



---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2013

Contact: Teresa Tibstra, *Communications & Marketing Manager*  
[teresat@LCSLO.org](mailto:teresat@LCSLO.org) or (805) 544-9096

---

### **Grant Awarded to Provide Free Access to Proposed Conservation Park**

Currently, there are no free public parks, open spaces or rest areas off scenic Highway 1 for approximately 45 miles between the communities of Oceano and Lompoc. This region encompasses the Santa Maria River Valley which is an underserved community with just a few fee-based access points to the surrounding natural areas.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County has plans to solve this dilemma by establishing a conservation park on the corner of Callender Road and Highway 1 in rural Arroyo Grande.

In December, local nonprofit land trust secured a \$25,000 grant from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation to design a scenic and wildlife-rich park that will provide free public access to *Kathleen's Canyon Overlook*, a permanently protected property owned by The Land Conservancy and named in honor of the late Kathleen Goddard Jones.

The Land Conservancy proposes enhancing six of twelve acres at *Kathleen's Canyon Overlook* over the next five years to provide free access to and education of the world-class Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes ecosystem. The project site includes the only peat bog in San Luis Obispo County, a freshwater dune wetland, and healthy coastal dune scrub habitat which shelters dozens of rare wildlife species. The Land Conservancy also permanently protects over 1,000 acres of adjacent land within view of *Kathleen's Canyon Overlook*.

The overall 5-year vision for The Land Conservancy's *Kathleen's Canyon Overlook* conservation park includes:

- interpretive viewing platform and ADA boardwalk
- designated loop trail
- innovative multi-lingual audio cell phone tour
- sunken amphitheater for educational talks and events
- raptor pole and native plant restoration areas
- picnic area with tables and benches
- signage interpreting the key ecosystem features on-site and in view

The complete conservation park vision will cost approximately \$400,000 over five years. The \$25,000 Gimbel Foundation grant covers 70% of Phase 1 costs which include the design, planning, and permitting of the overall site vision and the establishment of a picnic area for immediate public use by November 2013. The Land Conservancy is currently seeking an additional \$10,000 in matching funds from local donors and business sponsors to complete Phase 1. Project volunteers will also be needed as early as June 2013. Contact The Land Conservancy at [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org) or (805) 544-9096 to donate or volunteer.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County  
PO Box 12206 | San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 | [805] 544-9096  
Email: [LC@LCSLO.org](mailto:LC@LCSLO.org) | [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org)

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 county. Since 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 14,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org) or call [805] 544-9096.



The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County  
 PO Box 12206 | San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 | [805] 544-9096  
 Email: [LC@LCSLO.org](mailto:LC@LCSLO.org) | [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org)