

Dear Ms Bean:

While the need to aggressively address conservation is strongly supported by all, we believe the framework needs to reflect in part the extent of prior and continuing efforts- particularly in San Diego County. To lay a blanket 35% standard over an area that has made an investment in multiple sources, in conservation and in storage far in excess of other areas is both inequitable and counter productive. It recognizes no incentive for efforts now or in the future but rather rewards those who have done little or nothing.

In his April 1st 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. 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. The conservation framework should exclude all agriculture as Governor Brown promised, regardless of location.

All water 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. 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.

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.

Sincerely Yours,

Christopher C. Calkins
President, CB Ranch Enterprises- The Flower Fields at Carlsbad
Ranch®