



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 09 2011

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 833 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit the construction of a particular waste disposal project in San Diego County. This project—which has been the subject of vigorous local debate for over 20 years—has been put to a vote of the people of San Diego twice and approved both times.

The primary concerns about this project relate to its proximity both to a river and to a site sacred to federally recognized tribes.

Protection of the river is the duty and responsibility of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, with a right of appeal to the State Water Board. Numerous other regulatory agencies also have responsibilities for protecting the river. In other words, there is already in place a fully sufficient process to make a thoughtful and informed environmental decision about this project.

I am deeply concerned about the objections raised with respect to the sacred site, but I don't believe it is appropriate for the Legislature to now intervene and overturn this hard fought local land-use decision.

This dispute pains me given the unspeakable injustices the native peoples have endured and the profound importance of their spirituality and connection to the land. There's no question that more thought needs to be given to how we resolve this inherently difficult decision and to find ways for native peoples and their fellow Californians to coexist in an inexorably modernizing world.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.