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Subject: Arrival of Sakauye Farmhouse at History Park & Press Conference April 30, 2026
Date: April 16, 2026 at 9:56 AM
To:
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JAMSj
JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2026

Preservation Partners Celebrate the Arrival of Sakauye Farmhouse at History Park; Hold Press Conference April 30, 2026

Community-Led Preservation Project Launches Restoration Fundraising Campaign

San José, CA – With the future of the historic Eiichi Sakauye Farmhouse secured at History Park, community partners now seek funds to restore and open the home to the community. The arrival of the Sakauye Farmhouse at History Park on March 30th marks a major milestone in the fight to save the historic home, one of the few remaining links to the Japanese American agricultural legacy in Santa Clara Valley. The community-led project is backed by a strong coalition of local partners, notably History San José (HSJ), the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMSj), the Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*sj), and San Jose District 1 Councilmember Rosemary Kamei, and has received full support from the Sakauye family. Last year, the building was spared from demolition thanks to a cooperative agreement with the Hanover Company, which temporarily housed the structure on-site until the move could be completed.

The move, conducted by Garden City Construction, required that the roof be transported in four pieces, and the remaining structure be cut in two. While these structural cuts were required to safely move the home, it reflects the significant rehabilitation that the Farmhouse will need to be ready for public use. Future plans for the Farmhouse include a gallery space co-curated and operated by HSJ and JAMSj including a staging of Eiichi Edward Sakauye's office space for School Programs and permanent on-site space for

Edward Sakauye's office, space for school programs, and permanent on-site space for JAMsj at History Park.

With \$300,000 still needed for restoration and exhibit planning, current fundraising efforts are now focused on readying the home for public use. In addition to appealing to philanthropic institutions, elected leaders, private donors, and community members to help secure the funding necessary to proceed, HSJ and JAMsj have created the Sakauye Farm Legacy Grove, an opportunity to honor loved ones with a tree dedication and plaque. The grove will be planted adjacent to the Sakauye Farmhouse at History Park, and will include seven fruit trees that were common to many Japanese American farmers and households such as Persimmon/Kaki, Japanese Apricot/Ume, and varieties of plum.

Preservation Partners HSJ, JAMsj, PAC* SJ and Councilmember Rosemary Kamei invite the media to join us for a press conference at History Park on Thursday, April 30 at 10am. This press event will include statements from each of the preservation partners, and an opportunity for questions. The event will announce our shift from Phase 1: Saving the Farmhouse to Phase 2: Restoring the Farmhouse, and place the significance of the Sakauye Farmhouse in the context of AAPI Heritage Month and Preservation Month, beginning the following day on May 1.

The farmhouse's restoration is a key cultural investment—providing public access to the stories of the Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans whose labor and perseverance helped shape the region. Opening the Sakauye Farmhouse at History Park, with interpretation managed by JAMsj, will ensure that school groups, tours, and park visitors understand the significance of the Sakauye family's story, and the contributions of Japanese Americans are accessible and engaging for all.

The project is supported by History San José, JAMsj, the Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC* SJ), and members of the Sakauye family—all united in their commitment to preserving and interpreting the farmhouse as a lasting public resource.

Donations can be made through the History San José website at <https://historysanjose.org/get-involved/support>, or by contacting President and CEO Bill Schroh, Jr. at bschroh@historysanjose.org.

For more information about the Sakauye Farm Legacy Grove, please contact History San José President and CEO Bill Schroh, Jr. at bschroh@historysanjose.org or 408.918.1041

Images details: The attached images depict the arrival of the Sakauye Farmhouse at History Park on March 30th (file name House_move1), and preservation partners (left to right) HSJ CEO & President Bill Schroh Jr., Executive Director of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose Vanessa Hatakeyama, San Jose City Councilmember Rosemary Kamei, Executive Director of Preservation Action Council of San Jose Ben Leech (file name preservation_partners1).

Press Conference Details:

Date: Thursday, April 30

Time: 10am

Location: At the Sakauye Farmhouse, adjacent to the Light Tower at History Park

Parking: There is ample street parking along the South fence of History Park, located near 635 Phelan Avenue.

Questions or concerns? Contact Clare Gordon Bettencourt, Communication & Advancement Manager at 408.521.5034 or cgordon@historysanjose.org

About History San José

History San José is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating the diverse history of the San Jose region. Through its collection of historic sites, artifacts, and educational programs, History San José connects people with the stories that shape our community.

About the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj)

The Japanese American Museum of San Jose celebrates, preserves, and perpetuates the history, art and culture of Japanese Americans in the Bay Area through unique exhibits, meaningful programs, and community engagement, fostering a greater understanding of Japanese American heritage and impact to the Bay Area.

About the Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ)

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) advocates for the preservation and adaptive reuse of San Jose's architectural heritage. Through education, community engagement, and partnerships, PAC*SJ works to protect the city's historical and cultural resources and promotes sustainable development that honors its rich cultural history.

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History San José



Preserving Our Heritage





