

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updated

**Railroad Museum Hosts Photo-Documentary Exhibit:
“The Migrant Project:
Contemporary California Farm Workers”
Plus, Special Museum “Community Day” on March 27
With Free Admission, Special Lectures, Book Signings, Panel Discussion**

SACRAMENTO – The California State Railroad Museum is proud to host a culturally significant, photo-documentary exhibition titled “The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers.” With bilingual text panels throughout, the exhibit includes 40 photographs of California farm workers taken between spring 2002 and winter 2003 by photographer and author Rick Nahmias. And, in advance honor of Cesar Chavez Day (which officially falls on March 31), the Railroad Museum will host a special “Community Day” on Saturday, March 27, with free admission, a guest lecture and book signing opportunity by the photographer at 11 a.m. and a special panel discussion about fair food in the Sacramento Region at 2 p.m. In addition to the photographer, other fair food panelists include Noe Hernandez, Zocalo Restaurant; Paul Cultrera, Sacramento Natural Foods Co-Op and Paul Muller, Full Belly Farm.

“The Migrant Project” exhibit proudly showcases the important and critical role migrant farm workers play in harvesting more than half of the produce consumed by the United States’ population each day. A workforce numbering more than one million strong, the compelling images depict everything from daily work and home life to social issues such as health care and housing. In fact, the photographer traveled up and down the state and visited more than 50 rural communities stretching from the border of Calexico to Sacramento. This exhibit is a natural extension of the Museum’s current programs, given that railroads have long been a primary means of transporting fresh produce from the fields of California to a hungry nation.

The photography exhibit is showcased adjacent to the Museum’s existing refrigerated railcar display, which demonstrates how perishable agricultural products were transported by rail. In addition, the refrigerator car itself has been transformed into a theater, continuously showing a 30-minute documentary film “*The Hands that Feed Us*.” The powerful exhibit is presented by the California Legislative Latino Caucus, the California State Capitol Museum, the California State Railroad Museum & Foundation and California State Parks.

In addition to traveling to other museums across the country, “The Migrant Project” exhibit previewed as an official affiliate exhibit of the California Council on the Humanities “Grapes of Wrath/California Stories” program. The images--complete with oral histories directly from the farm workers--are depicted in a book of the same title published by the University of New Mexico Press.* A CD ROM standards-based middle and high school curriculum has also been created for educators. Both items are available for purchase in the Museum store and more comprehensive information about the project is available at www.themigrantproject.com.

“The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers” exhibit will be on special display at the Museum through June 25, 2010.

*For a review copy or more information about the book, contact Katherine MacGilvray, UNM Press Publicity, at 505-277-3291 or katm@unm.edu

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or call (916) 445-6645.

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