



“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. Remember-these are my opinions, not those of the ECA or any of its member firms.



### *When The Shit Hits the Fan*

We all have had to deal with SWPP issues over the years. When you operate a fixed industrial site like BoDean does, it is quite a different animal. Recently, there were two articles on BoDean’s Mark West quarry in the news (the Bohemian and the Press Democrat) about alleged stormwater violations of their permit that led to Porter Creek turbidity. I am obviously not going into any detail that would compromise the efforts of our great and long-time member BoDean, but I thought some perspective might be helpful to all our ECA members.

To read the Press Democrat article on the record fine being levied on BoDean, click here [BoDean Co. facing record \\$8.6 million fine for stormwater management, discharge violations at Mark West Quarry | PD Plus \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#) The California Water Board includes the State Water Resources Control Board and nine Regional Boards. The State Water Board is one of six environmental entities operating under the authority of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The nine Regional Boards are semi-autonomous and are comprised of seven part-time Board members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Each Regional Board makes their own decision about taking appropriate enforcement action. Here are the members of the North Coast Regional Control Board and if you click on their names, you can find out a bit of background on them: [Board Members | California Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

It is my experience, and I have had some unpleasant personal and professional experiences with the Regional Board out of Sacramento on a project I ran years ago at Magalia, that once the Regional Board issues a violation with a fine attached to it to a firm, that might be when the shit has hit the fan.

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MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

From my experience, the Regional Boards years ago, did not want the compliance problem to get to the “fan” metaphor point. I certainly did not either, but it did. I want everyone in the ECA to find out how to avoid the “fan”.

For my battle, it was like the Black Knight in Monty Python with no arms and legs trying to fight off an attack-I had zero chance. We had a water treatment site that had Best Management Practices set up and operating, and we got hit with a huge rain occurrence that our holding pond could not handle. Our pond overflowed, and sediment ran into a creek. The fine was “ginormous”, and I tried to fight the fine as very little sediment got into the creek.

When our hearing began, it was stressful and expensive. And very unfair- they brought in expert testimony in recorded video format, or in a report, and without those experts being present, they submitted their evidence against me, and our attorney had no chance to question the expert or refute their findings. When we offered a report by our expert either in video or written form, the Board rejected it and would not allow it as evidence. When that happened, I knew it was time to “assume the position” and take what was coming.

I am not trying to infer that BoDean is at the point of when the “shit hits the fan” or not as I do not know. I just want to host a workshop soon on behalf of the ECA to identify when that “fan stuff” happens, so that we can avoid the spray at all costs.

With that in mind, I wish nothing but the best possible outcome for our good friends at BoDean, and the huge fine that was written about, seems way out of line for such an outstanding and conscientious firm as BoDean. I hope they can get to a reasonable accommodation with the Board quickly and as painlessly as possible.

The ECA will be setting up a workshop for early November that should help us all to avoid the shit hitting the fan if it is possible.

That’s All Folks

John

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!

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## JOBS OPENING

### Construction Technician I/II

Brelje & Race Consulting Engineers has an immediate opening for a Construction Technician. Experience should include underground utility, asphalt paving and/or water/wastewater treatment plant projects. The individual will be responsible for field engineering and construction monitoring at sites in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties. This on-call position is seasonal, with nearly full-time hours when active.

Responsibilities include contract compliance monitoring; observation and reporting of construction activities; coordination of quality control testing; tracking and coordinating project schedule; and maintaining client goals and expectations. Office duties may include assisting with contract administration services such as reviewing submittals, responding to requests for information, and maintaining construction contract logs and files.

Compensation: \$55 to \$75 per hour depending on experience, education, and licensure/certifications

See full job details at [www.brce.com/careers](http://www.brce.com/careers)  
Apply by emailing your resume to [careers@brce.com](mailto:careers@brce.com)

### The City of Santa Rosa is now hiring for a Quality Control Associate- Materials Engineering Lab

#### **ABOUT THE POSITION:**

This is a lead worker classification for the Civil Engineering Technician series. Quality Control Associates (QCA) operate with a high degree of independence and exercise independent judgement in the performance of their duties. QCAs provide specialized expertise in a defined area and have a higher level of lead, administrative, technical, and paraprofessional responsibility for that area of expertise. In collaboration with other engineering staff, QCAs update and improve the accuracy and efficiency of interrelated engineering systems, processes, and procedures. Positions in this class establish work priorities for the specialized area to which they are assigned and assure that their assigned area stays current with industry standards and trends.

Click [HERE](#) for more details.

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# ECA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**GRANITE** Sponsor



Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

## Where is our Dam Water

### General Membership Meeting

"Where is our Dam Water?" as we wrestle with environmentalists who want to remove dams and even stop diverting water from the eel river to lake Mendocino, Sonoma county businesses, farmers, and residents are at a crossroads. Do we put the interests of fish ahead of people?

Find out at the annual GMM!

