



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JUL 31 2019

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 307, which requires the State Lands Commission, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Water Resources, to find that the transfer of the water from a groundwater basin underlying specified desert lands will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat, of those federal and state lands in order for that transfer to be allowed.

Water has flowed underneath the Mojave for thousands of years, sustaining the Native Americans, bighorn sheep, the threatened desert tortoise and a variety of other plant and animal life that have made the Mojave Desert their home.

This fragile ecosystem has existed, in balance, for centuries. Prior to allowing any project to move forward there must be certainty that it will not threaten the important natural and cultural resources.

SB 307 will ensure that independent scientific analysis is conducted and reviewed in a public and transparent process. Such a process will determine if any major water transfer project in the Mojave Desert will unreasonably affect the environment and water dependent ecosystem in the surrounding watersheds prior to any project being approved.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom