

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County



Land Conservancy Board Donates Quarter-Million Dollar Gift

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County Board of Trustees gifted a quarter-million dollars during the organization's quarter-century anniversary party.

The Land Conservancy gathered nearly two hundred members, partners and supporters to reflect on a year of accomplishments and celebrate its 25th Anniversary during its Annual Conservation Reception on January 28th. Executive Director, Brian Stark, stunned the audience with his announcement of a cumulative donation combining cash, pledges and planned gifts from The Land Conservancy Board of Trustees totaling **\$251,000**.

"Our Board trustees' personal and financial contributions, especially during these turbulent economic times, emphasize their trust, belief and commitment in The Land Conservancy's work," noted Brian Stark, Executive Director. "I'm personally touched and immensely proud to be a part of this historic turning point in our organization's history."



Four of the nine Land Conservancy Trustees - **Valerie Endres, Gary Felsman, BK Richard, and Penny Rappa** – celebrate 25 years of local land conservation.

The Land Conservancy Board of Trustees is strategically implementing a conservation vision for San Luis Obispo County. Unveiled during the event was The Land Conservancy's new strategic plan which aims to increase the pace of local land conservation, engage more people in strengthening SLO County's land ethic, and expand private fundraising efforts.

"The Land Conservancy Board of Trustees has never felt so confident in the direction and capability of the organization. When we thought hard about the importance of land conservation, and our role in the organization's success, we knew that investing all we could was the right thing to do for our community," remarked Gary Felsman, Board President.

\$150,000 of the Board gift will be dispersed over the next four years to fund a number of critical Land Conservancy programs including:

- **Conservation Partners** – Doubling the Pace of Conservation
- **Visionary Vistas** – Land Opportunity Fund
- **Strength in Numbers** – Community Connections through Volunteerism & Educational Opportunities
- **Octagon Barn Center** – Raising a Barn, Raising a Community

The remaining \$100,000 planned gift will eventually be added to the **Core Conservation Endowment Fund** held at the SLO County Community Foundation.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
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The event also featured a keynote presentation from San Luis Obispo County Supervisor, Bruce Gibson, who served as President and Vice President of The Land Conservancy from 1999-2006. Gibson spoke about the importance of protecting local landscapes and the positive impact The Land Conservancy's collaborative efforts have on our community.

"The Land Conservancy's unique ability to build cooperative partnerships among government agencies, advocates, and private landowners for permanent conservation makes them a critical leader in our County," said Gibson. "Their approach has been very successful in attracting support and achieving results that get us beyond the confrontation so common in many land use decisions."

The Annual Report and the Strategic Plan are available on-line or by request www.LCSLO.org or 544-9096.

The Land Conservancy's Board of Trustees include:

- President, Gary Felsman (Arroyo Grande)
- Vice President, Herb Stroh (Cambria)
- Treasurer, Lisa Wise (Los Osos)
- Valerie Endres (San Luis Obispo)
- Beverly Gingg (San Luis Obispo)
- BK Richard (San Luis Obispo)
- Herb Kandel (Nipomo)
- Penny Rappa (Avila Beach)
- Alex Rothenberg (San Luis Obispo)
- Emeritus Trustee, Ed Carson (Oceano)

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a local nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore lands having scenic, cultural and historic values throughout San Luis Obispo County. Our efforts help protect drinking water sources, prevent poorly planned development, restore wildlife habitat and promote family farmlands and ranches in our region. Since our formation in 1984, we have permanently protected over 9,500 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit www.LCSLO.org or call (805) 544-9096.

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