



August 28, 2023

“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.**



### YIMBYs- (Yes In My Back Yard)

A group known as Flannery Associates have been (not so quietly) buying up a lot of acreage near Travis Air Force Base. The company, which has little information public about its operations, has committed more than \$800 million to secure thousands of acres of farmland, court documents show. One parcel after another, Flannery made offers to every landowner for miles, paying several times the market rate, whether the land had been listed for sale or not.

Since 2018, landowners have been selling land to Flannery Associates, at 4-5 times market value. Purchases started around \$5,000/acre, and recently have risen to a reported \$20,000/acre.

Very mysterious.

Speculation and gossip were maybe Disney was opening a new theme park, China was buying land to spy on Travis AFB, and other ideas.

Now, residents and businesses have received texts and emails with a poll gauging their opinions on a number of questions. One asked them to rate the favorability of several names including “Joe Biden,” “Donald Trump” and “Flannery Associates.” Another question began with a description of a possible ballot initiative for a project that “would include a new city with tens of thousands of new homes, a large solar energy farm, orchards with over a million new trees, and over 10,000 acres of new parks and open space.”

The famous line from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid comes to mind- “Who are these guys?”

Continue to page 2

### Inside this issue

- John’s Soapbox.....1
- Board of Directors.....2
- Committee Meetings & Reports.....3
- Safety Classes.....4
- Job Opening.....4
- Wine & Dozers Auction.....5
- Workers Comp.....6
- Emergency Response manual.....6
- Fire Clean up List.....6
- From the Desk of Jim Persons.....7
- Event News & Information.....8
- Sustaining Members.....9
- Tractor Pulls.....10
- News you can Use.....11



Continued from page 1

**2023  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT:**  
ANTONIO MENCARINI  
Ghilotti Construction Co

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
MIKE GULLEY  
Northwest General Engineering

**TREASURER**  
DAN GIORDANI  
Argonaut Constructors

**SECRETARY**  
KIMBER CARPENTER LENNING  
Kadon Trucking

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
WALT TURNER  
North Bay Petroleum

**CONTRACTORS**

JOHN SERRES JR,  
Serres Corporation

KRISTI PRUITT  
RCX, Inc

MIKE WOLFF  
Wolff Contracting

CASEY WOOD  
Ghilotti Bros. Inc

**AFFILIATES**

PAUL BARTHOLOW  
Brelje & Race

JEFF CONNER  
Aaction Rents

ART DEICKE  
Environmental Pollution Solutions

CORINNA FERNANDEZ  
PACE Supply

JAY JAEHNIG & RICK NORTON  
R&S Trucking

TRISHA MCCOMAS  
Moss Adams LLP

VICTOR MCKNIGHT  
InterWest Insurance

KEVIN NOONAN  
Toby's Trucking

JEFF OKREPKE  
George Petersen Insurance

RYAN WILD SICI  
Cal-West Rentals

GLENN SMITH  
Smith Dollar PC

MARK SOILAND  
Soiland Company

TROY SOILAND & SPENCER REID  
Northgate Ready Mix

JONATHAN TRAPPE & JAMES TRAPPE  
Canyon Rock Co.

BILL WIGGINS  
Trans Tech Consultants

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

JOHN BLY

**MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR**

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

*Flannery is the brainchild of Jan Sramek, 36, a former Goldman Sachs trader who has quietly courted some of the tech industry's biggest names as investors, according to the pitch and people familiar with the matter. The company's ambitions expand on the 2017 pitch: Take an arid patch of brown hills cut by a two-lane highway between suburbs and rural land and convert it into a community with tens of thousands of residents, clean energy, public transportation and dense urban life.*

*The company's investors, whose identities have not been previously reported, comprise a who's who of Silicon Valley, according to three people who were not authorized to speak publicly about the plans. They include Moritz; Reid Hoffman, the LinkedIn co-founder, venture capitalist and Democratic donor; Marc Andreessen and Chris Dixon, investors at the Andreessen Horowitz venture capital firm; Patrick and John Collison, the sibling co-founders of payments company Stripe; Laurene Powell Jobs; and Nat Friedman and Daniel Gross, entrepreneurs-turned-investors. Andreessen Horowitz is also a backer. It was unclear how much each had invested.*

*Brian Brokaw, a representative for the investor group, said in a statement that the group was made up of "Californians who believe that Solano County's and California's best days are ahead." He said the group planned to start working with Solano County residents and elected officials, as well as with Travis Air Force Base, next week.*

[The Silicon Valley elite who want to build a city from scratch in the North Bay \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)

Whether you think this is a good idea or a bad idea, it is an idea that could create thousands of jobs for the ECA member firms. How fun would it be to reconstruct the dangerous Highway 12 section from Rio Vista to Suisun City? Can you imagine how cool it would be to develop a water source for another 10,000 homes and run the transmission mains out through those brown grass covered hills?

