

1 [Urging Preference to Certified Organic Food Vendors]

2 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to give preference to certified**
3 **organic food vendors and to urge the federal government to label and test genetically**
4 **engineered foods, as well as to assign liability to the commercial developers of**
5 **genetically engineered technology.**
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7 WHEREAS, Consumers of any food product have the right to complete confidence and
8 thorough knowledge of any ingredient in their food or other products; and

9 WHEREAS, Genetically engineered foods have not been adequately tested by any
10 federal agency for long-term impacts on human health or the environment; and

11 WHEREAS, Genetically Engineered Life Forms or Genetically Modified
12 Organisms”(GMO) and equivalent terms, shall refer to organisms and their genetic makeup in
13 which genetic material or inherited genetic material has been directly altered through
14 recombinant DNA technology, genetic modification, genetic manipulation, or gene splicing.
15 The term shall not refer to traditional breeding where the organism's genes are manipulated
16 indirectly.

17 WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suggests only that companies
18 engineering foods state that genetically engineered foods are safe, but requires no further
19 testing; and

20 WHEREAS, Competent scientific researchers have suggested that genetically
21 engineered foods, seed, and other products could pose risks to the environment, including
22 damaged soil ecology, harmful effects to wildlife, increased use of farm chemicals, and other
23 potential effects; and
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1 WHEREAS, Scientists and other researchers have indicated that genetically
2 engineered crops may harm beneficial insect species, such as Monarch butterflies, as well as
3 threatened and endangered insect species; and

4 WHEREAS, Genetically engineered materials could have serious impacts on levels of
5 toxins in food, antibiotic resistance, cancer, immuno-suppression, and allergic reactions, and
6 may be particularly threatening to children and the elderly; and

7 WHEREAS, In the event of a serious health impact and an ensuing lawsuit, the federal
8 government has not yet assigned liability to the commercial developers of genetically
9 engineered foods; and

10 WHEREAS, Genetically engineered foods are growing in prevalence in the United
11 States and around the world, without sufficient regulation or research; and

12 WHEREAS, Many community organizations, representing farmers and sustainable
13 agriculture interests, as well as consumers, environmentalists and others, have argued for a
14 moratorium on genetically engineered foods, and some countries have effectively—if not
15 officially—instituted a moratorium, including France, Italy, Denmark, Greece, and
16 Luxembourg; and

17 WHEREAS, The European Commission has agreed on terms to guarantee the labeling
18 of genetically engineered foods; and

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

22 WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley's Board of Education and the Berkeley City Council
23 have approved resolutions to urge the federal government to ban the growing, disseminating,
24 and marketing of products that contain genetically engineered organisms until they have been
25 proven safe for human consumption and for the environment; now, therefore be it; and

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Commission on the Environment unanimously adopted
2 a resolution in July 2000 (No. 012-00-COE) urging the city and county of San Francisco to
3 give preference to certified organic food vendors and to urge the federal government to label
4 and test genetically engineered (genetically engineered) foods, as well as to assign liability to
5 the commercial developers of genetically engineered technology; now, therefore be it

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

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to request that
14 all City departments and agencies, including those in City Hall, give preference to certified
15 organic food vendors during any and all contract negotiations; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to require that,
17 by January of 2012, special events held by City departments and City agencies, including
18 those in City Hall, give preference to caterers that avoid genetically engineered ingredients
19 and use certified organic foods; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to urge the
21 San Francisco Unified School District to serve certified organic lunches; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to request that
23 the Department of Consumer Assurance provide educational materials about genetically
24 engineered foods to grocers and where possible to the general public in San Francisco.
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