

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1301 without my signature.

This bill requires state agencies involved in permitting dam safety and flood mitigation projects to provide project applicants quarterly supplemental consultation to those applicants who agree to pay the costs of the consultation.

Under this measure, state agencies must prioritize their limited resources on projects that have applicants willing to pay a "supplemental consultation" fee. Consequently, these agencies may be required to fast-track work on permits for minor projects at the expense of other projects that directly impact the public's health and safety.

This bill attempts to address a perceived shortfall in funding and staffing at the permitting agencies. The proper balance of state agency resources is deliberated in the annual budget process. I suggest the author propose this issue during next year's budget discussion.

Sincerely,

Edmund G. Brown Jr.