



March 27, 2023

"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.

ECA What Do We Do and How Do We Do It?

Recently, I was asked that question by a long time member and I was kind of surprised this person was unaware of all the things the ECA was doing, and has done recently. Although I try and let membership know in a summary form once or twice a year, it seemed a good idea to broadcast a "what do we do" soapbox-so here we go! If you have any questions or interest in discussing any of these topics/issues, please contact me!

The ECA is heavily invested in influencing the local industry and economy. Keeping our finger on the pulse, the ECA is specifically involved with several Community Action Committees holding seats on the following Committee Boards:

- Santa Rosa Metro Chamber Advocacy
- Sonoma County Alliance Advisory Board
- Sonoma County Alliance Political Action Committee
- The Construction Coalition
- Sonoma County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee
- Sonoma Business and Ag Consortium
- Consensus Santa Rosa group

The ECA also speaks monthly with several members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to review upcoming County agenda issues and have frank discussions as to how to streamline permits, do more housing starts, and get infrastructure work projects done in Sonoma County.

Our Alliances and Memberships include:

- The North Coast Builders Exchange
- Sonoma County Alliance
- Santa Rosa Metro Chamber
- Farm Bureau
- NORBAR real estate group
- The North Bay Leadership Council
- The Napa Builders Exchange
- The Marin Builders Exchange



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Recent Accomplishments:

1. Chaired the SCTA CAC which oversees some \$30 million a year in Measure M funding for projects in Sonoma County. We have reviewed and approved funding for most of the Highway 101 projects, roundabouts in the Sonoma Valley, riverfront road and sidewalk improvements in Petaluma, and many other local projects and agencies that receive Measure M funding.
2. Chaired the committee that successfully passed the Go Sonoma Act which will follow the Measure M tax measure, expiring in 2024. The Go Sonoma Act will provide over \$20 million per year in funding for road infrastructure projects in Sonoma County for the next 20 years beginning in 2025. This is a direct benefit to our ECA businesses bidding on that work.
3. Provided expert legal opinions on new prevailing wage laws (particularly AB1851 in effect January 1, 2023) affecting the trucking firms that belong to the ECA and the contractors that utilize these trucking firms. This clarification helps to reduce contractor and trucking firm liability and enables them to pay the correct rates for hauling in materials that they otherwise might not know to do.
4. Advocated for an "escalator" clause in Sonoma County paving contracts to take the volatility out of oil price fluctuations for suppliers, contractors and the TPW themselves.
5. The ECA lobbied for raising the amount of single contract emergency work raised to \$150,000 for Sonoma County
6. The ECA provided an Emergency Services Manual update to all emergency service coordinators in Northern California to better enable fast contract awards if and when emergency work is needed. This manual puts ECA firms directly at the fingertips of staff handling emergency contracts in Sonoma County. Not only do the agencies appreciate that, but the ECA firms that get called do as well!
7. The ECA worked with landowners, and our other associations to point out that FEMA used incorrect information on recent flood zone mapping thereby negatively impacting many landowners needlessly as to how they can use their property, and what insurance costs they will experience. Current work is being done to correct those maps at considerable positive impact to both Sonoma County and those affected landowners.
8. Hosted several meetings with City of Santa Rosa staff to review and educate our members on recent changes to the Low Impact Development manual which has new compliance and enforcement actions that affect both public and private work that installs bioswale media and structural soil underneath planted areas. Contractors who are not aware of where to buy the materials (Stony Point Rock Quarry-Brett Wilmes), and how to properly install and caretake the import areas, are finding themselves tearing out their installed work at considerable expense.

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We are always active in local politics through our Government Affairs Committee, and our Specifications Committee has some renewed energy and topics that are getting results. Obviously, our events are one of the main reasons to belong to the ECA and we continue to put on our:

Installation and Awards Dinner-held February 4, 2023, where we award Hall of Fame inductees as well as Contractor and Affiliate of the Year winners at this event-congratulations to Valdivia Trucking, Ghilotti Construction Company, Ed Winters, and Rob Lee for winning their awards that night!

Public Officials Night-sponsored by **Team Ghilotti**, to be held April 13, 2023 at Petaluma Herzog Hall at the Fairgrounds from 5:30-9:00pm. This event is where we host a ribeye steak dinner and honor our partners in public works-the Public Officials that do so much in our industry. We honor the Bridge Award Winner ("a public agency and project that bridges the public and private sectors to benefit the public") and our Golden Hardhat honoree where we try to acknowledge the exemplary work of a "field person" who has "boots on the ground" in our industry.

The Father's Day Show and Shine Car Show at Julliard Park to take place on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, 2023 at Julliard Park in Santa Rosa.

The ECA Annual Golf Tournament at Windsor Golf Club to take place Friday, July 21, 2023.

The Days of Wine and Dozers Annual Auction Dinner-to be held this year at the Graton Casino Convention area on September 16, 2023.

Our **Annual General Membership Meeting** held the 3rd Tuesday in November each year with great speakers.

Come and enjoy all our events and enhance your businesses by mixing and mingling with the right people!

That's All Folks!
John

NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE:

Prevailing Wage Update! Several weeks ago, we held a workshop hosted by Diane Aquino 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 Prevailing Wage Update, CLICK [HERE](#) for PowerPoint**

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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

[Registration Flyer](#) 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

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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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THE FIRE TRIANGLE

Let's talk about what makes a fire and what we can do to prevent one. Fire can be compared to a triangle. Three sides are necessary to make a triangle and three ingredients are necessary to cause a fire. These are heat, air, and fuel. If any one of these three sides is missing, there can be no fire.

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!



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](#)

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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



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!



CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



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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. Email mary@nceca.org if you have something to donate or if you would like to join the committee.

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, April 18, 2023 at the Exec meeting. Sponsor click [HERE](#)—email mary@nceca.org to sign up for a foursome.

ECA Executive Committee—next meeting 11 am on April 19, 2023.

ECA Board of Directors – next meeting 12pm on April 19, 2023. Special guest will be the Sonoma Media Group. Just listen to their upcoming promotion of the ECA we recorded last week– click [HERE](#)

Specification Committee-next meeting is at 4:00pm, May 17, 2023.

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](#)

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](#)

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!

Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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email: john@nceca.org

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

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper
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