

Ordinance No. 6196 R
Sonoma County Transgenic Contamination Prevention Ordinance

Annual Report
November 2017

The Transgenic Contamination Prevention Ordinance (Ordinance) took effect November 9, 2016. The purpose of the Ordinance is to protect Sonoma County's native plants, trees, and animals from transgenic contamination by genetically engineered organisms, sometimes referred to as "GMOs." Section 30A-9(3) of the Sonoma County Municipal Code requires the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors. Below is a summary of the 2017 activities related to this ordinance.

As required by the Ordinance, procedures for reporting a suspected violation were developed. A complaint reporting form was created and posted on the website of the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures (Department) here: <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/Agriculture-Division/Services/Transgenic-Contamination-Prevention-GMO/> (see attachment). This allows any person to report any known or suspected violation of the Ordinance through the website. Additionally, complaints may be made by calling or visiting the Department and providing the same information as contained on the complaint reporting form.

The Ordinance does not grant the Commissioner the authority to enter and inspect properties suspected of violations. An inspection warrant is required to access, inspect, and take samples on any property where consent is not given by the property owner. During 2017, the Department worked with County Counsel to understand the warrant process and create templates of the documents needed to obtain an inspection warrant from the Sonoma County Superior Court, should this process be needed.

In February 2017, a meeting was held between the authors of the ordinance and the Department. During the meeting the authors' view of the ordinance, suspected GMO crops grown in past years in Sonoma County, and the role of the Department in enforcement of the ordinance were discussed.

Test kits have been purchased to allow for the testing of corn, for the presence of markers indicating genetic modification. Corn is the most likely crop grown in Sonoma County to have been genetically modified.

No complaints have been received or enforcement actions taken to date.

A copy of this report will be posted on the Department's website.

Transgenic Contamination Prevention (GMO)

The Sonoma County Transgenic Contamination Prevention Ordinance No. 6196R took effect in November 2016. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect Sonoma County's native plants, trees, and animals from transgenic contamination by genetically engineered organisms. Such organisms are also sometimes referred to as genetically modified organisms or GMOs.

The ordinance makes it unlawful for any person, partnership, corporation, firm, or entity of any kind to propagate, cultivate, raise, or grow genetically engineered organisms in the **unincorporated** portions of Sonoma County.

To make a complaint of a known or suspected violation, please complete the [Complaint Reporting Form](#). The Complaint Reporting Form may be sent via email to sonomaag@sonoma-county.org or printed and mailed to the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures at 133 Aviation Blvd., Suite 110, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1077. Complaints may also be taken over the phone by calling [\(707\) 565-2371](tel:(707)565-2371). All information required in the Complaint Reporting Form will be required to receive a telephone complaint. Complaints without the required information will not be accepted.

The complainant's contact information may remain confidential and not available as public record. Please check the box on the Complaint Reporting Form to remain confidential, or let the biologist know that you would like to remain confidential when filing a complaint over the phone.

Please contact the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures at [\(707\) 565-2371](tel:(707)565-2371) with any questions.

Related Documents:

[Complaint Reporting Form](#) (PDF:269 kB)

[Sonoma County Transgenic Contamination Prevention Ordinance No. 6196R](#) (PDF:383 kB)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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Sonoma County Transgenic Contamination Prevention Ordinance No. 6196R

Complaint Reporting Form

Known/Suspected Genetically Modified Organism Production

The Sonoma County Transgenic Contamination Prevention Ordinance (No. 6196R) makes it unlawful for any person, partnership, corporation, firm or entity of any kind to propagate, cultivate, raise or grow genetically engineered organisms in the *unincorporated* portions of Sonoma County. Such organisms are also sometimes referred to as “genetically modified organisms” or “GMOs.”

To make a complaint of a known or suspected violation, fill out the form below. Please email it to our office at sonomaag@sonoma-county.org or print it out and mail, fax, or bring it in to the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures. You may also make a report over the phone, giving the information below. Complaints without required information will not be accepted.

If you wish your contact information to remain confidential, please check here:

Contact information marked confidential is not available as public record.

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Your Contact Information

Name*: _____

Affiliation/Organization: _____

Mailing Address*: _____

Phone*: _____ Email: _____

Complaint Information

Crop Name*: _____

Planting Date: _____ Stage of Development*: _____

Where on the property the crop is located*: _____

Property Address*: _____

Property Assessor's Parcel Number (if known): _____

