



“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.



CA Legislators Ignore the Big Stuff

General Engineering Contractors and engineers need some big-ticket issues to be dealt with in Sacramento. We need to reform CEQA, streamline housing starts, and do something that helps people and businesses get reasonably priced insurance policies on their homes and businesses.

As California legislators reconvene to finish out their legislative session, there are hundreds of remaining bills to look at that they will be deciding on.

I have long been saying that we should only consider a new bill if two old ones are tossed out. Ok, that is not going to happen, but it is fair (and cynical) to say that if legislators chose to not do anything with 90% of the bills they have to consider, we would be better off.

It would be equally fair and cynical to say that the session will adjourn in September without effectively dealing with some very serious, even existential, issues that adversely affect the lives of those legislators are sworn to serve.

Another session will end without addressing misuse of the California Environmental Quality Act to stall or kill much-needed housing projects. Newsom persuaded the Legislature to reform [CEQA’s effects of public works projects](#), but is apparently [unwilling to take on the heavy lift of reforming](#) its impact on housing.

As the [housing crisis](#) persists, it forces ever-more low-income Californians out of homes and apartments and into the streets, thus worsening the nation’s worst – by far – [homelessness crisis](#) that the Californians put at the top of their concerns.

Yet those elected to do something about housing and CEQA reform, “fiddle while Rome burns”.

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Many democratic legislators are committed to an ideological criminal justice reform (or in other words, turn the criminals into victims), and are loath to crack down on the mobs that are terrorizing retail businesses, schools, and neighborhoods. One of the pending measures, [Senate Bill 553](#), would compel employers to implement plans to mitigate violence against their workers, facing fines and potential lawsuits for failure. Business groups complain that it would wrongly blame employers, rather than criminals, for invasive attacks. No wonder businesses are fleeing California in record numbers!

There are many other issues being ignored, and one of the more important is a [developing crisis in home insurance coverage](#) as one-by-one, [insurers shun the California market](#), saying that [wildfires](#), construction costs and other factors are creating more financial exposure than they can cover with premiums.

Despite the peril posed by wildfires and the ever-worsening insurance availability crisis, the net result from recent hearings in Sacramento was that everybody thought something should be done, but nothing concrete emerged.

Sigh-I can only hope that legislators will refrain from making things worse. Anybody want to bet that they won't?

That's All Folks!

John

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

The Nominating Committee, led by Chair Walt Turner, met on August 15, 2023, and discussed the 2023 Award winners and the 2024 Board of Directors and Officers. It was an efficient process, and we are 95% ready to make our recommendations to our current Board of Directors at the next BOD meeting on September 19, 2023.

ECA Exec Meeting was held August 15, 2023, to discuss the half year review of our financial reports, progress by our committees, and other ECA business. I want to thank the Officers for 2023 that are doing a fine job representing the ECA member firm interests: Past President Walt Turner, Current President Antonio Mencarini, Vice President Mike Gulley, Treasurer Dan Giordano, and Secretary Kimber Lenning Carpenter. Thanks to all of you and your member firms for allowing you to lead this organization this year!

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ECA Board of Directors Meeting was held August 15, 2023, from 12-1:30 pm. Special guests were Jason Nutt (Assistant City Manager for Santa Rosa, and James Jensen (Deputy Director of Engineering Services for the City of Santa Rosa). Although it was nice to meet and learn a bit about Mr. Jensen, the “meat and potatoes” of the presentation was the update on the City of Santa Rosa new Project Labor Agreement policy. It was widely believed and reported that the new PLA would include a requirement that local material suppliers (quarries, AC batch plants and concrete ready-mix companies) would have to sign on to the PLA and in effect, have their employees join the union in order to bid on City of Santa Rosa Public Works projects over \$500,000 in value. Although Jason admitted he believed that to be the case, when the City of Santa Rosa sent me the new PLA policy and I distributed it to several stakeholders (PLA policy is found by clicking on this [Link](#). Jason explained to us on Tuesday that local material suppliers are NOT bound by the PLA. However, trucking firms are bound by the PLA policy. As an example, it is fine for Canyon Rock to bid on aggregate, sand, gravel, and even ready-mix concrete-but the products have to be delivered to the project site by truckers that are under the PLA policy-in other words-truckers have to be Teamsters. It was noted that there are no signatory trucking firms in Northern California that have the resources to handle our local trucking needs, and the City of Santa Rosa PLA policy also requires trucking firms to meet the 30% local hire part of the PLA policy. In practice, both the ECA and the City of Santa Rosa believe that there will be no signatory trucking firms that can meet the 30% local hire requirement, so how that will be handled is the big question mark that we are faced with at this time. There are several projects coming out to bid in the next 30 days, so the PLA will get a “test” quickly. Continue page 4



North Bay Job Fair
northbayjobfair.com

We have TWO Job Fairs coming up soon:

<p>Wed, September 20 2:00-4:30 Luther Burbank Center for the Arts Santa Rosa</p>	<p>Wed, October 4 3:00-6:00 Elsie Allen High School Roseland</p>
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[Register below](#)

email 8pellamysonomamedia.com with questions

[North Bay Job Fair | Amaturio Sonoma Media Group](#)

RKB Leasing: Unleash Potential with Our GPS/Laser ready 2021 CAT D4 Dozer for Rent!

