



“CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

ECA NEWSLETTER

JOHNS SOAPBOX



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.



Regulations Require Maintenance

Requirements are getting more and more expensive and complex to build in Northern California. This last week I met with Nathan Quarles from Sonoma County and Gabe Osborn from City of Santa Rosa on issues pertaining to getting a project going that needs grading, encroachment, Fire and building permits.

It isn't getting easier.

When rules are established, there are usually good reasons to establish regulations initially. Once regulations are in place, they become impediments to construction in ways the original drafters of the regulation never envisioned. The result of these regulations is that goals to build more housing, or to zone an area for commercial development, or even a goal to make our roads better, become way more complex and expensive. The end result is the improvements either are not done (too risky or too expensive), or that developers and planners need ever increasing piles of money to accommodate these regulations.

I know- this is an old issue. But some of these well intentioned regulations are hard to get rid of.

At The Construction Coalition meeting held Thursday, we discussed complex issues facing our housing industry moving forward on much needed projects.

Some regulations and issues we discussed that have become obstacles to construction:

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- A).CEQA. Initially created to protect the public from pollution from public projects, it has now become a “weapon” to stall or deny projects if they increase “vehicle miles travelled”.
- B. Hillside Ordinance. Initially created to protect public from impacts from building on steeper hillsides that could fail and affect downhill folks, it is now an expensive design/construction item that is broadly applied to planter areas and other low risk parts of a project.
- C. The 50 yard “trigger” that necessitates a grading permit. There is nothing that modifies this requirement that has to do with the size of the project. Seems ridiculous that a landowner wanting to rerock his long driveway needs a grading permit right?

Some of the benefit of participating in an ECA or other association that influences these regs, is obvious. Just trying to understand them on your own is difficult. The ECA will continue to dialog with groups and agencies that administer these regulations and make you all better businesses because of those continuing efforts!

Where these regulations lend themselves to a “fix”, the ECA will be at the table pushing for that fix.

That’s All Folks!
John Bly

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COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

1. **Government Affairs Committee**-chair Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions.
 - A. Mark Adams withdrew from Supervisor race vs Lynda Hopkins.
 - B. Elected Officials Meetings Upcoming for GAC: Mike Wall Town of Windsor, Mark Stapp City of Santa Rosa.
 - C. Meetings will be scheduled by August 15, 2023

2. **Specification Committee**-co chairs Dale Smith of RCX and Casey Wood of Ghilotti Brothers In. Meeting held 7-19-23 Meeting Notes:
Attendees-Steve Mosiucchak Sonoma County Fire, John Bly ECA, Dale Smith RCX, Casey Wood GBI, Gabe Osborn City of Santa Rosa, Nathan Quarles County of Sonoma Permit Sonoma, Tony Mencarini GCC

Subjects-Grading Permits, Encroachment Permits, Fire Line Permits-entitlement process takes a long time -what can we do to shorten process?

County has different issues than SR. County gets application, it is checked for completeness by a technician, then distributed to primary and secondary review departments (like Fire, Sewer, Grading, etc.). Review by departments create Comments and application is held until all departments respond before resubmittal can occur. This is time consuming and can lead to confusion as various reviewers may not submit complete list of comments after initial review. Applicant can get application back and might think comments are complete, resubmit accordingly, and more complete application then gets more complete comments. Process could repeat several times.

Logical fix? Allow conditional approval on “up front” items so construction process can begin and resubmit on application areas that need more or corrected info. Problem? County feels confusion and loss of control could occur.

SR issues are primarily due to prioritization. Example is a complex affordable housing application comes in at same time as a “one off” commercial project. Due to staffing issues, the “one off” project could be pushed aside for a while.

Logical fix? Not many options as bigger project will get priority. City of SR does have core belief to do creative approvals to keep the project construction going.

3. **Nominating Committee**-chair Walt Turner of North Bay Petroleum. Meeting was held 7-17-23, attendees Mike Gulley of NWGEN, Tony Mencarini of GCC, Kimber Carpenter Lenning of Kadon Trucking, Dan Giordano of Argonaut, Dave Weller of RCX, John Bly of ECA.

Committee went over past applicants and added more to be considered for Contractor of the Year, Affiliate of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Hall of Fame both living and posthumous, Golden Hardhat, and Bridge Award. On all but Bridge Award, Committee refined choices to no more than three candidates to be decided at August Committee meeting and presented to Board of Directors at September 19 Director meeting. Committee came prepared, candidates were vetted, and there was good participation and energy. Although I had asked for suggestions from the Board and ECA membership, I received no suggestions, so all candidates were proposed by the committee. No real problem with that at all. Good choices were made in my opinion.

