



DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

With the conclusion of our House of Origin deadline, all Assembly bills are now in the State Senate and vice-versa. Additionally, we have successfully negotiated the State's budget with the Governor to ensure that priorities like wildfire prevention, water infrastructure, flood protection, healthcare, and education are being funded.

During this busy time, we've been able to accomplish a lot, including securing vital budget allocations, recognizing important nonprofits in the North Bay, and advocating for meaningful change on vital issues like marriage equality.

I'm happy to share these updates and more with you as part of our June newsletter.



AD 12 UPDATES

Budget Deal & Funding for AD 12

Nonprofit of the Year

State Farm Update

AB 99 Press Conference

ACA5: Protecting Marriage Equality



2023-24 STATE BUDGET

STATE BUDGET DEAL & FUNDING FOR THE NORTH BAY!

Over the past few weeks, the Legislature has been negotiating with Governor Newsom on the second largest budget deal in California history! As a member of the Assembly's Budget Committee, I'm pleased to share that we successfully passed a balanced budget that grows our reserves to a record \$38 billion, while preserving historic investments in public education, health care, climate, and public safety in a deficit year. Most importantly, I was able to secure millions in state-funding for projects and programs in Marin and Sonoma County, which I'm thrilled to share with you below:

GOLDEN GATE VILLAGE PARK - \$1,000,000

Golden Gate Village (GGV) in Marin City is a 296-unit low-income public housing complex constructed in the 1960's. Like other public housing projects GGV's facilities have deteriorated after decades of insufficient funding and deferred maintenance. No major rehabilitation work and reconstruction work has occurred since original construction.

One major need is to improve the complex's three playgrounds and recreation structures. None of GGV's playground structures have been updated in decades, and many are both out of code, inaccessible, and/or at the point of being unusable. The funding secured in the state budget will replace equipment, repair and replace exterior features, and install new turf at all three playgrounds.



WEST MARIN EMS EQUIPMENT - \$530,000

West Marin is a unique natural treasure, home to world-renowned National and State Parks, like Muir Woods, Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Mt. Tamalpais State Park, and more. Local volunteer fire districts in West Marin are in charge of responding to the emergencies of the thousands of visitors that travel here every year. However, they have a limited tax base to provide funding for desperately needed medical equipment and vehicle needs, as the region itself has under 20,000 residents. This funding will allow West Marin's local fire stations to purchase an ambulance, LUCAS chest compression devices, AED's, and EMS equipment.





STATE BUDGET CONT.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCIENCE STATION - \$1,000,000

This funding will help Marin Community College District (“MCCD”) to fill a funding shortfall for the reconstruction of a science field station located in Bolinas. This exciting state-of-the-art project will include indoor and outdoor instructional areas on edge of the Bolinas Lagoon. The laboratory and lecture spaces are designed for education and faculty-directed student research in all of the life and earth sciences with emphasis on marine-related areas of study. The Field Station will support the District’s mission of delivering educational excellence rooted in providing equitable opportunities and fostering success for all of the diverse members of the Bay Area community and, indeed, for any Californian choosing a community college as a route to possible further education or employment-skills development.



TIERRA DE ROSAS HOUSING - \$2,000,000

Funding for the Tierra de Rosas Public Infrastructure Improvements project in Santa Rosa, includes the vital infrastructure needed to construct the Casa Roseland affordable housing development, a 75-unit project in the Roseland neighborhood that will provide rental units for households earning between 30 percent and 60 percent of the area median income (AMI). With a majority Latino and significant LMI population, this housing development represents an opportunity to cultivate new opportunities for local residents that aligns with community-led efforts to strengthen the neighborhood's economic resiliency, expand housing choices, and improve community health.



California Nonprofit of the Year

Nonprofits make California stronger



NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

I was thrilled to select Sausalito-based Bridge the Gap as Assembly District (AD) 12's 2023 Nonprofit of the Year. The mission of Bridge the Gap is to provide comprehensive educational, social and emotional resources to underserved students in Marin City and Southern Marin. As a nonprofit, Bridge the Gap has shown exemplary leadership in addressing crucial issues such as educational equity and community development. Their innovative programs have empowered countless individuals, ensuring that no one is left behind in our community.

To honor their great work, Lisa Raffel, the Executive Director of Bridge the Gap and Co-Founder Denni Brusseau joined me in Sacramento, where we officially honored the organization, along with one nonprofit from all 80 Assembly districts throughout the State.

This is the eighth year of the California Nonprofit of the Year initiative, a state-wide effort honoring the critical role nonprofit organizations play in California. The State's 80,000 nonprofits are key reasons why California is an economic driver, a leader in innovation, a champion for hope and opportunity, and always looking towards a better future.

To read more about California Nonprofits and the 2023 honorees, [click here](#).





STATE FARM UPDATE

On Friday, May 26, State Farm General Insurance Company announced a pause on issuing new homeowners' and specified commercial insurance policies in California. These kinds of announcements can cause anxiety and uncertainty for many currently in the market for property insurance. In light of this, I wanted to share with you some important information about this announcement, as well as some valuable resources that may be useful to you.

Here's what you need to know:

- Current State Farm customers will not lose coverage. Non-renewals and cancellations are not happening as a result of this announcement.
- This pause does not affect existing or new personal auto insurance policies issued by State Farm.
- The FAIR Plan is available to Californians unable to find coverage through other insurers. The FAIR Plan offers up to \$3 million in coverage for homeowners and has plans to increase their coverage of commercial insurance up to \$20 million later this year.

