Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 21, 2004

Dear Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger,

Please consider stopping the sale of the 17 acre 82-year-old UC Ag Research land in Santa Clara County (a.k.a. BAREC). The number one sector of the economy in California is agriculture not high technology. Technology is moving out of the State and to other countries and we have much competition. In a down economy we should not be eliminating the sector that is working and has historically worked best for us. California accounts for 61% of U.S. fruit sales and 40% of U.S. vegetable sales. The number one leisure time activity is gardening.

We are increasingly becoming an urban society and, therefore, the interface between agriculture and urban areas is important. Our region's urban governmental organizations and businesses need education and help to understand the ecological implications of their work. If the Center is closed we will have no biotech/ecological research experts in the community and no high-level educational programs which meet community and ecological needs.

We also need the UC Center to help us better understand the micro-organisms in our soil and how they make our food healthier. Microorganisms also clean up our pollution. This research is currently being done in other states but not in California for our specific needs. Our research is not progressive considering that we are the largest state.

Programs on food and ecology need to be a part of all schools and school property. This can educate the urban public about healthy food and how to grow it. Such work will create healthy citizens and lessen the burden on our already overburdened health care system.

Please reconsider the 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,

P. S. Thomas Jefferson once said: "The greatest service a government can give to its people is to add a plant to its culture."