

DRAFT
with footnotes

Whereas, biotechnology has the potential to greatly improve the health, nutrition and economic vitality of all of humanity¹, and

Whereas, biotechnology holds the key to the discovery of cures for such life-threatening diseases as HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, Diabetes, Cancer, and myriad other diseases that currently possess no cure, and

Whereas, biotechnology can make the food we eat safer², more nutritious and free from allergens³, and

Whereas, the use of biotechnology in agriculture has enhanced the wellbeing and environmental stewardship of communities through reduced pesticide⁴ use and exposure to other environmental factors, and

Whereas, improvement of the San Joaquin Valley's air quality is essential. Biotechnology is a key tool in the future to assist in the control of both particulate matter and ozone forming emissions⁵ through reduction of cultivated activities such as tillage⁶ and windblown soil erosion; and minimizing pesticide applications, and

Whereas, the San Joaquin Valley's water quality is vital. Biotechnology is, again, a key tool in the future to assist in the control of sediment, nutrient and pesticide runoff into waterways⁷ through the reduction of pesticide use and need of tillage in the fields, and

¹ *The State of Food and Agriculture 2004 – Agricultural Biotechnology – Meeting the Needs of the Poor?* Food and Agricultural Organization of the World Health Organization, 2004. http://www.fao.org/es/esa/en/pubs_sofa.htm; *The Use of Genetically Modified Crops in Developing Countries*. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics, 2004. http://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/filelibrary/pdf/gm_crops_paper_final.pdf

² *Foods from Genetically Improved Crops in Africa*, a brochure produced by the San Diego Center for Molecular Agriculture and AfricaBio. <http://www.whybiotech.com/index.asp?id=3773>; and *The Biotechnology Program of the Nation's Largest University System Opposes Anti-GMO Initiatives*, California State University Program for Education & Research in Biotechnology, October 2004, Press Release.

³ *Researchers Develop First Hypoallergenic Soybeans*, Agricultural Research Magazine, www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/sep02/soy0902.htm; *Assessing Allergenic Potential of Genetically Modified Foods and Using Food Biotechnology to Remove Allergens from Foods*, Taylor, Steve Ph.D., American Medical Association Briefing on Biotechnology, October 4, 2001. <http://www.whybiotech.com/index.asp?id=2286>

⁴ *Biotechnology Corn Approved for Continued Use*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Press Release, October 16, 2001, www.epa.gov; and *Bt Plant-Pesticides Biopesticides Registration Action Document — Executive Summary*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, October 15, 2001, www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/otherdocs/bt_brad2/1%20overview.pdf. 

⁵ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, http://www.epa.gov/asthma/images/asthma_fact_sheet_en.pdf; *Ground Level Ozone Fact Sheet*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov/air/urbanair/ozone/what.html>; CA Air Resources Board <http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/nr013102.htm> 02-14- 02

⁶ *ASA Study Confirms Environmental Benefits of Biotech Soybeans*. American Soybean Association, November 12, 2001, www.soygrowers.com/file_depot/0-10000000/0-10000/735/conman/ASA+Study+Confirms+Environmental+Benefits+of+Biotech+Soybeans_11_12_01.htm; *Trends Link Biotech, Conservation Tillage*, Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), West Lafayette, Ind., p. 3, 5.

⁷ *Conservation Tillage and Plant Biotechnology: How New Technologies Can Improve the Environment By Reducing the Need to Plow*. Conservation Technology Information Center, October 2002 <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/CTIC/Biotech.html>

Whereas, less inputs, higher crop yields, and healthier plants have and will continue to greatly enhance the vitality of a struggling agriculture economy⁸ by providing production choices to the farmer, and

Whereas, the federal government has been regulating the production and introduction of biotechnology-enhanced crops for almost two decades⁹; and those new crops go through an extensive multi-year 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 consent to the introduction of new biotechnology crops into the market¹⁰, making these crops the most highly regulated and scrutinized foods in the world, and

Whereas, more than 3,400 scientists¹¹, 20 Nobel Prize winners¹², the American Dietetic Association¹³, American Medical Association¹⁴, the National Academy of Sciences¹⁵, the European Commission¹⁶, and others have expressed confidence in the safety of biotechnology crops for human health and the environment, and

