



“CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

ECA NEWSLET-



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.

What, Me Worry?

Climate Change concerns and public transit funding are barreling towards a head on collision soon.

California legislators want cars off our roads, and they want people to take public transportation (buses, trains, etc.) to get where they are going, so carbon emissions from cars will decrease. Nobody disputes that full buses and trains are more efficient in moving people than cars with one or two riders in them.

However-Newsom’s administration is having a “come to Jesus” moment with themselves and the citizens of California-just a few short months ago, Newsom touted a \$100 billion budget surplus, and now is being a lot more honest in saying overspending and delaying tax payments for many individuals has led to a \$32 billion (or much more) deficit.

Newsom must do “something” to cut spending and his recently proposed budget (being considered and voted on this month) has started to address what that “something” is.

Newsom has proposed slashing \$2 billion from public transit project funding in the proposed new budget. This is in direct conflict with the climate change activists who want to see more people riding public transit regardless of what the fare box income is.

Can we say “BAILOUT”?

On Tuesday, State Elected representatives staged a rally in Sacramento asking for Newsom (and YOU) to bail out public transit that has refused to cut staff, lower operational expenses, and discontinue plans to expand service in light of dwindling ridership. [State Leaders Rally for Transit Funding in Budget – Streetsblog California](#)

One would think that operators of the biggest public transit provider in the Bay Area (BART) would be considering cutting costs and/or raising income so they do not have to rely on a state bailout considering a huge state deficit.

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BART has a massive budget deficit to overcome (\$1.1 billion five-year deficit). The [two-year preliminary budget](#), released Friday, combines cutbacks and budgetary gymnastics to decrease BART's \$143 million shortfall in 2025 by almost half, to \$78 million. The agency's total deficit through 2028 would shrink by \$123 million, or 11%, under the latest proposal.

Clearly, BART is going to depend on a bailout from taxpayers to correct their overspending and casual attitude towards pandemic inspired worker transportation changes now, and into the future. If there is a bailout for public transit, the money will have to come from another "pot of funding".

This "other pot of funding" is what concerns me. The clear choice to me is to take it from the funding of the stupid high-speed train from "nowheresville to nowhere" in the Central Valley. If not that "pot", does anybody believe that our road repair pot of funding is safe?

Clearly, if BART is only addressing their deficit by 11%, they are counting on getting bailed out by Newsom or Biden. Instead of cutting costs sooner, cutting services that are too expensive, they seem to be saying as Alfred E Neumann used to say in that venerable magazine called MAD,

"What Me Worry"

Yes-we should be worried. We need to write out State representatives like Damon Connolly and Mike McGuire and tell them to keep their public transit hands off our road funding!

That's All Folks!

John

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](#)

Continued from page 2

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!](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- 1) **\$6 million plus Grant for Marin to Replace/Upgrade Water Lines!** [Marin utility gets \\$6.4M grant for water main replacements \(marinij.com\)](#)
- 2) **Lead Local Economist Says No Recession-**But that's not the end of the story-[Recession on the horizon? No, but don't look for an economic recovery anytime soon \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
- 3) **Dutra Haystack Landing Asphalt and Wetlands Project-**Is It Going To Happen?- [Is the Dutra asphalt plant still coming to Petaluma? \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
- 4) **Calistoga Trying to Figure Out What to do With Fairgrounds-**[Napa County ponders what to do with Calistoga fairgrounds \(napavalleyregister.com\)](#)
- 5) **Newsom's Executive Order to Speed up Infrastructure Projects-**[GSS 9534-1E-20230519101235 \(ca.gov\)](#)
- 6) **Highway Work Becoming Less Safe-Survey: Highway construction is becoming less safe**
More than 50% of contractors responding to an annual highway work safety survey by the Associated General Contractors of America and HCSS say vehicles have crashed into their work zones during the past year, and 97% of contractors say work zones are as dangerous as or more dangerous than they were a year ago. AGC wants more states to approach work zone safety as Oklahoma does: Oklahoma is the first state to require a work zone safety course to obtain a driver's license. **Full Story:** [KNXV-TV \(Phoenix\)](#) [The Baltimore Banner](#) [Engineering News-Record \(tiered subscription model\)](#)
- 7) **Kendall Jackson and Investor Group Buys John Ash and Vintners Inn-**[Santa Rosa's Vintners Resort acquired by Jackson wine family, Southern California investment group \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)



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

Sonoma Media—Media Sponsor

Ghilotti Bros Inc.—Raffle Sponsor

Engelke Construction Inc.—DJ Sponsor

Herc Rentals Trench Solutions - Donation

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Recology—Donation

Ozzie's Grill—Donation

Trattoria Cattaneo—Donation



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



Friday, July 21

ECA Golf Tournament

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



Thank you Sponsors!

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Aaction Rents - Putting Sponsor

Ghilotti Bros. Inc.—Cigar Sponsor

BoDean Company - Golf Cart Sponsor

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George Petersen Insurance—Hospitality Hole

Personal Asset Brokerage—Hospitality Hole

Soiland Co. Inc.—Hospitality Hole

Peterson Trucks—Hospitality Hole

Cresco Equipment Rentals - Promotional Hole

Safety Pride—Jim Persons—Promotional Hole

Landesign Construction & Maintenance—Promotional Hole Sponsor

Devincenzi Concrete Construction - Raffle Sponsor

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

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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

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

THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

According to National Safety Council statistics, almost 14,000 of all fatal motor vehicle accidents involved a driver's failure to yield the right of way.

More than seven thousand people died because a driver failed to give another motorist the courtesy of the road. How many times do you find yourself in a me-first situation-too bullheaded to give up the road?

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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