



April 5, 2025

Honorable Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil
1020 15th Street, Suite 21
Modesto, CA 95354

Honorable Assemblymember Juan Alanis
1010 10th Street, Suite 5800
Modesto, CA 95354

I am writing to bring urgent attention to the looming water service shutdown crisis affecting the residents of Diablo Grande and the broader Western Hills Water District. As you may recall, you both attended my presentation in Diablo Grande (April 18, 2024) and before the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors (2023) with Assemblymember Alanis, where I outlined the severe challenges, we face due to the financial mismanagement, malfeasance, and misconduct of the previous owners/developers of our Diablo Grande community.

As it stands, the Western Hills Water District is burdened with over \$65 million in debt—debt that was not created by the residents but rather by two past developers whose actions have left our community struggling. Despite our relentless efforts to seek justice through fraud and civil lawsuits, filing complaints with law enforcement, and addressing unpaid ad valorem property taxes with the County Board of Supervisors, we continue to face an imminent crisis.

Most urgently, our primary water source is our water service wholesale agency—the Kern County Water Agency—and to our utter shock and dismay, KCWA this last week notified us that it will unilaterally terminate service and turn off our water supply as of **June 30, 2025**. The residents of Diablo Grande, through no fault of their own, are at risk of losing access to the fundamental, necessary resource they are lawfully entitled to.

The Board of Directors of the Western Hills Water District has formally authorized this request for **financial assistance from the State of California**. Recently, Governor Newsom allocated \$2.5 billion in relief funds to victims of the Los Angeles wildfires. Meanwhile, the residents of Diablo Grande, who are about to lose all access to water, continue to be overlooked despite facing an existential crisis. We ask for the same level of consideration and financial support to resolve the KCWA looming shutoff and stabilize our water supply.

Additionally, legislative policies have played a role in exacerbating our situation. The State Legislature has permitted property transfers despite outstanding special CFD taxes and has imposed restrictive policies on water usage and prime water contractor eligibility. These systemic issues have hindered our ability to attract new development, which is crucial for expanding our water customer base and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Despite repeated pleas for intervention at the **state, county, and local levels**, our community has received little to no assistance. As our elected representatives, we urge you to take decisive action on behalf of your constituents and put us in contact with the **State Water Resources Control Board** to take action to help us!

Please contact me directly at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can work together to secure a viable solution for the residents of Diablo Grande.

Respectfully,

Mark Kovich
President, WHWD Board of Directors