

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE
AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

R-06-102

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin County Agricultural Advisory Board is an Advisory Board to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin County Agricultural Advisory Board is comprised of agricultural leaders throughout the County and the Agricultural Advisory Board recognizes that agriculture is the number one industry in San Joaquin County, and the Agricultural Advisory Board affirms the right of farmers and ranchers to utilize the widest range of technologies available to produce a safe, healthy, abundant and affordable food supply, and that the safe, federally regulated use of biotechnology is a promising component of progressive and viable agricultural production, and

WHEREAS, the history of San Joaquin County is rich in agriculture, with a long standing tradition of improving the quality of its crops and livestock with selective seed development and animal husbandry; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology holds the promise for innovation that will heal the sick, feed the hungry, reduce the human footprint on the environment, and create new jobs here and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, agricultural biotechnology has the potential to greatly improve the health, nutrition and economic viability of all humanity, and

WHEREAS, agricultural biotechnology can make the food we eat safer, more nutritious and lower allergens, and the technology holds the key to development of crops that can be used to create new energy sources; and

WHEREAS, improvement of the San Joaquin Valley's air and water quality are essential and mandated by law, agricultural biotechnology has enhanced the well-being and environmental stewardship of communities through reduced pesticide use, lower water demands, and higher yields, and

WHEREAS, less inputs, higher crop yields, and healthier plants have and will continue to greatly enhance the vitality and viability of our agricultural economy, and

WHEREAS, the federal government has been regulating the production and introduction of biotechnology-enhanced crops for almost two decades and those new crops go through an extensive testing process before the new crop is approved to be grown on a commercial basis, and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture all must research, review and consent to the introduction of new biotechnology crops into the market, making these crops the most highly regulated and scrutinized foods in the world, and

WHEREAS, medical biotechnology holds the key to the discovery of cures for such life threatening diseases as Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDS, Diabetes, Cancer and a myriad of other diseases that currently have no cure; and

WHEREAS, the field of biotechnology in medicine has created tens of thousands of high paying jobs for Californians at a time when other industries have been leaving the state; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology holds the promise for innovations that will create new jobs and industries here and throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, the use of biotechnology in medicine has led to the creation of drugs that are successfully fighting breast cancer, treating diabetes and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, the University of California and the California State University Systems are world leaders in biotechnology research, recognizing that science is the driving force behind innovation, and that technological advancements have been at the root of California's success; and

WHEREAS, the ability to use biotechnology in agriculture is a key factor by which farmers and ranchers can stay competitive in the global marketplace, and

WHEREAS, the environmental benefits of biotechnology are important to the long-term sustainability and enhancement of our agricultural community, and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Advisory Board unanimously approved a motion at their January 9, 2006 meeting, to support a Resolution to be presented to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors for their consideration to support the use of biotechnology in the agricultural industry in San Joaquin County, thus allowing farmers and ranchers the choice of the same promising technology currently used by agriculturalists around the world.

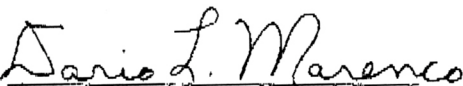
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors supports the use of biotechnology in the agricultural industry in San Joaquin County as a valuable and important tool for progressive and viable agricultural production offering great promise for combating disease, alleviating hunger, reducing our dependence on pesticides and improving the health and environment in which we live.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 21st day of February 2006, by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

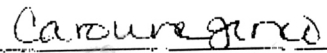
AYES: **Ornellas, Mow, Sieglock, Gutierrez, Marengo**

NOES: **None**

ABSENT: **None**


DARIO L. MARENGO, CHAIRMAN
Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin
State of California

ATTEST: LOIS M. SAHYOUN
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of San Joaquin
State of California

By 
Deputy Clerk

