



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 22 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 3023 without my signature.

This bill would require creating an interagency funding strategy to "align ongoing planning and implementation" of state actions to deliver on our climate change and biodiversity goals, including wildfire and watershed restoration activities.

While I appreciate the author's intent to seek greater alignment between specific state programs, this bill duplicates existing efforts already well underway to achieve integrated outcomes on California's climate change and biodiversity goals. For example, nearly 45 state entities under my Administration are developing nature-based solutions to achieve the targets created as a result of AB 1757 (C. Garcia, 2022). This level of involvement and integration was possible due to years of interagency collaboration and process-building.

Furthermore, this bill would result in state General Fund impacts not included in the 2024 Budget Act and could present legal challenges surrounding General Obligation bonds and how existing programs would manage inconsistencies with bond law. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids 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 these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom