



*THINKING AHEAD SINCE 1932*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Conservation Easement Secures Midland School Property**



Photos courtesy of Midland School

Los Olivos, CA – The State of California Wildlife Conservation Board on Thursday, November 20, 2008, awarded the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (Trust) a \$4,155,000.00 grant that will be used to purchase a conservation easement on Midland School's property. The easement is a cooperative project between the Trust, The Trust for Public Land, and the California Transportation Commission. The easement will ensure

that no future development may occur on 2,727 acres of the 2,860-acre property, and will preserve valuable watershed and oak habitat as well as protect rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. Midland's property is surrounded by UCSB's Sedgwick Reserve to the east and the Los Padres National Forest to the northeast. With Figueroa Mountain Road being the only paved road in the vicinity, Midland's property is contiguous with one of the largest undeveloped and unfragmented habitats in the mountains and foothills of southern California. The easement will provide capital for the school's endowment, which, among other things, will enable the school to continue to provide a strong scholarship program.

"A conservation easement on the Midland School property aligns perfectly with the school's mission," said Nick Alexander, president of the Midland Board of Trustees. Midland's mission states, "Midland School strives to provide a unique college preparatory boarding school experience to a diverse student body at relatively low cost. Through study and work, it teaches the value of a lifetime of learning, self-reliance, simplicity, responsibility to community and the environment, and love for the outdoors."

The easement will clearly follow the original precepts the school was founded on back in 1932, including environmental protection and education. Midland's founder, Paul Squibb, upon purchasing the property said, "The school will be acquiring precisely the home that we want... We shall be securing not only the buildings, but the open country and the protection that we shall need for generations to come. Many schools have suffered from the encroachments of real estate developments that might have been staved off with a little foresight. To our way of thinking, it is better to invest in preserving the unspoiled character of the country than in providing comforts and luxuries."

Midland School is a coeducational, college preparatory boarding and day school for grades 9-12. It is located in the Santa Ynez Valley on a 2,860-acre working ranch. The school combines rigorous academics with intensive immersion in the environment for its 90 students and employs 20 teachers, all of whom live on campus.



Midland School will continue to provide the hands-on, college preparatory learning experiences and utilize its land as an outdoor classroom as it has for 76 years. Many Midland projects focus on environmental and community sustainability. Midland faculty members and students tend to an 8-acre organic garden, raise grass-fed beef, manage a long-term native valley oak restoration and monitoring project, track personal water use,

work to decrease campus consumption, actively recycle, and as part of the curriculum in chemistry classes, sophomore students add solar panels each year to expand Midland's solar array, which currently provides almost 15% of campus electricity. Midland was a recipient of the 2005 Santa Barbara County Green Award for outstanding environmental efforts, and has been identified as a role model within the county and the state by the Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council for its sustainability practices and for its great potential in becoming carbon neutral.

The greater community can be confident in knowing that Midland's educational and environmental integrity, as well as its rare oak woodlands, creeks and trails throughout the Santa Barbara backcountry will remain for future generations to enjoy.

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For more information about Midland School, please visit [www.midland-school.org](http://www.midland-school.org).

Land Trust for Santa Barbara County: [www.sblandtrust.org](http://www.sblandtrust.org)

The Trust for Public Land: [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

California Transportation Commission: [www.catc.ca.gov](http://www.catc.ca.gov)

Wildlife Conservation Board: [www.wcb.ca.gov](http://www.wcb.ca.gov)