



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 06 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 315 related to indemnity and limited liability protections to real property owners who voluntarily allow stream restoration projects on their property.

This bill aligns with the California Natural Resources Agency's Cutting the Green Tape initiative and could increase the pace and scale of habitat restoration in California. However, I have concerns related to the bill's indemnification provisions raised by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).

The final version of the bill provides DFW some flexibility in determining if larger projects could be indemnified, but concerns remain that the Department would be required to take on an uncertain amount of civil liability that would expose the Department to a risk of high costs with uncertain timing and no identified funding source. There are also technical issues with the claims process created by this bill that need to be addressed.

I encourage the author and stakeholders working with my Administration to address these concerns in a bill next session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom

