 years of service by reading an official statement into the US Congressional record on Earth Day - April 22, 2009.

Senator Boxer's statement details The Land Conservancy's expansion and achievements since its inception in 1984 by a group of passionate community volunteers.

The Land Conservancy will read the official declaration at a presentation during its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration event on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at "*San Luis Beautiful, Art at the Octagon Barn.*" Formal statements honoring the group will also be provided by County Supervisor, Adam Hill and other partner organizations.

*"The Land Conservancy is honored and humbled to receive praise from our most esteemed representatives, both locally and nationally,"* said Gary Felsman, President of The Land Conservancy Board of Trustees. *"With further community support, we will continue expanding our conservation programs to preserve more natural areas for the benefit of people and wildlife."*

- **Land Conservancy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation & Congressional Statement Reading**
- Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 2pm
- Octagon Barn, 4559 S. Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo 93401
- Call Wendé (235-1824) for a press pass

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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 10,500 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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Congressional Record Items of Interest, 4/22/09

## **Additional Statements on Tuesday, April 22, 2009**

**Mrs. BOXER.** Madam President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, LCSLO.

Created in 1984 by a group of local residents determined to protect lands throughout San Luis Obispo County, LCSLO has experienced many successes over the past 25 years in its efforts to ensure a proud legacy of scenic beauty and healthy lands throughout the county. What began as an all-volunteer group working on small conservation agreements has since grown into an established land trust with 16 professional staff members. LCSLO staff and volunteers work to set aside local lands for wildlife, farming, and ranching by preventing poorly planned development; protecting drinking water sources; restoring wildlife habitat; and promoting family farms and ranches.

Since its initial projects in Cambria and Nipomo Mesa, LCSLO has permanently protected over 10,500 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. The organization has worked to conserve over 100 acres of streamside lands to enhance habitats of steelhead trout, purchased over 300 individual lots to protect the Monterey Pines in Cambria, and restored hundreds of acres of damaged coastal land in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Today, five of the Conservancy's land parcels are available for public use. Parcels that are not open to the public provide space for projects that produce stunning views, protect air and water quality, and preserve local farmland.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo is a grassroots movement that empowers local farmers, ranchers, and residents to protect the land that makes San Luis Obispo County so beautiful. By partnering with local organizations and offering residents the opportunity to contribute hands-on to the preservation of their own community, LCSLO is able to conserve the unique rural culture that is so closely tied to this coastal environment.

For 25 years, LCSLO has worked passionately and effectively to sustain a high quality of life for residents and visitors in a healthy natural environment. I commend LCSLO staff and volunteers for maintaining the natural beauty of San Luis Obispo County and for supporting the county's agricultural and tourism-based economy. I look forward to future generations having the opportunity to enjoy this special part of California for many years to come.

END

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