



“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.



Santa Rosa (and Regional?) PLA or “Community Workforce Agreement” Update

Reminder-the ECA takes no public position on labor issues and Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) have been defined as a labor issue. I am simply informing you as to the progress of a monumental PLA being drafted as you read this rather than voicing an opinion on whether this is a good policy or a bad policy to adopt.

Background-a Project Labor Agreement, when in place, requires ALL workers to be signatory to the PLA requirements. In simple terms, a PLA requires workers (subcontractors, engineering services, and suppliers) to be a union member, paying health and welfare and pension fees to the union, and working under the PLA which may or may not follow existing collective bargaining and master labor agreements.

The City of Santa Rosa Community Workforce (Project Labor) Agreement is about to go into effect on July 1, 2023. The City of Santa Rosa attorneys are negotiating and writing drafts right now and trying to gain approval from the North Bay Building and Construction Trades Council as you are reading this. For clarity, I will refer to the “agreement” being crafted as a PLA even though the official title of the policy is the “Community Workforce Agreement”.

Last month, the ECA Board had a presentation with Jessica Mullan (Assistance City of SR Attorney) and Jason Nutt (Assistant City Manager and Interim Head of Santa Rosa Transportation and Public Works Department. Just prior to that meeting, I was informed that the PLA would follow existing Collective Bargaining and Master Labor Agreements that, had that happened, would have excluded quarries, batch plants, and most trucking from the PLA. However, during that meeting, the ECA learned that the final approval of any PLA policy would have to be approved by the North Bay Labor Council representing 18 different trades and the Council did not want exclusions for CBA’s and MLA’s to be allowed.

Continue on page 2

Inside this issue

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



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Continued from page 1

Giving final approval to the North Bay Building and Construction Trades Council, was made back in October of 2022 by the City Council of Chris Rogers, John Sawyer, Tom Schwedhelm, Victoria Fleming, Eddie Alvarez, Natalie Rogers and Diana MacDonald. The vote was 5-2 (Sawyer and Schwedhelm voting “no”) in favor of directing the staff to craft a PLA for all Public Works projects in excess of \$500,000 and to craft the policy such that the North Bay Building and Construction Trades Council (hereafter referred to as the “Council”) approves it.

Attempts and negotiations between staff and union representatives have been underway since November, of 2022, and staff “floated” ideas to include in the PLA policy that could “condition” the PLA language to “carve out” PLA inclusion for certain work types that do not have strong local union resources to perform the work, and for emergency work.

- a. **I am hearing these categories will be required to be included in the PLA:**Local trucking firms,
b. local quarries,
c. the manufacture of, and delivery of offsite prefabricated materials,
d. certain engineering services, such as testing, surveying, etc
e. concrete ready-mix plants and delivery, asphalt plants,
f. chip seal specialists,
g. sewer trunk lining services,
h. and L.I.D. materials that are made specifically for a public works project.

The latest update is that the labor group (the “Council”) that needs to approve the PLA has communicated to the city attorney that they want no exclusions to the PLA requirements after July 1, 2023, except for work that needs to be done for a public emergency.

The City SR staff and City Council members are aware that certain types of projects might not have any qualified bidders and/or materials could likely be sole sourced for asphalt, concrete, rock import and some other items after July 1, 2023. The city is preparing to deal with this possible eventuality.

Compliance with the new PLA policy will be “fluid” following July 1, 2023. I understand that the City may be subject to a “joint check”, or final withholding of funds based upon allegations of misconduct concerning the PLA in some egregious circumstances.

The management of public works projects will be different after July 1, 2023, in Santa Rosa. Their staff are meeting and discussing compliance issues and language that will need to be included in the bid documents.

I have a copy of the draft from the City Attorney office and if you would like to read it, please contact me and I will forward it to you.

In the meantime, for those of you who do not do a lot of work with the City of SR but might with other agencies (like Sonoma County Public Infrastructure), be aware that other owners/agencies are watching carefully as they are getting pressured to adopt PLAs or “redo” their existing PLA policy (as is the case for Sonoma County).

That’s All Folks!
John

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Great Job **Highway 101** General Contractors, Engineers, Suppliers: [Marin-Sonoma Narrows highway construction hits new milestone \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
2. **Haystack Landing Asphalt Plant** News From Petaluma-[Is the Dutra asphalt plant still coming to Petaluma? \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#). I spoke on behalf of this Dutra effort 13 years ago. Dutra should be an ECA member!!!
3. The much-anticipated **ECA promotional** video will be done within hours, not days. Thanks to Sound Ideas, Trans Tech, and all those firms that agreed to be in the video: GBI, GCC, BoDean, Argo, Team G, and others. Alejandro and his team at Sound Ideas did a great job for the ECA!! Please consider thanking them by hiring them to do some promo work for your own firm!
4. **How to influence policy:** Sonoma County Public Infrastructure (formerly Transportation and Public Works) crafted a “summary report” and sent it to the Board of Supervisors to vote on today, June 12, 2023. When I received a copy of this report, I included it in a request to NCBE, NorthBay Leadership Council, the Farm Bureau, NORBAR, Sonoma County Alliance and SOS to encourage them to write a letter of support to the Supervisors. The summary report and the ECA letter of support are included here for your information click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) Not only did we encourage other groups to write letters of support, we succeeded in that the Farm Bureau, NorthBay Leadership Council, North Coast Builders Exchange, Save our Sonoma County Roads all wrote to our five supervisors to express support for increasing the general fund financing or road repair from 2% to 5% to cover increasing costs of road repair as less travelled roads are soon to be repaired that are “farther out and will cost more”. Thanks to our Executive Committee for their leadership under President Antonio Mencarini in authorizing this effort!

COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

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. Listen to Walt’s ad that Sonoma Media will be playing on various stations. 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](#)!

ECA News:

The ECA is meeting with the City of Santa Rosa on June 15, 2023, to discuss how to make Public Works projects go to bid quicker, get bid and awarded faster, and get built and completed quicker. We will be meeting with the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, the Head of Capital Projects, the Materials Lab, and several Engineers in a collaborative meeting. If you are an engineer, supplier, service provider, or contractor, please let us know if you have any topics or opinions you would like to share with us at this meeting. Contact me with any questions or comments: John Bly 707-483-0859



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



Thank you to Casey Wood & MacGarret Osman, (photo) from Chico, he is interning at Ghilotti Bros Inc for the summer. They worked hard putting together the Kubota that Garton Tractor donated for the Father's Day Car Show on Sunday!.

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

Sonoma Media—Media Sponsor

Ghilotti Bros Inc.—Raffle Sponsor

Engelke Construction Inc—DJ Sponsor

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

Friday, July 21

ECA Golf Tournament

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



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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

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Click [HERE](#) to read more!



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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