



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 Counties. It has been great being back full-time in the North Bay as the State Assembly has concluded its 2024 legislative session.

I am proud to report that eight of my bills have been signed into law by the Governor! As always, I have been holding meetings, hearing from constituents, and spending time in our beautiful district.

I am excited to share these updates with you!



AD 12 UPDATES

Bills Signed into Law

North Coast Fairgrounds

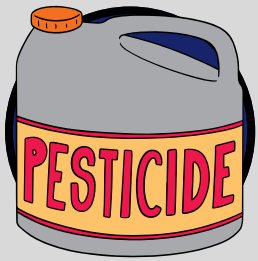
New York Climate Week

Funds Awarded to AD12

District Updates

BILLS *Signed* INTO LAW

As I conclude my first full legislative session as the North Bay's State Assemblymember, I am proud to report that eight of my bills have been officially signed into law this year by the Governor. These bills address a range of issue areas, from student safety to environmental protections. The following bills have been signed into law:



AB 1864

Improves the regulation protecting students in public schools and daycares from drift-prone pesticides by improving enforcement and extending the protections to private schools.



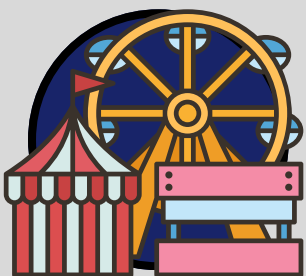
AB 2968

Ensures that schools in “high” or “very high” fire hazard severity zones have wildfire evacuation plans in their comprehensive school safety plans. This bill was the winner of our “There Ought to be a Law” contest!



AB 1790

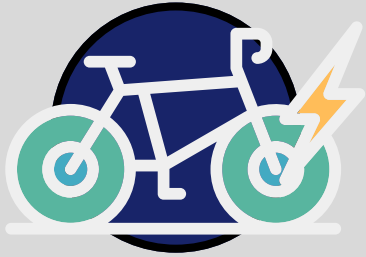
AB 1790: Requires the California State University system to strengthen protections against sexual harassment and update their policies on sexual harassment complaints and allegations. This bill was part of the “A Call to Action” bill package



AB 2143

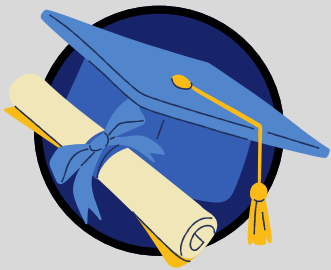
Cleans up and consolidates code sections related to the state fairgrounds to make California law easier to access for the public and fairground operators.

BILLS *Signed* **INTO LAW**



AB 1778

Authorizes Marin County to adopt a pilot program that prohibits children under sixteen years old from operating a class 2 e-bike, and requires proper use of a helmet.



AB 2251

Authorizes school districts to exempt high school students with absences related to their mental or physical health from graduation requirements beyond those prescribed by the state to prevent penalizing struggling students.



AB 2897

Expands the definition of a community land trust in state law to include non-residential purposes, so that a community land trust can adapt to the needs of a community. This bill is sponsored by the Community Land Trust Network.



AB 2196

Makes the beaver restoration program permanent in California statute, ensuring relocations and coexistence efforts with the North American beaver continue and this keystone species can continue to benefit habitats and ecosystems. This bill is sponsored by the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center.



NORTH COAST FAIRGROUNDS TOUR

As the Assembly Chair of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Fairs, it's a pleasure to take time to visit our local fairgrounds and have conversations around ensuring these spaces are able to serve as hubs for events, local businesses, and families during emergencies like wildfires. This month, I took a tour of our neighboring fairgrounds along the North Coast, starting at the Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds in Sonoma County. These fairgrounds are home to the annual Cloverdale Citrus Fair, California's earliest fair of the year, and showcase the rich agriculture and diverse accomplishments of the community.

The second stop on my tour was the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Booneville! It was a pleasure to tour the beautiful site and connect with CEO Jim Brown. My next stop was in Humboldt County, where I had the opportunity to visit the Redwood Acres Fairground in Eureka alongside CEO Mic Moulton and CAL FIRE Unit Chief Kurt McCray, highlighting their vital role in state and local emergency response efforts.

My final visit on the trip was to the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale. Thank you to CEO Moira Kenny for the discussion on the large role the Fairgrounds play in the community and culture of the area with arts, livestock, small business, and emergency response. Fairs up and down the state are facing fiscal challenges and I've been impressed by the caliber of leadership and innovation occurring at each stop as fairgrounds maintain what we love about them while they evolve to serve community needs.





