



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2012

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 204 without my signature.

This bill requires, among other things, that properties acquired years ago by the state to complete the 710 freeway be declared excess and sold.

This bill is premature for two reasons. First, management of these properties is a timeworn issue. Last month the Transportation Secretary directed Caltrans to review three options for managing the 710 freeway properties, one of which is an option for transferring ownership to local government. Caltrans will complete its review and make recommendations this November. Caltrans needs to complete its review.

Second, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is currently conducting an environmental impact report on closure of the 710 freeway gap. The environmental process requires evaluation of all reasonable options for closing the gap. A law requiring Caltrans to sell the properties purchased for building a surface freeway--before the environmental process is completed--would taint the process.

My administration is committed to working with the author on the property management issues and to find a solution to the long-standing controversies over closing the 710 freeway gap.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund G. Brown Jr.", written over a large, stylized flourish that extends to the right and loops back down.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.