



“CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

ECA NEWSLETTER

JOHNS SOAPBOX



Here is the normal disclaimer-I am not espousing the opinion of the ECA or any member firm in this Soapbox-these are my own tortured opinions. Only mine.

\$66 Million Shortfall Per Year in Funding-WOW!

Recently, Santa Rosa did a presentation to the Board of Public Utilities based upon the American Society of Civil Engineers grading scale (<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/making-the-grade/>). The grading and recommendations were recently presented by our friend in Utilities Lori Urbanek on March 16, 2023. Lori presented three areas that were graded:

SR Water – Grade B (53,100 services, 627 miles of pipe, 20 pump stations, 6,500 fire hydrants, 29,300 valves, 51,300 meters, and 22 reservoirs)

SR Wastewater System-Grade C+ (49,000 services, 600 miles of main, 12,300 manholes, and 17 pump stations)

Regional Water Reuse System-Grade D+ (Treatment facilities, seasonal storage ponds, Geysers conveyance, recycled water, distribution system, biosolid storage facilities)

I provided the slide deck two newsletters ago, so if you want to look again at the power point, you can always find our old newsletters on our website www.nceca.org

Summary of Comments and Recommendations:

1. For SR Water-overall system is in good condition but the majority of the system is aging asbestos-concrete pipe that is due for replacement from now to 25 years from now. Current funding had capital budget of \$14 million but it is estimated that \$340 million is needed over the next 10-years so the City SHOULD BE ALLOCATING \$34 MILLION PER YEAR (2.4 TIMES THE ALLOCATION FOR 2022-23) to ensure the system’s current condition and resilience.
2. For SR Wastewater System-although the system is not experiencing many overflow incidents currently, the “backbone” of the system is experiencing degradation due to interior corrosion. Nearly 45% of the City’s 12.6 miles of large diameter concrete trunk mains are identified as “priority” for rehabilitation due to current condition assessments. Additionally, most of the City’s 33 siphons need to be rehabilitated in the next 10 years. For fiscal year 2022-23 the budget has an allocation of \$13 million but the city should be allocating \$42 million per year to ensure the city’s current wastewater conditions and resilience.



Inside this issue

John’s Soapbox.....	1
Board of Directors	2
Committee News.....	3
Free Seminar.....	4
Upcoming Events.....	5
Workers Comp	6
Emergency Response manual.....	6
Fire Clean up List.....	6
From the Desk of Jim Persons.....	7
PO Night.....	8
ECA Safety Classes.....	9
Sustaining Members.....	10
News That you can use.....	11



**2023
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT:
ANTONIO MENCARINI
Ghilotti Construction Co

VICE PRESIDENT:
MIKE GULLEY
Northwest General Engineering

TREASURER
DAN GIORDANI
Argonaut Constructors

SECRETARY
KIMBER CARPENTER LENNING
Kadon Trucking

PAST PRESIDENT
WALT TURNER
North Bay Petroleum

CONTRACTORS

JOHN SERRES JR,
Serres Corporation

KRISTI PRUITT
RCX, Inc

MIKE WOLFF
Wolff Contracting

CASEY WOOD
Ghilotti Bros. Inc

AFFILIATES

PAUL BARTHOLOW
Brelje & Race

JEFF CONNER
Aaction Rents

ART DEICKE
Environmental Pollution Solutions

CORINNA FERNANDEZ
PACE Supply

JAY JAEHNIG & RICK NORTON
R&S Trucking

TRISHA MCCOMAS
Moss Adams LLP

VICTOR MCKNIGHT
InterWest Insurance

KEVIN NOONAN
Toby's Trucking

JEFF OKREPKE
George Petersen Insurance

RYAN WILD SICH
Cal-West Rentals

GLENN SMITH
Smith Dollar PC

MARK SOILAND
Soiland Company

TROY SOILAND & SPENCER REID
Northgate Ready Mix

JONATHAN TRAPPE & JAMES TRAPPE
Canyon Rock Co.

MARY VALDIVIA
Valdivia Trucking

BILL WIGGINS
Trans Tech Consultants

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN BLY

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

- For SR Regional Water Reuse System-the hub of the system is the Laguna Treatment Plant which serves a regional population of 236,000 and thousands of businesses in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Cotati, and South Park County Sanitation District along with some unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. Many of the facilities were built over 60 years ago and have reached the end of their design service life. In fiscal year 2022-23 the water reuse system had a budget of \$9 million but the city should be allocating \$26 million per year to ensure the system's current condition and resilience.

In summary: current budgets call for all 3 systems to have \$14million + \$13 million + \$9 million (totaling \$36 million per year allocation). The need is for \$34 million + \$42 million + \$26 million (totaling \$102 million for the next 10 years).

The shortfall from funding is \$66 million per year for the next 10 years.

WOW.

I want to thank ECA member Bob Harder for his extra effort in getting this information to the ECA for this newsletter.

Time to write our City Council members to make sure they are aware of the needs of our utilities. Roads, safety, and utilities should be the prime focus of our elected officials.

That's All Folks!
John

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

We want to highlight a member each week. What we need from you is a short paragraph on what is happening at your company. New employees, new logo, a new move, exciting new equipment! What ever you want to share about your company with our members.

Email mary@nceca.org with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!

COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

Auction Committee– Working on sponsors and looking for donations. Typically, we do well with overnight trips, special dinners, or items that are unique to our industry.

Car Show Committee- . Promo radio spot is being worked on and will be out shortly to be broadcast on Froggy 92.9. Nice partnership with Sonoma Media Group! Getting the car show flyers ready to go out! We need volunteers, if you would like to volunteer at the Car Show email mary@nceca.org. Email mary@nceca.org if you would like to enter a car!

Golf Committee—No report. Committee is looking for a premiere sponsor before preparing the flyer. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the Exec meeting. —Sponsor click [HERE](#)—

ECA Executive Committee Meeting-Next meeting is Tuesday, 3-21-23, in person from 11am-12pm at the NCBE small conference room.

ECA Board of Directors – Next meeting is Tuesday, 3-21-23, in person from 12 noon-1:30 pm at the NCBE main conference room. Lunch will be served. Exchange Bank will be out special guests to inform us of new and existing benefits at their firm.

Specification Committee-we met under the leadership of Dale Smith of RCX and Casey Wood from GBI. Rob Sexton, Geoff Coleman, Antonio Mencarini, Bob Harder, Brett Wilmes, Nick Sudano from City of SR and Bob Oller from City of SR were in attendance.

- A. The committee discussed Low Impact Development manual requirements both from the perspective of what is in the manual, and what is being done in the field. Highlights include:
 - a. Structural soil is installed early in the project right after curb and gutter is placed. It is imperative for the GC to protect these typically low-lying areas from contamination by other trades until such time as the bio media is installed along with the irrigation systems, plantings, and final landscaping items.
 - b. General discussion as to whether trees are planted in the bioswale areas. Typically, not many trees are ever planted in these areas.
 - c. Because of the unique addition and mixing of polymers into the bio media, Brett shared with us the material needs to be installed same day as being delivered. No stockpiling is effective either at the plant or at the project site.
 - d. Single unit responsibility is a requirement of the LID manual. It was pointed out the difficulty of getting the design engineer to certify some of the buried installations as they are not on site during all phases of construction. Some compromise needs to be agreed upon.
 - e. Typically, compliance is not an issue unless egregious contamination is realized. Discussion was had as to how inspection notice is transmitted. City of SR typically issues deficiencies to the property owner rather than the onsite contractor. Difficulty is that the GC sometimes does not get notified. It was noted that being a member of the ECA and having a relationship with the inspectors is a huge benefit. Generally, if the inspector knows the GC foreman or PM, the inspector will call or email the foreman or PM so there is more efficiency in fixing the deficiencies.
- B. Bob Harder presented a paper on the recent survey done by a consultant for the Sonoma County PRMD. The survey by consultant was generally spot on and it was noted the follow-up will be effective to bring positive corrective action or not. It depends on whether the Supes will continue to exert pressure on PRMD or not. John noted he will follow-up with his monthly discussions with Supervisor David Rabbitt and Lynda Hopkins.

Continue on page 9

Waterdrop Digital

★ **DIGITAL** ★
DOWNLOAD

MAR 21st 4:30p

Balletto Vineyards Event Center

12 05693 3053 4

Learn How Digital Marketing Can Help Your Business:

- Get more phone calls
- Sell more product
- Increase website traffic
- Increase revenue
- Prove ROI and more!

Reserve Seats:
www.waterdropdigital.com

waterdrop digital ANATURO *Sonoma* MEDIA GROUP, LLC

FREE HR SEMINAR

ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR RECRUITING AND RETAINING EMPLOYEES

April 25th, 2023

8:30-11:00 AM
GRATON CASINO BALLROOM
EARN 2 SHRM CREDITS!



Chris Stonick
President, Stonick Recruitment

REGISTER NOW!

www.sonomamediagroup.com/event

ANATURO *Sonoma* MEDIA GROUP, LLC

TEAM Ghilotti

www.teamghilotti.com | 707-763-8700
2531 Petaluma Blvd. S., Petaluma, CA 94952
CA Lic. #895384 | DIR#1000002085

ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR
707-763-8700
PETALUMA, CA



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

[Registration Flyer](#) to [Sponsor Flyer](#)

Friday, July 21

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

Thank you Sponsors!

[Exchange Bank](#) - Lunch Sponsor
[Peterson CAT](#) - Award Sponsor
[Aaction Rents](#) - Putting Sponsor
[Ghilotti Bros. Inc](#)—Cigar Sponsor
[BoDean Company](#) - Golf Cart Sponsor
[California Equipment Company](#)—Hospitality Hole
[George Petersen Insurance](#)—Hospitality Hole
[Personal Asset Brokerage](#)—Hospitality Hole
[Soiland Co. Inc.](#)—Hospitality Hole
[Peterson Trucks](#)—Hospitality Hole
[Cresco Equipment Rentals](#) - Promotional Hole Sponsor
[Devincenzi Concrete Construction](#) - Raffle Sponsor
[Empire Construction & Engineering Co. Inc.](#) - Golf Cart Sponsor
[Kadon Trucking](#) - Award Sponsor
[Newfront](#)—Beverage Cart
[Smith Dollar PC](#) - Award Sponsor
[Adobe Associates, Inc.](#) - Beer Cooler Sponsor
[BKF Engineers](#)—Beer Cooler Sponsor
[Herc Rentals](#) - Beer Cooler Sponsor & Tee Sponsor
[J.M. Turner Engineering, Inc.](#)—Tee Sponsor

Saturday, September 16,

ECA Wine & Dozers Event—Graton Rancheria

We Sell and Service Lasers! **SITECH**

SITECH NorCal is your local Warranty Repair Center for all Trimble and Spectra Precision construction equipment lines.

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

A Law Firm
BUILT
For Contractors

- Contracts & Collections
- Business Formation & Licensing
- Litigation & Disputes
- Mechanics Lien & Bond Claims
- Employment & Workplace Safety

\$ SmithDollar | (707) 522-1100

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](#)



Cabrera and Associates

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.
Project Consultant
tacabrera@yahoo.com / 707-321-9951
www.cabreraassoc.com

Have you got a project in mind?
Let Cabrera & Associates provide solutions
Land Use Planning
Real Estate Development
And Governmental Relations

From the Desk of Jim Persons

POWER LINE CONTACTS IN CONSTRUCTION

Each year, fifty-five construction workers are killed by electrocution from contact with overhead power lines. Over 90 percent of the contacts involved overhead distribution lines. These are the same lines that run in the alleys behind our houses and through our job sites.

