OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1593 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Equitable Access Program, which would prioritize employment opportunities for local residents in the Salton Sea geothermal resources area in construction, manufacturing, technical, maintenance, operations, or reclamation activities.

I strongly support efforts to enhance employment opportunities in communities with high unemployment and historic underinvestment. My administration has already awarded $750,000 in grants to the Lithium Valley High Road Partnership and the Imperial Valley Lithium Stakeholder Working Group to support the creation of good, high paying jobs for underserved Californians. . These partnerships were created and are led by local stakeholders and are focused on economic development and job creation related to Lithium Valley. Provisions of this bill are duplicative of work already underway and, until this foundational work is complete, additional monitoring and tracking requirements are premature.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom