

Dear Ms Bean

Thank you for exempting those cities that have a large concentration of Ag businesses. Weidner's Gardens in Encinitas has been a destination Nursery since 1973. We appreciate the water situation and have over the last years made extensive and expensive improvements to cut our water usage to the very bare minimum consistent with the health of our plants.

However the San Dieguito Water District does not have the same large concentration of Agricultural growers as some of the inland areas. And by not exempting all agricultural users there will be an unfair advantage created by those who are exempted to those who are not. Also those of us who are not in the predominantly ag areas play an equal important part in the total agricultural business arena.

The drought affects us all and that means less business for us, fewer employees and less money to pay for our planned facility improvements. We want to be an active part in helping the drought but we need to be able to do it without the mandatory cut backs because we are already at the most efficient use of water. To cut back more will affect most of our crops including the poinsettia cuttings that will arrive in summer.

These are some of the ways that we are already helping the state to save water. We have transitioned some of our plant material to more water wise succulent plants. In our retail garden center we have an entire section devoted to low water plants with instructions on how to maintain them.

We are using our retail email newsletter to help the home owner have a garden that is both beautiful and water wise. In this bi-monthly email newsletter to over 9,000 home gardeners we put in many helpful water saving ideas and are constantly reminding our customers to be wise with the water they use.

We are now asking you to help us by allowing the San Dieguito Water district to subtract the actual agricultural water they deliver to growers like Weidner's from their totals. This will allow us to stay in business and not succumb to the constant pressure of the housing developers. This will allow us to continue to educate our customers in water saving techniques that will last long after this current drought is over.

Please help us to survive and stay in business and we will continue our very best efforts to save water and educate our retail public.

Oliver Storm,  
Kalim Owens

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