

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** John J. Benoit, County Supervisor

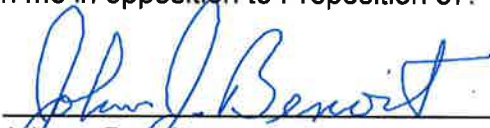
**SUBMITTAL DATE:** October 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Opposition to Proposition 37, Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food Initiative

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1.) Officially oppose Proposition 37, Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food (2012); and
- 2.) Direct the County Executive Officer, Assistant County Executive Officer, Agricultural Commissioner, Commissioner of Foreign Trade, and/or other county team members to express Board of Supervisors' opposition to Proposition 37 with federal, state, and local elected leaders and representatives of the County of Riverside in our federal and state capitols.

**BACKGROUND:** Agriculture is the County of Riverside's second largest industry with 2011 crop values at \$1.2 billion and an economic impact of \$4.33 billion. Agriculture employs a combined 30,000 Riverside County residents according to recent economic analysis and studies published in the 2011 Agricultural Commissioner's Report. Proposition 37 as currently written will not enhance or improve food safety. Our Riverside County Farm Bureau and our California Farm Bureau are among the many who have expressed concerns that Proposition 37 will make California farmers and food businesses less competitive domestically and globally. This measure would drive up food costs, increase government bureaucracy and spark frivolous lawsuits without any discernible benefits to consumers. It is my belief that this poorly drafted measure may have a devastating impact on our Riverside County farmers and ranchers. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to Proposition 37.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John J. Benoit, County Supervisor  
Representing the 4<sup>th</sup> District