NEW YORK CLIMATE WEEK

I had the opportunity to attend New York Climate Week, an international gathering surrounding climate action. I had the chance to attend and speak on a variety of panels covering issues like transitioning to clean energy, cap and trade systems for incentivizing this transition, and natural solutions to reducing emissions. We had a great California presence! I attended a forum led by California Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire and Audubon Society CEO Dr. Elizabeth Gray on the generational Climate Bond, and hear from EPA Administrator Michael Regan and former Washington State Governor Jay Inslee on the most successful methods for reducing emissions across the US.

I also had the opportunity to speak at the California Climate Leadership Panel on Green Energy, Infrastructure, and Transportation! As the vice-chair of the California Joint Committee on Climate Policies, I am proud to say that California has been a leader in addressing climate change. We need to keep our local communities front and center in the conversation, continue to innovate and drive down costs as we improve air quality and the environment, and create good paying high quality jobs. It was inspiring and energizing to spend time collaborating with these clean energy leaders! To watch a video from the California Climate Leadership Forum, click [here](#).





NEW YORK CLIMATE WEEK CONTINUED

On the final day of Climate Week, I joined the California Ocean Science and UC Santa Cruz Center for Coastal Climate Resilience forum and presented on innovative policy from a California perspective to accelerate nature-based solutions. Our efforts to support coastal conservation will be critical to ensuring that we maintain a resilient and healthy coastline, as well as scaling up the application of nature based solutions to meet these lofty goals.

I also touched on the Climate Bond, now before voters as Proposition 4, California's first-of-its-kind \$10 billion bond to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, water and forest resilience, coastal stewardship, extreme heat mitigation, nature-based climate solutions, outdoor access, climate-smart farming, working lands, and clean air programs. I look forward to continuing our work in the legislature to support the effort for climate resilience! It was great to present on progress in our local communities and across the state, and collaborate on how our state can most effectively develop and implement nature based solutions. To see a video from my presentation, click [here](#).



FUNDS AWARDED TO AD12

This month, a variety of agencies have announced grant funding that will be directed to vital projects and initiatives in Assembly District 12! From food access initiatives and coastal conservancy to habitat enhancement and boating access, I am glad to see this funding is being allocated in a way that will support projects that enrich our community.

 **DAMON CONNOLLY**
Assemblymember, District 12

Board of Coastal Conservancy GRANTS AWARDED IN AD12


 **\$4,000,000 TO THE
GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL
PARKS CONSERVANCY**


 **\$75,000 TO PROJECT
AVARY**


 **\$2,213,270 TO THE MARIN
COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**


CALIFORNIA FARM-TO- SCHOOL INCUBATOR GRANT FUNDS AWARDED IN AD12


 **Gravenstein Union School District**
Sonoma County



 **San Rafael City Elementary School**
Marin County

 **Shoreline Unified School District**
Marin County

 **Community Action Partnership**
Sonoma County

 **Fulton Community School and Farm**
Sonoma County

 **Nana Mae's Organics**
Sonoma County

  **DAMON CONNOLLY**
Assemblymember, District 12



California Department of Fish and Wildlife Funds Projects Across California to Boost Recreational Boating Access

 **\$170,439 to the Turney Street Dock
Improvement Project in Sausalito**

 **\$203,842 to Friends of the
Petaluma River for the Steamer
Landing Dock and Boating Program**

 **DAMON CONNOLLY**
Assemblymember, District 12

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Assemblymember, District 12California Department of
Fish and Wildlife awards
\$261,970
to the Sonoma Ecology Center for
the Upper Green Valley Creek Coho
Habitat Enhancement Project

 **SONOMA
ECOLOGY
CENTER**

DISTRICT UPDATES: SNAPSHOTS

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](#).



JOINING THE FRIENDS OF CHINA CAMP FOR HERITAGE DAY AT THE CHINA CAMP STATE PARK



SPEAKING AT THE UNITED POLICYHOLDERS "UP TO GOOD" FUNDRAISER



MEETING WITH THE SONOMA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE IN SANTA ROSA



TOURING EAH HOUSING'S TWO NEW LOCAL AFFORDABLE PROPERTIES IN NOVATO AND CORTE MADERA

DISTRICT UPDATES: CONTINUED



JOINING THE RCRC IN WELCOMING THE JAPANESE DELEGATION REPRESENTING CRESCENT CITY'S SISTER CITY IN JAPAN



ATTENDING THE AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MARIN'S GATHER FOR THE PLANET CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER



SPEAKING AT THE FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA RIVER SUNSET FANDANGO



TOURING THE POINT REYES TREATMENT PLAN ALONGSIDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT



GIVING A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE TO THE MILL VALLEY SENIORS FOR PEACE



SPEAKING AT THE NORTH BAY CHILDREN'S CENTER AND WATCHING THE INSTALLATION OF THE FINAL ROOF TRUSS OF THE NEW BRIGHT FUTURES CAMPUS

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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