It may be "pie in the sky", but I have to hand it to those guys from Silicon Valley—they are looking for a way to influence "YIMBYISM" in an area close to us, when we are all very used to the term "NIMBY" which stands for objection to building much of anything because folks say, "Not In My Back Yard".

Whether anything comes from this or not, I doubt we have heard the end of the discussion. I would imagine we will see something carried forward by a pro-growth legislator soon, (are there any of those left in California?) to do something to solve the crazy high prices in Silicon Valley and neighboring areas. At least these guys are thinking outside the box in their vision.

Oh, and they have committed \$800 million to their vision.

I am rooting for them!!

That's All Folks!

John

## COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

**The Nominating Committee**, has done its job under the leadership of Walt Turner, Antonio Mencarini, Dan Giordano, Kimber Lenning Carpenter, Dave Weller, and Mike Gulley. Their recommendations will be presented at the ECA Board of Directors meeting on September 19. **ECA Exec Meeting** will meet again on September 19, at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at NCBE small conference room.

**ECA Board of Directors Meeting**, led by President Antonio Mencarini of Ghilotti Construction, will meet again on September 19, 2023, from 12:00pm to 1:30 pm at the NCBE main Board room.

**ECA Government Affairs Committee** led by Chair Art Deicke, has their next meeting scheduled for September 19, from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, and we will be meeting with 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



The graphic features a blue background with white wavy lines. At the top center is a white box containing the text "North Bay Job Fair" in a serif font, with "northbayjobfair.com" below it. Below this is a yellow banner with the text "We have TWO Job Fairs coming up soon:". Underneath, two columns of text provide details for each event. The first column is for Wednesday, September 20, from 2:00-4:30 at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa. The second column is for Wednesday, October 4, from 3:00-6:00 at Elsie Allen High School in Roseland. At the bottom, a yellow button says "Register below" and a small line of text provides an email address: "email Bpell@mysonomamedia.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](mailto:RKBLeasing@gmail.com) / Tyler Brownlee 707-494-6468



The advertisement features a white background with a red and green logo for "Sound Ideas Media" that includes a drone icon. To the right, a list of services is shown: "Aerial Video & Stills", "Video & Commercial Production", "Photography ★ Animation", "Info & Motion Graphics", and "Virtual Events ★ Media Services". Below the logo, the text "VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHY DESIGN" is visible. A red banner at the bottom left contains "SOUNDIDEASMEDIA.TV" and "707.321.6803". On the right, a photograph of a dam is shown with the caption "Warm Springs Dam, Sonoma County".

## ECA SAFETY CLASSES

### 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

---

## JOBS OPENING

THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA IS NOW HIRING CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS TO JOIN OUR TEAM IN PROVIDING CRITICAL SERVICES TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY! JOIN A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND MOTIVATED TEAM WHO TAKE PRIDE IN DOING QUALITY WORK

This recruitment is being conducted to fill vacancies in Transportation and Public Works - Capital Projects Engineering (CPE) Division, as well as any future regular or limited-term vacancies Citywide during the life of the eligible candidate list. If you are interested in this position or a possible future Civil Engineering Technician position at the City, should one become available, including transfer opportunities, you are strongly encouraged to apply now. The City of Santa Rosa is committed to building a workforce reflective of our community and establishing a lasting culture of equity and belonging within our organization. Our collective talents and expertise contribute to high-quality public services that support a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive City for our community and visitors. We celebrate a diverse workforce and welcome all qualified candidates to apply.

[Civil Engineering Technician I, II, III | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

---

### ECA Wine & Dozers Auction ~ Some live auction items:

#### Shoot & Lunch

You and 5 of your friends will be in for a treat for an afternoon of a delicious lunch and then head to the world class sporting clays course. the 25-acre Vintners Shooting Grounds feature 15 fully automated shooting stations, each containing three shooting positions displaying over 90 different target presentations. This world-class sporting clays course will also feature a multi-trap high tower for the discerning wing shooter. **Donated By: John Serres, Serres Corporation**



#### Blast & Brews

For 8 Guests! Bring your closest friends or family and come out to detonate a blast at BoDean's Mark West Quarry. Wrap the afternoon up with lunch and drinks at a nearby restaurant.

**Donated By: BoDean Company**

## 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](#)

### Thank you to:

[Ghilotti Bros. Inc.](#) - Premier Sponsor & Live Donation

[Toby's Trucking](#)—Platinum Sponsor

[Soiland Company](#) - Platinum Sponsor

[Aaction Rents](#)—Martini Bar Sponsor

[ASP, Inc.](#) - Dinner Wine Sponsor

[Peterson CAT](#)—Dinner Wine Sponsor

[RCX Inc.](#)—Bar Sponsor & 4 tickets for the July 2024 Sonoma Raceway drag races for 3 days!

[American Asphalt](#) - Gold Sponsor

[Argonaut Constructors](#) - Photo Booth Sponsor

[Brelje & Race Consulting Engineers](#) - Gold Sponsor

[Cresco Equipment Rental](#)—Photobooth Sponsor

[Daniel O. Davis](#)—Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor

[Don Ramatici Insurance, Inc.](#) - Gold Sponsor

[Engelke Construction Inc](#)—Gold Sponsor

[Maggiora & Ghilotti Inc.](#)—Gold Sponsor

[North Bay Petroleum](#)—Gold Sponsor

[Stevenson Supply & Tractor Co.](#) - Port & Cigar Sponsor

[Ghilotti Construction](#)—The Ultimate Experience for Four 49er Fans!

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

[PACE Supply](#)—Live Auction

[Ritchie Bros.](#) - Auctioneers & Donation

Safety Pride - Live Auction

[Smith Dollar PC](#)—Live Auction

[Mill Creek Safety](#) - Live Auction

[Pedy's Petals](#)—Live Auction

[George Petersen Insurance](#) - Bronze Sponsor

[Sound Ideas](#) - Media

[Mike Bikes](#)—Donation

**Champagne Skirt Donators**

[Empire Construction & Engineering Co. Inc.](#) -

[Wolff Construction](#)

[Ghilotti Construction](#)

[Team Ghilotti](#)



## RAT PACK GALA!



# 49ERS



## 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](mailto: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

### Working Alongside Subcontractors

No matter what industry you are in, you are inevitably going to work around subcontractors or vendors quite often. The services of other companies are necessary to move work forward.

Like any new addition or change in a workplace, subcontractors can create many hazards for everyone working there. It is important to consider the hazards created when utilizing subcontractors and what can be done to mitigate the hazards.

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](mailto:jimpersons@safetypride.com) or phone: 707-889-0881

## Cabrera and Associates

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.  
Project Consultant

[tacabrera@yahoo.com](mailto:tacabrera@yahoo.com) / 707-321-9951

[www.cabreraassoc.com](http://www.cabreraassoc.com)

Have you got a project in mind?  
Let Cabrera & Associates provide solutions  
Land Use Planning  
Real Estate Development  
And Governmental Relations



**TRANS TECH CONSULTANTS**

*Civil Engineers and Geologists*

License # 697833 (A-Haz)

Since 1987

### Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

- County Application and Work Plan Preparation
- Coordination of Asbestos Survey and Fire Debris Disposal
- Air Monitoring, Erosion Control and Confirmation Sampling
- Cleanup Certification Report by Civil Engineer

[info@TransTechConsultants.com](mailto:info@TransTechConsultants.com)

Office (707) 837-8408 or after hours (707) 478-2097

## EVENT NEWS & INFORMATION

**The ECA Days of Wine and Dozers Annual Auction** is upon us. This is an event that is rich with memories and traditions, and I hope you all attend and have a great time. When I used to own my own firm, I would always buy a table, buy my table guests the \$100 card and the 50-50 entry, and I would get some of my presents for Christmas. I did not get too caught up in whether I was paying a market price or if I got a great deal-I was happy to support the association that was doing what it could to keep my firm represented at the many meetings and negotiating tables and I always knew, and appreciated, that the ECA had my firm's best interests in mind. I felt attending and participating was a good thing for my guests to enjoy, and for the company to enjoy because the ECA was a little bit healthier for my small contribution. I hope you all feel the same way!

