



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1717 without my signature.

AB 1717 expands the definition of "public works," for the purpose of the payment of prevailing wages to include fuel reduction work paid for in whole or in part by public funds performed as part of a fire mitigation project.

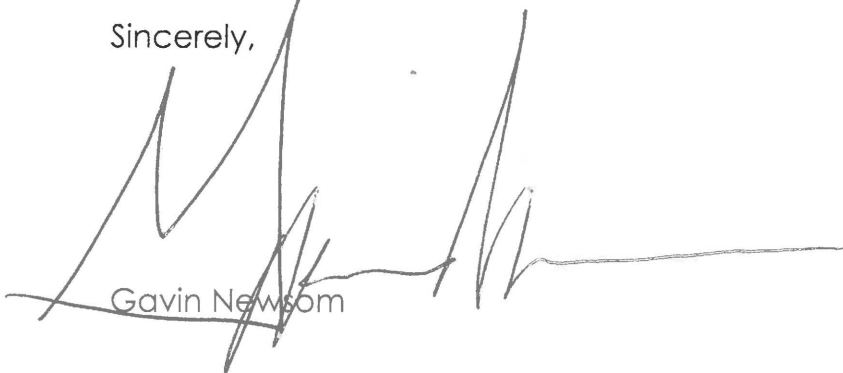
My administration has worked tirelessly to cut red tape and distribute grant money quickly to cities, counties, special districts, and non-profits to fund fire mitigation projects. I wholeheartedly support prevailing wages for industries that do not pay livable wages to people completing public works projects. I am concerned that adding these projects to the definition of "public works" would introduce delays to critical fire mitigation projects necessary to protect vulnerable communities in the state. Such delays are a function of the administrative requirements that are imposed when executing a public works project.

I am directing my administration to work with the Legislature and sponsors of this bill to further examine this issue and propose solutions to ensure that we are both paying this critical workforce fairly while not unduly delaying these projects that protect people's lives and livelihoods.



I look forward to working with the Legislature on this important issue in the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal tail.

Gavin Newsom