

Dear Ms. Bean,

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.

We have 30 acres of Avocados and Apples in Fallbrook (north San Diego County). As part of our water conservation efforts we have stumped/pruned sections of the grove each year to reduce water usage and to improve the overall health and efficiency of the trees. Like many farmers in San Diego county, we are doing what we can to reduce water usage and waste long before the Governors edict to cut our water. To impose a 25% reduction would cause significant damage to our crops, especially in a series of years where we have had below average rainfall to leach the salts from the soils, opening the trees up to disease and lower resistance to natural and unnatural pests. Farming has been, and continues to be, the backbone of California, from Northern California all the way south to the Mexican border. San Diego county farmers should be given the same consideration as our counterparts to the north and not be included in the 25% cut backs.

Please consider and act on these comments as a matter of fairness.

Sincerely,

Jeff

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