



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 676 without my signature.

Current law establishes, as state policy, the highest use of water shall be for domestic purposes. This bill would supplement that policy by specifying what constitutes domestic use, such as human consumption, household gardening and livestock care, and fire suppression.

While I appreciate the author's intent to clarify existing law, which has remained untouched since 1943, this bill has the potential to introduce unnecessary legal uncertainty. Courts have defined domestic use for nearly half a century, and codifying specific definitions now unnecessarily risks inadvertent omissions.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

