



“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.

LABOR DAY-Have A Beer but not On the Job!

Even though you are getting this newsletter the day after Labor Day, I felt it would be appropriate to write about how this National Holiday came to be. Labor Day is a Holiday and is a celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers.

Back in 1776 when America was brand new, most American families lived in candlelit homes with bare floors and unadorned walls, cooked and warmed themselves using open fireplaces, and owned few changes of clothing. Almost all goods were made by hand and, as a result, were sometimes scarce and fairly expensive.

The Industrial Revolution changed the nature of goods being made by hand by artisan craftspeople, and a new concept began that industrialized the process of making consumer goods.

As production became mechanized and relocated to factories, the experience of workers underwent significant changes. Previously, farmers and artisans had controlled the pace of their labor and the order in which things were done. If an artisan wanted to take the afternoon off, he could. If a farmer wished to rebuild his fence on Thursday instead of Wednesday, he could. Their workdays allowed for socialization and, sometimes, breaks for drinking. In fact, alcohol was often used as payment for goods back then. It led to socializing and those artisan craftspeople enjoyed the freedom to make their goods without restrictions.

Work in factories proved to be quite different. Employees were expected to report at a certain time, usually early in the morning, and to work all day. They could not leave when they were tired or take breaks other than at designated times. Those who arrived late found their pay docked; five minutes’ tardiness could result in several hours’ worth of lost pay, and repeated tardiness could result in dismissal.

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MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

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Although in the early to mid 1800's, some folks benefitted from being able to work in factories, it was a tough life. Factory workers, also known as "wage workers"—was a population disproportionately composed of immigrants and poorer Americans—who faced low wages, long hours, and dangerous working conditions. Class conflict developed. Instead of the formal inequality of a master-servant contract, employer and employee entered a contract presumably as equals, with employers providing a wage and employees providing valuable labor. However, hierarchy was evident: employers had financial security and political power; employees were replaceable due to the free-market labor system and high competition for jobs. Finding themselves dependent upon the whims of their employers and the often mercurial turns of the free market, some workers advocated for strikes and **labor unions** in order to leverage their labor and demand better conditions or higher wages.

The long hours, strict discipline, and low wages, however, soon led workers to protest their working conditions and pay by organizing. Thus was born the "Labor Movement-Unions".

In the 1880s, labor unions and advocates started the effort to recognize the contributions of union workers and thus "Labor Day" was created. The first State to make Labor Day a Holiday was Oregon. The first celebration was held in 1887 in New York City.

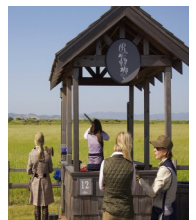
So, there you have it. Now we take a long weekend, where many people have a few drinks to celebrate the achievements of the labor unions to make a weekend a weekend, an 8 hour shift a work day, and many other contributions. So, when you hoist a beer on Labor Day next year, consider the irony that the celebration is somewhat caused by the factories saying "no" to having a beer on the job.

That's All Folks!
John

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

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Warm Springs Dam,
Sonoma County

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 \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

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!

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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

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[Soiland Company](#) - Platinum Sponsor

[Aaction Rents](#)—Martini Bar Sponsor

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[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

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

[Cresco Equipment Rental](#)—Photobooth Sponsor

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

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[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](#)—Donation

[Mill Creek Safety](#) - Live Auction

[Pedy's Petals](#)—Silent Auction Donation

[George Petersen Insurance](#) - Bronze Sponsor

[Sound Ideas](#) - Media

[Mike Bikes](#)—Donation

Champagne Skirt Donators

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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. 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](#)

The banner features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top center is the 'North Bay Job Fair' logo with the website 'northbayjobfair.com'. Below the logo is a yellow banner with the text 'We have TWO Job Fairs coming up soon:'. Underneath, two columns of text provide details for the job fairs: 'Wed, September 20' from 2:00-4:30 at Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa, and 'Wed, October 4' from 3:00-6:00 at Elsie Allen High School in Roseland. A yellow button with the text 'Register below' is centered at the bottom, with the email 'email Bpell@mysonomamedia.com with questions' written below it.

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

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Electrical Ground Safety

It is critical to understand where electricity is located on a jobsite in order to avoid electrocutions of workers.

Click [HERE](#) for the rest.



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

The ECA Days of Wine and Dozers is our last big fundraiser. We hope you join us on 9-16-23 and support our efforts to help your firm be as successful as possible. Without your support, we could not exist, and we appreciate you!

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

Two tickets to the Sold out “Pigs and Pinot”

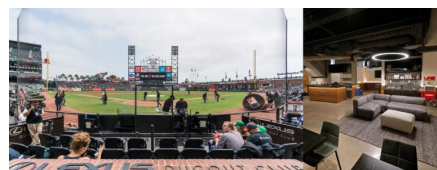
Dinner for 4 at Dry Creek Kitchen

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.

Smith Dollar is proud to have assisted with the formation of the **Santa Rosa Fire Foundation** and act as its general counsel.

The Foundation was formed after the North Bay wildfires, as a way for the community to assist with the expansion of services for the Santa Rosa Fire Department. Funds raised by the Foundation support the health and wellness of our first responders, recruit firefighters and enhance programs for wildfire resiliency.

When: Friday, October 13, 2023

Time: 6:00-8:00pm for Dinner and Live Auction

Location: Kunda Family Winery (9825 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452)

The Santa Rosa Fire Foundation is excited to share our second annual fundraising event to support the Santa Rosa Fire Department and commemorate the 2023 fire season coming to an end. The Foundation was formed in the wake of the devastating wildfires in Sonoma County as a way to inspire the generosity of the community to strengthen and expand the services of the Santa Rosa Fire Department by providing resources not otherwise available. Funds raised at this event will be used to help the Santa Rosa Fire Department institute innovative enhancements in the areas of wildfire resiliency, health and wellness of our first responders and building the next generation of firefighters in our community. Seating is limited so purchase tickets now.

Wine, Dinner, Music and Limited Live Auction

Click [HERE](#) to register



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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.

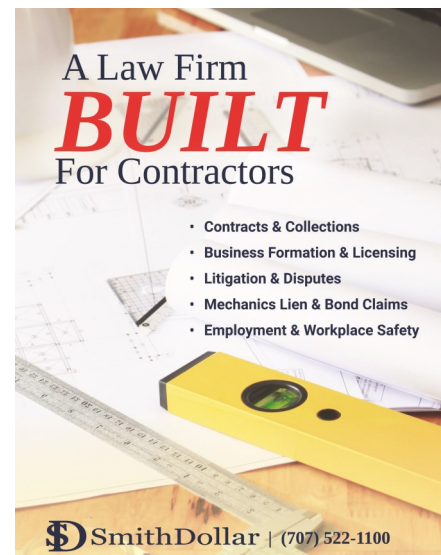
For the event, we will be adding a dyno.

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. Concord Naval Station development-[Concord City Council unanimously selects developer for former naval station site – NBC Bay Area](#)
2. As reported earlier-\$155 million funding secured for Highway 37-[California State Route 37 project receives \\$155M in funding - Transportation Today \(transportationtodaynews.com\)](#)
3. Permit Sonoma to educate us on how to navigate getting a permit faster-[Permit Sonoma hosts open house to help locals with new submission process \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
4. Sonoma County new housing plan approved-[Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approves housing plan \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
5. Caltrans, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, is pleased to report that the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft EIR/EA) for the proposed State Route (SR) 37 Flood Reduction Project (Project) is available for public review and comment. The document is available through this [link](#).
The Project proposes to build resiliency to the effects of projected 2130 sea level rise and stormwater overtopping onto SR 37 from the US 101 interchange to Atherton Avenue. We welcome your comments on the Draft EIR/EA during the 45-day public comment period from August 25, 2023 to October 8, 2023, via email to: SR37FloodProject@dot.ca.gov, or postal mail to Skylar Nguyen, Caltrans District 4, P.O. Box 23660, MS: 8B, Oakland, CA 94623-0660.

You are welcome to join Caltrans's hybrid public meeting on September 21, 2023, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. You may participate in the meeting virtually via Webex (<http://bit.ly/3YZzIRP>) or in person at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in the city of Novato. In this meeting, Caltrans will provide an overview of the Project and its purpose and need, the current build alternative, and the potential environmental impacts of the Project. Please see the attached letter and notice ad for more information on how to join the upcoming public meeting, how to submit a comment, how to view the virtual 360 tour, and other information.

Thank you,
SR 37 Flood Reduction Team

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!