Thanks to all the many sponsors (listed here: [Ghilotti Bros. Inc](#) - Premier Sponsor, [Toby's Trucking](#), [Soiland Company](#), [Aaction Rents](#), [ASP, Inc.](#), [Peterson CAT](#), [RCX Inc.](#), [American Asphalt](#), [Argonaut Constructors](#), [Brelje & Race Consulting Engineers](#), [Cresco Equipment Rental](#), [Daniel O. Davis](#), [Don Ramatici Insurance, Inc.](#), [Engelke Construction Inc](#), [Maggiora & Ghilotti Inc.](#), [North Bay Petroleum](#), [Stevenson Supply & Tractor Co.](#), [Ghilotti Construction](#), [BoDean Company](#), [PACE Supply](#), [Ritchie Bros.](#), Safety Pride, [Smith Dollar PC](#), [Mill Creek Safety](#), [Pedy's Petals](#), [George Petersen Insurance](#), [Sound Ideas](#) and thanks to all of you who have signed up for a table or just a dinner or two. We will do everything we can to return your dollars back to you in a "return on investment" and in having a great time on September 16!!

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

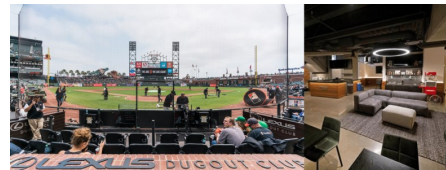
Dinner for 4 at Dry Creek Kitchen

Four Lexus Dugout Club tickets, Giants vs Arizona

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 safety classes, jewelry, to pig hunting to trap shooting



The **ECA Annual General Membership Meeting** has been set for Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 4:30-6:00 pm at Charlies at Windsor Golf Club. Our premiere sponsor is Smith Dollar Attorneys at Law! Thank you, Smith Dollar PC!!

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 Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore in a recorded interview done by Sound Ideas, as well as live panelists Pam Jean and Grant Davis from Sonoma County Water Agency and longtime water rights advocate Janet Pauli from Potter Valley.





## CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



---

## 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.

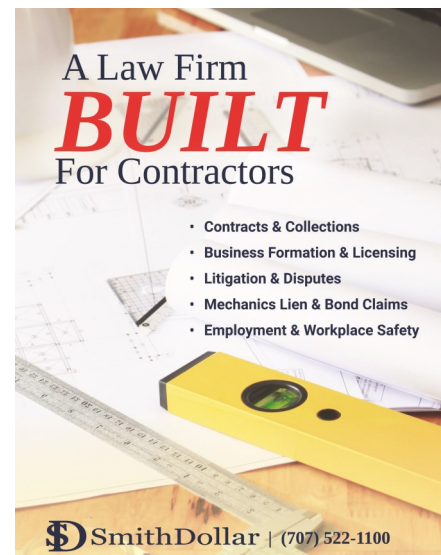
For the event, we will be adding a dyno.

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](mailto: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. As I reported last week, Highway 37 is one of the projects receiving new funding from the Infrastructure Bill and it could result in some quick projects coming out to bid-[Highway 37 gets federal funding boost to lift it above rising sea levels \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
2. While California is not seeing a major decrease in its population, the forecast is for California's population to remain "flat" for the next 40 years. There are a few counties that will likely see more than 10% growth in that period-[California's population is projected to remain flat. But these counties will see big jumps \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
3. Where's the Bridge? [Caltrans scraps plan to replace aging Bohemian Highway Bridge in Monte Rio leaving Sonoma County officials scrambling | PD Plus \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
4. Sonoma Development Center Plan for new housing just got a bit larger. [Sonoma County 'blindsided' as Sonoma Developmental Center developer seeks to add hundreds more housing units \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
5. You Choose to Strike, and We Pay You to Do That? No freaking way!!! [As Hollywood strikes drag on, California lawmakers consider unemployment pay for striking workers \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
6. It is Getting Tougher to Get, Much Less Afford, Home Insurance-[California FAIR Plan launches residential discounts \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
7. Like Him or Not, Guy Raises a Lot of Money for Fire Victims-Thanks Guy!! [Guy Fieri's Maui fundraiser to bring 30 celebrity chefs to Sonoma County \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
8. As a Frequent Flier into and Out of Sonoma County Airport, I Love The Upgrades! [Sonoma County airport celebrates completion of terminal, announces new additions to airport experience](#)

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](mailto: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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) ~ We would love to have you!