

13-1374

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MOTION

Genetically modified (GM) crops fall under the larger umbrella of genetically modified organisms (GMO), which are plants or animals that have been genetically engineered with DNA from bacteria, viruses or other plants and animals. The prevalence of GMO has given rise to various concerns regarding the use of GM products, including but not limited to the safety of consumption of GM foods, as well as the threat GM crops pose to the survival of non-GM crops and biodiversity in general. GMOs have also been linked to colony collapse disorder. In response to these concerns, more than 60 countries around the world have imposed significant restrictions or outright bans on the production and sale of GM products, including Australia, Japan, and all countries belonging to the European Union.

Fifty-two percent of LA County residents voted in favor of Proposition 37, which would have required labeling on raw or processed genetically-modified food products offered for sale to consumers. Although the Proposition 37 was defeated in a statewide election, largely due to the over \$40 million spent by special interests groups opposition of the proposition, the Los Angeles City Council has established a strong precedent for acting on behalf of its constituents when state or federal authorities will not, and it is important that the Council as a whole assume a position of leadership on the issue of GM Crops. The Council has voted to halt or regulate the sale and spread of genetically-modified crops and food products no less than three times, including the votes on Prop 37, GM Salmon, and the Monsanto Protection Act. With the founding of the Seed Library of Los Angeles, and the Council's forthcoming actions on parkway vegetable gardens and urban beekeeping, the Council has an even greater need to act.

A local example to follow would be that of the city of Arcata, California, which has enacted an ordinance that places a comprehensive ban on GM crops. More specifically, the ordinance makes unlawful each of the following activities pertaining to GM crops within the City of Arcata's limits: the sale, distribution, propagation, cultivation, or raising or growing of seeds or crops, by any person, partnership, corporation, firm or organization of any kind. Any acts in violation of said ordinance are declared to constitute a public nuisance. Given the numerous threats posed by the proliferation of GM crops, it is incumbent upon the City of Los Angeles to enact an ordinance of its own that places a ban on the growth, sale, and distribution of GM crops, as well as other associated activities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance which would prohibit the growth of genetically modified (GM) crops within City limits. Specifically, the ordinance should prohibit each the following practices related to the growing of GM crops within City limits: the planting of GM seeds; the sale of GM seeds by vendors; the sale of any seeds that could potentially be contaminated by other genetically modified organisms (GMO); the sale of GM fruit trees and plants.

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PRESENTED BY

Paul Koretz

PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Mitch O'Farrell

MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY

M. Bee...

JSB

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO