



“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.



### What Is ECA Up To?

As we near the end of 2023, it seems appropriate to let our members know what we are up to. Despite being in uncertain and dangerous times from a global perspective, locally we are in a pretty decent spot. Here is a summary of what the ECA is doing:

1. As we near the year end, we are pleased to report that our financial position is as solid as it has been for some time. We have adequate cash on hand to sustain our operation, we are not raising dues or event prices, and our membership seems stable if not growing slightly.
2. We have our Officers and our Board of Directors in place for 2024 and our leadership is solid, committed, and experienced. ECA members are in good hands!
3. We have continuity of staff. Our Executive Vice President, Membership Services Director, and our bookkeeper have all been with the ECA for 13.5 years, 16.5 years and 12 years respectively. That is great experience in operations and wonderful connectivity to our membership. John, Mary and Cheryl are indeed nearing retirement age, but none of the three of us are looking to retire in the near future. We have begun succession planning by hiring a consultant that will lay out a short-term succession plan (for unplanned vacancies in Executive Vice President position) as well as a long-term succession plan (for the orderly transition of the EVP position in the future). Succession planning is critical to the soundness of any organization, and the ECA is taking proactive steps to ensure a smooth transition upon the inevitable retirements of staff.

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JOHN BLY

**MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR**

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

4. Our events continue to be well attended and reasonably priced. Although the ECA Board of Directors always review whether to “keep, discard or modify” the events we host each year, I do not anticipate major changes to what has proved successful over the years. The ECA is anticipating hosting the Installation and Awards Dinner on February 24th, Public Officials Night on April 11, the Father’s Day Show & Shine Car Show on June 16, the ECA Golf Tournament on July 19th, and the ECA Days of Wine and Dozers annual Auction in September date TBD.
5. The ECA continues its role in various committees and associations and no change is anticipated because the influence, and collaboration amongst business-friendly groups has never been more important than today. The ECA believes its members should focus on running their business and let the ECA be “at the table” for policy and regulation influence.
6. The various groups the ECA participates with on a regular basis include the Sonoma County Alliance, The Construction Coalition, the Sonoma County Business and Agricultural Consortium, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber, the North Coast Builders Exchange, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, and several other groups. In addition, the ECA meets every month with City of Santa Rosa City Manager Markeshia Smith, as well as regular meetings with Sonoma County Supervisors and staff at SMART, Sonoma County PRMD, Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works, City of Santa Rosa Transportation and Public Works, and the City of Santa Rosa Utilities.
7. ECA will continue to offer special focused meetings on issues that are of great importance to engineering contracting industry participants. On November 7, 2023, the ECA is hosting a conversation with former North Coast Water Board Chairman David Noren on how to operate in an ever increasingly hostile regulatory environment. Given the recent announcement of a possible \$8 million plus fine for stormwater discharge issues by the North Coast Water Board, the timeliness of this seminar could not be more appropriate. Please sign up for this November 7 seminar here [click HERE!](#)
8. The annual General Membership Meeting is held every November and in 2023 the topical discussion is also very important as there is ongoing negotiation to remove several dams in Mendocino County that have supplied Sonoma County with around 20% of our water resources for nearly a century. Should that diversion of water cease, you can find out “where’s our dam water” on November 16. Click [HERE](#).
9. The ECA has initiated a Membership Drive with Keith Woods doing the “heavy lifting” of contacting and follow up information to contractors and suppliers and engineers that would benefit the ECA by being members and by getting return on investment for their membership. If you have a supplier/subcontractor or service provider you feel might want to consider joining, please contact John Bly with the prospective ECA member. Thank you!

Continue on page 3

In short-the ECA continues to be a force locally for the general engineering contracting industry, and since 1976 we have been voicing our member's concerns, helping celebrate their successes, and working to improve our member's bottom line!

Thank you for your continued support!

That's All Folks

John

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## JOBS OPENING

### 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.

### The Miracle League—North Bay ~ It's Soccer Time!

We are hosting our first ever soccer event on Saturday November 25th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Come ready to smile, laugh, and of course learn new soccer skills!

Our soccer registration is open and we are thrilled to add another sport to our lineup. Don't miss out on the fun, sign up now and secure your spot! Hurry, spots are filling up fast and the event is right around the corner.

Buddies, you are an integral part of this event, show up loud and proud to support our athletes in a new sport! Register [HERE!](#)

## **Cabrera and Associates**

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# ECA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



## Sponsors



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 16th  
4:30—6:30 pm  
Charlies, Windsor Golf Club  
Click [HERE](#) for Registration Flyer.

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

Company Name _____		Attendee _____	
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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)

## Challenges and Tactics to Succeeding in These Hyper Regulated Times

With David Noren, Former Chair of the North Coast Regional Water Control Board

Tuesday, November 7th.

8—9:30 am

NCBE Training Room,

Juice, coffee, pastries and fruit

\$20 for ECA members \$30 for non-members

Email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) to register - Click [here](#) for flyer

## Save the Dates for 2024!!!

Installation & Awards Dinner—Saturday, February 24th at Hyatt Regency

ECA Public Officials Night— Thursday, April 11, Sonoma Marin Fairgrounds

Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show—Sunday, June 16th, Juilliard Park

ECA's Golf Tournament—Friday, July 19th, Windsor Golf Club

Wine & Dozers Dinner and Auction—September Date TBD.

## 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

### OSHA's Focus Four

OSHA's Focus Four are the four hazards that form the basis for the majority of workplace incidents.

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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## SAFETY TRAINING

### CPR / First Aid

Friday, November 17, 2023  
1—3 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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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Long awaited Rohnert Park downtown center starting to take shape-[Here's a glimpse at Rohnert Park's proposed new downtown as project reaches milestone \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
2. Napa Pipe Costco and business project is moving forward-[Plans emerge for Napa Pipe's street plan, art, Costco store \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
3. Santa Rosa's loss is Corte Madera's gain-Planner moves from Santa Rosa to Corte Madera-[Corte Madera hires community development director \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
4. SMART moving on 2<sup>nd</sup> Petaluma Train station-[SMART awards \\$32.5M contract for second Petaluma train station \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
5. Sonoma has new Economic Development head-[Charting the future with Sonoma community development director Jennifer Gates \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
6. Only 12 Years to Approval for Darrius Hotel Project in Sonoma-[Planning Commission signs off on Hotel Project Sonoma \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

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## EVENT NEWS & INFORMATION

The Annual General Membership Meeting, with Premiere Sponsors Granite Construction & Smith Dollar PC, 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 Construction and Smith Dollar PC for being our Premiere Sponsors!!





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## COMMITTEE NEWS

**ECA Government Affairs Committee-** led by Art Deicke, will continue to influence local elections and will continue to be present and foster relationships with local elected officials. In recent years, the GAC has scheduled regular meetings with elected leaders so they can learn about the ECA and our concerns, and we can better understand the actions and thoughts of our local leaders. Upcoming meetings will be scheduled with Chris Coursey (Chair of Sonoma County Supervisors), Damon Connolly (Member of Marin County Board of Supervisors), Dianna MacDonald (City of Santa Rosa Council member) and others. Thanks for putting in the time GAC members Dale Mahoney, Ross Liscum, Mark Soiland, Art Deicke, and Keith Woods. Meetings are arranged and announced as we schedule the elected officials. There is no standing and recurring meeting schedule.

**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. The ECA Spec Committee meets every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 4-5:30 pm in the NCBE main Board room. 2024 Meetings will begin in January 2024 on

**ECA Executive Committee Meeting-**next meeting is on Tuesday January 23, 2024, at 11:00 am. The Exec Committee meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month in 2024 at 11:00-12:00 in the small NCBE conference room.

**ECA Board of Director Meeting-**next meeting will be held January 23, 2024, from 12-2:00pm. The Board of Directors meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 12-1:30 pm in the NCBE main board room.

**ECA Community Relations Committee-**Chaired by Lacey Torkelson Smith, the CR committee only meets as needed during the year. Several Community Relations projects will be considered in 2024 at our February Board meeting. Potential projects include the Children's Museum and the Boys and Girls Club of Healdsburg





November 29th, 2023, 8AM – 12PM

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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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### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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