

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0022
(916) 319-2022
FAX (916) 319-2122

DISTRICT OFFICE
1010 TENTH STREET, SUITE 5800
MODESTO, CA 95354
(209) 521-2201
FAX (209) 521-2209



COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: AGRICULTURE
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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON
CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES,
ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION

June 7th, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Kovich,

Since April 5, 2025, my office, along with Stanislaus County Supervisor Channce Condit, other elected officials, and state and local agencies, has been actively engaged with you in your capacity as President of the Western Hills Water District (WHWD) to collaboratively address the impending water termination notice issued by the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) for the community of Diablo Grande.

I want to thank both you and Supervisor Condit for the consistent communication and constructive partnership in our efforts to deliver viable and practical solutions for the residents of Diablo Grande. Our joint efforts—combined with your tireless leadership on these complex and challenging issues—have been focused solely on serving the best interests of the community.

However, in the interest of community of Diablo Grande, we must work together to ensure all parties involved recognize that this is a time for meaningful action and not divisive politics. The politicization of this crisis threatens to undermine the goodwill and progress we have all strived to make and I implore everyone involved to remain focused on the goal. We must all remain focused on the seriousness of the situation, which will profoundly impact real people.

I believe the threat of KCWA terminating water services is real. The residents of Diablo Grande face the very real possibility of having their water shut off as soon as June 30, 2025. This would create a humanitarian crisis affecting more than 600 homes and over a thousand people. This crisis is not the fault of the residents, families and homes are at risk and we, as decision makers must understand that the residents of Diablo Grande are victims to circumstances beyond their control. They are desperate for a solution and it is our duty to work together to deliver them a humane and just solution to this crisis, this is not the time for politics.

As you are aware, I sent a letter to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) dated June 5, 2025, requesting a meeting between WHWD and DWR to discuss both short- and long-term solutions for Diablo Grande. I believe such a meeting is both necessary and urgent.

From the outset, my office has prioritized maintaining short-term water service continuity and ensuring emergency services can deliver critical drinking water if negotiations fail. We remain committed to supporting efforts to achieve a long-term solution for the Diablo Grande community. Securing a temporary extension of services from KCWA is vital to provide the community and its elected leaders additional time to develop sustainable, long-term solutions.

I remain committed to working with you on behalf of the residents of Diablo Grande to deliver real solutions for the community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Alanis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Juan Alanis
Assemblymember, 22nd District

cc:

Chris Hacker, Legislative Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Karla Nemeth, Director for the California Department of Water Resources
California Water Resources Control Board
State Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, 4th Senate District
Assemblymember Stan Ellis, 32nd Assembly District
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
Western Hills Water District Board of Directors
Kern County Water Agency Board of Directors