

On September 12, 2005, Sonoma County Judge Allan Hardcastle issued rulings to settle legal challenges to the wording of Ballot Arguments for Measure M. The judge heard testimony from both sides to assess the validity of the statements in question. Statements found to be false and/or misleading were ordered deleted. Text was left unchanged where the Judge found lack of substantial evidence to support the desired amendments.

Caution to Voters: Due to time constraints for printing and mailing ballot information to voters, the Judge did not rule on challenges to the Rebuttal Arguments on both sides, leaving that wording unchanged. So despite the ruling that Measure M would limit the use of medical treatments that use live GE organisms, the Rebuttal to the Argument Against Measure M still contains the statement “*Drugs, vaccines and all other medicines will still be available to everyone*”. Questionable statements that GE crops have led to an increase in pesticide use also remain in the Rebuttal Argument.

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Yellow-highlighted font indicates text that was deleted as a result of the 9/12/05 court ruling

Indicates text that was inserted as a result of the court ruling

(This is what you won't see on the printed Voter Pamphlets)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M

People should know what's in their food. But today chemical corporations are releasing genetically engineered (GE) organisms into our food supply. These crops and foods are unlabeled **and unsafe**.

Sonoma County needs a time-out on genetically engineered crops – and that's what Measure M will do. It creates a 10-year moratorium on growing GE crops, fish, trees, viruses and other organisms in our county.

There has been no long-term testing of the health risks to humans from GE foods, but laboratory animals fed GE foods develop stomach lesions, immune system damage and precancerous conditions. Our children should not be used as guinea pigs for genetic engineering.

When GE crops are released, they create herbicide-resistant superweeds and contaminate the local food supply and natural environment. Genetic contamination is forever – it can't be recalled, contained or cleaned up. Measure M will keep GE crops from polluting our farms, gardens and wild lands.

Genetic crop contamination can put small farmers out of business. They stand to lose crop sales and face costly patent lawsuits by Monsanto. Organic farmers are particularly vulnerable to GE contamination – they **will may** lose organic certification and their livelihood. Measure M protects our family farmers from these economic threats.

Measure M requires violators, not taxpayers, to pay all cleanup and enforcement costs. **The measure does not limit research, production, and use of genetically engineered drugs and vaccines for people and animals.**

Measure M is supported by thousands of Sonoma County family farmers, commercial fishermen, doctors and nurses, parents and environmentalists. Join us to protect our farms, our environment, and our children's health from the risks of genetic contamination.

Please vote Yes on Measure M to keep Sonoma County GE-Free! Visit www.gefreeesonoma.org or call 823-4410.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE WITH FAMILY FARMERS
s/ George Davis, Vice President

s/ Dr. April Hurley
Physician

SIERRA CLUB, REDWOOD CHAPTER
s/ Margaret Pennington, Chair

s/ Jill Nussinow,
Registered Dietitian
Nutrition Educator

SMALL BOAT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
s/ Yvette Hudson, Board Secretary

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE M

Voting No on Measure M is a vote to protect family farmers and ranchers, and the future of Sonoma County agriculture – the backbone of our local economy. That's why **every** major farming organizations in Sonoma County oppose Measure M.

Banning farm families, ranchers and winegrowers from growing and selling genetically modified crops puts them at a competitive disadvantage which will have a crippling effect on Sonoma County agriculture.

For years, GMO's have made farming safer, more efficient and more environmentally sensitive. Science has proven that GMO crops reduce pesticide use, fuel emissions and water use while improving air quality.

Read the fine print. Proponents of Measure M ignored the needs of local farmers and taxpayers **and didn't consult with local agriculture.**

Measure M is filled with unintended consequences. It will cost taxpayers millions and is so poorly written that it provides no exemption for medical or veterinary vaccines or life saving treatments for cancer, heart disease or other illnesses. If farm families can't compete, farm land will be further developed – accelerating suburban sprawl and the destruction of Sonoma County's natural beauty.

The Family Farmers Alliance is a coalition of local farmers and ranchers fighting to protect Sonoma County Agriculture and defeat Measure M. We're supported by **every** major farming organizations, like the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, Sonoma County Grape Growers, Western United Dairywomen, Sonoma-Marin Cattlemen & Cattlewomen, North Bay Dairy Women, California Women for Agriculture, Sonoma County Wool Growers. We're also supported by the Sonoma County Taxpayers Association.

Agriculture is the heart of Sonoma County, and the backbone of our economy. Sonoma County has trusted local farmers to care for our land and our environment for generations. We ask that you continue your faith in us to preserve, protect and enrich Sonoma County.

