



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 02 2017

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 524 without my signature.

This bill transfers \$8.3 million of penalty money from the General Fund for the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund and the Tree Mortality Grant Program.

The legislature added \$220 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the Budget Act of 2017 for programs designed to reduce fire risk, enhance community fire protection, and promote forest health. A portion of these funds will be used for projects that address the immediate impacts of the tree mortality state of emergency and prevent further spread of the epidemic. Furthermore, the Budget Act of 2017 included \$6 million from the General Fund to assist counties in accessing emergency funding for tree mortality projects. Therefore, this bill is not needed.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.