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CALIFORNIA LEADERS CELEBRATE ART AND CUISINE

Legislative sushi-making and spectacular local art will help highlight California rice

SACRAMENTO – Often jockeying for position on the issues, California’s top legislators will soon compete in a different arena- this time deciding who can claim supremacy in a culinary competition.

Legislators making sushi and the debut of an exciting new series of works by a fast-rising local artist are part of the special features of the annual California Rice Commission (CRC) Legislative Day, planned for Wednesday, March 12, 2008, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Gardenia Room at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento, 1230 J Street.

Up for grabs this year is the coveted Capitol Roller Award, currently held by California Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez. He will defend his 2007 title against Assemblyman Rick Keene and Charlie Hoppin, Board Member of the State Water Resources Control Board.

Those attending the Legislative Day will also see a series of paintings from artist Joseph Bellacera of West Sacramento, including “*Fields of Light #1*”, which dramatizes an aerial view of Sacramento Valley ricelands. Bellacera’s image is featured on this year’s rice box, which the CRC has provided to members of the State Legislature every year since 2000. Additionally, a Taste of Japan luncheon will showcase some of the hottest new culinary trends, including sushi and Japanese fusion.

“This event helps us showcase the unique connection rice has to our region,” comments CRC President & CEO Tim Johnson. “We provide premium rice served around the world. Our ricelands support hundreds of species of wildlife. California rice is also important to our economy and culture. Our Legislative Day highlights all of this in a fun, creative way.”

Members of the media are encouraged to attend the luncheon and Capitol Roller competition. Reporters and cameras are allowed at this venue.

For more information about this event and to RSVP, please contact Jim Morris at 916/387-2264 or jmorris@calrice.org.

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The California Rice Commission represents the entire California rice industry, including all growers and handlers who farm and process rice produced on some 500,000 acres annually.