Powerful. Versatile. Reliable. RKB Leasing presents the GPS/Laser ready 2021 CAT D4 Dozer for rent, perfect for any terrain or project. Experience top performance, operator-friendly design, and cost-effective solutions. Daily, weekly, monthly and longer-term rentals. Machines serviced and tested by skilled technicians. Competitive rates for an exceptional value. Contact us at RKBLeasing@gmail.com / Tyler Brownlee 707-494-6468



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Warm Springs Dam, Sonoma County

ECA SAFETY CLASSES



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

Competent Person / Trenching & Excavation

Wednesday, September 6, 2023
9 am - 12 pm

The course will cover soil analysis, sloping, shoring and shielding, hazardous situations, excavation standards and more...

click [HERE](#) for flyer

Continued from page 3

ECA Government Affairs Committee led by Chair Art Deicke, met Tuesday, 8-15-23, and had discussions with Omar Medina who is challenging Sonoma County Supervisor Chris Coursey in 2024. Although we were friendly and professional, we did not get the feeling that Mr. Medina would be a recommendation for Supervisor by our Committee. The Committee also discussed upcoming ballot measures that voters will be asked to vote on like:

- A. Napa Transportation Tax Measure-([Napa transportation agency crafting 2024 ballot measure to help fix county roads \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)) although this is still being written, it is needed (according to the supporters) because the Napa sales tax measure passed in 2018 that generates around \$25 million per year, is not enough funding to take care of the Napa County road problems. The Committee decided it would be best to have John Bly track this tax measure and report back to the GAC on whether this is a measure the ECA wants to endorse and help pass.
- B. The Committee also discussed the looming ½ cent sales tax measure for increased fire services. No decision was made as to recommending support at this time.
- C. Also coming to voters, is a sales tax measure that would expand preschool education and childcare in Sonoma County. No recommendation is ready to be presented by the GAC at this time.
- D. Other measures and candidates were discussed from State offices to Marin/Sonoma/Napa and the GAC will be meeting regularly to keep our membership informed.
- E. Next meeting was set up for the GAC for 9-19-23 at 1:30 pm and the GAC will meet with City of Santa Rosa Councilman Mark Stapp.

ECA Community Relations Committee-Chair Lacey Torkelson Smith and I have been contacted and are reviewing a request from the Children's Museum to get involved with expanding their parking facilities in Santa Rosa. I suspect this will be discussed at our September Board of Director meeting on 9-19-23.

ECA 2023 EVENTS

ECA WINE & DOZERS DINNER & AUCTION

Graton Resort & Casino
Saturday, September 16,

Don't miss out! Get your reservations in today!!!
Sponsorships are also still available!

For Registration Flyer click [HERE](#)
To Register online click [HERE](#)
To Sponsor click [HERE](#)

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Hotels nearby: [Oxford Suites](#) & [DoubleTree Hotel](#)



RAT PACK GALA!



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.

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](#)

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!



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Workplace Violence Safety

Workplace violence is any threat, disruptive behaviors, intimidation, physical aggression, or act of violence in the workplace, including homicide. Homicide in the workplace is currently the fourth leading cause of death on the job.

According to OSHA, over 2 million people report being victims of workplace violence every year.

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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EVENT NEWS & INFORMATION

Auction is coming up gang! Ghilotti Brothers have stepped up to be our Auction Premiere Sponsor!
Thanks GBI!

Get your guests (with expense accounts!) together for a great night! Here are some recent auction items that we have gotten:

49er VIP Box Seat tickets

Sold out "Pigs and Pinot" tickets

Dinner for 4 at Dry Creek Kitchen

A beautiful 7 speed yellow cruiser style bike

VIP wine tasting and a 3 night stay at Russian River Vineyards for 4

And many more items from jewelry, to a ride on truck for kids!

This Auction is our last big event of the year and it is held to keep the ECA viable and continuing to advocate for your businesses. We hope you will attend and enjoy the fantastic evening on September 16. Our priority is advocating for your business, so we hope you can make this last event of the year a priority to demonstrate your fun loving side as well as supporting the ECA!

The ECA Annual General Membership Meeting has been set for Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 4:30 -6:00 pm. The meeting is "Where's Our Dam Water" and it will feature the topic of the Potter Valley and Eel River diversion project as well as the possible demolition of the Van Horn and Scotts Dam and possible halting of Eel River water diversion. This water diversion is a huge issue for Sonoma County, and we are happy to have lined up Pam Jean and Grant Davis from Sonoma County Water Agency to present the topic and longtime water rights advocate Janet Pauli from Potter Valley. Although not confirmed yet, we have invited Supervisor David Rabbitt and will invite Congressman Mike Thompson to discuss this with us. We are looking for a sponsor for this event so if you would like your name to go "front and center" to our Congressman, our State Senator McGuire, and our Sonoma County Supervisors as the main sponsor, please contact Mary or myself ASAP so we can get you listed on all correspondence and flyers.

The Maui fires certainly remind us of our own losses and life changes caused by the 2017 fires. If you feel inclined to donate to the cause, we recommend sending a contribution to [Home - Hawaii Community Foundation](#)





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BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS





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!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Hot Dang! Way to go Senator McGure! \$195 million for Marin County highway fix! [Marin highway projects get \\$195M state infusion \(marinij.com\)](#)
2. For What Its Worth Section-[Close to Home: What you're missing on the SMART train \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
3. Speeding When Nobody's Looking? [Bay Area drivers may soon get automatic tickets for going 11 mph over speed limit \(petaluma360.com\)](#)
4. Napa Pipe Costco-is it ever going to get built and opened? [Napa Costco sign signals store opening progress \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
5. How High Is the Water Mama? [California, facing another wet winter, races to prevent more flooding with levee repairs \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
6. Napa County Transportation Tax-[Napa transportation agency crafting 2024 ballot measure to help fix county roads \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
7. Have we Reached the Height of Absurdity about CEQA yet? Not challenges are being made because people make noises!! [As another housing project stalls on noise concerns, another head sprouts from 'CEQA Hydra' \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

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!

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!