

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.

All water users in San Diego County have made heavy investments in a system that includes a variety of water sources. That investment has been so high as to force many local farmers out of business and idle thousands of acres of productive farmland. This investment was done intentionally based on lessons from previous droughts with the aim of lessening the impacts of future droughts. This exact strategy was promoted by Governor Brown last year when he called for increased regional self-reliance. San Diego County not only heeded that call, but we were practicing it long before the governor's proclamation. To now say those efforts cannot be used to mitigate the impacts of this drought is a powerful disincentive to make future investments in local water supplies.

As the owner and producer of a CCOF certified citrus as well as a contract pesticide research facility which conducts small plot studies for the development of new chemistries for the commercial user. With regard to the research farm a computerized irrigation system was installed at the end of 2013 to better manage water usage by applying only what the plants require and no more. By reducing water by the projected 35% it would cause great financial hardship. I like many growers in San Diego county have made huge investments in water conservation and should continue to do so and of course there is a limit when plant life can no longer be supported due to water restrictions.

Farmers in San Diego County are no less concerned about the ongoing drought as are other Californians. Please consider and act on these comments as a matter of fairness.

Sincerely,

Owner  
Buzz Uber  
Crop Inspection Service  
31130 Hilltop Drive  
Valley Center, CA 92082  
[buzzuber@cs.com](mailto:buzzuber@cs.com)  
Cell 760.805.3255