

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 21, 2004

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

I oppose the February sale of the UC Agricultural Center (a.k.a. BAREC) in Santa Clara County. Short-term budgetary thinking costs more in the long run. For example, millions of dollars are spent each year repaving streets and sidewalks and rebuilding foundations pushed up by tree roots. Such research carried out at the Center will reduce the cost of tree maintenance and street and sidewalk repair budgets of city and county authorities. It will stop the selection of trees not suitable for our climate. The most obvious example is the thousands of palm trees planted by the San Jose Redevelopment Agency within the last two years. Our climate is too cold for them and they now have not one live frond. There is no maintenance money to prune or remove them.

The Center has been helping us understand our land for 82 years and should not be sold because there are short-term monetary problems. The State should not be taking things from its citizens that have such a long and successful history creating healthy food and communities. It will be difficult to impossible to recreate this Center and the Central Coast will, therefore, be discriminated against forever.

The Center can help create new jobs, prevent disease (which is costly to our health care system), create healthier communities and citizens, and reduce the costs of maintaining and building our communities.

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.

Please reconsider the selling of the Santa Clara County UC Ag Research Center (BAREC). It is not too late!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,