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THERE'S A NEW CAPITOL ROLLER IN TOWN

Charlie Hoppin bests two legislative counterparts in sushi-making competition

SACRAMENTO – In fun yet intense sushi competition, Charlie Hoppin of the State Water Resources Control Board emerged victorious over two legislators as the Capitol Roller for 2008.

“I honestly didn’t expect to win,” Hoppin said. “Making sushi is much more difficult than it appears. I have even more respect for the real sushi masters than I ever had before!”

Hoppin defeated the defending champion Capitol Roller, Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and Assemblyman Rick Keene. The competition was part of the annual California Rice Commission (CRC) Circle of Life Luncheon, held today at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento.

In addition to bragging rights as the top Legislative sushi-maker, Hoppin will be able to possess the Capitol Roller award, a framed samurai sword, until he defends his title in next year’s competition. Hoppin said he would proudly display the award in his office in the California Environmental Protection Agency building in Sacramento.

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

More than 120 people attended the luncheon, which also included the CRC awarding its Circle of Life Award to Environmental Defense Fund, for creating a unique and innovative partnership with California rice farmers to find and contribute solutions to global warming.

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.