There are distinct patterns to these fatalities. The most obvious is apathy. We all grew up around power lines. Since they are so common to us, they seem harmless. This serious mistake is fueled by two common misconceptions: the belief that some overhead lines don't carry enough power to kill, and the belief that power lines are well-insulated. Both are dead wrong.

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



Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

- County Application and Work Plan Preparation
- Coordination of Asbestos Survey and Fire Debris Disposal
- Air Monitoring, Erosion Control and Confirmation Sampling
- Cleanup Certification Report by Civil Engineer

info@TransTechConsultants.com

Office (707) 837-8408 or after hours (707) 478-2097



Come join the
Northern California Engineering Contractors , association

Public Officials Night!



Premier Sponsor

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



Showcase 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:

- [Team Ghilotti](#) - Premier Sponsor
- [Ghilotti Construction](#)—Showcase Sponsor
- [Aaction Rents](#) - Public Officials Sponsor
- [Argonaut Constructors](#)—Public Officials Sponsor
- [Adobe Associates Inc.](#) - Raffle Sponsor
- [Brelje & Race Consulting Engineers](#) - Bridge Award Sponsor
- [G&G Heavy Equipment Rentals](#)—Raffle Sponsor
- [Ghilotti Bros. Inc.](#) - Raffle Sponsor
- [Herc Rentals Trench Solutions](#) - Raffle Sponsor
- [Smith Dollar PC](#) - Bridge Award Sponsor
- [Sound Ideas Media](#) - Media Sponsor



ECA SAFETY TRAINING CLASSES

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



CPR / First Aid

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 April 12 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



Committee News continued from page 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](#)

Community Relations Committee-Chair Lacey Torkelson Smith and Mary are focusing on doing promotion of our past CR efforts such that we have an accurate list of projects the ECA has worked on or funded over our history. We want to also make sure our database is updated to recognize as many firms as possible (existing today or not) for participation in these projects. We need your help. Please click on this link to see the list of projects our ECA database shows, and if your firm helped on those projects, please let us know soon. Here is the list we have Click [HERE](#)

CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS



NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE:

1. Prevailing Wage Update! Several weeks ago, we held a workshop hosted by Diane Aquí of Smith Dollar on prevailing wage rules for trucking in our industry. Since then, we have had several requests to clarify a few issues that were unclear since AB1851 was made the law January 1, 2023. To get the update (which most people not ECA members would have to pay hundreds of dollars for the legal opinion, and Smith Dollar is making it accessible to our readers-THANK YOU!), click [HERE!](#) For the PowerPoint click [HERE!](#)
2. No more gas water heaters-does anybody really understand why this is so?- [Bay Area air quality regulators phasing out new installations of natural gas water heaters and furnaces beginning in 2027 \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
3. Healdsburg Lumber Company-I drove by and checked this new building and lot out the other day. Impressive-[Historic, family-owned Sonoma County lumber company making a leap forward \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
4. Industrial projects moving forward from Novato to Windsor-sharpen your pencils!! [1.45 million square feet of Marin-Sonoma industrial projects planned \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
5. As we phase out gas appliances, here is a story that makes perfect sense in this insane 'climate change' world- [Bills aim to fix California's long delays in connecting construction projects to the grid \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
6. North Sonoma County-No Power, no projects? - [Sizable industrial projects planned for north Sonoma County \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
7. Napa-Go Keith Rogal and Napa Pipe project Go!- [Napa City Council to consider 1st Napa Pipe subdivision, discuss climate action \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
8. More Water Wars between American Canyon and Vallejo-[Massive planned Napa Valley warehouse project faces challenge \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
9. How are you getting young people in your workforce? Mike Ghilotti has some thoughts-[How North Bay construction firms are trying to recruit reluctant younger workers](#)

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

