

2 [Genetically Engineered Foods]

3 URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO TO GIVE PREFERENCE
4 TO CERTIFIED ORGANIC FOOD VENDORS AND TO URGE THE FEDERAL
5 GOVERNMENT TO LABEL AND TEST GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (G.E.)
6 FOODS, AS WELL AS TO ASSIGN LIABILITY TO THE COMMERCIAL
7 DEVELOPERS OF G.E. TECHNOLOGY.

8

9 WHEREAS, consumers of any food product have the right to complete confidence and
10 thorough knowledge of any ingredient in their food or other products; and

11

12 WHEREAS, genetically engineered (g.e.) foods have not been adequately tested by any
13 federal agency for long-term impacts on human health or the environment; and

14

15 WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suggests only that companies
16 engineering foods state that g.e. foods are safe, but requires no further testing; and

17

18 WHEREAS, competent scientific researchers have suggested that g.e. foods, seed, and
19 other products could pose risks to the environment, including damaged soil ecology,
20 harmful effects to wildlife, increased use of farm chemicals, and other potential effects;

21 and

22

23 WHEREAS, scientists and other researchers¹ have indicated that g.e. crops may harm
24 beneficial insect species, such as Monarch butterflies, as well as threatened and
25 endangered insect species; and

¹ Losey, John. Cornell University Study, *Nature*, vol 399, p 14.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

WHEREAS, g.e. materials could have serious impacts on levels of toxins in food, antibiotic resistance, cancer, immuno-suppression, and allergic reactions, and may be particularly threatening to children and the elderly²; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a serious health impact and an ensuing lawsuit, the federal government has not yet assigned liability to the commercial developers of g.e. foods; and

WHEREAS, g.e. foods are growing in prevalence in the United States and around the world, without sufficient regulation or research; and

WHEREAS, many community organizations, representing farmers and sustainable agriculture interests, as well as consumers, environmentalists and others, have argued for a moratorium on g.e. foods, and some countries have effectively—if not officially—instituted a moratorium, including France, Italy, Denmark, Greece, and Luxembourg³; and

WHEREAS, the European Commission has agreed on terms to guarantee the labeling of g.e. foods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley’s Unified School District’s Food Policy, adopted in August of 1999, establishes a goal of serving organic foods to the maximum extent possible in Berkeley’s schools; and

² York Nutritional Laboratory and the New England Journal of Medicine (Vol. 334, No. 11, March 14, 1996),
³ The Nation. December 27, 1999.

1 WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's Board of Education and the Berkeley City Council
2 have approved resolutions to urge the federal government to ban the growing,
3 disseminating, and marketing of products that contain g.e. organisms until they have been
4 proven safe for human consumption and for the environment; now, therefore be it

5

6 RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment hereby requests the Mayor and
7 the Board of Supervisors to write a letter to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA),
8 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and United States Department of Agriculture
9 (USDA) stating that all g.e. foods should be labeled clearly, that all g.e. material should
10 be thoroughly researched and regulated, that liability should be assigned to the
11 commercial developers of g.e. foods, and that, until these materials are proven safe, that
12 the FDA, the EPA, and the USDA should establish a moratorium on these products; and,
13 be it

14

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and
16 the Board of Supervisors to request that all City departments and agencies, including
17 those in City Hall, give preference to certified organic food vendors during any and all
18 contract negotiations; and, be it

19

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and
21 the Board of Supervisors to require that, by January of 2001, special events held by City
22 departments and City agencies, including those in City Hall, give preference to caterers
23 that avoid g.e. ingredients and use certified organic foods; and, be it

24

25 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and
26 the Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Unified School District to serve
27 certified organic lunches; and, be it

1

2 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and
3 the Board of Supervisors to request that the Department of Consumer Assurance provide
4 educational materials about g.e. foods to grocers and where possible to the general public
5 in San Francisco.

6

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its regular meeting on July 17, 2000.

Sraddha Mehta

Commission Secretary

VOTE:

Ayes: Commissioners Evans, Hayes, Shah, Werbe, Chang, and Bradford-Bell.

Noes: None.

Absent: Commissioner Bingham