



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 369 without my signature.

This bill would impose new workforce requirements on contractors, subcontractors, and entities at every other tier that work on state restoration projects at the Salton Sea starting January 1, 2026.

Over the course of my Administration, the state's Salton Sea Management Program has dramatically increased the pace and scale of its restoration projects, covering miles of previously exposed lakebed with bird and fish habitat, as well as native plants.

These efforts are addressing severe habitat loss and the public health risks of exposed lakebed dust emissions. Simultaneously, these investments are providing job opportunities for local workers in a region long burdened by high unemployment. These mutually beneficial outcomes are a transformative step for this region. That is why I was proud to collaborate with the author last year on the creation of the Salton Sea Conservancy, which will further advance these shared objectives and enhance these outcomes.

I appreciate the author's efforts and commitment to addressing the pervasive issues in the Salton Sea region. Though well-intended, I am concerned this bill may result in delays to critical, shovel-ready restoration projects. Recognizing the importance of prioritizing efforts to provide high-quality, local jobs while balancing the urgent need to accelerate restoration projects at the Salton Sea, I am directing the California Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to identify and publish



recommendations on increasing regional workforce development opportunities and promote long-term economic mobility in the community.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", 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.