



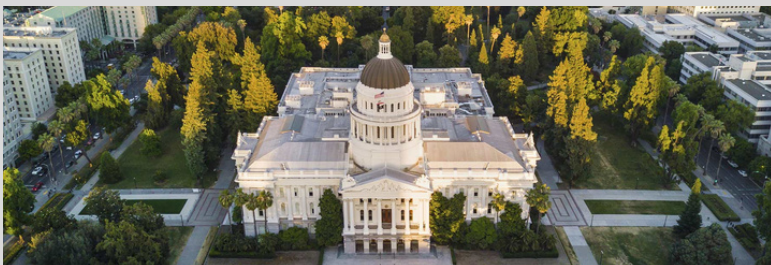
DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It has been a busy month in the district, especially with the holidays approaching! I've continued to meet with local residents, work on legislation for next year, and participate in community events. It has been an absolute pleasure to focus my work in the North Bay and spend more time with all of you.

For my November newsletter, I'm pleased to share updates on my environmental voting record, upcoming legislation on e-bikes, advocacy on electric bill charges, new grants coming to our community, and more.



AD 12 UPDATES

Sierra Club Champion

E-Bike Safety

**Pushing Back on New Electric
Bill Charges**

New Grants for the North Bay!

District Updates



SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION

I was proud to receive a perfect score from Sierra Club California on their 2023 scorecard. This accolade is given to legislators who vote on important environmental bills 100 percent of the time. This was a year of major victories for the environment in the Legislature with bills passed advancing corporate accountability, lands conservation, restrictions on oil and gas drilling, clean transportation funding, and integrity in the referendum process.

To prepare the report card this year, Sierra Club California staff selected a total of 10 bills to score in each house. The bills chosen represent a diverse array of important environmental justice and environmental issues. All of the bills were among those that Sierra Club California advocates and volunteers were actively engaged in supporting or opposing throughout the year.

I was pleased to support all of these bills in the State Assembly.

Environmental Champions, Old and New

Our perfect score accolade is given to legislators who vote with Sierra Club California on our scored environmental bills 100% of the time. Last year, that distinction was limited to just six legislators - 1 Senator and 5 Assemblymembers. **2023 was a much brighter picture: 22 Senators and 24 Assemblymembers received a perfect score this year.**

Among these 46, are seasoned environmental champions like **Asm. Wendy Carrillo**, who fearlessly carried Assembly Bill 1167, crucial legislation to hold polluters accountable; **Asm. Isaac Bryan**, a steadfast advocate for the integrity of the ballot referendum process who carried Assembly Bill 421; **Sen. Lena Gonzalez**, who tirelessly championed numerous environmental justice bills throughout the session, such as Senate Bills 394 and 674; and of course, **Sen. Henry Stern**, who continually ensures that the environment had a strong and unwavering voice in every legislative conversation.

While we're always appreciative of the veteran Assemblymembers and Senators, we also want to highlight 3 freshman legislators who aligned their stated pro-environment positions with their actions and went above and beyond to build relationships with the environmental community this year.



Additionally, I was grateful for Sierra Club California's support for my bill - Assembly Bill (AB) 99 - which would have prohibited the California Department of Transportation from spraying dangerous pesticides along our highways. Unfortunately, AB 99 was held by the Senate Appropriations Committee, but I plan on working with partners like Sierra Club to bring this important bill back next year.

To read more about the 2023 Sierra Club California Scorecard, [click here](#).



E-BIKE SAFETY LEGISLATION

NEW BILL WILL ADDRESS INCREASE IN E-BIKE COLLISIONS

Electronic Bicycles or e-bikes have been a controversial issue in many North Bay communities. While these vehicles provide an environmentally friendly method of transportation, young riders between 10 and 19 years of age are increasingly involved in accidents. New data from the Marin County Health Department shows that from October 10th to November 10th this year, the rate of e-bike-related accidents for youth was nine times higher than similar accidents of people over 20 years old. The report also showed that 22 percent of all 911 calls in the same period were for e-bike-related accidents and 71 percent of responses for all bike accidents among 10- to 19-year-olds were e-bike-related.

Recognizing the need for legislation on this issue, my friend and colleague Supervisor Mary Sackett has proposed raising the age requirement to ride Class 2 e-bikes to 16. I agree. Class 2 e-bikes can weigh up to 80 lbs, are throttle assisted, and can have speed restrictions switched off to exceed 20 mph. The data is clear that when children, who often are not knowledgeable about the rules of the road or proper safety precautions, ride these e-bikes they can cause injuries to themselves and others.

Partnering with Supervisor Sackett, I am pleased to announce that I will be introducing legislation next year to restrict the sale and riding of Class 2 e-bikes to anyone under the age of 16. The bill will also ensure that e-bike manufacturers are not misclassifying bikes that can be easily manipulated to reach speeds above 20 mph.

Stay tuned for more information about our bill and Supervisor Sackett's efforts on the local level to address this issue.

You can read more about this issue by clicking [here](#).

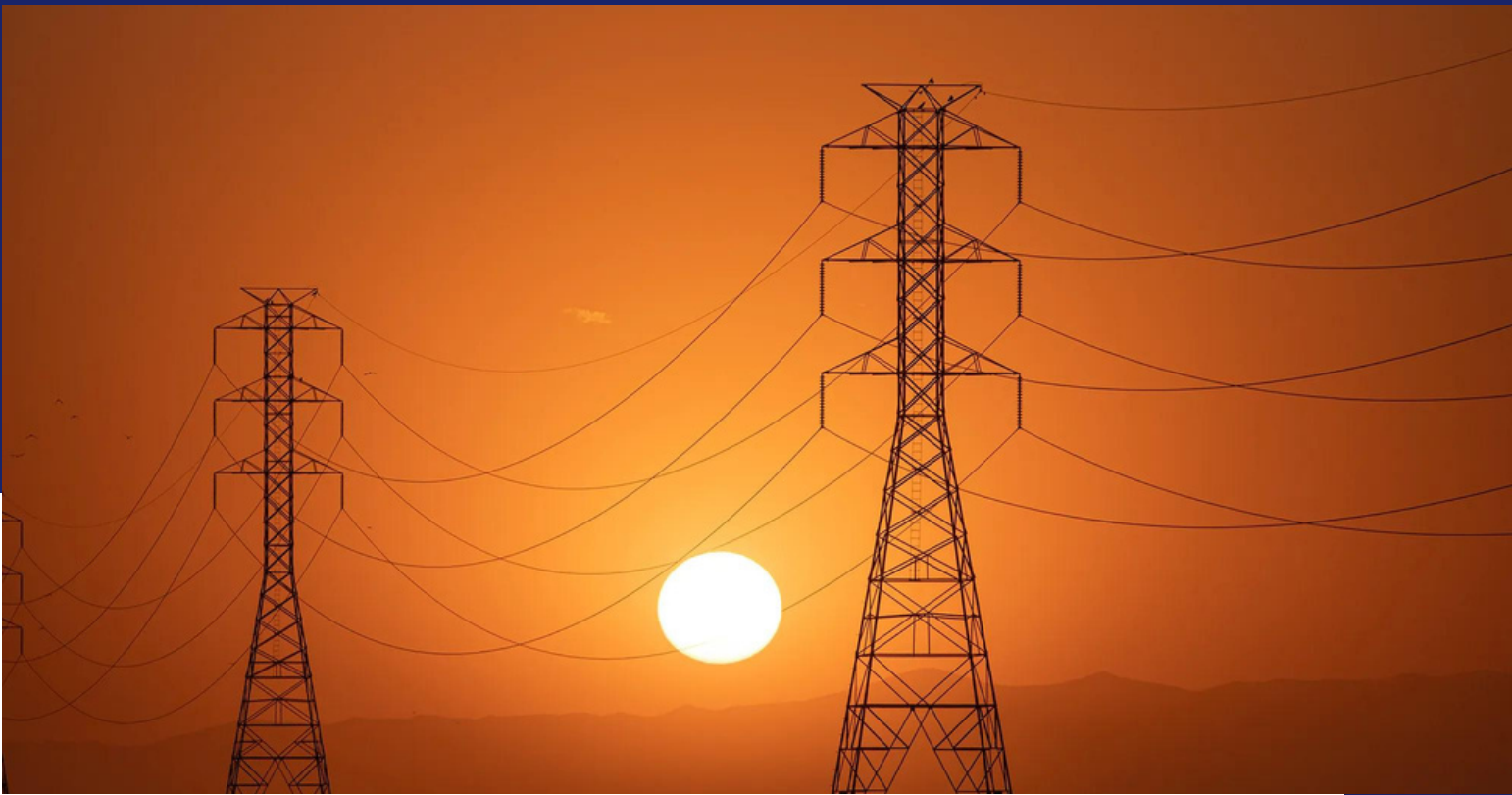
LOCAL NEWS

Marin officials sound alarm on e-bike risks

By CAMERON MACDONALD | cmacdonald@marinij.com
PUBLISHED: November 22, 2023 at 12:18 p.m. | UPDATED: November 22, 2023 at 12:26 p.m.

Listen to this article

1 of 3
A electric-bicycle rider navigates through traffic while crossing Tamal Vista Boulevard at Wornum Drive in Corte Madera, Calif. on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023. (Sherry Lu/Vars/Marin Independent Journal)



PUSHING BACK: NEW ELECTRIC BILL CHARGES

In November, I joined 22 other lawmakers asking the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to reconsider their proposal to add a new charge to Californians' electric bills. Together, we authored a [letter](#), which outlined our concerns with this new proposal and how it would negatively affect residents in places like the North Bay.

