

Date: April 21, 2004

To: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the early February sale of the UC Agricultural Center (a.k.a. BAREC) in Santa Clara County. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency receives billions of dollars mostly from the State. Almost everyone who experiences their work is unhappy with it and think they waste our money needlessly. Why cannot you take money away from the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and use the money to keep the UC Ag Research Center? There is no person in the Central Coast and the UC Extension research staff statewide who does not agree that it is needed. The Santa Clara County Ag Center is doing important work and is needed.

Agriculture is no longer strictly a rural business, as indicated by the many words used today to obtain agricultural research (environmental horticulture, urban ecology, urban horticulture, urban forestry, organic gardening, ecological farming). The only State research center that understands urban issues is this Center.

It is the only research center that exists for our region's climate and urban community needs. The two nearest coastal centers are in rural Mendocino and semi-desert Ventura counties.

It keeps track of weather patterns and its weather station is wired to hundreds of automatic irrigation systems, thus conserving precious water.

Please reconsider the State Legislature decision to sell the UC Santa Clara County Ag Research and Extension Center land.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to the above issues.

Sincerely,