



DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with my office in both Marin and Sonoma County.

This February newsletter, the 14th issue, covers the second month of my second year serving as the North Bay's State Assemblymember. This opportunity is the privilege of a lifetime and I look forward to the work we will accomplish together moving forward.

For this issue, I want to recap my full bill package for the new legislative session, as well as new district updates. I hope you enjoy and stay tuned for announcements on plans for this new legislative session!



AD 12 UPDATES

Full Bill Package

King Tides Press Conference

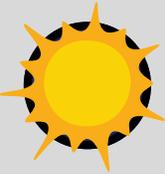
**Swearing in of the Senate
President Pro Tempore**

District Updates

Funds Secured

BILLS INTRODUCED

The California State Assembly's deadline to introduce new bills was on February 16th, and I have officially introduced my complete bill package. A recap of bills I have introduced in 2024 to date can be found below:



AB 2619 repeals NEM 3.0 and prohibits charges, taxes, and fees that would harm the solar industry, while restoring incentives for residential solar projects.



AB 1999, joint authored with Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and colleagues, repeals the income-graduated fixed utility charge implemented by the California Public Utilities Commission.



AB 2416 expands the Safer From Wildfires Program to include more of the categories listed in the State Fire Marshal's Building Materials List.



AB 2968, the winning idea from the There Ought to be a Law contest, requires improvements to defensible space and building hardening in schools and specific wildfire evacuation and shelter-in-place protocols.



AB 2734 expands the Healthy Soils Program to include new grants and streamlining to incentivize farming methods that promote sustainability and low greenhouse gas emissions.



AB 1567, joint authored with 7 other Assemblymembers, advocates for a climate bond to finance water, parks, climate, coastal protection and specific community needs related to climate change progress.



AB 2569 amends the tax code to exclude oil and gas companies from being able to receive the benefits of a water's edge election.



AB 1864 strengthens the regulations for pesticide use within 1/4 mile of a school site, requiring thorough documentation with respect to the timing, notification, and method of application of the pesticides.



AB 2298, joint authored with Assemblymember Gregg Hart and Assemblymember Steve Bennett, incentivizes ships to lower their speed along the coast to prevent potentially fatal whale strikes.



AB 99 prohibits the use of RoundUp on state highways in counties that pass a resolution banning its use to maintain roadways.



AB 2196 codifies and expands the Beaver Restoration Program, advocating for the restoration of beavers back into traditional and historic wildlife habitats,

BILLS INTRODUCED



AB 828 protects endangered wetlands and access to clean drinking water for small and disadvantaged communities by allowing these communities to use their average annual water usage without being subject to excess fines.



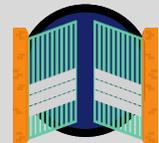
AB 1822 requires that any defendant incompetent to stand trial on a misdemeanor sex offense undergo competency restoration so that they can stand trial and do not have their cases dismissed because of loopholes in court procedure.



AB 1274 amends the Youth Empowerment Commission to include the new generation of young Californians to replace an aging civil service workforce.



AB 1926 expands healthcare coverage for metabolic disorders to include enteral nutrition treatment options for patients with digestive and inherited metabolic disorders, saving money statewide.



AB 2149, also known as Alex's Law, establishes specific standards for large vehicular gates, ensuring that they are equipped with safety devices in response to a child fatality at a school in Marin County.



AB 2897 expands the definition of a Community Land Trust, eliminates a redundant evaluation requirement, and makes a technical correction to the Welfare Exemption Code.



AB 3107 enables electricity to be shared across a right of way without the sharing entity being regulated as a utility, removing a barrier to microgrid development.



AB 2143 moves the code sections dealing with fairs to the Food and Agriculture Code, and changes the way funds are deposited into the Fair and Exposition Fund.



AB 1790 strengthens sexual harassment protections at California State University (CSU) campuses by implementing the recommendations outlined by the California State Auditor's report.



AB 1778 addresses the increasing rate of e-bike collisions from children riding at high speeds by prohibiting individuals under the age of 16 from riding a class 2 e-bike and adhere to proper use of a helmet.



AB 2251 authorizes school districts to exempt students with absences related to physical or mental health from additional graduation requirements beyond those prescribed by the state so these students are given a path to graduate on time.



AB 2332 creates a pilot program for wrap-around opioid treatment services at San Quentin State Prison.



AB 2539 ensures that if a mobile home park is being sold, all residents of the mobile home park and the Department of Housing and Community Development receive written notice, and the resident organization is granted the right of first refusal.



KING TIDES PRESS CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY ASSEMBLYMEMBER DIANE PAPAN AND SAVE THE BAY, BAY AREA LEGISLATORS AND LEADERS ADVOCATE FOR A CLIMATE BOND

On February 9th, I participated in a press conference hosted by Assemblymember Diane Papan and Save the Bay urging for a climate bond and outlining the specific and unique needs of our communities. The budget deficit cannot be an excuse to roll back the hard fought progress we've made on climate change - especially combating sea level rise. Floodwaters do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries and often affect our most vulnerable communities.

