



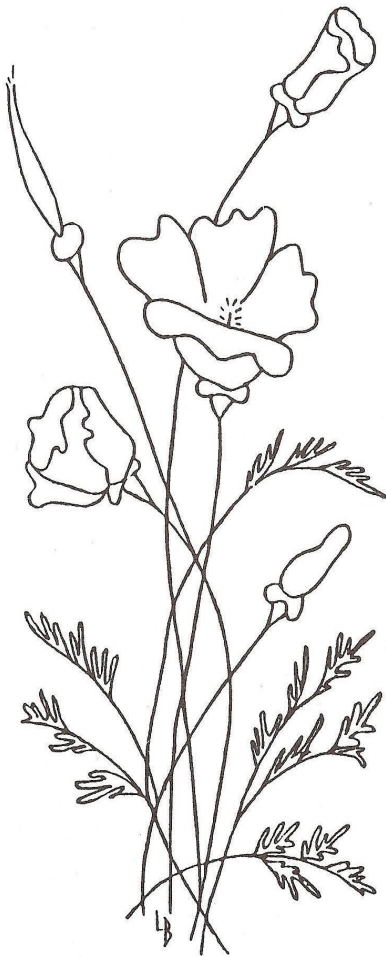
California Poppy

*(Eschscholzia californica)*

*Poppy Reserve Mojave Desert Interpretive Association*

*P.O. Box 1408, Lancaster CA 93584*

[www.prmdia.org](http://www.prmdia.org)



## THE POPPY: CALIFORNIA'S LIVING LEGACY

The Golden Poppy has always symbolized California's good life. Its color mirrors California's climate and charm, and the profusion of its blooms reflects the richness of the Golden State.

In Indian history, the Great Spirit sent the Fire Flower to drive away the evils of frost and famine, and to fill the land with warmth and plenty.

For the Spanish,, the poppy was an omen, a promise that California was rich and fertile, They called it *copa de oro*, the cup of gold.

To the '49ers it was a symbol of gold. Flower and metal shared a common color and both were abundant. Some miners even heard that gold formed where petals fell to the ground. Believing the tale or not, many pressed the blossoms in their letters and sent the "gold flower" – and the fantasy that was California – back home.

The lure of gold, sunshine, and opportunity drew thousands. Along with miners came farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, the railroad, and statehood.

### California Poppy

- 1816 *California Poppy first identified with its scientific name, Eschscholzia californica, by a botanist who was a member of a Russian scientific expedition.*
- 1903 *California Poppy designated as the state flower. Other official California state symbols include the California quail (the state bird) and the California desert tortoise (the state reptile).*
- 1976 *Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve founded. The designation of this state park as a "reserve" gives it a higher level of protection than other state parks; visitors must stay on trails to protect the poppies and other native plants and animals that survive in this protected habitat.*

*Poppy Reserve Mojave Desert Interpretive Association  
P.O. Box 1408, Lancaster CA 93584-9008*

[www.prmdia.org](http://www.prmdia.org)