



“CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

ECA NEWSLETTER

JOHNS SOAPBOX



Remember my disclaimer-this Soapbox is my own opinion and does not necessarily reflect any official ECA position, nor any opinion of any ECA member firm. This is my stuff only and is intended to be thought provoking as well as educational.



“Time Release Gotchas”

I have no purpose in writing this soapbox other than to get us all to consider that we are not getting the full story these days. Nearly everything we are doing in Washington DC and in Sacramento (regardless of your political party affiliation) has what I like to refer to as “time release gotchas”.

One example of a time release gotcha is the blind ambition to convert all of our vehicles from gas and diesel to electric powered in the next 30 years or so. Subsidizing “alternative energy” sources while killing off oil and gas use only makes sense when you refuse to look further than “skin deep” at the process of making electric vehicles. One has to conveniently suspend any other premise other than tailgate emissions in labelling electric vehicles zero emission vehicles.

EV’s are not zero emission vehicles when you consider making them. Cobalt is needed in everything from smartphones to computers to electric vehicle batteries and the Democratic Republic of the Congo has 85% of the world’s cobalt deposits. If you are interested in learning about how this is unfolding right now, go buy the book COBALT RED by Siddharth Kara. I promise you will not think the same about our imperialist actions over history, nor will you regard “zero emission electric vehicles” the same after reading this book.

Coming out of the Paris Accords of 2015 on climate change, came the goal of reducing carbon emissions by virtue of transitioning from carbon fuels to alternative sources of energy. Automakers are rapidly increasing their production of electric vehicles in tandem with government efforts to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for our energy. One of the facts of electric vehicle production is that each EV battery requires approximately 10 kilograms of cobalt (1,000 times more than that required for a smartphone). Demand for cobalt is expected to grow by 500% from 2018 to 2050. There is no known place in the world to find cobalt other than in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Apple, Samsung, Google, Microsoft, Dell, Tesla, Ford, GMC, BMW and many others get most, if not all of their cobalt from the Congo, by way of cobalt refiners based in China, Japan, South Korea, Finland and Belgium.

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Continued from page 1

Amnesty International and many other credible organizations have documented serious human rights violations linked to the extraction of the minerals used in lithium-ion ZEV batteries. Forced child labor for mining cobalt in the Democratic Republic of Congo remains unchecked despite assertions from the big corporate giants that are buying the cobalt. They swear they do not support slavery or child labor usage in mining cobalt-and they are lying to us.

Why am I writing to my ECA friends about this controversial subject? So we can educate ourselves as to what is really taking place without having to listen to the politicians. Frankly, I do not hear either Party telling us the truth about this hell-bent plunge into "EV's for all". Exploitation of pristine lands are nothing new, but the complete disconnect most climate change enthusiasts have for their chosen path is disturbing. If we drill for oil in the Middle East it has consequences that we would not have if we drilled for oil in the USA with control of the labor costs and the environment. Sane and sensible minds can also grasp that taking advantage of the indigenous poor people in the Congo has time release gotchas as well. If we are going to use cobalt, let's at least force the big corporate firms to eliminate taking advantage of the people in the Congo to make our lives more convenient.

Evolution, not revolution in making changes to our carbon based world folks. Let's think about it.

That's All Folks!
John

NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE:

- 1. Prevailing Wage Update:** Smith Dollar was generous enough to sponsor a prevailing wage seminar a few weeks ago, and it became clear that further clarity is needed by the Department of Industrial Relations in Sacramento. Diane Aqui is reaching out to our contact person, Isaac, with specific request by the ECA to let us know if trucking in concrete, rock and soil import, asphalt, and specialty import products are all required to be prevailing wage now with the new AB1851 law. I have had several firms ask us to clarify this and United Contractors is trying to get clarity as well. The ECA should hear clarity on this issue this week and we will share with you all as soon as we get it.
- 2. Transportation Projects getting 67 million dollars.** Nearly 30 road and transportation projects across Sonoma County are receiving funding that adds up to more than \$60 million. : [link](#)
- 3. Dodge Construction Network surveys General Engineering Contractors and finds lots of optimism!** [Labor shortages, inflation vex civil contractors, but optimism remains | Construction Dive](#)
- 4. CONEXPO is almost here!** [CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023: International Construction Trade Show | CONEXPO CON/AGG \(conexpoconagg.com\)](#)

COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

1. **Auction Committee**-Meeting was held on Friday, 2-24-23 at 9am, present was Mary, Hiromi, Ava, Antonio, and John. The committee reviewed the estimate proposal from Graton Casino Resort and went over their proposal in detail, and compared the estimated cost to the adopted budget. The committee found the Graton proposal satisfactory with a few questions to ask them: 1 corkage fee for our special wines purchased for our VIP tables, and 2 If we go with the gimmicky "Champagne Girl" (a special dress is worn that has champagne glasses on it for handing out to attendees) and we wanted to know if champagne is poured ahead of time (worried about bubbly going flat or warm), what is cost, and a few other questions, 3 Details about hosted bar and is it a per person cost or based upon usage (our group is better off going with a per person cost for most of our events as we have some "heavy consumers" that drive the usage costs-lol.

Other items discussed were no speeches, everyone likes the 52-card event, and our new relationship with the Sonoma Media Group should lead to some new auction items. It was also decided to "step up" the silent auction items in quantity and quality, and the focus on live auction items should continue to be on "ECA Branded" type items. Promotional air time for radio and NorthBay Biz should also "prime the pump" for attendance and certainly should result in more sponsorships as firms will get "air time" on radio. A spirited discussion was held on what our price per ticket should be as the cost of the food and beverage is over \$175 per person and we are proposing a ticket price of \$175 per person so we will actually lost money for more attendees. After much discussion it was decided to recommend keeping the ticket price at \$175 and relying on auction items and sponsorships to make money on the event.

2. **Car Show Committee**-The Car Show Committee led by Chair Walt Turner, was held on Thursday 2-23-23 with Walt, Stephen, Antonio, Paulie, Mary, John and Kevin and Becci from Sonoma Media Group. Lots of items were discussed and one of the main items for discussion was how to best utilize the promotional time and exposure that radio and print opportunity presented to us by new Sustaining Corporate Member Sonoma Media Group Items discussed and agreed upon:
 - A. Need for more food vendors and shorter lines.
 - B. Better raffle prizes will be provided.
 - C. Live auction item for "Country Summer" concert tickets for Sunday night-donated by Sonoma Media Group
 - D. Norquist dancers are wanted back.
 - E. DJ has to be contacted and we need to make sure technical problems are not going to happen again
 - F. Historical Military vehicle club to be contacted.
 - G. City of Santa Rosa Council member Victoria Fleming to be asked to be "celebrity grand marshal" to benefit radio promotional spots.
 - H. We will try and get Guy Fieri's "Dives and Diners" convertible to be in the show.
 - I. Low Rider police car we will try and get back.
 - J. We want to get two great cars from Denbeste again.
 - K. The artwork for t shirts, hats and poster/flyers were gone over and decided upon.
3. **Public Officials Night**,-Premier Sponsor: **Team Ghilotti**, April 13, 2023, at Herzog Hall at Sonoma Marin Fairgrounds. Registration Flyer click [HERE](#) Sponsor Flyer click [HERE](#)
4. **Glenn Smith** has agreed to host a **BBQ and skeet shooting** at his beautiful home in Rincon Valley/SR in August, 2023. More info coming soon!

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ECA NEW MEMBER

Personal Asset Brokerage

Ben Kaplan
527 Kaplan Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
Phone: 707-849-6920
Benjamin Kaplan <benjaminkaplan8@gmail.com>
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My platform harnesses the power of online marketing and how to capture the equipment digitally for buyers across the country and world. I cover the North Bay area and give a personal service to my clients who are in need of selling their used trucks, trailers and heavy equipment. My transparent pricing method gives the sellers in control of the sale without having to deal with any of the headaches. I do everything in my power to make buyers feel comfortable and confident in their purchase while ensuring the safety of the transaction all around.

On Demand Training service provides relevant and targeted training, certification, or education when you **NEED IT NOW!**

Classes can be organized quickly so you can quickly get your employees back to work. In addition, business demands require flexibility. This service provides greater flexibility and added value. Classes can be set up at your facility or at the training room in Santa Rosa

Part of this **on-demand service** is a viable alternative to **in-house training** because it is designed for situations where only **one, two, three or four** people that need training. Importantly, this training can be very cost effective. We can combine the classes with other companies that need the training or you can have your own company class.

Whether you're in search of workplace safety training to meet OSHA compliance requirements, Competent Person, Trench Safety, Confined Space, CPR/First Aid initial or update training or implementing a Safety Program ECA can help!

The best way to beat an OSHA citation is to never get one at all.

Email mary@nceca.org to set up a class today If you don't see a class you need listed please contact me.

CPR / First Aid: 3 hrs - \$95 per person
Confined Space: 3 hrs - \$150 per person
Competent Person / Trench Safety: 3 hrs - \$125 per person
Flagger Safety Training: 2 hrs - \$125 per person

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EXPERIENCE. EXPERTISE. INTEGRITY.

ECA 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 13,

ECA Public Officials Night—Herzog Hall, Sonoma Marin Fairgrounds

To Register click [HERE](#) To Sponsor click [HERE](#)

Sunday, June 18

Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show, Julliard Park, Santa Rosa to [Sponsor Flyer](#)

Friday, July 21

ECA Golf Tournament, Windsor Golf Course, Windsor, CA—[Sponsor Flyer](#)

Thank you Sponsors!

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Saturday, September 16,

ECA Wine & Dozers Event—Graton Rancheria

To register or sponsor for any of these events, please email mary@nceca.org

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WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Worker's Compensation Endorsement By ECA-

HELLO!!! HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON TO CHECK OUT THE WORKERS COMP PROGRAM ECA HAS ENDORSED? Everybody likes to save money, don't they? Doesn't cost you a thing to consider this as an option! Jeff Okrepkie at 707-360-4338.



George Petersen Insurance Agency

FIRE CLEAN UP LIST:

The Sonoma County Environmental Health Department, Transportation and Public Works, and James Gore's office are utilizing the ECA as a resource for debris testing, and debris cleanup for fire victims from the Kincade Fire. Please review the list that has been provided to the fire victims and the County, of ECA Firms that are interested and listed in various categories as being helpful in the fire aftermath. This is another benefit for ECA members and if you want to be included on the list, and are not, please contact mary@nceda.org. There is no charge for this. You can access the list by clicking [HERE](#)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANUAL

Emergency Response Manual is now available online!

In the event of an emergency, we have put together this manual to help our community receive quick service from our members.

Thank you to our sponsors for helping to get this manual completed. It is sent to city and county agencies in case of an emergency so they will know who to call for services, equipment and materials.

Click [here](#) for the manual.

IMPORTANT INFO:

Get Prepared Now! Here are some very useful tips from CalFire to get your own house/property "in shape" for fire season. [link](#)

Pocket Guide for CALOSHA For Contractors: Click [here](#) for the pocket guide you all need!

Roadwork in Sonoma County - Check out the County website for road info [here](#)



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From the Desk of Jim Persons

Hearing Protection How Hearing Works

If you're one of the twenty-million individuals that are subject to dangerous noise-levels on the work site, you will want to implement precautionary tactics to counter the danger of hearing loss.

You will want to be educated on how hearing functions and is measured.

Click [HERE](#) To see the rest



Expert COVID-19 Safety info Available at a Discount

The Shelter in Place Orders issued by County Health Officers in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino - as well as the Governor, have highlighted for the building industry the need for all contractors to have an up-to-date written COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan.

This should be an addendum to your IIPP and safety meetings for COVID-19

Jim Persons, SafetyPride, an ECA member who serves as a consultant and safety instructor for ECA, is offering his services to our members and they will receive a 40% discount on his regular rates if you are a current member of ECA.

Contact Jim if you are interested in getting his help on COVID-19 related issues or other health and safety programs. email: jimpersons@safetypride.com or phone: 707-889-0881



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Come join the
Northern California Engineering Contractors , association

Public Officials Night!

Thursday, April 13
Herzog Hall, Sonoma Marin Fairgrounds

Public Officials Night is for developing and maintaining strong communications and working relationships with public officials and ECA members. P.O. Night starts important steps in serving the public and building our communities.

We send invites to Public Officials in the surrounding area. If you would like someone invited please let us know.

