



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2248 without my signature.

This bill makes \$100 million General Fund available to the State Water Resources Control Board, upon appropriation, for grants and expenditures to address water quality problems in the New River and the Tijuana River watersheds at the California-Mexico border. The 2021 Budget Act included \$20 million, and the 2022 Budget Act included \$15 million in funding for this use, all of which has not yet been expended.

My Administration remains committed to addressing water quality and environmental equity issues at cross-border rivers, which is why I have supported funding this work. However, with our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined. Additional funding should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

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

Gavin Newsom

