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PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND  
RETIREMENT  
  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON  
CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES,  
ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION

June 5, 2025

Karla Nemeth, Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE: Request to Open Lines of Communication With Western Hills Water District**

Dear Director Nemeth,

I am writing with an urgent request for a meeting between the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Western Hills Water District (WHWD) to open channels of communication and provide immediate assistance in securing a viable solution to the community to Diablo Grande which is currently at risk of losing access to critical water service. The Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) has notified WHWD that water deliveries to the community is set to be terminated on June 30, 2025, placing approximately 1,500 residents at imminent risk of losing access to a critical resource.

The situation is dire. The KCWA, having supplied water under a 2000 contract, can no longer continue without payment and has restricted WHWD's usage to 55 gallons per capita per day as of May 22, 2025. Despite WHWD's efforts to stabilize its finances through a proposed rate increase by June 28, 2025, the timeline is critically short, especially given the fact that the financial hardships faced by the WHWD were caused by the past developer who abandoned their obligations. A water shutoff would create a public health crisis for the roughly 600 households in Diablo Grande, who rely on this supply for their daily survival.

I respectfully urge DWR to meet with WHWD and to act swiftly by collaborating with local leaders, and other agencies to help identify a solution. Your expertise and authority are essential to averting this crisis.

With the June 30 deadline approaching, time is of the essence. Please contact my Chief of Staff, Joshua Whitfield, at [Joshua.Whitfield@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Joshua.Whitfield@asm.ca.gov) or (916) 319-2022 to coordinate next steps or request additional information. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Juan Alanis Assemblymember, 22nd District  
cc: Mark Kovich, President, Western Hills Water District Stanislaus County Office of the Chief Executive Office