

Governor Gray Davis
First Floor, State Capitol
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January 10, 2003

To the Honorable Gray Davis:

I oppose the sale of the 17-acre UC Agricultural Research Center in Santa Clara County for many reasons. Following are some of them:

The Center can create new jobs in a place where many technology jobs have disappeared and the economy is failing. Biotechnology, the revolution for the 21st century, needs a new definition. It includes not only the study of gene manipulations but also the use of microorganisms to clean up the environment and to create healthier food. It can help us learn to live with nature more harmoniously and less expensively. The Center is needed for this work.

If the Center is sold, the Central Coast will lose federal and state grant money and researchers to meet our region's needs. It will be difficult to impossible to recreate this 82-year-old research and educational facility. Therefore, the Central Coast will be discriminated against forever.

In a down economy we should not be eliminating the sector that is working and has historically worked best for us. The largest sector of the California economy is agriculture. This does not include retail plant and food sales, landscape construction, and garden-related items. California accounts for 61% of U.S. fruit sales and 40% of U.S. vegetable sales. The number one leisure-time activity is gardening.

Our region's urban governmental organizations and businesses need education and help to understand the ecological implications of their work. If the Center is closed we will have no biotech/ecological research experts in the community and no high-level educational programs which meet community and ecological needs.

Sincerely,