



“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.

### Supply vs Demand

Since 1922 we have continued to demand more water than the Colorado River gives us each year. Duh-this has to change.

The Feds have watched the Southwestern states try to negotiate with themselves, and Mexico and native American tribes to redo the flawed 1922 pact that distributes Colorado River water to Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California.

Back in 1911, the Feds knowingly allowed an inflated estimate of flow volume to be the basis for water rights for seven western states plus Mexico plus tribes. For over 100 years, the 9 groups over drew the water runoff until now the results have reached crisis levels as Lake Mead, and Lake Powell are at historic lows-not because of drought, no, no-this is not a supply problem, it is a demand problem. [Inside the history of the Colorado River Compact, water allocations - Deseret News](#)

Negotiators have met and the “poker game” has gone nowhere. California is the one that refuses to lower their water allocations. In order to get the groups moving in the right direction, the Feds (Bureau of Reclamation) basically said there are three options:

1. do nothing and let nature take its course,
2. reduce all diversions by the same percentage, or
3. cut back proportionately by water rights.

Federal officials have hinted that if forced to act, they likely would opt for the across-the-board equal percentage reduction in diversions. It would have the greatest negative effect on California overall and the Imperial Irrigation District specifically and would clearly undercut the senior rights held by the IID and some other diverters – particularly Native American tribes which gained rights relatively late in the 122-year history of the Colorado’s diversions.

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Continued from page 1

Although this soapbox is not the typical subject matter for the ECA, the implications for reducing the water allocation for the Imperial Valley (which uses 70% of California's water allocation from the Colorado River), is huge. In 1911, the arid desert of the Imperial Valley formed their Irrigation District and became one of the major recipients of cheap Colorado River water. Some 500,000 acres were irrigated, and the Imperial Irrigation District has stubbornly refused to give up their water rights despite knowing they are drawing down Lake Mead and Lake Powell to crisis low levels. Their newsletters seem intent on misdirection as they tout their conservation efforts but never get into the fact that they are getting too much water from the Colorado River. [638095493831100000 \(iid.com\)](https://www.iid.com)

Water rights are tremendously complex, but we certainly owe it to ourselves and our future generations to figure out the following:

1. How do we not waste water runoff from the mountains?
2. How can we sustainably harvest Colorado River water without depleting Lake Mead and Lake Powell?
3. What impact will cutting water rights have on food costs?
4. If we cut out water, do we force agriculture to be "farmed out" to other countries?

For these and other reasons, I hope somebody can get IID and the other water contractors to the table to figure out a reasonable water allocation package that does not give away more than what is replenished every year.

That's All Folks!  
John

## COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

**Auction Committee**-next meeting this Wednesday, April 26, 12 noon at NCBE small conference room.

**Specification Committee**-Bob Harder has been busy helping us with an ad-hoc committee meeting on Wednesday, April 26 (not a full spec committee meeting). discussion will be focusing a new language for the Low Impact Development manual language. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will start working on the draft of the upcoming MS4 Permit and thereafter a revised LID manual. A small group of contractors, engineers, and suppliers will be meeting Wednesday and then again on May 3 with Nick Sudano (Santa Rosa's LID compliance guy) to develop a short list of industry's priorities and suggestions to consider. Following that meeting, a small group will meet virtually with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Nick Sudano to discuss. Many thanks to those helping shape this important legislation.

The next full spec committee meeting will be held May 17 (the 3rd Wednesday of every other month) at 4pm in the NCBE main Board room. Chairs Dale Smith of RCX and Casey Wood of GBI will be chairing that meeting.

Continued on page 3

## Committee News & Information—continued from page 2

**Golf Committee-** The committee is happy to announce the premiere sponsor –ARGONAUT CONSTRUCTORS! The Golf Committee met on April 18 with Dave Weller of RCX, Victor McKnight of InterWest Insurance Services, and Mike Gulley, Kimber Carpenter, Dan Giordano, Walt Turner, Antonio Mencarini and Mary Kennedy Cabrera. Final decisions were made on the Golf Tournament for July 21 at Windsor Golf and Country Club. Mary reported we have over 90 golfers signed up already (we are full at 124 golfers) so do not waste time getting your 4-somes together. For those who want to add a public official to your group, here are some that love golf: Chris Rogers (ex-Mayor City of Santa Rosa), Maraskeshia Smith (City Manager for Santa Rosa), James Gore (Supervisor for Sonoma County).

**Government Affairs Committee:** Chair Art Deicke just had shoulder replacement surgery, so he is recovering at home. I am sure we all wish Art a speedy recovery. The GAC is holding the next GAC meeting in May, and we will have State Assemblyman Damon Connolly as our guest. Art wants to invite anybody that wishes to come to that meeting. The tentative date will be Thursday, May 18 from 4-5:30pm at the NCBE main conference room.

Art had also arranged for City of Santa Rosa Mayor Victoria Fleming to announce our ECA Car Show from the dais at the City Council meeting as her community comment on Tuesday last week, which she did! Way to go Art! Our PAC fund is over \$10,000 and we feel we need to have a balance of around \$16,000 to \$19,000 in February of 2024 in order to get the right folks that will support infrastructure spending elected to local public office. Key races we are monitoring are Supervisor races for Lynda Hopkins, Susan Gorin, and James Gore's seats.

**Community Relations Committee-**Glenn Smith proposed a Food Drive to the Board last week and Chair Lacey supported the community project. Here is the info and how you can help out- Throughout the month of May, the local legal community will come together for one purpose: to end hunger in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties where one in six people is at risk of hunger. Participating firms, companies, and bar associations enter a friendly competition to see who can raise the most funds and volunteer the most hours for the Redwood Empire Food Bank. The kickoff is on Thursday, April 27 at the Redwood Empire Food Bank from 5 – 6:30 pm. RSVP to Shana, [sdavis@refb.org](mailto:sdavis@refb.org).

**Car Show Committee-**The Car Show Committee led by Chair Walt Turner, held a committee meeting on Monday, April 17, from 4-5:30pm in the small board room at the NCBE. The following committee members were present **Tony, Walt, Kristi, David, Paul**, and the key decisions were looking for donations and sponsors for the raffle. Ordering the hats that Kristi and Casey worked on. Meeting with the City on April 25.

**ECA Executive Committee-**next meeting 11 am on May 16, 2023. Exec meeting on April 18 had discussions on the Public Officials Night, the venue of Graton Event Center for our annual Days of Wine and Dozers Auction September 16, and discussed the Glenn Smith food drive proposal prior to taking it to the Board of Directors.

**ECA Board of Directors** – next meeting 12pm on May 16, 2023. Special guest will be the Bulk Exchange with Dustin Liebman letting us know about their business model and services and products. The ECA Board of Directors met April 18, 2023 and a special presentation was made by Kevin and Becci (as well as they bought a great lunch for our Directors!) from Sonoma Media Group. Financial information was reviewed, no adds or drops to membership, discussions were held regarding GAC support and “insider info” on upcoming races in 2024, and decisions made on our upcoming events like Car Show, Golf Tourney, and Auction.

**EVENT NEWS:** Public Officials Night-Sponsored by Team Ghilotti, was held on April 13, 2023, at Herzog Hall on Petaluma Fairgrounds. We had around 40 public officials (better than the usual turnout) and around 150 or so ECA members and guests attended. Jim Persons was honored with the Golden Hardhat Award and the Bridge Award went to Janice Thompson and her team at Sonoma Public Infrastructure for their work in getting paving projects out and mostly completed in 2022. We received a nice “thank you” from Janice and her team for their Bridge Award!



**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](http://www.sonomamediagroup.com/event)

ANATURO SONOMA MEDIA GROUP, LLC



Peterson Trucks is having an all-day Idealease Safety & Compliance seminar in Santa Rosa, CA on Thursday, April 27. Here is some of the material they will be covering:

- Definitions & Applicability of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations
- Driver Qualifications
- Drug & Alcohol Testing
- Accident Documentation
- Vehicle Maintenance and Inspection
- Hours of Service
- Data Utilization in Transportation Safety
- Establishing a Proactive Safety & Loss Control Program

California Highway Patrol Motor Carrier will do a presentation on what they look for at the scales and how to survive a BIT inspection.

To sign up, go to [www.idealease.com/safety-seminar-registration](http://www.idealease.com/safety-seminar-registration)  
[Click here](#) to see the .PDF flyer on the Safety and Compliance Seminars.



