



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1125 without my signature.

This bill establishes the Water Rate Assistance Program, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), and creates the Water Rate Assistance Fund to provide direct water bill assistance to low-income residential ratepayers.

Ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water in California has been a top priority of my Administration over the last eight years. We have made tremendous progress in bringing clean, affordable drinking water to California's most disadvantaged communities — over one million people who lacked this most basic need now have it thanks to this work. That said, much more work remains, and I deeply appreciate the intent behind this proposal. But by creating a permanent program without identifying a sustainable, ongoing funding source, this bill — as well as AB 2739 — misses the mark. I encourage the Legislature to revisit this issue next year as part of the annual budget process, in order to balance the funding needed to support a proposal of this nature with other fiscal considerations.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

