

California State Senate

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SENATOR

MARIE ALVARADO-GIL, M.P.A.

FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



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March 31, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Email: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov

RE: Urgent Request to End Litigation Threats Against the Cities of Patterson, Oakdale, and Turlock Housing Elements

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to represent the people of California's Central Valley communities in the cities of Patterson, Oakdale, and Turlock with one simple but urgent request: stop threatening our towns with unnecessary legal action and start working *with* us on real housing solutions.

Your administration's recent "final warning" and Notices of Violation to communities in Stanislaus County over their Housing Elements is unbecoming of gubernatorial leadership. Issuing bullyish ultimatums and leveraging media to publicly shame and slander Central Valley cities fails to acknowledge the financial disparities between rural California and the bloated resources allotted to urban centers. One-size-fits-all mandates only adds insult to injury to rural cities that are already stretched thin and struggling with skyrocketing construction costs and infrastructure deficits. These are not "NIMBY" communities refusing to house people; these are Central Valley agriculture and manufacturing hubs that are vital to the state's food growers and production economy. These very towns you target to destabilize have absorbed decades of unfunded water and housing mandates while watching Sacramento's policies drive up building costs and destroy the California dream for the middle class.

You say "no community gets a pass. Full stop." Firm words but baseless in facts. The cities of Patterson, Oakdale and Turlock have never asked for one. I ask for your unwavering partnership instead of prosecutorial power balling. On behalf of the hundreds of residents who call Stanislaus County home, we implore you to stop treating local elected officials like enemies of the state and start recognizing that your top-down, urban-centered mandates are failing the very people you claim to champion. Threatening to sue these cities and their neighbors does nothing to build trust or even a single affordable home. It only breeds resentment for the

careless waste of taxpayer dollars and burns through years of relationship-building instead of fostering solutions.

Governor, it's not too late to choose leadership over litigation. Choose to immediately withdraw these frivolous threats of litigation and step up for the people of California. With your promise, I may convene a working group of mayors, supervisors, and legislators to identify and remove the real barriers: excessive state fees, abuse of CEQA, water and sewer constraints, and the skyrocketing labor and material costs. We can offer targeted incentives and streamlined permitting for communities that are actually trying to comply, rather than punishing them for not meeting impossible timelines crafted in Sacramento offices with no understanding of Valley realities. I have to believe that you want this result as well.

The people I represent are tired of being lectured and threatened by a governor who they feel does not listen to nor represent them. They want housing solutions that work for the middle class without destroying the city, not more political theater. Stop the threats. Start the collaboration. The clock is ticking, and the families of the Central Valley are watching.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any thoughts or questions at Vanessa.bravo@sen.ca.gov or 916-651-4004.

Sincerely,



MARIE ALVARADO-GIL

State Senator, 4th District