



February 6, 2023

"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.

### Taxes-What Good Are They?

They spread the cost of infrastructure projects to all users of the infrastructure enabling a lot of funding of projects for very little expense to local folks when the taxes are sales taxed based.

Case in point.

Saturday night, we had our 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation and Awards dinner at the Doubletree in Rohnert Park. Congrats to the honorees (Jeanine Clary of Argonaut for Volunteer of the Year, Raul Valdivia of Valdivia Trucking for Affiliate of the Year, Dick Ghilotti of Ghilotti Construction Company for Contractor of the Year, Rob Lee of Team Ghilotti for Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame Induction, and the family of Ed Winters for Posthumous Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame induction), and during acceptance speeches, Dick Ghilotti mentioned Jim Ghilotti and his effort to get "Three Lanes All The Way" passed which turned into Measure M some 20 years ago. The reference to Jimmy G (no not the quarterback!), reminded me of our success in getting Measure DD the Go Sonoma Act passed a few years ago that will replace Measure A when that tax measure "sunset" in 2024. I wanted to say a few words about how some tax measures do more good than harm.

Measure M has done a tremendous amount of good in its 20 years of so since passing with approval of the voters. The fact that we became a "self-help" County by taxing ourselves to fix our roads, was a HUGE decision by taxpayers. What becoming a self help County (as relates to taxing ourselves and spending those tax revenues on our roadways) did for Sonoma County, is it leveraged us into a position to get matching funds from the State and Feds that would have simply gone elsewhere. I know, some of my conservative friends are mumbling to themselves right now saying "we pay enough in taxes, we should not have to pay more-leverage or no leverage". I agree with them, but those taxes we pay to the State and Feds are there and they are not going away. My argument in favor of Measure DD was "we are paying taxes already, let's pay just a bit more and get big returns on that investment back in the County". The voters saw the logic in that and voted twice to tax themselves. Huge dividends.

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MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

Does anyone recall how bad Highway 101 was to travel 15 years ago? Frontage roads entering and exiting from Petaluma to Novato, created unnecessary danger and old bridges that were worn out. Not to mention big projects to sustain our GBI's and GCC's for a few years. Hundreds of local workers, if not thousands, benefitted from getting on those projects, making good prevailing wages, and choosing to spend those paychecks locally. Obviously, the ownership of the two biggest firms to do those projects live locally so the profits stayed (for the most part) right here in Sonoma and Marin Counties. Think of all the suppliers and truckers, concrete suppliers, etc. that also benefited. I am guessing a dollar spent with Measure M tax dollars generated around \$7 of economic activity for every \$1 of tax money raised. Studies exist that can back that claim up.

So we are now seeing another source of income become available to our industry from the raising of bridge tolls several years ago. After the tax advocate group Jarvis challenged the Regional Measure 3 in court, all those bridge tolls just collected and did not get distributed. Now that the Supreme Court ruled against the bridge toll increase, those funds will begin to be distributed very soon. The biggest immediate beneficiaries of those dollars? Highway 37 and the SMART extension to Windsor and Healdsburg.

A lot of credit goes to the taxpayers. But I like to remind folks that yours truly was the Measure DD Committee Chair that worked very hard to get another 20 years of ¼ cents sales tax in place to help fund road and bridge repair and support public transportation issues that go to relieving road use by individual drivers. I am very proud of my and the ECA's advocacy on Measure DD and I am very grateful for the ECA Board and members stepping up to support a tax measure that will turn out to do a whole lot of good for a lot of folks!

The ECA also supported and endorsed RM3 (Regional Measure 3) and with a tremendous push by Jimmy Ghilotti many years ago, the first big tax measure (Measure M) was passed that is credited with \$1 billion worth of work done to the Highway 101 corridor.

Taxes-What Good Are They? Lots of good can come from focused and well managed tax measures. I am proud to work for the ECA who has the good political sense to know how helping to tax ourselves has worked out in a big way to help ourselves far beyond the ¼ cents sales tax we have paid! Let's never lose sight of the fact that this is a very inefficient way to raise money for projects though. The government is very good at wasting dollars!

That's All Folks!

John

## COMMITTEE NEWS

1. The next ECA Executive Meeting will be held at 11:00 AM on February 21 in the NCBE small conference room. Executive Team for 2023 is President Tony Mencarini of Ghilotti Construction Company, Past President Walt Turner, Vice President Mike Gulley, Treasurer Dan Giordani, and Secretary Kimber Carpenter Lenning. Some of the items to discuss at the Exec level will include:
  - A. The idea of Community Relations to do a “day of helping” for the community in lieu of finding a worthy project (this came up at strategic planning of Directors on 1-17-23)
  - B. An idea to hear from our members more often by having quarterly “6 at 6” meetings with John Bly and Tony Mencarini hosting coffee and breakfast for 4 ECA members at 6 am. The idea is that Tony and I will look at our membership and invite long-term members who are not particularly active in an effort to hear from them what is important for the ECA to be doing on their behalf. The idea has been met with some excitement and the Exec will be talking about it on 2-21-23. Rollout should be seen in March of 2023.
  - C. Also following up on a concern voiced at the 1-17-23 Strategic Meeting, was to invite an ECA member to do a 10-minute presentation at our Board meetings. The first invitee is Republic Services (landfill manager for Sonoma County) who will make a 10-minute presentation on 2-21-23 at the Board meeting.
2. The next ECA Board Meeting led by 2023 ECA Board President Tony Mencarini, will be held from 12:00 to 1:30pm on Feb 21 at the NCBE Board room. Items to be discussed will include what is listed above for the Exec discussion as well as our Membership Report which will include two new Association membership for the Sonoma County Alliance and the North Coast Builders Exchange. The ECA has negotiated for the ECA to join their associations in exchange for them to join the ECA. This move, to be discussed and hopefully approved, just increased the ECA membership by 300 to 400%. Strength in Numbers!
3. Car Show Committee-led by Walt Turner, the Car Show committee had its first meeting of the year on 1-12-23. After the success of the Color Guard presentation Saturday night in honor of our veterans and for Ed Winters, the Car Show committee will be discussing a Color Guard presentation at the Car Show with the National Anthem to get the show started at 9 am. Walt also wanted to give a “shout-out” to several new attendees at that first Car Show Meeting for their energy, ideas, and willingness to get involved. Walt specifically thanks Tony Mencarini, Kristi Pruitt and Casey Wood, new committee members for getting involved with the car show and all the rest for their years of participating at the show. Stephen Knuttel, Paul Stathatos, Corinna Fernandez, David Whitehurst and Mark Powell calling in from Hawaii. Next meeting is on Thursday, February 23 at 4 pm
4. The next scheduled ECA Spec meeting is at 4pm March 15, 2023 in the main NCBE Board room.

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# 44th Annual Installation & Awards Dinner

A Big Thank You to the sponsors and attendees.



## Thank you to:

[Ghilotti Construction](#)—Premier Sponsor & President's Reception

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## ECA NEW MEMBER

### RKB Leasing

Tyler Brownlee  
3224 Regional Parkway  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
707-494-6468  
rkbleasing@gmail.com



Founded in 2020, RKB Leasing offers a variety of medium / heavy machinery equipment for all of your construction needs. Our location in Santa Rosa provides low cost rentals on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. See our website at [www.rkbleasing.com](http://www.rkbleasing.com) for a complete list of available equipment, including CAT D4 Dozer, CAT 310 Excavator, Bobcats, Platform lifts and more. Call Tyler Brownlee at [707-293-2985](tel:707-293-2985) for rates!

Committee News Continued from page 3

5. The ECA Golf Committee will have its first meeting on Feb 22, 2023 at 4:00 pm at the NCBE small conference room. The tournament is scheduled for July 21, from 11am to 6pm at the Windsor Golf Club facilities. If you would like to join in and help plan for this fun event, please email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) to let us know you are interested and show up on 2-22.
6. The ECA Auction Committee, abbreviated with just Tony Mencarini and Mary, met last week to check out several possible venues and decided on the Graton Casino in Rohnert Park as the site of the Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Dinner event on September 16, 2023. There will be a special ECA rate for rooms to spend the night, and they have an arrangement with DoubleTree for surplus rooms with a dedicated shuttle. This should be a blast!
7. The ECA Public Officials Night will be held Thursday, April 13 at Herzog Hall in Petaluma, and there will be two honorees that night: The Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department will be honored for the 2022 ECA Bridge Award for their work in repairing and repaving the County roads, and the Golden Hardhat Award will go to Jim Persons of Safety Pride who continues to do safety consulting work for many of our ECA contractors and he is very honored to be recognized by the ECA. Jim is inviting some OSHA and Caltrans administrators to the event and is touched by our gesture.
8. The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual ECA Installation and Awards was held Saturday night at the DoubleTree in Rohnert Park on Saturday night and from the feedback I heard, everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks to all that were in attendance, and those that sponsored, and congrats to all of the Honorees: Jeanine Clary of Argonaut for Volunteer of the Year, Raul Valdivia of Valdivia Trucking for Affiliate of the Year, Dick Ghilotti of Ghilotti Construction Company for Contractor of the Year, Rob Lee for Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame Inductee, and Posthumous Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame Inductee Ed Winters. Beautiful speeches by Walt Turner and Tony Mencarini. Walter wanted to add something to his speech that Rob Lee reminded him that he forgot to do: Walt says he wants to thank his wife of 36 years, Mary. Got your back Walt!!
5. Many Thanks to Diane Aqui and Smith Dollar for sponsoring a workshop on Prevailing Wage Law updates as of 1/1/23 (pertaining to the trucking industry and DOT). We recommend that you reach out to your attorney, or Diane Aqui, Smith Dollar PC to make sure you are in compliance with this new law that began on Jan 1 of this year. If you would like to see Diane's PowerPoint on this subject, please email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) to get a copy.

## 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](mailto: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.

## ON DEMAND TRAINING

**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](mailto: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

Sexual Harassment—1 hr for Employees—\$25 per person ~ 2 hrs for Supervisors \$35 per person



## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### From Head to Foot

Business reviews would seem to indicate that today Americans are spending more for clothing than any time in history. This is in accordance with American standards, and to deny the advantages of being meticulous in dress would be an insult.

And yet, we take so much pride in the social aspect of our dress - what about the really important angle? What about the manner in which we dress for work with safety in mind?



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](mailto:jimpersons@safetypride.com) or phone: 707-889-0881



### Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

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Come join the  
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# Public Officials Night!



Save the Date  
Thursday, April 13

Showcase Sponsor

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

To Sponsor click [HERE](#)

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



## Cabrera and Associates

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## ECA SAFETY TRAINING CLASSES

### CPR / First Aid

Tuesday, March 7

1 pm—3 pm ~ 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 flyer...



### 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



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## NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE:

1. We lost another good pal last week, Stephen Butler. He was lead attorney for John Barella in getting the Roblar Road Quarry project through entitlement processes at the County, and he was a good friend to Ross Liscum, Mick Menendez, and Tim Smith for many years. I knew him quite well also and he will be missed-[‘He could make you laugh at the drop of a hat’: Land-use lawyer Steve Butler remembered \(pressdemocrat.com\)](https://www.pressdemocrat.com/story/news/2023/02/01/steven-butler-remembered-land-use-lawyer/7000000001)
2. SMART having a good fundraising week: [SMART receives additional \\$34 million through state during a week of good news for the passenger train \(pressdemocrat.com\)](https://www.pressdemocrat.com/story/news/2023/02/01/smart-receives-additional-34-million-through-state-during-a-week-of-good-news-for-the-passenger-train/7000000001)

Want Some Good Reading Material? February 1, 2023 CSLB #23-01

*2023 California Contractors License Law & Reference Book*

Now Available

**Sacramento, CA** – The 2023 edition of the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) California Contractors License Law & Reference Book (Law Book) is now available. The Law Book can be purchased directly from the publisher, or the online PDF version can be viewed or downloaded at no cost on the CSLB website.

The Law Book features a summary of [new contracting laws](#) that became effective on January 1, 2023.

The all-inclusive book details CSLB’s history and mission and offers specialized sections about becoming a licensed contractor, maintaining a license, home improvement contracting requirements, business management, and safety regulations. It also contains California’s Business and Professions Code and other construction-related state codes, and Contractors State License Law rules and regulations.

“The 2023 Law Book is an essential guide for members of the California construction industry,” said David Fogt, CSLB Registrar. “This tool can help current contractors manage their business and help potential contractors get information on how to obtain a license.”

The Law Book can only be purchased directly from publisher LexisNexis [online](#) or by calling (877) 394-8826. The price is \$50.00 plus tax, shipping, and handling. The Law Book is available as a [PDF](#) on the CSLB website and can be downloaded for free.

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Chris Mata 510-919-0165 cmata@sitechnorcal.com

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**The application for the North Bay Construction Corps are now open!** The North Bay Construction Corps (NBCC) is an after-school, 3-month basic construction training program for seniors in their last semester of high school. Classes are held on Saturdays in April and May and are taught by local contractors and construction managers. Participants are introduced to a variety of trades and earn certifications in Personal Protective Equipment and CPR/First Aid. Every year, nearly all Corps members who want to work in construction are offered a job at the graduation ceremony and interview event on the last day of Boot Camp. For more information or to apply for the 2023 North Bay Construction Corps program, visit [www.ncbeonline.com/nbcc](http://www.ncbeonline.com/nbcc)

For more information about the 2023 North Bay Construction Corps program or to request a presentation to staff

or students, contact Nicollette Weinzev, Director of Workforce Development and Education at (707) 542-9502 or [workforce@ncbeonline.com](mailto:workforce@ncbeonline.com) click [here](#) to apply online—Due February 10th

### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

The ECA, and its Board of Directors, has been the voice of the engineering construction industry for over 40 years.

The foundation of the ECA has been to address local needs and issues.

The purpose and goal of ECA and its staff are to provide services to the members that help them run their businesses safely, efficiently, and in compliance with the many rules and regulations and mandates of government.

The working committees are the heart and soul of the ECA. The committees are comprised of ECA members.

The committees promote events that enable the ECA to fund community projects that include: Fathers Day "Show & Shine" Car Show, Public Officials Night, the Golf Tournament, and, the "Days of Wine & Dozers" Auction Dinner.

If you would like to join a committee, please email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) ~ We would love to have you!

### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

John Bly, Executive Vice President  
email: [john@nceca.org](mailto:john@nceca.org)

Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director  
email: [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org)

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper  
email: [cheryl@nceca.org](mailto:cheryl@nceca.org)

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

