



“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.

“Doing More with Less-It’s a New World”

Although my focus is on public works projects, the private side projects will be no different.

More work is coming, but less people are available to design and manage those projects, much less build them. Labor shortages and an aging workforce are realities in both our crews and in the City and County crews.

\$864 billion is the amount of the highly touted, bi-partisan Infrastructure bill just passed last year. This is supposed to go a long way towards “fixing” this nation’s crumbling infrastructure-from ports on the ocean to airports, from bridges to clean water, and from expanded broadband to electrical power grid upgrades-man doesn’t that sound good?

The infrastructure bill was also going to create 15 million new jobs in the construction industry over the next decade. How wonderful! Many state and local entities eligible to receive this funding—think transportation departments, water utilities, and more—are scrambling to secure new pots of money and get workers ready for all the projects to come.

The problem with this gold rush mentality is that federal, state, and local leaders often overlook a fundamental problem facing the country: They cannot even hold onto current infrastructure workers, let alone find more of them to carry out this pressing work.

The U.S. infrastructure workforce is rapidly losing talent. As [recent Brookings research shows](#), nearly 17 million infrastructure workers are projected to permanently leave their jobs over the next decade due to a wave of retirements, job transfers, and [other labor market shifts](#). Infrastructure workers are not just construction workers—they are plumbers, electricians, civil engineering technicians, or dozens of other occupations, primarily involved in the skilled trades. And they are responsible for operating and maintaining our roads, rails, pipes, power plants, and other facilities over many decades. Filling these shoes is not simply about patching a pothole or building a bridge—it represents a generational challenge affecting many industries nationally.

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The reality is our construction workforce is aging. It is also not diverse enough. I am speaking in general national terms here, so maybe in Northern California it is not so bad, but nationally, we do not have enough workers to install the charging stations, the electrical grid upgrades, the water supply and treatment upgrades, or the other infrastructure work that will be coming soon to the tune of \$800 billion or so.

As we can see locally with the influx of PG & E “windfall” dollars, a lot of road work has come out in Sonoma County that is funded by those one-time dollars. We have one more year or so of seeing those dollars go to funding road projects. Because those funds are one time, Counties and Cities will not be expanding their work force to meet the increased work loads for those projects. If they did, and in 2026 those projects are done, what do they do with their bloated workforce? So, for now, they will try to do more with less. We have to realize that and modify our plans to accommodate that reality.

Kind of what we do now-projects are being designed and put out to bid but are kind of “bottlenecked” and municipalities will rely more on 3rd party CMs and PMs to manage the increased workloads. This is why the ECA is arranging to meet with municipalities to discuss how the increasing CM management affects our bid numbers and our desire to bid to some agencies. So far, we have met with the County of Sonoma, and we will be meeting with the City of Santa Rosa on June 15 to share our views on how to make these projects better for the rate payers, the agencies, and US!

As we face labor shortages in our industries, so do the administrative agencies managing these projects. It seems as if to make certain your projects run as smoothly as possible, ECA firms should be looking towards what 3rd party CMs are asking of them, and to make certain our firms can meet the increased burden of those 3rd party CMs in the foreseeable future.

The other thing we need to understand, is these agencies will be hiring more and more diverse workers, who think differently than some of us “greybeards” and we have to adapt to that new way of thinking and interacting.

As we meet with these agencies and discuss how projects will be managed in the near future, opportunities for training that we may not be used to will arise. The ECA will try to understand these opportunities and provide training and information for you to adapt.

It’s a new world.

That’s All Folks!

John

COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

Government Affairs Committee: Led by Chairman Art Deicke, currently has a PAC balance in excess of \$10,000.

Rebecca Hermosillo met with the GAC on 5-18-23 at NCBE small conference room from 3:30 pm to about 4 or 4:15pm. Rebecca is a candidate for Susan Gorin's Supervisor Seat in the Sonoma Valley area. Rebecca was vetted by the committee and we offered the ECA as a resource to her so she could tap into our knowledge of issues that will face her on the campaign trail, and if she is successful, while she is forming her positions on issues that affect all of us. Many thanks to Art Deicke for setting up the meeting and thanks to Ross Liscum, Dale Mahoney and Mark Soiland for meeting with Art, myself and Rebecca last week.

Community Relations Committee- Our campaign to raise money, volunteer hours, and collect food for the Redwood Empire Food Bank is **coming to an end on May 31st**. Smith Dollar, along with team members from Mac's Deli, Legal Aid of Sonoma County, Disability Services & Legal Center, **Northern California Engineering Contractors Association** and Quality Printing Services, are involved in a month-long campaign to assist the Redwood Empire Food Bank in raising money, enlisting volunteers and/or collecting food to "end hunger." Help us **end hunger in our community!!!** For Team Page Donations click [HERE!](#)

Car Show Committee-led by Chair Walt Turner has met and is in control of the Father's Day Car Show to be held on Sunday, Father's Day, June 18 at Julliard Park in Santa Rosa. Entry and sponsor forms can be found here [Registration Flyer](#) to [Sponsor Flyer](#)

The ECA Golf Tournament Committee with Victor McKnight and Dave Weller (along with the ECA Exec Committee), is signing up golfers and will be held at Windsor on Friday, July 21, tee off is at 1:00pm. It is filling up fast so get your reservations in! Sponsorship and signup forms can be found right here [Registration Flyer](#)—[Sponsor Flyer](#)

The ECA Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Committee has been busy and is gearing up for the auction night on Saturday, September 16, 2023. We need auction items, and we thank you for those that have stepped up and donated a vacation rental or dinner or special ECA item like "Blast and Brews". We need those items, and we need you to invite some friends to attend that have a checkbook!

Thank you to Engelke Construction Inc. for their Gold sponsor! To sponsor click [HERE!](#)

Specification Committee-Because of the work done on LID issues in the last 30 days, both Casey and Dale scheduled the next spec committee meeting for July 19 at 4-5:30 pm in the NCBE Board room. Reminder-Spec Committee meetings are every other month not every month. Always the 3rd Wednesday of every other month.



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Click [HERE](#) for more information on the Tractor Pulls!

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!

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!

ECA 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 18

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

Free to spectators! Bring your family and see the cars! We will have food trucks, vendors, beer tent, DJ!

Platinum Chevrolet—Showcase Sponsor

Ghilotti Bros Inc.—Raffle Sponsor

Engelke Construction Inc—DJ Sponsor

Herc Rentals Trench Solutions - Donation

Pacific Sanitation - Donation

Garton Tractor - Donation

RCX Inc. - Awards Sponsor & Donation

Smith Dollar PC - Award Sponsor

[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

Ghilotti Construction—Showcase Sponsor

Exchange Bank - Lunch Sponsor

Peterson CAT - Award Sponsor

PACE Supply - Golf Balls & Towels

Aaction Rents - Putting Sponsor

Ghilotti Bros. Inc—Cigar Sponsor

BoDean Company - Golf Cart Sponsor

Atlas Tree Surgery—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

Landesign Construction & Maintenance—Promotional Hole Sponsor

Devincenzi Concrete Construction - Raffle Sponsor

Empire Construction & Engineering Co. Inc. - Golf Cart Sponsor

Engelke Construction Inc.— Raffle Sponsor

Kadon Trucking - Award Sponsor

Newfront—Beverage Cart

Smith Dollar PC - Award Sponsor

Toby's Trucking - Driving Range Sponsor

Adobe Associates, Inc. - Beer Cooler Sponsor

BKF Engineers—Beer Cooler Sponsor

Herc Rentals Trench Solutions - Beer Cooler Sponsor & Tee Sponsor

J.M. Turner Engineering, Inc.—Tee Sponsor

RCX, Inc—Cigar Sponsor

Saturday, September 16,

ECA Wine & Dozers Dinner & Auction—Graton Rancheria

Thank you to sponsor: Engelke Construction Inc—Gold Sponsor

To sponsor click [HERE](#)!

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

The updated 2023-2024 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

GAS CYLINDERS - SLEEPING GIANTS

I am a sleeping giant. I weigh 175 pounds when full. I come in various colors, green, yellow, black, etc.

I am pressurized at 2216 pounds per square inch (psi). I wear a protective cap when not in use.

I wear valves, gauges, and hoses when at work.

I transform stacks of material into buildings, process plants, and many other things when properly used.

click [HERE](#)



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



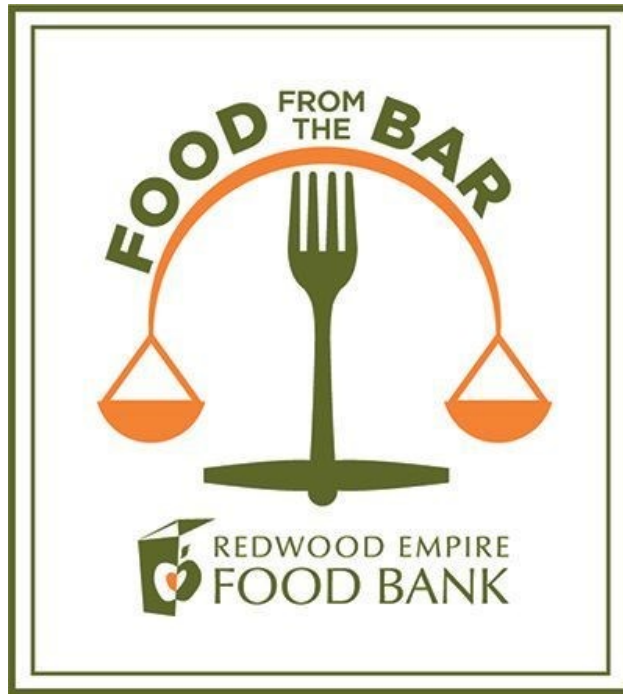
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For Team Page Donations click [HERE!](#)



ECA SAFETY TRAINING CLASSES

CPR / First Aid

Tuesday, June 6

9 am—noon

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

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 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

- 1) **Peter Rumble and the Metro are helping build housing projects!** [Partnership invests in getting affordable housing developments off the ground in Sonoma County \(pressdemocrat.com\)](http://pressdemocrat.com)
- 2) **SMART is expanding-** [Sonoma–Marin train plans spending surge for rail, path projects \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
- 3) **If you are not looking for road rehab projects in Solano County, you probably should be-** [What Gov. Newsom’s disaster declaration means for Solano County \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
- 4) **Since CA residents are fleeing and more housing is being built, shouldn’t housing prices be coming down?** [California is losing population and building new houses. When will home prices come down? \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
- 5) **Even though these HR experts are not in our specific industry, we can still learn from them-** [North Bay human resources experts reveal latest trends in hiring, recruiting and employee retention \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
- 6) **Duckhorn is getting bigger!** [Big Duckhorn winery growth plans win Napa County approval \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)



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