4:30—6:30 pm

Thursday, November 16  
Charlies at  
Windsor Golf Club  
Windsor, CA

#### Speakers:

Supervisor James Gore via video,  
Grant Davis, General Manager Sonoma Water  
Janet Pauli, Redwood Valley Water and Ag expert  
Pamela Jeane, Assistant GM Sonoma Water,



Supervisor James Gore



Grant Davis,  
GM Sonoma Water



Janet Pauli, Chair,  
Mendocino County  
Inland Water and Power  
Commission



Pamela Jeane, Assistant  
GM Sonoma Water

Thursday, November 16, Charlies at Windsor Golf Club

**\$35 for ECA members ~ \$60 non-members**

**RSVP: [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) or call 707-546-5500**

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ECA | 1030 Apollo Way | Santa Rosa, CA 95404 | 707.546.5500 ph | [www.nceca.org](http://www.nceca.org) | [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org)

4:30—6:30 pm ~ Charlies, Windsor Golf Club  
Click [HERE](#) for Registration Flyer.

## 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](#)



## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### Getting on and off Equipment

Operators can be injured getting on and off equipment when they lose their footing, or the equipment moves suddenly. Injuries can range from sprains, cuts, and bruises to fractures and even death.

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



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## SAFETY TRAINING

### CPR / First Aid

Thursday, October 26, 2023

9 am - 12 pm

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

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Whether you're in search of workplace safety training to meet OSHA compliance requirements, Competent Person, Trench Safety, Confined Space, CPR/First Aid initial or update training or implementing a Safety Program ECA can help!

*The best way to beat an OSHA citation is to never get one at all.*

Email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) to set up a class today If you don't see a class you need listed please contact me.

CPR / First Aid: 3 hrs - \$95 per person

Confined Space: 3 hrs - \$150 per person

Competent Person / Trench Safety: 3 hrs - \$125 per person

Flagger Safety Training: 2 hrs - \$125 per person

Sexual Harassment—1 hr for Employees—\$25 per person ~ 2 hrs for Supervisors \$35 per person

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## EVENT NEWS & INFORMATION

The Annual General Membership Meeting, with Premiere Sponsor Granite Construction, is our last event of 2023 and will be held November 16, 2023, at Charlies, Windsor Golf Club, from 4:30-6:00pm. The topic will be "Where's Our Dam Water?" and guest speakers will include James Gore via video, David Rabbitt, Grant Davis (head of the Sonoma County Water Agency, Janet Pauli (Redwood Valley Water and Ag expert) and Pam Jean of the Sonoma County Water Agency who put together the latest proposal to the FERC for water diversion and dam removal. This is a huge issue to all Sonoma County residents, and you should find the meeting very informative indeed! Thank you to Granite for being our Premiere Sponsor!!





## CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



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## COMMITTEE NEWS

1. **ECA Government Affairs Committee-** led by Art Deicke has its next GAC meeting is 10-17-23 at 1:30 pm to meet with Mike Wall from the Town of Windsor Council. Meeting will be held in the small NCBE conference room.
2. **ECA Specification Committee-**the ECA Spec Committee, led by Dale Smith and Casey Wood, will reconvene on November 15, 2023, from 4-5:30 pm at the NCBE main Board room. We plan to hear about SWPP Rules and How to Handle Them as well as discussing permit issuance and retention issues.
3. **ECA Executive Committee Meeting-**next meeting is on Tuesday, 10-17-23 at 11:00 am. Topics will include the final recommendations for the 2024 Board of Directors, the 2023 ECA Award nominees, and the Officers for 2024. We will also review the 2024 proposed budget and calendar of events for 2024.
4. **ECA Board of Director Meeting-**next meeting will be held 10-17-23 from 12-1:30pm. Agenda with topics including: A. Final announcement of the Award winners and Directors and Officers for 2024. B. Review and adoption of the 2024 event budgets and overall budget for the ECA.



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Inflation may be cooling off

1. The U.S. government is expected to report that overall prices for consumers rose about 0.2% last month compared to August and 3.6% compared to a year ago. And core inflation, which accounts for prices not including energy and food, is expected to be up 4.1% from September of last year. That's better than the 9.1% peak in mid-2022, but it doesn't mean prices are lower than they used to be — they're just not rising as quickly. However, gas prices are on track to keep falling. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' report today could be especially significant for the trajectory of the economy as interest rates sit at their highest levels in two decades. The Fed is expected to announce whether interest rates will change at the beginning of next month.
2. **Construction jobs, momentum index up in September.** The construction industry added 11,000 jobs in September, with the lion's share coming in residential work, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Separately, Dodge Construction Network's Dodge Momentum Index rose 3% last month to a reading of 182.5 as the institutional component increased 9% and the commercial component registered a 1% decline. Full Story: Engineering News-Record (tiered subscription model) Dodge Data & Analytics
3. **Study suggests mileage-based fees for trucks can work.** A report from the Eastern Transportation Coalition suggests the reporting system motor carriers use to help determine fuel taxes has applicability for a mileage-based user fee for trucks. The conclusion is based on a pilot program that split trucks into weight-based categories and recorded mileage, with test road user fee statements sent to respective companies. Full Story: Civil Engineering

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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!



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