Protect family farmers and ranchers. Save taxpayers millions. Vote No on Measure M. To learn more, please visit www.familyfarmersalliance.com

SONOMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
s/ Michael B. Strunk, President

s/ Steve Dutton
Grape Grower/Organic Farmer

s/ Mitch Mulas
Dairyman

s/ Saralee McClelland Kunde
Grape Grower

SONOMA COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
s/ Fred Levin, Executive Director

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M

People should know what's in their food. But today chemical corporations are releasing genetically engineered (GE) organisms into our food supply. These crops and foods are unlabeled.

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SIERRA CLUB, REDWOOD CHAPTER
s/ Margaret Pennington, Chair

s/ Dr. April Hurlley
Physician
s/ Jill Nussinow, Registered
Dietitian
Nutrition Educator

SMALL BOAT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
s/ Yvette Hudson, Board Secretary

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M

Measure M is the largest threat to Sonoma County today. Measure M is poorly written. The County of Sonoma staff report analysis calls the language ambiguous and unclear. Measure M has many unintended consequences.

Measure M has no exemption for medical use and may limit access to medical treatments and life saving vaccines. The American Medical Association and American Heart Association and countless doctors and veterinarians support GMO's because they offer new medical tools that save lives and safeguard our pets.

The proponents of the initiative want you to believe that Measure M is about food safety. Not True. Measure M explicitly exempts all foods with GMO ingredients. If the proponents of the initiative were truly concerned about food safety, why didn't they include banning foods with GMO ingredients? Maybe because they didn't want people to know that the National Academy of Sciences concluded there is no evidence that GMO foods are unsafe.

Farmers and environmentalists support GMO crops because they have been shown by the National Center for Food & Agriculture Policy to reduce pesticide use by millions of pounds, which benefits the environment.

Measure M is wrong for Sonoma County. Measure M will hurt local family farmers and threaten the health and well being of Sonoma County citizens by limiting current and future medical treatments and vaccines that are derived from biotechnology. It's been estimated that the initiative may cost taxpayers millions to regulate.

Join us, protect family farmers and the citizens of Sonoma County. Vote No on Measure M.

s/ Lex McCorvey
Organic Farmer & Rancher
s/ Dr. Roger G. Nacouzi, MD
Internal Medicine & Cardiology

s/ Dr. Fred Groverman, DVM
Veterinarian
s/ Dr. Mary Berg, MD
Family Physician

s/ John Westoby
Former Sonoma County Agriculture Commissioner

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE M

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s/ Mitch Mulas
Dairyman

s/ Steve Dutton
Grape Grower/Organic Farmer
s/ Saralee McClelland Kunde
Grape Grower

SONOMA COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
s/ Fred Levin, Executive Director

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE M

"Don't confuse us with facts," says the opposition. "We've already made up our minds." Here are the facts. Measure M will protect Sonoma County's family farmers, gardeners and environment from irreversible genetic contamination by GE organisms. Hundreds of farmers, fishermen and other food producers support Measure M. It's co-sponsored by two major Sonoma County farmer groups: California Certified Organic Farmers, and Community Alliance with Family Farmers.

GE crops increase pesticide use. A recent study concludes that all plantings of GE corn, soybeans and cotton (the vast majority of U.S. GE crops) have led to a 122 million pound increase in pesticide use. www.biotech-info.net/technicalpaper7.html

Measure M was written after broad consultation. The authors shared drafts with two-dozen agricultural leaders, seeking advice and revisions, including the Agriculture Commissioner, the Farm Bureau's director, and directors of six major winegrower associations.

Measure M holds knowing violators, not taxpayers, responsible for paying administrative and abatement costs associated with enforcement. The moratorium prohibits only living, reproducing GE organisms. Drugs, vaccines and all other medicines will still be available to everyone.

Sonoma County's best agricultural economic strategy is in sustainable farming, not increased pesticides and GE contamination. GE contamination is forever, but the moratorium is not. It's for 10 years – time for more and better safety testing on GE crops and foods. That time is an investment in protecting our children's health and our environment.

Please read the fine print. Then vote yes for health and safety – Yes on Measure M!

CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMERS
s/ Peggy Miars, Executive Director
s/ Gail Dubinsky, M.D.
Physician

s/ Lou Preston
Farmer and Winery Owner
s/ Michael Allen, President
Northbay Labor Council

s/ Darek Trowbridge, Winemaker
Old World Winery