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Tide Turning Against Campaign to Ban Biotech Crops
Ten California counties pass pro-biotech crop resolutions

Sacramento, CA – The California Healthy Foods Coalition, a newly formed grass-roots coalition of leading agricultural organizations and community leaders, announced that beginning with the November 2004 statewide election, voters rejected three of four county measures to ban biotech crop and ten California counties adopted resolutions supporting biotech crops. The coalition opposes biotech crop bans.

“California’s family farmers serve an important role in providing safe and healthy food to consumers throughout the world,” said Marko Mlikotin, spokesman for the coalition. “When family farmers speak to farming practices that ensure food safety and protecting California’s agricultural economy and jobs, consumers listen and ballot measures fail.”

A biotech ban measure in Sonoma County will appear on the November 2005 ballot. Proponents of banning biotech crops profess that they are organizing efforts to qualify ballot measures in several other counties for the 2006 elections -- including Sacramento, Yolo, Lake, Nevada, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Alameda, Placer, Santa Cruz, and Santa Barbara. (source: www.ucbiotech.org, see “resources”). The latest county to pass a pro-biotech crop proclamation/resolution is San Diego County.

Californians supporting farmer’s right to farm are encouraged to join the coalition by visiting its website at www.feedingthefuture.org.

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