



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 06 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 615 without my signature.

This bill would require battery energy storage facilities seeking a site certification permit from the California Energy Commission (CEC), in coordination with local emergency planning agencies, to develop an emergency response and action plan and require the CEC to confirm the project's compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standards.

I support the goal of ensuring the safety of battery energy storage facilities, which is why my Administration launched the California Battery Safety Collaborative in September 2024 to examine battery storage technologies and safety practices, particularly as California ramps up deployment of battery energy storage facilities. I remain committed to advancing additional measures to improve the safety of these facilities. That is also why I signed Senate Bill 38 (Laird) last year, which requires battery energy storage facility owners to develop emergency response plans in coordination with local agencies and to comply with the latest NFPA standards.

To that end, this bill is largely duplicative of existing requirements and mandates a new procedural requirement that risks delaying critical clean energy projects



applying for permits through the CEC's site certification permitting programs,
without providing the intended additional safety benefits.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom