



“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.



God Help Us

I believe that the San Francisco Bay Area is ruined because:

1. Rampant homelessness and their advocates have turned public areas into filthy public camping areas and the government seems powerless to do anything but make hotels accommodate the “unhoused”.
2. Bay Area Justice departments and courts, with the support of the voters, keep removing penalties for criminal behavior and that has encouraged lawlessness as criminals understand there is no consequences for minor theft, vandalism, or aggressive property damage.
3. The justice system has been criminalized for the purpose of trying to redistribute social justice for groups seen as victims rather than criminals (reparations and entitlements).
4. Creation of “sanctuary” cities that protect illegal immigrants from being deported have made our borders “open” and not secure.
5. Drug use has been “enabled” by Bay Area lawmakers by offering services and drug paraphernalia to drug users free of charge.
6. High prices for housing make the Bay Area unattractive or not attainable by many young families who might otherwise want to live and work there.
7. Idealism policies have replaced pragmatic policies and spending by government agencies.
8. One party politics have removed checks and balances from the system which encourages special interest legislation favoring the few rather than the majority.
9. Social engineering has become commonplace in policies regarding climate change with no regard towards economic impact or personal choice.
10. Businesses are leaving because of looting and shoplifting financial impacts.

Let’s go over some of the positives that SF had going for it:

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Continued from page 1

Best harbor on the West Coast, 2. Two great Universities in Stanford and Cal Berkeley feeding young talent into the marketplace, 3. Close proximity to Silicon Valley which is a huge high income job creator and sustainer, 4. The Bay Area is the conduit for shipping to and from China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam in Asia. In WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, tremendous amounts of supplies were shipped out from San Francisco terminals. 5. Weather is mild year around, 6. San Francisco is the gateway to the wine regions of Napa and Sonoma Counties, 7. Downtown San Francisco a decade or so ago, was home to many financial headquarters and the price per sf of real estate was among the highest in the world, 8. Four California State Universities graduated thousands of teachers and other professional young people into the community of the Bay Area.

In other words, the San Francisco Bay Area had a “can’t miss” opportunity to sustain itself as a desirable area to live, work, and play.

In a few short years, that “can’t miss” opportunity has been killed off.

So, who can we blame for ruining the Bay Area?

- A. Let’s start with a list of District Attorneys who have “decriminalized the criminals”: (2004–2022) —Kamala Harris, George Gascón, and Chesa Boudin
- B. Now let’s go to the Mayors of San Francisco who have, in the last 30 year, made the City more filthy and rancid: Willie Brown (1996–2004), Gavin Newsom (2004–11), Bill Lee (2011–17), and particularly London Breed (2018–)
- C. Now let’s finish off by looking at the **Governors of California who have “fawned” over the San Francisco sourced State Senators, Mayors, and District Attorneys for the last few decades: Grey Davis, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jerry Brown, and Gavin Newsom.**

Finally, the idealistic voters who keep rewarding the mediocre with higher and higher positions, are now openly discussing the next Presidential candidate to represent the Democratic party: Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, or Gavin Newsom. And the apparent choice of the other side, the GOP, is Trump?

Keep those public works projects coming out to bid, at least-please!!!!
God Help Us

That’s All Folks

John

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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

Apply by emailing your resume to careers@brce.com

EVENT NEWS & INFORMATION:

The very last ECA event is the Annual General Membership Meeting (GMM) to be held at Charlies' (Windsor Golf Course) on November 16, 2023, from 4:30-6:00 pm. At the GMM, we will be announcing the Officers and Board for 2024, the Award Winners for the ECA Installation Dinner, and we will have a stellar panel discussion on what arguably could be the most important infrastructure development for the next 50 years in Sonoma County.

"Where's Our Dam Water" will have Grant Davis and Pam Jeane from the Sonoma County Water Agency, Janet Pauli from Redwood Valley, and James Gore (Sonoma County Supervisor) explain the process for continuing to divert water to Sonoma County through the abandoned Potter Valley diversion tunnel. There is movement to remove two dams, drain Lake Pillsbury, and have all the flow go to the Eel River rather than to the Russian River.

We get a lot of our water from the diversion so it would be catastrophic should that water get cut off from us. Please join us for this year-end event for the ECA in 2024!

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ECA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



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 or call 707-546-5500

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ECA | 1030 Apollo Way | Santa Rosa, CA 95404 | 707.546.5500 ph | www.nceca.org | mary@nceca.org

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

To Sponsor click [HERE](#)!

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 Kincadee 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 wavy lines on the sides. At the top center is a white box with a floral border containing the text 'North Bay Job Fair' and the website 'northbayjobfair.com'. Below this is a yellow horizontal bar with the text 'ONE Job Fair left in 2023!'. Underneath the bar, the event details are listed: 'Wed, October 4', '3:00-6:00', and 'Elsie Allen High School Roseland'. A yellow oval button contains the text 'Register below'. At the bottom, in small white text, it says 'email Bpell@mysonomamedia.com with questions'.

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

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Electrical Safety

Working near or with electricity can be hazardous. A mistake around electricity could easily be your last. Even experienced electricians and electrical power installers must stay on guard.

The main types of electrical injuries are electric shock, burns, falls caused by coming in contact with electrical energy, and electrocution.

