



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JUL 18 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1272 without my signature.

The bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to adopt principles and guidelines for diversion and use of water in certain coastal watersheds during times of water shortage for drought preparedness and climate resiliency.

While I support efforts to protect coastal watersheds from the extreme dry conditions exacerbated by climate change, this bill creates significant, ongoing costs in the millions of dollars that should be considered in the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closes a \$46.8 billion deficit in 2024-25 and a projected deficit of \$27.3 billion in 2025-26 through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

