



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT. 3 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1089 without my signature.

This bill authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to enter into an agreement with any city to delegate to the city the taking of a Western Joshua Tree associated with commercial and industrial projects. In addition, this bill revises CDFW's authority to issue a permit for the removal of a Western Joshua Tree around single-family homes.

The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (Act) of 2023 was carefully crafted to balance the need to develop housing and clean energy projects in the Mojave Desert region, while creating a robust but practical permitting process aimed at protecting one of California's most iconic species. The Act currently authorizes CDFW to enter into an agreement with any county or city and delegate limited authority to permit the taking of a Western Joshua Tree associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects.

While I recognize the desire to expand this delegated authority to include the taking of these trees where commercial and industrial projects are sited, this bill goes too far in authorizing the blanket removal of these trees near single-family homes that will ultimately undermine Western Joshua Tree protections and conservation requirements under the Act. Furthermore, this bill would increase



the complexity and time required to manage the permitting process as modified by this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name and extends across the middle of the page.