

Dear Ms. Bean,

We sincerely and gratefully appreciate the State Water Boards recognition that all farmers aren't solely in agricultural water districts and the resulting decision to exclude agricultural water from the cuts in districts with over 20% agricultural usage. This is great news and will help the vast majority of farmers in San Diego County where we farm. Unfortunately our family farms in the cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad, and has been for 47 years, which are both highly urbanized and as a result the water districts for those regions won't meet the 20% threshold.

As I mentioned in previous emails, our family farms 400 acres and employs 250 people as a result of our farming activity and are a very key part of the economic base for the cities we farm in. Excluding our water districts from the ability to exclude agricultural water as other districts will be allowed to do will surely result in cuts that will jeopardize our farming operations and the livelihoods of the people we employ.

Please allow all water ditricts to be able to subtract the agricultural water they deliver from their totals and minimize the cuts to our farms.

Sincerely

Michael A Mellano

VP of Farming

Mellano & Company

Producers of Cut Flowers & Foliage