4. **ECA Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Committee** chair Mary Kennedy Cabrera. Next Auction committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 26 at noon at NCBE meeting room. General need is for donated items and attendees to try and invite friends that will bid on the items and fun prize events. To sponsor click [HERE!](#)

ECA SAFETY CLASS

CPR/First Aid Class

Wednesday, August 23, 2023
9 am - 11 am



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



This year's event will be even better! **West Coast Diesel's** is proud to announce that the event will be hosted by **West Coast Fundamentals**, a non-profit that is geared towards helping young people get better access to the trades.

We will be using funds from sponsors and donors to help young people into auto mechanics and other trades.

For the event, we will be adding a dyno.

The event is on September 9th! The dyno will be opening at 9am due to the excess demand! The Show and Shine will be open at 12pm and the Tractor Pulls will start at 5:30pm.

Please email/call us with any questions or if you'd like to be part of the show.

Email: info@westcoastdiesels.com—Phone: 707-595-3026—Donation and Sponsorships will be tax deductible!

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

Blockbusters at the Ballpark ~ LUCA

September 7th 6:00-9:00pm

Attention all athletes, families, volunteers, and friends! Get ready for a movie night extravaganza on our fabulous Miracle League field. It's time to kick off the fall baseball season in style, and we want you to join us for a night of Italian fun! So mark your calendars for September 7th and get ready to be swept away! Click [HERE](#) to register!



ECA 2023 EVENTS



ECA Golf Tournament

Thank you again to our Sponsors and to all the players at the tournament

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Saturday, September 16,

ECA WINE & DOZERS DINNER & AUCTION

Graton Rancheria

Thank you to our sponsors:

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[Engelke Construction Inc](#)—Gold Sponsor

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[BoDean Company](#)—Live Auction—Blast and Brews

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 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](#)

ECA NEW MEMBER

Granite Construction

Matt Storm
1324 S. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: 707-467-4129
Email: matt.storm@gcinc.com
<https://www.graniteconstruction.com/>



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Safe Driving Skills

Driving contributes to far more work-related deaths and serious injuries than all other work activities. Review safe driving skills and company safety standards using this safety meeting template.

click [HERE](#) for 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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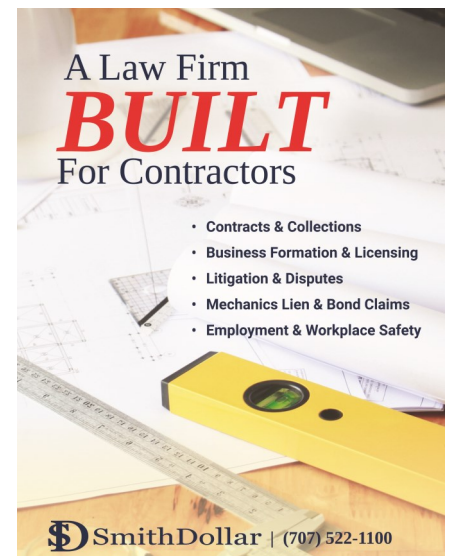
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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

1. County of Sonoma passed Project Labor Agreement on 7-18-23. Waiting for written document and I will post when I can. I did watch the Supe meeting video (you can access the link [here](#)), and the material suppliers and trucking were excluded from the PLA with project limit going from \$10 mil to \$1 mil. Special thanks to Wendell Trappe and Jeff Rhoades from Canyon Rock and Kimber Carpenter Lenning from Kadon Trucking who took time to attend and speak. Kudos to Lisa Schaffner of NCBE for speaking on behalf of Construction Corps and CTE.
2. City of Santa Rosa PLA will now be in effect for public works projects going to bid after July 1, 2023. The written document will be sent to me before the end of July and I will distribute it. Unlike the County of Sonoma, the City of SR does have suppliers and trucking included in their PLA and we are already hearing some trucking firms are being required to have truck drivers pay the union benefits if they are bidding. The Board asked me to have Smith Dollar do a workshop on how to deal with bidding on City of SR projects as soon as possible. Look for the announcement as soon as the PLA document arrives!
3. Lots of work in Santa Rosa to bid right now, and more coming! County has one more big paving project coming soon as well.



Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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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!