



May 14, 2025

Dear Residents of Diablo Grande,

As President of the Western Hills Water District (WHWD) Board, I would like to take a moment to provide you with updates on a few matters that many of you have inquired about.

First, a reminder: the WHWD Board is composed of unpaid volunteer homeowners who live right here in Diablo Grande. We serve because we care deeply about our community and are committed to doing our best to address your concerns. We welcome constructive feedback and thoughtful dialogue. However, recent communications directed at our office staff, including emails, calls, and voicemails, have at times crossed into a tone that is less than respectful. Demands or directives can be discouraging to those of us working hard under difficult circumstances. We ask for your patience and mutual respect as we continue this important work.

This new Board has inherited significant challenges, and we are doing everything within our limited resources to navigate them responsibly. While we are not legally required to maintain a website, we do so as a courtesy to help keep the community informed. We update it as much as possible given our current constraints. If you are seeking specific information, you may submit a public records request to: awilkins@whwd.org. Requests should be clearly defined, for example, a contract name, a specific financial report, or data request. Please note that we do not possess documents such as bailout plans, future roadmaps, marketing strategies, or organizational charts that are not legally required public records.

Update on KCWA Discussions:

We recently met with the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), and we have shared the presentation from our water rate study with them. While KCWA management cannot make decisions on behalf of their Board, they acknowledged our efforts to responsibly increase water rates in order to address the debt they allege we owe. They emphasized that their continued cooperation will depend in part on whether the proposed rate increase moves forward without protest. If the rate adjustment is successfully adopted, KCWA management indicated they would be willing to recommend continued collaboration while we work toward securing an alternative water source. KCWA management does not make legal decisions for the KCWA Board. We expect to know more following their Board meeting in early June.

Communication with the office of Governor Newsom:

As a follow up to our ongoing meetings, the Governor's office has reached out to us and has requested another meeting on May 19th, which will include the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Water and the Deputy Secretary for Legal Affairs. We will report back to you after that meeting.

Legal Update:

We are also encouraged to report that the Court has denied the defendants' motion to dismiss in our False Claims Act lawsuit. A hearing has been scheduled for late June. This case involves allegations against World International, their legal representative, and three former WHWD Board members for misappropriation of public funds. The full complaint, along with our related lawsuit for fraud and breach of contract, is available on our website. We encourage you to review these documents to stay informed or go to the County Court website.

JS West Propane Contract:

On a more positive note, the JS West Propane contract, now under the jurisdiction of WHWD, is set to expire at the end of this year. We have initiated discussions with JS West and are exploring the possibility of a new agreement with a more favorable rate for our residents. As part of this process, we will also be reviewing competitive bids and long-term options to ensure fairness, cost-effectiveness, and future growth opportunities. These discussions are in the early stages, and we will provide updates as they develop.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this challenging time. We remain committed to transparency, responsible governance, and the well-being of our community.



Mark Kovich
President, WHWD Board of Directors

Addendum and Clarification regarding Legal Update: On May 13, 2025, the Superior Court on its own motion continued the World LLC et al Defendants' Demurrer hearing to June 10, 2025, to be heard with the co-defendant Lavelle Law Group Demurrer to the WHWD False Claims Act Complaint (Case No. #3155)."