

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

No.: 18-79

Date: September 7, 2018

Employment Development Department, Mexican Consulate in Sacramento partner to assist Mexican agricultural workers

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) and the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento formalized a partnership to improve agricultural workers’ and employers’ awareness of rights and to increase awareness of available employment services. Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento Liliana Ferrer and EDD Director Patrick W. Henning signed the formal agreement to work together in the promotion of training and education programs for Mexican workers and their employers, and to raise awareness of EDD’s job services available for farmworkers.

“This cooperative agreement will empower more of California’s agricultural workers by providing them with increased access to EDD’s employment services and training programs,” said Director Henning.

California’s agricultural industry employed an estimated 420,500 workers in 2017, and most agricultural workers are Mexican or of Mexican decent. The partnership agreement will help to provide information to migrant and seasonal farmworkers who might not be aware of EDD and its services, which include:

- Migrant and seasonal farmworker employment services
- Information on H-2A and H-2B visa programs
- Information on filing employment and housing related complaints when rights may have been violated

The consulate will incorporate EDD informational materials into its communications and develop procedures that will enable it to refer migrant and seasonal farm worker employment services and housing related complaints on behalf of workers. In accordance with the memorandum, both parties will participate in forums and stakeholder meetings on labor rights and working conditions to help address issues specific to Mexican workers.

###