

RESOLUTION NO. 2006 - 17

BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

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

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, 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 farmers; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, San Benito County embraces its agricultural industry and recognizes its significant contributions to the region's economy; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology is key to the future of agriculture and the ability to use biotechnology in agriculture will be a critical means to help farmers and ranchers stay competitive in the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the environmental and health benefits of biotechnology are important to the long-term sustainability and enhancement of our agriculture community and the nations way of life

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of San Benito 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of San Benito 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 San Benito will make every effort to preserve the choice of using biotechnology in its county and encourage the establishment of a state of national biotechnology policy to allow equal access to its use.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors at the regular meeting of said board held on the 28th day of February 2006, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Monaco; De La Cruz; Botelho; Marcus & Loe

NAYES: SUPERVISORS: None

ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS: None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

BY: Pat Loe

Pat Loe, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

2/28/06

ATTEST:
LINDA CHURCHILL
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By: Sally Navarro

Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
IRMA VALENCIA
ACTING COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Shirley L. Murphy

Deputy County Counsel

2/22/06