



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2296 without my signature.

This bill would authorize Local Primacy Agency (LPA) counties to elect to participate in a funding stabilization program, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), to fund regulatory oversight of small public drinking water systems.

The goal of stabilizing the funding that is needed to assist LPA's with providing proper regulatory oversight of small water systems is laudable and fits into the state's overarching goal of achieving clean drinking water for every Californian. However, to the extent that LPA counties choose to participate in the new funding stabilization program authorized by the bill, the State Water Board would need to raise fees to cover the costs of the program. If participation among LPAs is high, the total funding needed from the Safe Drinking Water Account to administer the funding stabilization program would almost certainly exceed the statutory funding cap and as a result the State Water Board would be unable to implement the program.

For this reason, I am returning AB 2296 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

