

Good afternoon Ms. Bean. My name is Kalim Owens and I am co owner of Weidner's Gardens. Weidner's is a long time retail and wholesale nursery in North San Diego County. After working for the Weidner family for many years my business partner, Oliver Storm, and I bought the nursery from the Weidner's about two and half years ago. Weidner's is unique to many nurseries in the area because we are retail garden center that grows almost all of the plants we sell and what we don't grow we source from other local nurseries. We also wholesale to other garden centers, amusement parks, landscape companies and grocery stores in southern California. We also participate in ag tourism hosting bus tours from southern California, schools from our area and civic groups from all over the county. We are a floral showcase nursery.

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the proposed water cuts coming down the line. You know Weidner's, like many San Diego county nurseries, have worked hard conserving water for many years. Starting with drip irrigation in the 1980's and then in the 90's when we had a terrible drought we installed sophisticated pulse irrigation timers that resulted in major savings. We are compliant with the rules regarding run off and take the stewardship of using water efficiently very seriously. We have worked hard to make every drop count and will continue to do so. We can always do better and will. The proposed water cuts would have a direct impact on the number of plants we would be able to grow. The number of employees we would be able to keep and since my business is still in the debt retiring phase could possibly determine my success or failure. I thank you for your careful consideration on this matter and invite you stop by our nursery if you ever find yourself in the San Diego North County area.

My sincere thanks.

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