Whereas, the current and future developments of biotechnology in crops will represent a significant leap in addressing the hunger and nutritional needs of the world's¹⁷ more than 8.3 billion people by the year 2025¹⁸, and

Whereas, the University of California and the California State University systems are world leaders in biotechnology research¹⁹ recognizing that science is the driving force behind innovation and technology advancement and has been a key driver for California's agricultural success²⁰; and

⁸ *Plant Biotechnology: Current and Potential Impact for Improving Pest Management in U.S. Agriculture an Analysis of 40 Case Studies*, National Center for Food & Agricultural Policy, 2002

⁹ *Plant Biotechnology Timeline*, Council for Biotechnology Information, <http://www.whybiotech.com/index.asp?id=2157>

¹⁰ *The U.S. Regulatory System*, University of Nebraska Ag Biosafety Education Center.

¹¹ *Declaration of Support for Agricultural Biotechnology*, http://www.agbioworld.org/declaration/declaration_index.html

¹² Ibid.

¹³ *Biotechnology and the Future of Food Position Statement*, American Dietetic Association, September 1998. http://www.eatright.org/Public/NutritionInformation/92_abiotechnology.cfm

¹⁴ *Genetically Modified Crops and Foods*, American Medical Association (AMA), Recommendation #6, www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/article/2036-3604.html.

¹⁵ *Safety of Genetically Engineered Foods: Approaches to Assessing Unintended Health Effects*. United States National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine, 2004. <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10977.html>.

¹⁶ *European Network Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Crops, Main Conclusions & Recommendations*. ENTRANSFOOD, 2003.; *Commission Launches Roundtable on GMO Safety Research*, European Commission, Sept. 10, 2001, http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/01/1391/0/RAPID&lg=EN&display=> http://www.entransfood.com/Entransfood_Flyer%20def_1%20March_2004.pdf

¹⁷ *The Use of Genetically Modified Crops in Developing Countries*. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics, 2004. http://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/filelibrary/pdf/gm_crops_paper_final.pdf

¹⁸ Norman Borlaug, Ph.D., Professor, Texas A&M University, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 1970

¹⁹ *The Economic Status and Performance of Plant Biotechnology in 2003: Adoption, Research and Development in the United States*, C. Ford Runge, Ph.D., 2003; *Biomedicine: The Next Wave for California's Economy*, California Healthcare Institute, 2002

Whereas, Fresno County leads the world in agricultural products grown for domestic and foreign consumption, and

Whereas, patchwork county-by-county regulation of biotechnology suppresses important scientific developments, dismantles California's leading research and development infrastructure, undermines the farmer's choice and flexibility to meet market and environmental demands, and is unnecessary given the coordinated federal framework for regulating biotechnology²¹, and

Whereas, Fresno County has embraced agriculture since its inception, and that agriculture is woven into the very fabric of both Fresno County and the state of California as demonstrated by being the number one food and fiber producer in the state, and

Whereas, the only way to ensure that agriculture remains a part of our lifestyle, economy and character is to allow our farmers and ranchers the choice of the same promising technology currently used by agriculturalists around the world.

Therefore, be it resolved that the County of Fresno affirms that the right for farmers and ranchers to choose 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 agricultural production.

Be it further resolved, that the County of Fresno affirms that biotechnology is a bright light in the future of agriculture and the ability to use biotechnology in agriculture is a key factor by which farmers and ranchers can stay competitive in the global marketplace.

Be it further resolved, that the County of Fresno affirms that the environmental and health benefits of biotechnology are important to the long-term sustainability and enhancement of our community's way of life.

Be it further resolved, that the County of Fresno will make every effort to preserve the choice of using biotechnology in its county and encourage the establishment of a state or national biotechnology policy.

²⁰ *The Biotechnology Program of the Nation's Largest University System Opposes Anti-GMO Initiatives*, California State University Program for Education & Research in Biotechnology, October 2004, Press Release.

²¹ *Coordinated Framework for Regulations of Biotechnology*, U.S. Regulatory Agencies Unified Biotechnology Website. <http://usbiotechreg.nbio.gov/>