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CALIFORNIA RICE INDUSTRY HONORS ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER
Farmers and Environmental Advocates team up to fight Global Warming

(SACRAMENTO, CA – March 4) - The California Rice Commission (CRC) will honor Environmental Defense Fund with its *Circle of Life Award* at a Sacramento event next week. The California Rice Commission is acknowledging Environmental Defense Fund for creating a unique and innovative partnership with California rice farmers to find and contributing solutions to global warming.

As in other sectors of agriculture, rice farms produce both greenhouse gas emissions (mainly in the form of methane) and sequester carbon in field vegetation and soils. The California rice industry has been working with Environmental Defense Fund, in addition to academic and private researchers, to quantify greenhouse gas emissions from rice production and to identify economically-viable methods of reducing emissions. Field trials of potential practices may start as early as this year.

"We are excited to be contributing to the state's greenhouse gas reduction efforts," says Paul Buttner, Manager of Environmental Affairs for the California Rice Commission. "Environmental Defense Fund is a valued partner in this solutions-based approach."

"We are honored to accept this award," said Eric Holst, Manager for the Center for Conservation Incentives Program at Environmental Defense Fund. "This partnership is an example of the type of cooperation necessary to address global warming and to find win-win solutions for agriculture and the environment."

Environmental Defense Fund will be honored as part of the CRC's annual Legislative Day, held on March 12, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Gardenia Room of the Sheraton Grand Sacramento, 1230 J Street. Reporters and cameras are allowed at this venue. **Note: The awards presentation and program begins at 12:30 p.m.** Members of the media are encouraged to attend the luncheon and festivities, which will include a sushi-making competition among California Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, Assemblyman Rick Keene and Charlie Hoppin, Board Member of the State Water Resources Control Board. The winner of the competition gains the coveted Capitol Roller Award and bragging rights among their peers. Núñez will be defending his title in the competition.

Those attending may also view a series of paintings and visit with artist Joseph Bellacera of West Sacramento, that depict aerial views of California ricelands.

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.