

Dear Ms. Bean,

I own a nursery in San Diego County and watch our water situation closely. It is with much dismay that I read that the governor intends to dictate the amount of water cuts per water district based upon the per capita use. Our water district serves a large agricultural community so according to the per capita use formula, we would have to cut our water use by 35%. It is not the cuts that I am disagreeing with, but the formula used to determine the level of cuts.

What is confusing is that the governor also said these cuts were not directed at agriculture. Although we have not experienced the same cuts as those farmers directly served by the state water project, our mandatory cuts are being handed down this month by our water agencies based upon actual supplies on hand as well as projected water from our new, one billion dollar desalination plant. This is a common sense approach to allow each district to evaluate their water supplies and determine the appropriate cuts for their rate payers instead of applying a one size fits all mandate across the whole state.

The San Diego region has been working for years to increase our regional water supply in order to reduce our reliance on Northern California water. Residents and farmers have paid dearly for these new sources through our water rates, as much as ten times more than others in California. What I find interesting is that the governor now advocates for these exact measures but does not give San Diegans credit for our accomplishments. San Diego made an investment in water reliability, while other regions have not. It is not right for the governor to dictate straight across the board cuts that will ruin our local economy and cause thousands of acres of San Diego farmland to be abandoned when we have developed new water sources for this exact drought scenario.

Please let the water agencies determine what cutbacks are necessary based upon their individual water supplies.

Thank-you for considering these thoughts.

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