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MARIE ALVARADO-GIL, M.P.A.

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June 6, 2025

Board of Directors
Western Hills Water District
9501 Morton Davis Drive
Diablo Grande, CA 95363

Dear President Kovich and Members of the Board,

The Western Hills Water District and the residents of Diablo Grande are in a preventable crisis—and those in positions of authority have failed to act.

The crisis facing the residents of Diablo Grande, under the local representation of Supervisor Channce Condit, has reached a tipping point. With the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) threatening to terminate your water service by June 30, 2025, and no viable backup water source in place, the Western Hills Water District (WHWD) is confronting a real and imminent collapse of basic public services.

Let me be unequivocally clear: the people of Diablo Grande did not cause this crisis, and they should not bear the burden of failed oversight, broken contracts, and bureaucratic indifference. The root causes lie in decades of developer mismanagement, absentee oversight, and an overcomplicated regulatory framework that prioritizes paperwork over people. I applaud the sincere efforts of Assemblymember Juan Alanis, who has stood by your side in this difficult moment, working to find a path forward.

State and local leaders have faced extraordinary challenges in recent years, but the response to this crisis has not matched its urgency. While I believe our Governor and Stanislaus County officials care deeply about public health and infrastructure, the situation in Diablo Grande reveals the consequences of fragmented systems and uncoordinated leadership. I remain hopeful that together, we can do better.

It's worth noting that nearly twenty years ago, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved the development of Diablo Grande with the expectation that water security would follow. Unfortunately, the decision did not include a strong enough push for long-term water partnerships with nearby municipal providers. That absence of planning has set up WHWD to sit in an increasingly vulnerable position—and today, families are left to navigate the consequences of those choices.

In spite of the current circumstances, I remain committed to being a partner in any workable, community-centered solution that brings long-term stability to WHWD. Whether it's identifying infrastructure funding, working with the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, or exploring a path to secure formal standing within the State Water Project—I will not walk away from this issue.

The families of Diablo Grande deserve clean, safe, and reliable water—period. This is not a policy debate. It is a moral imperative.

To that end, I am calling on the Governor's Office, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, and our legislative partners to sit down and hammer out an agreement that works for all of those impacted by this crisis. We must come together with a shared goal: to deliver immediate relief and long-term stability for the residents of Diablo Grande.

My office stands ready to help move this forward, but time is no longer a luxury. I urge all stakeholders to take this moment seriously and act before the tap runs dry—literally and figuratively.

With urgency and resolve,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Alvarado-Gil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marie" being more prominent.

Marie Alvarado-Gil
Senator, 4th District
California State Senate

cc: Chris Hacker, Legislative Coordinator for Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Board Clerk of California State Water Resources Control Board
Juan Alanis, Assemblymember for California's 22nd Assembly District
Elizabeth King, City Clerk of Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
Michael Oliver, Board Director and Development Coordinator of Western Hills Water District