

Hi Ms. Bean,

I wrote to you last week to make sure San Diego agriculture was exempted from the Governor's water restrictions just as he intended. I thank the SWRCB for their decision to exempt San Diego ag in districts where 20% of the district water goes to ag.

Unfortunately I farm 350 acres of citrus in two water districts that won't meet this threshold--Santa Fe Irrigation District and the Olivenhain Metropolitan Water District. My family has farmed in these two districts since BEFORE these districts existed (my grandfather began farming here in 1922). For us to have to reduce our water costs by 25-35% would be disastrous for our tree crops. We might even lose some of our older trees and we could not afford to replace them. Myself and my 26 employees would therefore be greatly harmed.

In addition, the people of San Diego would be harmed because less locally grown citrus will be available to them and what they will have access to will be more expensive. You see, our agricultural enterprise is just as important to our local economy as 350 acres in one of the 20% districts.

So I'm asking that all San Diego ag be treated the same and the Santa Fe Irrigation District and Olivenhain Municipal Water District be allowed to subtract their ag water from their totals from which they are expected to conserve.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Chuck Badger
R.E. Badger & Son