

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE USE OF)
BIOTECHNOLOGY)

RESOLUTION NO 2005-0164

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

WHEREAS, agricultural biotechnology can make the food we eat safer, more nutritious, and free from allergens; 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, improvement of the San Joaquin Valley's air quality is essential and agricultural biotechnology is a key tool assisting in the control of both particulate matter and ozone-forming emissions through reduction of tillage and windblown soil erosion; and in minimizing pesticide applications; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley's water quality is essential, 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; and

WHEREAS, the use of agricultural biotechnology has increased productivity and lowered production costs, enhancing the vitality of our \$3.4 billion 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 agricultural 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 current and future developments of biotechnology in agriculture will be a key component in addressing the hunger and nutritional needs of the world's more than 8.3 billion people by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, California is a world leader in biotechnology research, recognizing that science is the driving force behind innovation and technology advancement and has been a key driver for Tulare County's agricultural success; and

WHEREAS, Tulare County embraces our agricultural economy and recognizes the significant contribution that it makes to our way of life; and

WHEREAS, the way to ensure that agriculture remains an essential part of local economy and character is to ensure that our farmers and ranchers have the choice of the same promising technologies currently employed by agriculturalists throughout the world.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Tulare affirms the right of 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 Tulare affirms that the environmental and health benefits of agricultural biotechnology are important to the long-term sustainability, competitiveness in the world marketplace and enhancement of our community's way of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Tulare will make every effort to preserve the choice of using agricultural biotechnology.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on motion of Supervisor **Maples**, seconded by Supervisor **Ishida**, at a regular meeting of this Board of Supervisors held on April 5, 2005, by the following vote:

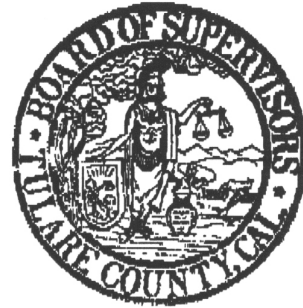
AYES: Supervisors **Ishida, Conway, Cox, Worthley, and Maples**

NOES: **None**

ABSTAIN: **None**

ABSENT: **None**

ATTEST: **C. BRIAN HADDIX**
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CLERK BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



By: *Wanna K. Bush*

Ag Commissioner
Cooperative Extension

CAO
Auditor

4/5/05
WKB