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 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



FUNDRAISERS

Santa Rosa Fire Foundation Event

The When is Friday, October 13, 2023

The Time: 6:00-8:00pm

The Requirement: Your Presence at the Santa Rosa Fire Foundation Dinner and Live Auction
Location at The Kunde Family Winery.

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.

Come and enjoy a fantastic evening of great food and craft wine at one of Sonoma County's Premier wine country destinations. We would love for you to join us along with Congressman Mike Thompson, State Senator Mike McGuire and former San Francisco Giant Rich Aurilia in supporting the important work of the Santa Rosa Fire Foundation and celebrate the end of the 2023 fire season.

[Seating is limited so purchase tickets now.](#)





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COMMITTEE NEWS

1. **ECA Government Affairs Committee**-the GAC, led by Art Deicke, met with Mark Stapp (City of Santa Rosa Councilman) on September 19, 2023, at 1:30-2:30. Councilman Stapp got an earful about the City of Santa Rosa PLA policy and how it is going to hurt local workforce. The ECA Government Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet with Windsor Town Councilman Mike Wall on October 17, 2023, at 1:30pm.
2. **ECA Specification Committee**-the ECA Spec Committee, led by Dale Smith and Casey Wood, will next be meeting on Wednesday, November 15, from 4-5:30 pm in the NCBE main conference room.
3. **ECA Executive Committee Meeting**-next meeting is on Tuesday, 10-17-23 at 11:00 am. Topics discussed at the 9/19/23 meeting included a Membership drive and both short term and long-term succession planning for the ECA. The ECA is taking proactive steps to ensure we remain relevant to our membership for the foreseeable future. Succession planning should be completed by March of 2024 and will include an "Emergency Plan" that will cover the ECA operating policy for 2-4 months should an unexpected illness or disability occur, and a planned Succession Strategy for operating with the successor to John, Cheryl, and Mary. Although there is no immediate plan for personnel changes, it is incumbent upon the leadership to have a "roadmap" and timeline to make certain the ECA is in good hands and not left scrambling when inevitable retirements do take place. These are exciting times and if you want to share your thoughts, please do so by calling me! Although this same message was included in last week's Newsletter, I have received zero inquiries into the succession planning or membership drive issues from any ECA members. The members must trust me to do the right thing!!
4. **ECA Board of Director Meeting**-next meeting will be held 10-17-23 from 12-1:30pm. The Nominating Committee made their slate of recommendations to the full Board on 9-19-23, and the final approval of 2024 Officers, Directors, and Award Winners, will take place on 10-17-23. Also, the budget will be reviewed and approved at the 10-17-23 meeting as will date events, and committee meeting schedules. We will be making those dates available on Outlook this year!!

We will hear a presentation at the 10-17-23 Board meeting from InterWest Insurance Services on their services available to contractors, engineers, and suppliers in our industry.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Sonoma County Project Labor Agreement policy will **NOT INCLUDE** trucking or local material suppliers when it is finalized in December 2023. This has been confirmed despite some confusion on 9-12-23 at the Supervisor Meeting. Three Supervisors and staff have confirmed that trucking and suppliers will not have to be covered by the new PLA policy for Sonoma County. Although the ECA has not made any public comments regarding this issue, I have certainly been active discussing this with individual Supervisors, County of Sonoma Department Heads, and several of our allied Associations to try and influence the inclusion of local worker's being protected. I am pleased to say that the discussions have proved fruitful in the County decision to exclude trucking and local suppliers. This is a win for Labor and a win for local workforce stability.
2. The first projects under the City of Santa Rosa PLA should be coming to bid in late October. We will be monitoring the first projects closely to see how trucking will be handled by the City of SR staff in awarding the projects under the PLA. At this point, the city does not have a clear path forward on how they plan to handle trucking (which is included under the City of Santa Rosa PLA). Truckers must be signatory to the Teamsters according to the City of SR PLA.
3. The City of Santa Rosa will be sending the ECA updates on a quarterly basis of upcoming public works projects coming out to bid. New Planning Chief James Jensen will be sending those out. The City of Santa Rosa has traditionally gone out to bid on most of their projects in the months of January and February, so I expect a few projects coming to the street then. I have been told there are a few coming out to bid in late October, November and December as well.
4. Love it or hate it, SMART is on a fundraising and grant roll these days-another big chunk of funding came their way to extend rail service to Healdsburg and beyond. [SMART's latest grant of \\$32 million gets passenger rail line closer to Healdsburg \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
5. 32 Acre Site proposed for development seeing opposition from "NIMBY" groups? [Opposition organizes against proposed battery storage facility in Vacaville \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
6. Graton and residents oppose new KOI casino and event center on Shiloh Road in Windsor-[Federal hearing on proposed Koi Nation casino near Windsor draws scores of detractors \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
7. He is not my favorite Governor, but vetoing SB799 was a good choice by Gov Newsom- [Newsom vetoes unemployment bill for strikers, SB 799 \(yahoo.com\)](#)
8. Contractors found 22,000 new workers in August- [Contractors Kept Hiring in August, Adding 22,000 Jobs | Engineering News-Record \(enr.com\)](#)

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.



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email: john@nceca.org

Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director
email: mary@nceca.org

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper
email: cheryl@nceca.org

Postal Address: P.O. Box 8249 Santa Rosa, CA 95407 ~Phone: 707.546.5500