

Dear Jessica Bean

In his April Fools day call for statewide water use reductions and in comments since, Governor Brown stated that the mandatory program of restrictions was not directed at agriculture. It has now been learned the proposed conservation framework considers farming in San Diego County to be part of the urban landscape and subject to the same restrictions designed to curb excessive landscape irrigation. For my family ornamental nursery this is catastrophic and unreasonable. You be aware but in San Diego County Agriculture has a water cost program that provides a water rate cost which does not include the costs for cleaning the water for Urban use. In exchange the water was interruptible. My family farm has been using the most efficient water technology due to the high cost of water in San Diego. I have been paying an average of \$2,000 per acre foot and not taking the interruptible rate as I can not cut any more and continue to produce my crops. Now with this state wide one size fits all my operation is unfairly asked to cut just when desal water from the Olivenhain water district becomes available to supplement the loss of imported water.

This provision will create undue harm to farmers in San Diego County who are just as important as farmers in other parts of the state. San Diego Region is the largest producer of ornamental plants and has the most certified organic farmers in the United States. The conservation framework should exclude all agriculture as Governor Brown promised, regardless of location.

I have been paying this rate since the last drought as all users in San Diego County have made heavy investments in a system that includes a variety of water sources. That investment has been so high as to force many local farmers out of business and idle thousands of acres of productive farmland. Water is now my third highest business expense and makes it difficult for me to compete in the world market. This investment was done intentionally based on lessons from previous droughts with the aim of lessening the impacts of future droughts. This exact strategy was promoted by Governor Brown last year when he called for increased regional self-reliance. San Diego County not only heeded that call, but we were practicing it long before the governor's proclamation. To now say those efforts cannot be used to mitigate the impacts of this drought is a powerful disincentive to make future investments in local water supplies. As a member of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Board I have been in a unique position to be exposed to the regions efforts to develop reuse and conserve water as we are at the end of the pipe. The reason the Regional Boards were created was that one size regulations difficult to apply uniformly on a statewide basis. This is a case where the state wide policy works against good public policy in face of this drought.

Family Farmers in San Diego County are no less concerned about the ongoing drought as are other Californians. Please consider and act on these comments as a matter of fairness.

Respectfully
Eric T Anderson
Family Farmer and Member of San Diego Regional Board