



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 01 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 986 without my signature.

This bill would add a "landslide" to the conditions under which the Governor may proclaim a State of Emergency and local authorities may proclaim a Local Emergency.

I appreciate the author's goal to clarify paths to emergency proclamations, but this bill is unnecessary. Under existing law, California's Emergency Services Act already grants the Governor broad authority to proclaim a State of Emergency in response to "conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property." In addition to the enumerated list of exemplary events, this language encompasses comparable events such as landslides, mudslides, and related geologic hazards without the need for further statutory amendment.

My administration has exercised and will continue to exercise the authority to respond decisively to landslides and associated hazards; adding "landslide" as a separate enumerated condition in statute would not expand these powers or provide additional tools for communities or first responders. In fact, it could be interpreted to suggest that events not explicitly identified in statute are ineligible for an emergency proclamation, which would unduly limit a Governor's power to respond to disasters.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