Specifically, my colleagues and I are concerned with the CPUC's income graduated fixed charge rate design proposed in regulatory proceeding (R.) 22-07-005 following a provision in Assembly Bill (AB) 205 (Statutes of 2022) that authorized regulated utilities to charge residential energy customers a fixed, income-graduated rate. As our letter pointed out, these proposals represent a decoupling of electricity policy from the volumetric and conservation-based model that the CPUC has long been promoting. For instance, even under some of the lower proposed flat rates, analyses show that those who consume more electricity, such as a single family home with pool, will receive a discount at the expense of a low electricity user, such as an apartment renter. There is a very real possibility that these proposals could discourage the kind of conservation that is needed in order to avoid rolling blackouts that have threatened the state too often over the past several years.

I have also raised concerns with the CPUC that they have not held public participation hearings regarding these major changes. Given the breadth of impact to rate payers, it is only fair, in the name of transparency and disclosure, that a full, public process be conducted to hear from all parties that will be affected, not just those who are party to the proceeding.

I will continue to push back on the CPUC about these changes, as well as explore all options legislatively to address this issue with my colleagues. Stay tuned for more on this issue.

If you would like to read the full letter sent to the CPUC, click [here](#).

NEW GRANTS FOR THE NORTH BAY

MILLIONS IN NEW FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

As the state continues to allocate funding for grant projects, we have been working hard to advocate for the North Bay in Sacramento to ensure our community gets its fair share. I'm pleased to announce some of the most recent grant allocations, which have been awarded to different projects throughout Assembly District 12.



\$12,256,000 for affordable housing & community development



\$4.6 million dollars for the Lagunitas Creek Habitat Restoration Project



\$4,999,346.99 for support of soil & fiber development at nonprofit Fibershed



\$271,622.00 to Project Avary for outdoor leadership programs for youth with incarcerated parents & \$295,322,08 to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory for science education & career training.

DISTRICT UPDATES: SNAPSHOTS

During the legislative recess, we are back in the district full time, which has created great opportunities to attend events, tours, and productive meetings with constituents throughout the North Bay in both Marin and Sonoma Counties. Here are some snapshots of some of the meetings and events my office has participated in over the past month. As always, our door is open, if you want to schedule a meeting or send an event invite, please reach out through our website by clicking [here](#).



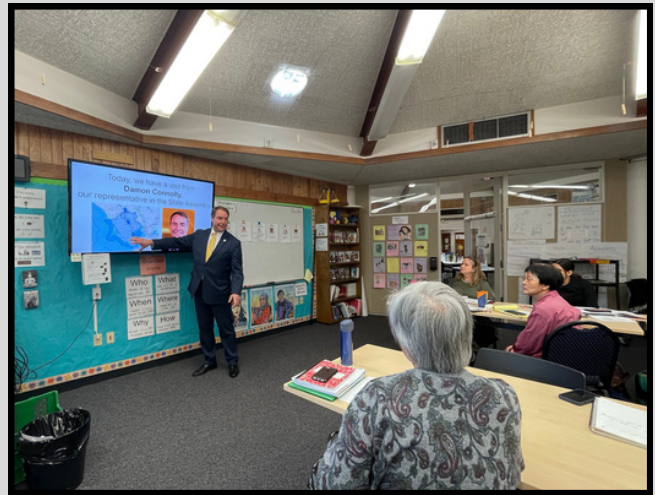
**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
ENVIRONMENTAL BREAKFAST**



**STANDING WITH SAG-AFTRA ACTORS
ON STRIKE**



**CALIFORNIA FOOD & AGRICULTURE
EXCHANGE**



PETALUMA ADULT DAY SCHOOL VISIT

DISTRICT UPDATES: CONTINUED



**ROSELAND LIBRARY COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST & NEW LIBRARY BRANCH
GROUNDBREAKING**



**PETALUMA NORTH SMART TRAIN STATION
GROUNDBREAKING**



**SPEAKING AT UNITEHERE LOCAL 2
PICKET AT THE SONOMA MISSION INN**



**VETERANS DAY PARADES IN MARIN &
PETALUMA**

DISTRICT UPDATES: CONTINUED



**MEETING WITH MARIN ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CAREGIVER
WAGES**



**MOMS DEMAND ACTION GUN VIOLENCE
PREVENTION COALITION EVENT**



**TOUR OF THE SANTA ROSA HEALTH
LOMBARDI CAMPUS**



**DELIVERING THANKSGIVING MEALS WITH
CERES COMMUNITY PROJECT VOLUNTEERS**

DISTRICT UPDATES: CONTINUED



TOUR OF THE SONOMA
DEVELOPMENT CENTER WITH
SONOMA LAND TRUST



TOUR OF MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION
DISTRICT CARBON FARMING PROJECTS



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
HOLIDAY DINNER



TOUR OF KARMA CLUB IN MARIN

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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