

Dear Jessica,

I am a farmer in San Diego County within the Fallbrook Public Utility District. According to the governor's tiered mandate of 25% based upon per capita use, our district will have to cut 35%. Fallbrook's per capita use is high because we are an agricultural district. Unfortunately we are being lumped in as a residential district and penalized as such.

Our farm employs 91 people. During the last drought, we spent tens of thousands of dollars installing water conservation equipment that conserved 25% of our water, which we have continued to maintain. Regardless, we will still be required by the governor to cut an additional 35%. This is despite the fact that we pay the highest rates in the state to pay for the water projects built in our region as a hedge for this very scenario. The only way we can meet these cuts is to cut our farm production which means we will have to lay off a minimum of 30 long time employees. Can the governor tell me how I am going to decide which of my 91 employees that have been with me 20 plus years I will have to fire to meet his mandate?

It wouldn't have to be this way if the governor would let the water districts decide how to implement the cuts and allow them to get credit for new water that is created through these water projects.

Thank-you for your consideration.

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