



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 22 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 604 without my signature.

This bill would continuously appropriate interest earnings from revenues deposited in the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for maintenance of the state highway system or for purposes of the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Interest earnings from the RMRA, including accumulated revenue and future earnings, have already been appropriated in the 2021 Budget Act through 2028.

I look forward to re-engaging with the Legislature to finalize and pass a comprehensive transportation package early next year that invests in a wide variety of critically-necessary projects including high speed rail, connectivity projects in advance of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, road and bridge repair, and a variety of other rail system improvements.

That comprehensive package, and the corresponding budget process, would be the appropriate venue to consider any continuous appropriation of RMRA interest earnings, such as that proposed in this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