During the atmospheric rivers in October 2021, torrential rains flooded the single entrance and exit into Marin City with multiple feet of water, some which was contaminated after mixing with sewer water. Low lying communities are all at risk, but the impacts of sea level rise will soon be felt by all residents of the Bay Area if we do not act.

I'm proud to stand with my colleagues, local leaders, and climate activists today to voice our unequivocal support for sea level rise funding and flood infrastructure funding in this year's climate bond. Despite economic conditions, we have options and we must utilize them to ensure communities like Marin City, East Palo Alto, and all of the Bay Area are protected. I look forward to continuing to work with our Bay Area climate leaders and local officials to get this climate bond passed.

A link to the press conference video can be found [here](#).

SWEARING IN OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE



On February 6th, my friend and colleague Senator Mike McGuire was sworn in as President pro Tempore of the California State Senate. Senator Mike McGuire has been a member of the California State Senate since 2014, representing the northern California coastline from the Oregon border to the Golden Gate Bridge. It has been a great privilege working alongside him, and I had the privilege of watching him officially swear in as the President pro Tempore.

I am excited for his leadership and am looking forward to continuing to work together for the good of the North Bay, North Coast and all of California.

NEW TEAM MEMBER

I'm happy to introduce the newest member of Team Connolly and our Capitol community! Kira is a service dog for our Chief of Staff. As a climate champion and squirrel enthusiast, Kira is so excited to help serve Marin and Sonoma!



DISTRICT UPDATES: *SNAPSHOTS*

Even though I'm staying busy up in Sacramento during the week, I greatly value my time at home connecting with constituents in AD12. I have had many 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 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](#).



**VIVALON HEALTHY AGING CAMPUS
GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING**



**COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH
SONOMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR CHRIS
COURSEY AT TIA MARIA PANADERIA Y
PASTELERIA IN SANTA ROSA**



ROHNERT PARK CHAMBER CRAB FEED



**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AT THE CORTE
MADERA LION'S CLUB MEETING**

FUNDS SECURED



CALIFORNIA SECURES MORE THAN \$20 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT SALMON FISHERIES

 DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, 12th District

 GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

\$20 MILLION DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT IMPACTED FISHING COMMUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA

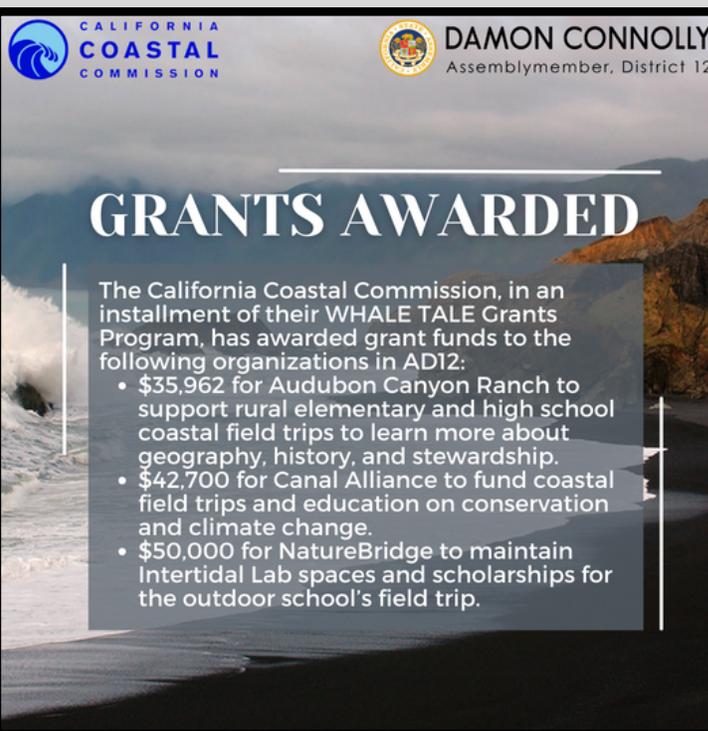
HOUSING FUNDS SECURED FOR AD12

The California Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded \$323,944 in funds from the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Programs to AD12! These funds will be allocated towards promoting housing stability for young adults.



 DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, 12th District

\$323,944 TO SUPPORT HOUSING STABILITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY.



 CALIFORNIA
COASTAL
COMMISSION

 DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

GRANTS AWARDED

The California Coastal Commission, in an installment of their WHALE TALE Grants Program, has awarded grant funds to the following organizations in AD12:

- \$35,962 for Audubon Canyon Ranch to support rural elementary and high school coastal field trips to learn more about geography, history, and stewardship.
- \$42,700 for Canal Alliance to fund coastal field trips and education on conservation and climate change.
- \$50,000 for NatureBridge to maintain Intertidal Lab spaces and scholarships for the outdoor school's field trip.

\$35,962 FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, \$42,700 FOR CANAL ALLIANCE, AND \$50,000 FOR NATUREBRIDGE

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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