



“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.

Virtue Signaling Hits the Brick Wall

Called Reality

Remember-this is an op-ed piece and I do not speak for the ECA or any of its members in this “Soapbox”. These are just my ramblings that hopefully you find thought provoking.

One of the trendier “virtue” causes that has gained tremendous traction in some sectors, is Climate Change. I label it virtue signaling because in the practical world, how much difference does it make to the world climate that we (in the USA) ban gas appliances while Russia, China, India and Indonesia continue to pay virtually no attention to climate change issues and continue to build coal power plants/ do deforestation/and use leaded fuel for their millions of vehicles?

None.

There are several trendy virtue signaling topics in the last decade or so. While such expressions of moral support for climate change legislation may warm the hearts of a cause’s fervent believers, they mean little in the real world where, as the old saying goes, actions speak louder than words. From banning gas appliances in new houses to limiting vehicle miles travelled to force feeding the public into buying electric vehicles rather than carbon driven vehicles, it does not really matter much when China, India, Russia, and Indonesia are not synced up with us. As they build coal fired plants and spew lead-based gas into the atmosphere, the USA spends trillions trying to make a climate change impact.

Virtue signaling.

Examples of other virtue signaling abound, such as a [bill passed](#) by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom to create a commission to [recommend reparations](#) for Black Californians whose ancestors were enslaved. Once the price tag came in for the reparations cost, you quickly saw Newsom switch from direct reparations to inferring publicly that “there are other ways to do reparations” than cash payouts.



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That is what happens when virtue signaling runs smack dab into the brick wall called “reality”.

Another classic example of political virtue signaling is now making its way through the Legislature – a constitutional amendment declaring that Californians have a “[fundamental human right to adequate housing.](#)”

In the proposed constitutional amendment, you can find this sentence.

“It is the shared obligation of state and local jurisdictions to respect, protect, and fulfill this right, on a non-discriminatory and equitable basis, with a view to progressively achieve the full realization of the right, by all appropriate means, including the adoption and amendment of legislative measures, to the maximum of available resources.”

Wow. Who doesn’t want to believe that?

Well-for one, anybody who owns property that rents it out now or is thinking about building a project that rents it out. I say that because rent control, obstacles to eviction, and other “realities” would fit that sentence part that says, “adoption and amendment of legislative measures to the maximum o available resources”.

The housing crisis can be solved by developers building more housing. That is it. Government is not in the business of building housing and has never been. But the only way investors will put up the millions of dollars it takes to build more housing, is if there is a profitable and dependable outcome to tenants paying for that housing.

[Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10](#) is full of the vague language that lawyers love because it requires lawsuits and judicial interpretations to have real-world meaning. Developers will hate it. Virtue signalers will love it.

But when the virtue signaling of “housing for all” hits that brick wall called “reality”, Newsom and other politicians will try to put a spin on it like they did reparations.

That’s All Folks!

John

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. The City of Santa Rosa staff has been directed to attach a PLA agreement to all public works contracts after July 1, 2023 that exceed \$500,000. The PLA agreement must be approved by Labor and the City. Should one or both of the parties not sign off on the document, I am not certain what the city will do on July 1. The ECA takes no position on labor issues but this is informational news without taking a position. Here is an update:
 - A. The City is still talking with Labor about carving out local suppliers and some trucking from the PLA. Since it has not been decided and agreed upon yet, it is not included in the current PLA document.
 - B. Two main points of disagreement between Labor and the City seem to be over “termination for convenience” clause that is currently in the document but apparently Labor does not agree with the language included in the PLA, and the other issue is regarding what document governs – the contract or the PLA? These were not obvious contentious issues several weeks ago, but have become contentious. It remains to be seen whether Labor will sign off on what the city is proposing.

All the City Council members have their emails and telephone numbers listed on our website- www.nceca.org.

2. Pictures from the 28th Annual Car Show [here](#)
3. Federal Reserve Rate Hikes-The Federal Reserve has held its benchmark interest rate steady at about 5% during a policy meeting this week, the first such decision since March 2022. Policymakers' forecasts suggest the Fed could lift rates twice more in 2023. A [statement](#) from the Federal Open Market Committee notes that pausing rate increases "allows the committee to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy." **Full Story:** [The Associated Press](#) [The New York Times](#) [Bloomberg](#) [NBC News](#)
4. Construction Equipment going electric? [The construction industry is switching to electric equipment – here's why \(electrek.co\)](#)
5. How can Artificial Intelligence work in the General Engineering Industry? [Contractors use artificial intelligence to increase efficiency - Talk Business & Politics](#)
6. Excavator Sales Surge in 2022-[Construction Boom Fuels Surge in Excavator Sales - WSJ](#)
7. Are you “tight” with Google? [Google gets approval for massive project to build new neighborhood in Mountain View - CBS San Francisco \(cbsnews.com\)](#)
8. What will Graton look like after a \$1 billion expansion? [Here’s what Graton Resort and Casino will look like after its \\$1 billion expansion \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
9. 60 acre Hannah development-[Details of the new 60-acre development planned by Hanna Center on Agua Caliente Road \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

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!



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

COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

Car Show—Once again, thank you to all for their help volunteering at the 28th Annual Show and Shine Car Show. Thank you to our volunteers: Walt Turner, Casey Wood, Kristi Pruett, Tony Mencarini, Corinna Fernandez, Paul Stathatos, Jeannine Clary, Stephen Knuttel, David Whitehurst, Robin & Dave Weller, Mary, Robin, Megan Turner, Josh West, Michael Bryan, Ruthann McDaniel, Ryan McDaniel, & Cheryl Saucedo. Ghilotti Bros Inc. & Ghilotti Construction guys came to help set up, park the cars and clean up. I hope I didn't miss anyone. We appreciate all the help and couldn't do it without our volunteers! [Photos!](#)

The ECA Golf Tournament **The ECA Golf Tournament** Committee with Victor McKnight and Dave Weller (along with the ECA Exec Committee), has reached capacity. WE ARE SOLD OUT! Sponsorships are still available so please jump in and support the event whether you can play or not. —[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!](#)



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ECA 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, July 21

ECA Golf Tournament

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



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[J.M. Turner Engineering, Inc.](#)—Tee Sponsor
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Saturday, September 16,

ECA Wine & Dozers Dinner & Auction—Graton Rancheria

Thank you to sponsor: [Engelke Construction Inc](#)—Gold Sponsor

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Roger Hermsmeyer's Corvette now owned and cared for by Kenny Burge

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

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

SUSPENDED LOADS

Lightning does not have to strike often to do a job on you. Just once is usually enough. And it is the same with overhead loads. If one falls on you, it generally makes a permanent impression.

That is why we always should stay out from under cranes, booms, and buckets. This means concrete buckets as well as backhoe buckets. Your first accident may be your last.

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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SPECIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

The ECA met with the City of Santa Rosa on June 15, 2023, to discuss how to make Public Works projects go to bid quicker. Please go to our website and review last week's newsletter to see the details of the meeting. Great meeting! Thanks to all who participated!



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