FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California – A Land of Many: The Immigrant Experience & Its Legacy
2014 Lecture Series

Building Railroads and Transplanting Chinese Food: Chinese Americans in 19th Century

“Building Railroads and Transplanting Chinese Food: Chinese Americans in 19th Century,” is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, concluding Rancho Los Cerritos’ 2014 lecture series, “California – A Land of Many: The Immigrant Experience & Its Legacy.” Presented by Professor Yong Chen, Ph.D., the program begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Rancho’s sunporch. Admission is $7 ($5 for students) and payable at the door; please call (562) 570-1755 to make a reservation.

After exploring the experiences of Chinese Americans in the late 19th century, Professor Chen will focus on two seemingly disparate topics: Chinese participation in railroad construction and the development of Chinese food. Critical to the development of our rail transportation system, Chinese immigrants maintained a diet of Chinese food in the camps and in doing so, helped facilitate the spread of Chinese food in this country.

Professor Chen teaches in the History Department at the University of California, Irvine. He is the author of Chop Suey, USA: The Rise of Chinese Food in America, and he co-curated ‘Have You Eaten Yet?’: The Chinese Restaurant in America,” in New York and Philadelphia. He has also published numerous books and articles on diverse issues including race and immigration in America, Chinese American history, higher education and Sino-American relationships, and writes regularly in World Journal, the largest Chinese-language newspaper in the United States, on important issues in both America and China.

About the Rancho:
Rancho Los Cerritos is located at 4600 Virginia Road in Long Beach. Built in 1844, the adobe home and grounds echo with the rich history of Spanish, Mexican, and American California and with the families who helped transform Southern California from its ranching beginnings to the modern and urban society it is today. The two-story Monterey-style adobe is primarily furnished to reflect occupants and lifestyles from the 1860s-1880s. The site, a National, State and Long Beach Historic Landmark, also includes historic gardens and a research library and archives. The Rancho is operated by the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation in private-public partnership with the City of Long Beach. For more information please call (562) 570-1755, or visit the website at www.rancholoscerritos.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rancholosc.

####