



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 239 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to convene a state-led County of Los Angeles disaster housing task force to coordinate and streamline efforts to rebuild housing in the communities impacted by the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires.

I appreciate the author's intent to provide a strong and coordinated recovery in Los Angeles County. However, California already has a robust disaster housing coordination structure that delivers on this very goal. Following the Eaton and Palisades Fires, HCD and Cal OES created a Housing Task Force within the Joint Field Office, regularly convening state, federal, and local partners to accelerate delivery of resources and provide technical assistance in rebuilding efforts. That task force has launched resiliency centers, held rebuild workshops, and is actively advancing housing recovery for affected communities. This same framework has guided recovery from countless disasters — from the Camp Fire to the North Complex Fire and beyond — consistently showing that California has the tools and partnerships needed to drive recovery.

This bill would duplicate longstanding work already underway, create additional costs and reporting requirements, and limit the flexibility that has proven essential in disaster response.

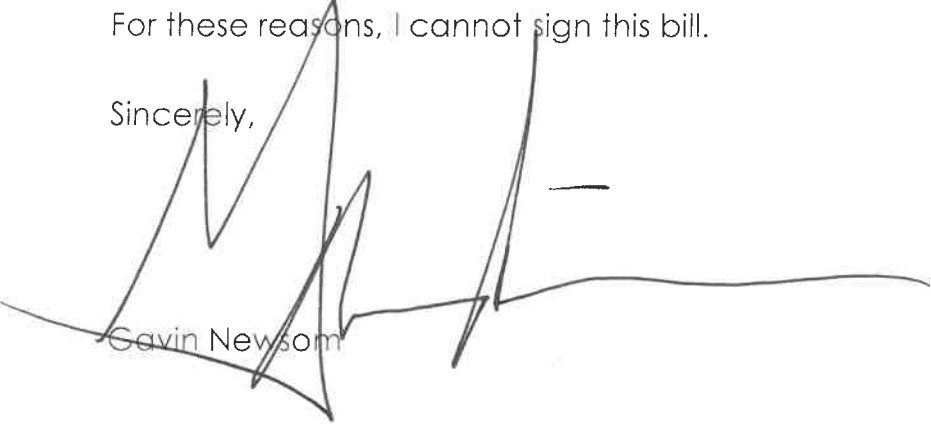
My Administration remains fully committed to supporting Los Angeles County's wildfire recovery, and we will continue to build on the progress achieved



through the existing task force framework by pursuing efforts that are additive to, rather than duplicative of, this proven structure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom