

California to pull troops from U.S.-Mexico border in defiance of Trump



Sacramento, February 12 (RHC)-- The Governor of the U.S. state of California, Gavin Newsom, reportedly plans to withdraw all 360 state troops from the US-Mexico border, in defiance of President Donald Trump's request for support from border states.

In his upcoming State of the State address on Tuesday, the Democratic governor will say he is giving the National Guard a new mission so they do not participate in "political theater," the Los Angeles Times newspaper and other media reported Monday.

In the reported excerpts from his speech, Newsom says that he will redeploy the troops to support efforts to counter wildfires and drug smuggling, in an apparent rebuttal of the Republican president's stance that there is a national security crisis at the border. "The border 'emergency' is a manufactured crisis, and California will not be part of this political theater," Newsom plans to say.

The original troop deployment, authorized by former California Governor Jerry Brown, was set to end March 31st. California shares an international border with the Mexican state of Baja California

to the south.

Just a month into his governorship of the nation's most populous state, Newsom has sparred with Trump on immigration and other issues. He has held up California as an antidote to what he deems a corrupt Washington.

In a similar move, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham last week ordered most National Guard troops deployed at the state's border with Mexico to withdraw, also rejecting Trump's contention of a crisis. Grisham, a Democrat, called Trump's frequent declarations of an immigration crisis at the border a "charade." The troops were deployed by her Republican predecessor, Susana Martinez, last year at Trump's request.

Trump has made building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border a priority of his presidency, constantly pointing to threats from illegal immigrants. However, Democrats have sought to thwart that, saying it is unnecessary and a waste of money.

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