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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: November 28, 2016

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the typed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Monsanto Economic Development Proposal in Avra Valley**

Based on the Board of Supervisors' direction at the November 22, 2016 meeting, Monsanto's economic development proposal was continued to February 21, 2017. I will provide the proposed members of the Agricultural Science Advisory Commission with video and audio of the 51 speakers who appeared before the Board to give testimony. Monsanto representatives were available at the public meeting to address the issue; however, given the Board's direction to continue the item, their presentation was deferred.

Attached is a copy of Monsanto's PowerPoint Presentation that was prepared to provide information regarding specific questions that address the type of facility to be constructed and operated in Avra Valley. The County will post on a specifically created "Monsanto Economic Development Proposal in Avra Valley" webpage all of the materials provided to the Board for this agenda item, including the audio and visual input from 51 speakers who appeared at the November 22 meeting. Monsanto is prepared to address the issues raised and will do so in writing, with appropriate references and citations. This information will also be posted to the County's informational webpage for the Monsanto project.

As directed by the Board, County Economic Development staff, in consultation with the Agricultural Science Commission, will conduct five public meetings throughout the County to discuss this proposal, provide attendees with a clear description of the proposed Monsanto action and facility improvements, and answer questions from members of the public who may have concerns related to their proposed action.

Members of the Agricultural Science Advisory Commission will be invited to attend these public meetings and provide their individual expert opinions regarding the Monsanto proposal and answer any questions that may be related to Monsanto's proposal if they desire.

All of this information will be compiled and presented in a report to the Board prior to the February 21, 2017 meeting for further consideration and action by the Board.

CHH/mjk  
Attachment

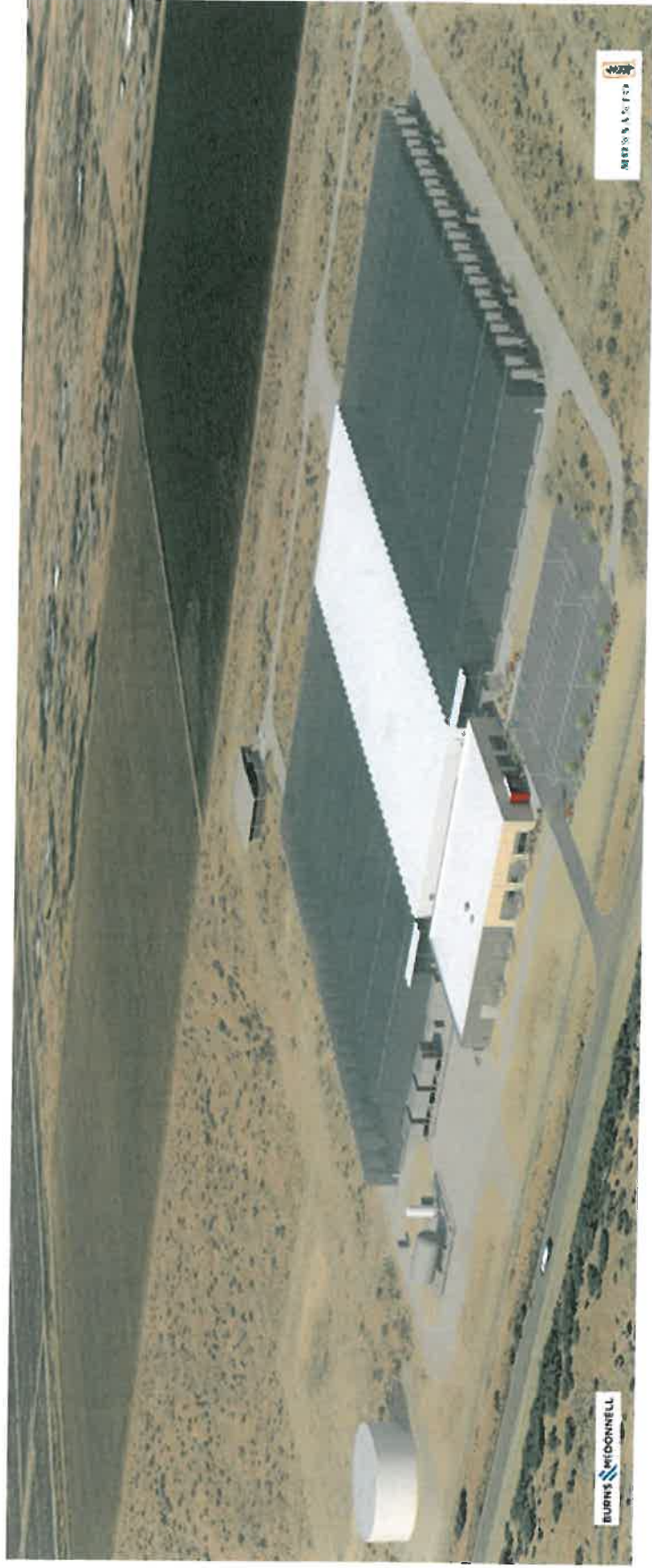
c: George Gough, Government Affairs Director, Monsanto Company  
Dr. John Moffatt, Director, Economic Development Office  
Patrick Cavanaugh, Deputy Director, Economic Development Office

# Monsanto Greenhouse Background

- In August, Monsanto announced plans to build a seven-acre, state-of-the-art greenhouse on land in Pima County, Arizona. At this new site, we expect to conduct corn development year-round supporting the advancement of corn seeds that will eventually become new varieties for our farmer customers. The indoor air-controlled facility will be automated in numerous ways including full climate, light and atmospheric management of plant growing conditions. All in-bound and out-bound air is filtered and controlled, so we're able to govern humidity and temperature levels as well as contain pollen. In addition, automated operations and movable benches will improve ergonomic conditions for our employees. Along with the greenhouse, we expect that approximately two acres will be used for seed processing and an office building. Additional improvements at the site include a 2-million-gallon water tank for fire suppression and a composting facility.
- By moving key pieces of the corn product development process under cover (inside), we expect to reduce the environmental impact and enhance our sustainable production. Operations in a greenhouse will reduce water and pesticide usage while managing exposure to weather variables we may otherwise encounter in open field environments. Because the greenhouse will be fully automated, we'll use less land compared to traditional field production. Precise management of plant diseases and insect pressure will enable more targeted control resulting in reduced pesticide usage. Additionally, the smaller footprint combined with a 100% water recapture and recycle system, will mean that we'll be using 1/5th of the water normally used on an open cornfield.

7 acres of greenhouse  
2 acres processing space  
Office Building

2 M gal. fire tank  
Compost facility



# Sustainable - Doing More, With Less

- Minimize environmental impact by reducing water usage while managing exposure to weather variables we may otherwise encounter in open field environments
- More days of Arizona sunlight mean that we can maintain plants in a more energy efficient way than a greenhouse built in other geographies with less energy
- Less land usage compared to traditional cornfields – 1/7<sup>th</sup> of that in an open field
- Automation inside the greenhouse will allow precise management of plant diseases and insect control, reducing how much pesticide and fertilizer is used
- The smaller footprint combined with a 100% water recapture and recycle system, will mean that we'll be using 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the water normally used on an open cornfield
- Composting facility
- Eliminate soil erosion

# Site Specifics

- Construction estimates = \$95m to \$105m
- 20 to 30 full time salaried employees
  - Agronomist
  - Plant Breeder
  - Logistics Coordinator
  - IT Support
  - Software Developer
  - Automation Engineer
  - HVAC Engineer
- 30 to 50 hourly employees
  - Laborers (some seasonal)
  - Technicians