



“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.**



Last week, I wrote about CEQA and how it is being weaponized by neighborhoods and special interest groups to halt projects and make development more expensive in California. This is such a big subject and affects all of our ECA members so drastically, I decided to do another Soapbox on this subject.

### “SEE-kwa” Part 2

In the “news you can use” portion of this week’s newsletter, I found 3 quick examples of CEQA being used to halt, delay, or add probably unbearable expense to projects in several counties. The use of CEQA has gone far beyond its original purpose which was to protect the public and the environment from publicly built projects that could harm the environment. Now, it is clearly being used by neighborhood groups to keep projects from being built, and the self-serving part of that effort is with limitation on the supply of housing and projects, it makes those opposing the project see their property values increase. It is quite obvious many projects are not being built because of these CEQA challenges.

What has been done or is being done in support of CEQA reform and who is in favor of reform, and who is opposed? You may be surprised!!!

Governor Newsom wants to reform CEQA

Environmental groups are pissed at Newsom.

[What’s in Newsom’s California CEQA reform plan?- CalMatters](#)

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Continued from page 1

Here is an excerpt from the CalMatters article:

“California isn’t short on what the governor might call “[big hairy audacious goals](#).” The state has a plan to harvest all of the state’s electricity from [carbon-free sources by 2045](#). The Newsom administration adopted a [plan to phase out the sale of gas-guzzling cars](#), shifting the state’s appetite for driving onto the electricity grid. Proposed projects on water — to [store it](#), to [strip it of saltwater](#), to keep it at bay as [sea levels rise](#) and [rivers top their banks](#) — abound.

To meet those goals, California needs to build, potentially at a scale that would dwarf even the boom times of the 1960s. At a breakfast [gathering of big business representatives](#) in Sacramento on Thursday, the governor stressed that the state is ready to spend \$180 billion over the next 10 years, much of that money coming from the federal government.

“The question is, are we going to screw it up by being consumed by paralysis and process?” Newsom asked.

Several leading organizations quickly issued statements expressing skepticism about Newsom’s proposal to modify the state’s landmark environmental law. Their leaders wanted to see more details than his office disclosed this week.” *In a statement, Sierra Club California director Brandon Dawson said that the group is still reviewing the idea but expressed serious reservations. “We acknowledge the governor’s desire to promote clean infrastructure, but this proposal needs a lot of work,” he said.*

*Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, the executive director of the group Restore the Delta, lashed out at the governor following the release of the order.*

*“We have never been more disappointed in a California governor than we are with Gov. Newsom,” she said in a statement.*

I don’t know about the rest of you, but if Sierra Club and Restore the Delta is opposed to something, I am generally highly supportive of that something. Although Newsom did not specifically mention housing, he did comment that housing should see some relief from lawsuits over CEQA from the proposed streamlining efforts.

I will ask Art and the GAC if they want to start sending letters to our local elects as well as our State Senators and Assembly representatives supporting significant and speedy CEQA reform. I hope United Contractors, AGC, and the State Chamber political representatives will join us in pushing hard for making it less expensive to build roads, projects, power plants, water reservoirs, and housing in the near future.

That’s All Folks!  
John

## SPECIAL MEETINGS & EVENTS:

1. The Nominating Committee, led by Chair Walt Turner, will meet again on August 15, 2023, from 10am to 11am at small conference room at NCBE. Walt has led his committee to award winners and for this next meeting, we will be discussing 2024 ECA Board Members. Final decisions will be made by the entire Board of Directors in September and October after the committee makes its recommendations to the Board in September.
2. ECA Exec Meeting to be held August 15, 2023, at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at NCBE small conference room.
3. ECA Board of Directors Meeting to be held August 15, 2023, from 12-1:30 pm., special presentation by the City of Santa Rosa Transportation and Public Works to introduce the new Deputy Director of Engineering Services, Mr. James Jensen.
4. I have not yet received the written PLA policy for either the County of Sonoma or the City of Santa Rosa yet. When I do, I will distribute to you all.



The banner 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 large, blue, serif font, with "northbayjobfair.com" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. Below this is a yellow horizontal bar with the text "We have TWO Job Fairs coming up soon:" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath the yellow bar, the details for two job fairs are listed in white text on a blue background. The first job fair is on Wednesday, September 20, from 2:00-4:30 PM at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa. The second job fair is on Wednesday, October 4, from 3:00-6:00 PM at Elsie Allen High School in Roseland. A yellow oval button with the text "Register below" is centered below the job fair details. At the bottom of the banner, the text "email Bpellemysonomamedia.com with questions" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

**North Bay Job Fair**  
northbayjobfair.com

**We have TWO Job Fairs coming up soon:**

<b>Wed, September 20</b>	<b>Wed, October 4</b>
<b>2:00-4:30</b>	<b>3:00-6:00</b>
<b>Luther Burbank Center for the Arts</b>	<b>Elsie Allen High School</b>
<b>Santa Rosa</b>	<b>Roseland</b>

**Register below**

email Bpellemysonomamedia.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.

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The image shows a promotional graphic for Sound Ideas Media. On the left is a circular logo with a green drone icon and the text "Sound Ideas MEDIA" in a stylized font, with "VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHY DESIGN" written below it. To the right of the logo is a list of services: "Aerial Video & Stills", "Video & Commercial Production", "Photography ★ Animation", "Info & Motion Graphics", and "Virtual Events ★ Media Services". Below the services list is a photograph of a large concrete dam with water flowing through its spillways. In the bottom left corner of the graphic, there is a red banner with the text "SOUNDIDEASMEDIA.TV" and "707.321.6803". In the bottom right corner, there is a small caption that reads "Warm Springs Dam, Sonoma County".

**Sound Ideas MEDIA**  
VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHY DESIGN

**Aerial Video & Stills**  
**Video & Commercial Production**  
**Photography ★ Animation**  
**Info & Motion Graphics**  
**Virtual Events ★ Media Services**

**SOUNDIDEASMEDIA.TV**  
**707.321.6803**

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



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!

## ECA 2023 EVENTS

# ECA WINE & DOZERS DINNER & AUCTION

Graton Resort & Casino  
Saturday, September 16,

Thank you to:

[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 Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
[Daniel O. Davis](#)—Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor  
[Don Ramatici Insurance, Inc.](#) – Gold Sponsor  
[Engelke Construction Inc](#)—Gold Sponsor  
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[Stevenson Supply & Tractor Co.](#) – Port & Cigar Sponsor  
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Safety Pride – Live Auction  
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For Registration Flyer click [HERE](#)  
To Register online click [HERE](#)  
To Sponsor click [HERE](#)

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](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.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. New ECA Member Granite wins Highway 101 contract-[Granite wins \\$23M Caltrans contract \(theconstructionbroadsheet.com\)](#)
2. Gotta Get You Some-[Commerce grants \\$930M for U.S. broadband expansion projects \(theconstructionbroadsheet.com\)](#)
3. Somebody must engineer and do the work-how about your firm? [Sonoma, Mendocino County grape growers battling new rules designed to reduce sediment, pesticides in local waterways \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
4. Last week I wrote about how CEQA (SEE-KWA) was being used as a weapon by NIMBY's and special interest groups-here is real time evidence of it-[St. Helena housing project faces environmental lawsuit \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
5. Oh-"SNAP!" Here is another "SEE-KWA" lawsuit halting a project at Clearlake-[Koi Nation sues Clearlake over sports complex development \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
6. Well now-yet another CEQA lawsuit halting a project-[Tiburon sued over Paradise Drive housing site \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
7. Congratulations Nikki! [BKF Engineers names new marketing director \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
8. Sonoma County is not the only County with road fix problems-see what Napa is trying to do for tax revenue-should ECA support? Governmental Affairs Committee will discuss on the 15<sup>th</sup> at their next meeting-[Napa transportation agency crafting 2024 ballot measure to help fix county roads \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### Heavy Equipment Safety— Two Significant Hazards

Heavy equipment such as cranes, bulldozers, front loaders, dump trucks, excavators, etc., are used on virtually every single construction site. There are many hazards created by the use of this equipment for those who operate it and especially for those who work around the equipment. It is easy to become complacent when working around these machines every single workday.

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

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Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

ECA's 31st Annual Days of Wine & Dozers Dinner & Auction



RAT PACK GALA!



Saturday, September 16 Graton Resort & Casino 288 Golf Course Drive Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Live Auction 8 pm Port & Cigars 9 pm

31st Annual ECA Days of Wine & Dozers Dinner & Auction Saturday, September 16 Starting at 6 pm " Graton Resort & Casino \$180 per person - \$1,800 for a table of 10) email, mary@nceca.org

Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration form with fields for Company Name, Contact, Address, phone, email, Credit Card #, Exp. date, Signature, and checkboxes for Individual(s), Method of Payment, and Food Choices.



ECA | PO Box 8249 | Santa Rosa, CA 95404 | 707.546.5500 ph | mary@nceca.org





## CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



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## BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS



## COMMITTEE NEWS & INFORMATION

1. **The ECA Golf Tournament** happened July 21 and I wanted to give a big “shoutout” to our Argonaut and Ghilotti Construction!!! Thank you for being our big sponsors for this event!
2. **ECA Spec Committee**-chaired by Dale Smith of RCX and Casey Wood of Ghilotti Brothers Inc. – next meeting is September 20, 2023, at 4:00 pm in the NCBE main conference room.
3. **Auction Committee Auction is coming up gang!** Get your guests (with expense accounts!) together and let’s go have a great time supporting the ECA!! Thank you!



***Sexton & Son Construction Co., Inc.  
dba Farr Construction Co.***

(SANTA ROSA / SONOMA COUNTY)



**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

(EXCAVATOR, DOZER, BACKHOE, SKID STEER, LOADER, ETC.)

E-MAIL RESUME: [DEPDIGGER@AOL.COM](mailto:DEPDIGGER@AOL.COM)

\$35-\$45 PER HOUR DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE

FULL TIME POSITION / SEASONAL

POSITION DESCRIPTION: FARR CONSTRUCTION CO. IS A CALIFORNIA CSLB GENERAL ENGINEERING COMPANY DOING BUSINESS IN SONOMA COUNTY FOR OVER 35 YEARS WITH A GOOD REPUTATION OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION. YOU WOULD BE WORKING ON RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES TO PREPARE SITES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION. YOU WOULD BE RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS, TRAINING, AND GUIDANCE FROM THE COMPANY OWNER AND JOB SUPERINTENDENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

***Sexton & Son Construction Co., Inc.  
dba Farr Construction Co.***

(SANTA ROSA / SONOMA COUNTY)



**CONSTRUCTION LABORER**

E-MAIL RESUME: [DEPDIGGER@AOL.COM](mailto:DEPDIGGER@AOL.COM)

\$25-\$35 PER HOUR DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE

FULL TIME POSITION / SEASONAL

POSITION DESCRIPTION: FARR CONSTRUCTION CO. IS A CALIFORNIA CSLB GENERAL ENGINEERING COMPANY DOING BUSINESS IN SONOMA COUNTY FOR OVER 35 YEARS WITH A GOOD REPUTATION OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION. YOU WOULD BE WORKING ON RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES TO PREPARE SITES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION. YOU WOULD BE RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS, TRAINING, AND GUIDANCE FROM THE COMPANY OWNER AND JOB SUPERINTENDENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

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