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GALGIANI VICTORIOUS IN CAPITOL SUSHI SHOWDOWN

Assembly Member defeats two competitors to win coveted Samurai sword trophy

SACRAMENTO – In an intense yet friendly competition, Assembly Member Cathleen Galgiani emerged victorious to lay claim as Capitol Roller, signifying California's top legislative sushi maker.

In a down to the wire decision, Galgiani defeated Senator Abel Maldonado and the defending champion Capitol Roller, State Water Resources Control Board Chair Charlie Hoppin. The competition was part of the eighth annual California Rice Commission (CRC) Circle of Life Luncheon, held today at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento.

"This was a lot of fun," Galgiani said. "It's wonderful to be able to highlight the contributions of the rice industry of California, and to think about how much we're able to enjoy all of the benefits – promoting open space, wildlife habitat and creating jobs through processing and exports."

In addition to bragging rights as the top Legislative sushi maker, Galgiani gains possession of the Capitol Roller award, a framed Samurai sword, until she defends her title in next year's competition.

The three competitors received expert coaching in making a California roll from Billy Ngo, Executive Chef of Kru Restaurant in Sacramento.

About 100 people attended the luncheon, which also included the CRC awarding its Circle of Life Award to UC Cooperative Extension, for creating a unique and innovative partnership with California rice farmers to strengthen their environmental contributions.

For more information about the Circle of Life Luncheon, and for photographs, contact CRC Communications Manager 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.