

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the matter of:

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference No. \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING THE USE  
OF BIOTECHNOLOGY  
IN AGRICULTURE

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I, DENISE PENNELL, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County Of Kern, State of California, hereby certify that the following resolution, on motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, was duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern at an official meeting thereof on the fifth day of April, 2005, by the following vote and that a copy of the resolution has been delivered to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DENISE PENNELL  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Kern, State of California

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

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**RESOLUTION**

Section 1. WHEREAS:

(a) Agricultural biotechnology has the potential to greatly improve the health, nutrition and economic vitality of all humanity; and

(b) Agricultural biotechnology holds the key to the development of crops that can be used to create new energy sources, provide more nutrients, treat diseases, or serve as vaccines to prevent diseases; and

(c) The use of biotechnology in agriculture has enhanced the well being and environmental stewardship of communities through reduced pesticide use and exposure to other environmental factors; and

(d) Agricultural biotechnology can assist in the control of both particulate matter and ozone forming emissions through reduction of cultivated activities, thereby improving the San Joaquin Valley's air quality; and

(e) Agricultural biotechnology can assist in the control of sediment, nutrient and pesticide runoff into waterways through the reduction of pesticide use and tillage in the fields, thereby improving the San Joaquin Valley's water quality; and

(f) Less inputs, higher crop yields, and healthier plants have and will continue to greatly enhance the vitality of a struggling agricultural economy by providing production choices to the farmer; and

(g) 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 multi-year testing process before the new crop is approved to be grown on a commercial basis; and

(h) 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 market, making these crops the most highly regulated and scrutinized foods in the world; and

(i) The current and future developments of biotechnology in agriculture will represent a significant leap in addressing the hunger and nutritional needs of the world's more than 8.3 billion people by the year 2025; and

(j) Agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of Kern County, grossing more that \$2 billion annually; and

(k) Kern County embraces our agricultural industry and recognizes its significant contribution to our economy and way of life; and

(l) The only way to ensure that agriculture remains a part of Kern County's 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;

Section 2. NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern, State of California, as follows:

1. That the County of Kern affirms 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.

2. That the County of Kern 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.

3. That the County of Kern affirms that the environmental and health benefits of biotechnology are important to the long-term sustainability and enhancement of our agricultural industry and the County's way of life.

4. That the County of Kern will make every effort to preserve the choice of using biotechnology in agriculture in its County.

5. The Clerk of this Board shall transmit copies of this Resolution to the following:

- (a) Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards
- (b) County Administrative Office
- (c) County Counsel