



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 01 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 975 without my signature.

This bill exempts specified Sutter County projects and activities for bridges and culverts that have been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2024 from existing specified state requirements related to lake and streambed alteration.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is tasked with determining if bridge and culvert project activity would substantially and adversely impact fish and wildlife resources. If found to have such impacts, CDFW must draft a lake or streambed alteration agreement that identifies species present in the area and for the project developer to mitigate the adverse impacts in conjunction with the activity. CDFW also assesses an administrative fee to support the implementation of these agreements.

Though this bill is intended to expedite damaged bridge and culvert projects, CDFW would still be required to develop individualized fish and wildlife resource protections for exempt projects, creating unknown but potentially significant General Fund cost pressures because the number and scope of projects that meet this bill's exemption criteria are not fully known.

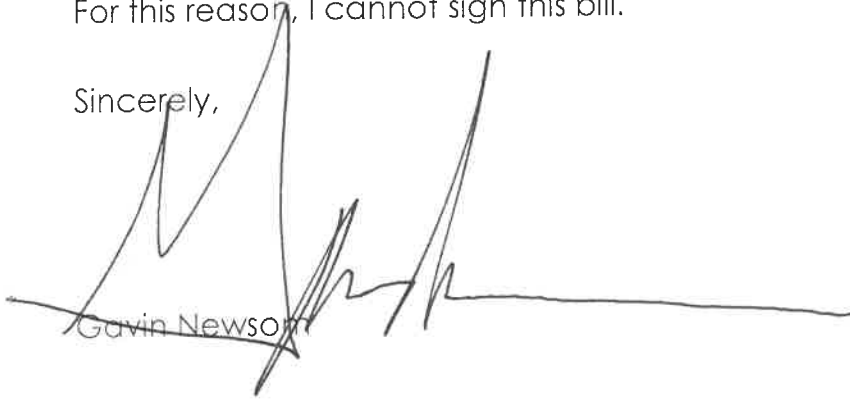
In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal

government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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 Newson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newson', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'G' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.