

I'm the publisher of Etopia Media News Networks, a collection of web sites featuring articles and audio interviews, mostly about electronic and medical high-technology. In the last year, EMNN published more than 50 articles about Proposition 71, its passage, and its implementation so far. During the same time, it also published around 100 articles about Internet access technologies, including especially stories about BPL and wireless.

Like Don Quixote reading too many chivalric romances, it occurred to me that the power of the Internet ought to be used to help find the cures promised by the proponents of Proposition 71. So here I am, tilting at the windmill of where to put the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, hereinafter the CIRM, which I, in a journalistically-induced state of high-tech delusion, see not as a problem, but as a tremendous opportunity to do something "insanely great."

I'd like to suggest that instead of putting the CIRM in only one of the four highly-qualified places that you're considering, that you put it everywhere in California, by allowing the President and the 50 bio-bureaucrats who'll be working there to tele-commute to a Cyberspace CIRM.

This will avoid the humiliation of three of the four sites. It will mean that the CIRM's work of searching for cures can begin much sooner. It will save the CIRM and the ICOC the cost of rent, or building a new building, or being beholden to whomever convinces you to accept their "gift" of free space. It will allow the CIRM to do its business using the best tools and best practices that modern technology and management science can offer. It will save CIRM employees the indignity, wasted time, and frustration of being stuck on the freeways of whichever gridlocked urban area in which you might choose to put a physical CIRM.

Putting the CIRM into cyberspace will lay the groundwork for building a California Bio-Grid™, that would allow every organization getting a CIRM grant to tap into massive aggregations of compute cycles collected from supercomputing centers in San Diego, underutilized network systems in the Silicon Valley, state government computers, and the contributions of millions of Californians willing to let their PCs unravel the mysteries of protein folding while they sleep.

Creating a Cyber CIRM and a California Bio-Grid would catalyze the development of the field of computational biology, facilitate the genomic sequencing of every Californian, make more likely and easier the construction of a Broadband California in which every institution and every individual has access to liberating amounts of computing power and empowering torrents of intelligible information.

This scenario would also generate the means to expand e-government, upgrade every aspect of public and private education to undreamed of levels of efficiency and scope, provide instantaneous multi-media communications for every Californian, enable Smart Initiatives and remote Internet voting for real democracy, and offer more entertainment

options than could have been conceived even in the recent past in the fevered imagination of the most fervent Hollywood studio executive.

Building a Cyber CIRM and a California Bio-Grid would give California's "hard-tech" sector (microelectronics, computers, and telecommunications) almost as big of a jump-start as the \$3 billion in Proposition 71 money is going to give to its "soft-tech" (bio-medical and genomic) sector. Putting the CIRM in cyberspace would powerfully synergize these two engines of California's economic development, serve as a model for similar developments elsewhere, and provide a platform for collecting input from, and delivering updates to, the millions of Californians whose tax dollars will be fueling this entire project.

To keep California in front of the pack, to speed the finding of cures, to save money, to enhance the quality of life of CIRM employees, to lay the groundwork for a Cyber California that can lead the world, not just in bio-medical research but in economic development, democracy, and still-unimagined forms of self- and collective expression, I urge you to put the CIRM everywhere in California by putting it in cyberspace.

Thank you.