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## ECA 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, June 18

Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show, Julliard Park, Santa Rosa

Platinum Chevrolet—Showcase Sponsor

Herc Rentals Trench Plates—Donation

Pacific Sanitation—Donation

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

### Friday, July 21

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



### Thank you Sponsors!

#### [Argonaut Constructors](#)—Showcase Sponsor

[Exchange Bank](#) - Lunch Sponsor

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[Herc Rentals Trench Solutions](#) - Beer Cooler Sponsor & Tee Sponsor

[J.M. Turner Engineering, Inc.](#)—Tee Sponsor

### Saturday, September 16,

ECA Wine & Dozers Event—Graton Rancheria



## 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.

## 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](mailto:tacabrera@yahoo.com) / 707-321-9951  
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Have you got a project in mind?  
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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### Mobile Device Use Policy for Drivers

Our company requires all drivers on company business and drivers operating a company-owned vehicle for personal use to adhere to the following policy parameters while operating the motor vehicle:

Click [HERE](#) to read 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

- 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](mailto:info@TransTechConsultants.com)

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

## Food from the Bar Kick-Off

### Date/Time:

Thursday, April 27, 2023  
5:00 - 6:30 pm

Local Wine & Appetizers will be served.  
Guests will receive points for their team for attending.

### Location:

Redwood Empire Food Bank  
3990 Brickway Blvd., Santa Rosa

### Send RSVP to:

Shana **by April 24, 2023** [sdavis@refb.org](mailto:sdavis@refb.org)

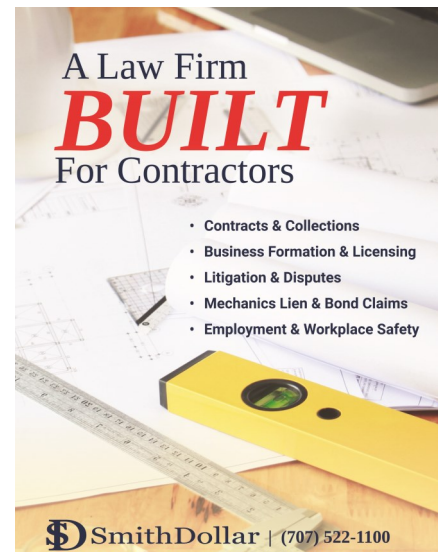
Or call 707-523-7900 ext. 143

Throughout the month of May, the local legal community will come together for one purpose: to end hunger in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties where one in six people is at risk of hunger.

Participating firms, companies, and bar associations enter a friendly competition to see who can raise the most funds and volunteer the most hours for the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!





## 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.**



### Traffic Control / Flagger Training

Tuesday, May 2

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

This certified course will instruct on the fundamentals of keeping workers safe on California Highways and roads.

Click [HERE](#) for flyer



## 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

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

2022 ECA Board President and Car Show Chair Walt Turner's, daughter and granddaughter were in a terrible accident. Megan and her daughter were hit by a drunk driver on March 12. They were both transferred to UC Davis. Megan suffered life threatening injuries and Mia suffered some very bad broken bones. Mia went home and is healing. Megan was just released a few days ago. She has a long road to recovery by this accident. Please consider supporting her and her daughter as she navigates getting better from this accident. Here is the link to the gofundme page. <https://gofund.me/77f0d3de>

Our buddy Jim Huppert is very ill. I spoke with him last week and he has been battling health issues dealing with his pancreas for months. Very serious and he was in UCSF last week battling an infection. He also had a 21-day hospital stay at Memorial Hospital a few months back. Jim and wife Candy appreciate your thoughts and prayers to support his getting through this.

Crack in Union Opposition fuels promise of Housing surge-[Cracks in California labor coalition raise hopes for YIMBY breakthrough on housing bill \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

172 Unit housing approved in Mendocino County-[Revised plan for large housing development in Ukiah approved \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

Sonoma Development Center has lead agency (State of California) choose Keith Rogal and his Napa Pipe team to lead development-[State picks developers for the Sonoma Developmental Center \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

Brelje & Race makes three key managing moves-[Santa Rosa engineering firm Brelje & Race announces leadership changes \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

North Bay Biz announces top 500 firms-see the list here-[NorthBay biz Top 500 Lists | NorthBay biz](#)

Fire Retardant lawsuit-  
[Pollution lawsuit could curb use of aerial fire retardant \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)

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### 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

