



“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.

Why Can't We Build Anything Anymore?

Of course, this is an exaggeration, but it would certainly seem if there was ever a time to set aside burdensome regulations and build capital improvement projects ASAP, this is it.

Everyone knows the good ole' USA has plenty of money in the system to build projects. So why does it take a super long time to get projects built?

It seems there are several items preventing projects from moving forward, including but not limited to:

1. CEQA challenges. The California Environmental Quality Act was started to inform government decision makers and the public about the potential environmental effects of proposed activities and to prevent significant, avoidable environmental damage. Instead, CEQA has become a tool to roadblock projects due to challenges made by special interest groups (like unions) who do not want to see housing projects move forward without requiring union only workers to build them. Certainly, there are other “users” of CEQA that stall, delay, or reject projects based on challenges to traffic studies, water usage, and any number of other issues that are contained in Environmental Impact Reports that are a requirement of many larger projects. CEQA is the biggest obstacle to building big projects these days.
2. Entitlement Delays in getting permits issued. As I have been reporting lately, getting entitlements has become a longer and longer process rather than a faster and smoother process. Why? Local permit and resource departments need to change their culture to a “how fast can we say yes” mentality rather than a “gotcha” mentality. It takes months to get grading, sewer, and water entitlements these days. No excuse. Local permitting needs to be streamlined as if the local municipality is a business partner!
3. Material shortages. Supply chain issues certainly hit us during the pandemic, and we are still working through the backlog.
4. Climate change issues. Whether you agree with the emphasis on climate change concerns or not, those concerns are here to stay.

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Continued from page 1

5. A new problem is that some cities and municipalities are trying to use politics and social awareness as a means to regulate projects moving forward. Into this topic I lump "vehicle miles travelled" restrictions as one of the "roadblocks" to getting things built.

In conclusion, there are too many aspects to blocking projects to go forward these days. I read an interesting op-ed by Cynthia Murray's group-the North Bay Leadership Council on this subject, and I include it here for your reading pleasure: [America — The Build-Nothing Country? – North Bay Leadership Council](#)

With all these limitations, we are still chugging along in the North Bay region. Way to go!!

That's All Folks!
John

COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

Auction Committee-we are looking for donations. Typically, we do well with over-night trips, special dinners, or items that are unique to our industry.

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

Golf Committee- The 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](#)—

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:_____

Car Show Committee-The Car Show committee is working on sponsors, vendors and car registrations are now open. 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!

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](#)

EVENT NEWS: 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](#)

NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE:

1. **Brelje & Race Move Up Three Key Managers:** [Santa Rosa engineering firm Brelje & Race announces leadership changes \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
2. Rohnert Park moving forward (slowly!!!) on State Farm site development-[A year since purchasing future downtown site, when will Rohnert Park's vision come together? \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
3. Get rid of those diesel trucks!! EPA and Newsom on a crusade to outlaw diesel trucks-[EPA approves California rules phasing out diesel trucks \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
4. No gas water heaters after 2026-[Bay Area air quality regulators phasing out new installations of natural gas water heaters and furnaces beginning in 2027 \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)

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

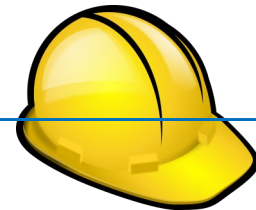
Confined Space: 3 hrs - \$150 per person

Competent Person / Trench Safety: 3 hrs - \$125 per person

Flagger Safety Training: 2 hrs - \$125 per person

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

See upcoming training classes on page 9.



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April 25th, 2023

8:30-11:00 AM
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www.sonomamediagroup.com/event



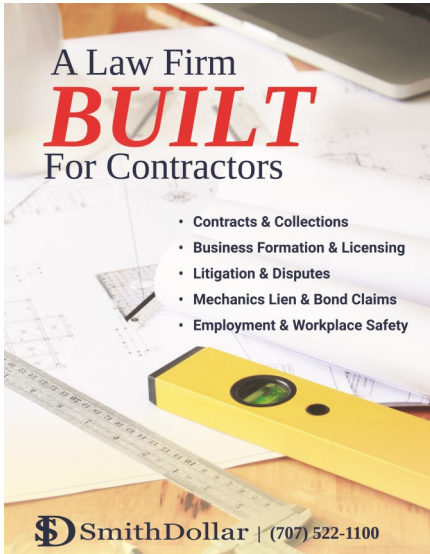

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ECA 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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—[Sponsor Flyer](#)

Thank you Sponsors!

[Exchange Bank](#) - Lunch Sponsor

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[PACE Supply](#) - Golf Balls & Towels

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[BKF Engineers](#)—Beer Cooler Sponsor

[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

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

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 Kincadee 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

“OFF-THE-JOB SAFETY”

We do all we can to protect you on the job: post safety signs, erect guards and barricades, issue protective equipment, and make work areas as safe as possible. But off-the-job safety is up to you.

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](#)

Thank you to our Sponsors:

- [Team Ghilotti](#) - Premier Sponsor
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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

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



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Larry Richmond Jr., Mill Creek Safety—Safety Class

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 ~ We would love to have you!

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

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