



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 420 without my signature.

This bill would revise the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) environmental permitting authority over specific types of electric transmission projects, which would largely reassign this responsibility to local agencies.

While I agree with the author's intent to accelerate the development of new and needed electric transmission projects to move electricity from clean energy resources to consumers, this bill compounds existing permitting complexity for these projects by devolving permitting authority of mid-sized electric transmission projects from a single state agency to local agencies.

Building out the electric transmission system is critical for delivering clean electricity to customers from our growing portfolio of zero-carbon resources. I welcome further partnership with the Legislature to develop targeted policies that would accelerate the development of this needed electric infrastructure. Last year and this year, I signed a number of bills that advance our electric infrastructure needs, helping us progress towards our decarbonization goals. We should build on these efforts thoughtfully. To that end, I'm directing my Administration to work through the infrastructure Strike Team established by Executive Order N-8-23 to do just this.

I look forward to advancing these efforts through the Strike Team to avoid any unintended consequences that will further complicate statewide electric transmission planning and delay permitting for these projects.



For these reasons I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom