

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yes on M, GE-Free Sonoma County

Contact: Dawn Pillsbury

Phone: (707) 824-1017

Email: dawn@gefreesonoma.org

Press release

October 3, 2005

### State Senate candidate Pat Wiggins endorses Measure M

SANTA ROSA — Former 7th District Assemblywoman Patricia Wiggins of Santa Rosa has endorsed Measure M, the proposed 10-year moratorium on genetically engineered crops in Sonoma County.

"We need this initiative to protect our rich heritage of organic and sustainable farming," said Wiggins. "These commodified, engineered seeds are a threat to our agricultural economy. Until we develop mature regulations like those in Europe, need to protect our industry from these irresponsible practices."

Wiggins is running for Wes Chesbro's 2nd district seat in the California Senate in the November 2006 election.

Measure M goes before Sonoma County voters on Nov. 8, 2005.

Wiggins said she is proud to support Measure M with local wineries Benziger Family Winery, Davis Bynum, Preston Vineyards and Topolos Winery, businesses including Amy's Kitchen, Fiesta Market, Lucas Wharf, Odwalla, Syrah Restaurant, Traditional Medicinals, Tresch Family Dairy and Whole Foods Market and many local organizations including California Certified Organic Farmers, the Coalition for a Better Sonoma County, Community Alliance with Family Famers, North Bay Labor Council, SEIU Local 707, the Sierra Club and the Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermen's Association.

Because Japan and many other countries refuse to buy GE foods, Wiggins said many farmers realize that planting GE crops is a losing proposition.

"Why would they want to take the chance?" she said. "Many farmers see the risk of this new technology and want to invest in a time-out."

She said the moratorium would protect the integrity Sonoma County's crops.

"The birds and the bees cannot tell the difference between GE crops and those that are natural," she said. "Fences don't separate them. That's why we need this time-out until we can tell which ones are dangerous and which we should allow."

Wiggins also said she is concerned about herbicide-resistant super-weeds.

"GE crops have caused problems like super weeds," she said. "These weeds cannot be killed with normal weedkillers and so farmers have to resort to even more potent chemicals. Our citizens have said they do not wish to be exposed to dangerous chemicals. That's one of many good reasons to keep GE crops out of our county."

###

For more information, contact Dawn Pillsbury.