

**PAUMA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS AND THE TIERRA MIGUEL  
FOUNDATION PARTNER TO SAVE THE  
TIERRA MIGUEL ORGANIC FARM**

*Tribe to lease back property to Foundation*

*Agreement will enable Farm to continue to provide highest quality organic products  
to Southern California*

**PAUMA INDIAN RESERVATION**, Pauma Valley, California, August 15, 2007 /PRNewswire/ -- Pauma Band of Mission Indians announced today the purchase of the Tierra Miguel property, a certified organic farm comprised of 84.91 acres located in the Pauma Valley, California. The Tribe purchased the property to continue to provide for the long term conservation of the land, permanently preserving the farm for agricultural use.

The Pauma Band of Mission Indians worked closely with the California State Department of Conservation to ensure that the terms and conditions of the agricultural conservation easement were honored. The purchased price of the property was \$1,400,000. Under the terms of the sale, Pauma Band of Mission Indians will provide the Tierra Miguel Foundation (TMF) with a long-term lease. "Saving this acreage for agriculture in perpetuity is a great accomplishment for California," TMF president Beth Ann Levendoski said. In conjunction with the Pauma Band of Mission Indians, TMF will continue its farming and education operations on the property, bringing children, farmers, schools and educators to experience the beauty and bounty of Pauma Valley.

"The Pauma Band of Mission Indians has a long history and tradition of practicing environmental stewardship" said Chris Devers, Chairman Pauma Band of Mission Indians. "The tribal government and membership support the preservation of organic farming practices and believe that agricultural education will empower future generations. Together the Pauma Band of Mission Indians and Tierra Miguel Foundation can significantly impact the health and well-being of the local community as well as modeling new possibilities for others throughout California," added Chairman Devers.

As part of the sale agreement the Pauma Band of Mission Indians generously donated \$350,000 to the farm and provided an educational/working grant to TMF in the sum of \$300,000 over ten years. The purpose of the donation and grant is to support the work of the farm and the expansion of TMF's "Farm to School" program, aimed at educating elementary and middle school students throughout San Diego County about organic farming practices. The program will encourage healthy and sustainable agricultural processes that benefit the individual, society and the environment. "We

are grateful to the Pauma Band and its people and look forward to a long and thriving partnership with them,” said Beth Ann Levendoski, President/CEO, Tierra Miguel Foundation. “The acquisition of the farm will ensure that our mission to produce nutritious organic food, and practice conservation-specific agricultural practices will be preserved and strengthened.”

**About the Pauma Band of Mission Indians**

Pauma Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized tribal government located in the Pauma Valley, of Southern California. The Pauma Band is one of seven Bands of the Luiseño people located in San Diego and Riverside counties. Pauma produces Hass avocados, Valencia oranges and lemons; and is engaged in protection and reforestation of their tribal lands. The Pauma tribe owns and operates Casino Pauma, providing employment to the Tribal Members and the surrounding communities. Its revenues enhance the Tribal Government’s ability to meet the essential needs of the membership.

**About the Tierra Miguel Foundation**

Founded in 1999, Tierra Miguel Foundation is a charitable organization offering education programs that demonstrate, teach and promote sustainable, community-based food production that encourage healthy lifestyles.

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