OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2014

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2465 without my signature.

Today, California faces unprecedented wildfires due to high fuel accumulations, climate change, and in the last three years, drought. There are many prevention activities that are needed to reduce the likelihood and the impacts of wildfires. Prescribed fires are a longstanding form of land management that can help reduce the intensity of wildfires and renew ecosystems.

As part of the State's Strategic Fire Plan, CAL FIRE recognizes prescribed fire as an important tool for land managers to use to improve their lands and to address the poor health of many of our forests.

Rather than creating an independent template as required by this bill, I am directing CAL FIRE to build further on their existing work and develop an Appendix to the State Fire Plan on prescribed fires for consideration by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE will work in collaboration with the Air Resources Board, local air districts, academics, nongovernmental organizations, local governments, and tribes on recommended actions for enhancing the practice of prescribed burns.

Sincerely,

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR. • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841