Casual dress attire.
Ribeye Steak Dinner



Premier Sponsor

This year the Bridge Award will be going to Sonoma County Sonoma Public Infrastructure department and Jim Persons will receive the Golden Hardhat Award .

To Register: click [HERE](#)

To Sponsor click [HERE](#)

Thank you to our Sponsors:

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ECA SAFETY TRAINING CLASSES

CPR / First Aid

Tuesday, March 7 & 1 pm—3 pm ~

Wednesday, April 12—9 am—noon

Instructor Larry Richmond Jr., Mill Creek Safety

Training includes bleeding control, strokes, seizures, broken bones and other life-threatening emergencies. Adult/child/infant CPR & airway obstruction management covered. This course is designed as both a course for first-timers and as a refresher. Click [HERE](#) for March 7 flyer...Click [HERE](#) for April 12 flyer



CPR Training for employees can save lives, improve workplace safety, increase worker confidence, and takes crucial skills outside of the office into the community.

Competent Person / Trenching & Excavation

Monday, March 13

1 pm—4 pm ~ Instructor Larry Richmond Jr., Mill Creek Safety

The course will cover soil analysis, sloping, shoring and shielding, hazardous situations, excavation standards and more...

Click [here](#) for flyer

Confined Space

Wednesday, April 12

1 pm—3 pm ~ Instructor Larry Richmond Jr., Mill Creek Safety

This course covers proper procedures for making entry into Permit Required Confined Spaces. Participants are prepared to operate in the capacity of Entrant, Attendant or Entry Supervisor during confined space operations. Participants are familiarized with CFR 1910.146 and how to properly employ the permit program.

Click [HERE](#) for flyer



Hazwoper 40 Hour

April 6, 7, 13, 14, 27

8 am—4:30 pm ~ Instructor Larry Richmond Jr., Mill Creek Safety

This course is designed for workers involved in clean-up operations, voluntary clean-up operation, emergency response operations, and storage disposal/treatment of hazardous substances or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Topics include recognition of hazardous substances, protection against hazardous chemicals, elimination of hazardous chemicals, safety of workers and the environment and OSHA regulations. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certification of completion (with no expiration, but 8 hour refresher course required annually). This Course covers topics included in CFR 1910.120 Click

[HERE](#) for flyer

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BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS



Committee Report continued from page 3

5. **Golf Committee**-Committee met on Wednesday, 2-22-23 and the attendees were Dave Weller, Mary Kennedy Cabrera and John Bly. The following were discussed and decided:
 1. Tourney format was for two divisions-one is "Open Division" designed for no handicaps and the more serious teams should sign up for this division, and a "Calloway Division" where the handicaps are decided on 4 pre chosen holes (top secret) for each 4-some. 1st 2nd and 3rd places will win something for each Division. Awards were decided upon for all prizes.
 2. Various popular events will include the putting contest (\$10,000 winner for one lucky person that makes 50' putt), Long Drive contest for men and women, Casino Hole, Hole in One Hole (two separate golf holes), Closest to the Pin hole on #11
 3. Raffle budget was increased so better raffle items to be up for grabs. It was decided to start the raffle giveaway earlier, and to do the closest to the pin, and long drive awards earlier as well with the intent to get everyone home earlier.
 4. Two putt max for greens and no mulligans used on greens will be done again.
 5. The popular air cannon and sports items for sale will be back-this time the cannon will be on Hole #9 which should eliminate possible broken windows!
 6. Tournament will be limited to 124 golfers.
 7. We recognize the need for more food on the course, so we are trying to get another Hospitality Hole Sponsor.
6. **ECA Executive Committee** Meeting-Next meeting is Tuesday, 2-21-23, in person from 11am-12pm at the NCBE small conference room.
7. **ECA Board of Directors** – Next meeting is Tuesday, 2-21-23, in person from 12 noon-1:30 pm at the NCBE main conference room. Lunch will be served. Agenda will be out this coming Friday, 2-17-23 and will be sent out with attachments (Work in Progress, Profit & Loss Statement, Minutes from January 17 Strategic Retreat meeting).

Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

John Bly, Executive Vice President
email: john@nceca.org

Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director
email: mary@nceca.org

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper
email: cheryl@nceca.org

Postal Address: P.O. Box 8249 Santa Rosa, CA 95407 ~Phone: 707.546.5500

