



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 24 2021

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 816, which adds federally recognized California Indian tribes to the entities under the definition of Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA). This permits tribes to be signatories to the agreement and therefore offers another avenue of eligibility for federal reimbursement for providing mutual aid on federal wildland fires.

Tribes play an integral role during emergencies such as wildfires, and California reimburses for disaster response activities occurring on state-owned land. The MMAA is an agreement between the State of California, its departments and agencies, and the various political subdivisions in the state. The agreement requires signatories to comply with the Standardized Emergency Management System. This bill does not change the terms of the MMAA, nor should it. The MMAA is a longstanding agreement that works effectively and appropriately.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