The California Department of Insurance also has resources available to help you in your search for insurance. Here are just a few of their tools:

- [Tips for Finding Residential Insurance](#)
- [Insurance Finder Tool](#)
- For more information, visit insurance.ca.gov.
- To learn more about the FAIR Plan, visit cfpnet.com.

Like many of you, I am appalled by the insurance industry's treatment of homeowners in wildfire prone areas. Additionally, I am not satisfied with the coverage available through the FAIR Plan. On June 13, I signed on to a [letter](#), which was sent to the State Insurance Commissioner, that calls for additional oversight on insurance companies and more robust investments in the FAIR Plan.

As Chair of the Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention, these are issues I will be looking into, alongside my colleagues on the Assembly's Insurance Committee. Stay tuned for more.



ASSEMBLY BILL 99 PRESS CONFERENCE

RESTRICTING PESTICIDE SPRAYING

On June 14th, I was joined by pesticide-free advocates and integrated pest management specialists at a press conference in Sacramento to discuss the statewide importance of passing my bill - Assembly Bill (AB) 99 - which would require the California Department of Transportation to develop and adopt a policy that does not include the use of pesticides in cities and counties that have restricted their use of pesticides locally. AB 99 also requires Caltrans to make publicly available their pesticide use as well as notification of when they intend to spray pesticides 24 hours in advance.

I authored AB 99 after discussions with residents in the district. At the press conference, I was joined in support by locals Rika Gopinath, Chair of YardSmartMarin, an organization empowering people to reduce/eliminate pesticide use, and a member of the Marin County Integrated Pest Management Commission, Kat Knecht, Senior Program Coordinator of the Marin County Parks Integrative Pest Management Program, Sarah Keiser, Chief Executive Officer of Wild Oat Hollow, a regenerative family farm in Sonoma County and Director of the local Community Grazing Cooperatives, and Megan Kaun, Director of Sonoma Safe Ag Safe Schools.



Whether through direct or indirect contact, pesticide exposure is linked to cancer, endocrine disruption, reproductive effects, neurotoxicity, kidney and liver damage, birth defects, and developmental changes in a wide range of species. Additionally, they can be toxic to a host of other organisms including birds, fish, insects, and plants. AB 99 would put a stop to the routine spraying of pesticides at Caltrans.

AB 99 has successfully passed through the State Assembly and the Senate Transportation Committee. Next, it will be heard in Senate Natural Resources Committee.

PROTECT MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN CA



SUPPORT ACA 5

ACA 5: PROTECTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Marking the 10-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, which restored marriage equality in California, I joined my colleagues in passing Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 5, which will protect marriage equality in the Golden State. I am also a proud coauthor of this amendment.

In 2008, California voters passed Proposition. 8, which amended our constitution to ban gay marriage. While this was subsequently overturned in 2015 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, the language of this discriminatory measure remains in our State Constitution. Two-thirds of the legislature will have to approve ACA 5, and then it will be put on the 2024 General Election Ballot for California voters to make the final decision.

California leads the way in LGBTQ+ protections and pro-equality legislation and our constitution should reflect those values. This is why I am proud to coauthor ACA 5 to ensure that our Constitution reflects the values of our State and embraces love over hate.

To watch the official Assembly Floor vote on ACA 5, [click here](#).

▲ ADDIS	▲ DIXON	▲ LEE	▲ RIVAS, R.
▲ AGUIAR-CURRY	▲ ESSAYLI	▲ LOW	▲ RODRIGUEZ
▲ ALANIS	▲ FLORA	▲ LOWENTHAL	▲ RUBIO
▲ ALVAREZ	▲ FONG, M.	▲ MAIENSCHIEIN	▲ SANCHEZ
▲ ARAMBULA	▲ FONG, V.	▲ MATHIS	▲ SANTIAGO
▲ BAINS	▲ FRIEDMAN	▲ MCCARTY	▲ SCHIAVO
▲ BAUER-KAHAN	▲ GABRIEL	▲ MCKINNOR	▲ SORIA
▲ BENNETT	▲ GALLAGHER	▲ MURATSUCHI	▲ TA
▲ BERMAN	▲ GARCIA	▲ NGUYEN	▲ TING
▲ BOERNER	▲ GIPSON	▲ ORTEGA	▲ VALENCIA
▲ BONTA	▲ GRAYSON	▲ PACHECO	▲ VILLAPUDUA
▲ BRYAN	▲ HANEY	▲ PAPAN	▲ WALDRON
▲ CALDERON	▲ HART	▲ PATTERSON, JIM	▲ WALLIS
▲ CARRILLO, J.	▲ HOLDEN	▲ PATTERSON, JOE	▲ WARD
▲ CARRILLO, W.	▲ HOOVER	▲ PELLERIN	▲ WEBER
▲ CERVANTES	▲ IRWIN	▲ PETRIE-NORRIS	▲ WICKS
▲ CHEN	▲ JACKSON	▲ QUIRK-SILVA	▲ WILSON
▲ CONNOLLY	▲ JONES-SAWYER	▲ RAMOS	▲ WOOD
▲ DAHLE	▲ KALRA	▲ REYES	▲ ZBUR
▲ DAVIES	▲ LACKEY	▲ RIVAS, L.	▲ MR. SPEAKER

Assembly Third Reading
ACA 5 Low

FILE:14
▲ AYE 66 ▼ NO 0 VOTE:2/3



As always, my door is open and my staff are available to assist you. Feel free to contact me through my website, or by calling one of my offices.

With gratitude,

Damon

Damon Connolly
Assemblymember, 12th District



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