



“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.



FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS

Last week, I got a call from a long-time member who had questions about the County of Sonoma holding up issuance of a building permit and grading permit. The reason the County gave was because of a “Condition 146” that is not part of the County of Sonoma requirements, nor is it seemingly a part of CARB requirements. Condition 146 basically required that new equipment be used on the project in question. Our ECA member had their fleet in CARB compliance, and submitted information to that effect, but it was not enough to get the permit. I was asked to find out where this “condition 146” came from. Part of the benefit of being an ECA member is that our relationships are such that I could make a phone call and get an explanation within 5 minutes.

Condition 146 was part of the Environmental Impact Report that was required of the developer and owner when they submitted their planned development. The EIR is reviewed, discussed, and approved with “conditions”. Contractors generally do not see the EIR as part of their bid package to the owner/ developer/GC/or Engineer. The plans that the sitework contractor had should have had the “Condition 146” and all other pertinent conditions from the EIR included in “notes” so the contractor can give a complete bid on the scope of work. Apparently, the requirement for new equipment was not included so our ECA member did not know about this. Although it is not a problem for them to comply, the question as to where the compliance requirement came from was the concern.

I wanted to bring this up as an example of the benefit of being a member of the ECA. As a follow up, I have asked Tennis Wick to institute a policy that includes checking the plans when submitted to ensure inclusion of any EIR conditions required. The County will also be working on a policy that the EIR conditions will be more clearly communicated in the future.

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Continued from page 1

This will make everyone's life a little more defined when submitting a bid.

Thanks to the ECA for allowing me/us to foster these relationships with the County and others in order to make plans and specs more clearly defined for accurate bidding and construction.

That's All Folks

John

EVENT NEWS & INFORMATION:

1. **The ECA Days of Wine and Dozers** was held at the Graton Event Center Saturday night, 9-16-23. Many thanks to the 170 or so attendees who seemed to have a great time at the event! To all of those that bought seats, tables, silent auction items, bid and/or got live auction items, donated silent auction items or live auction items, sponsored, and purchased beads for the "heads/tails" game and/or the 52-card giveaway game-THANK YOU! To our Sustaining Member Firms-THANK YOU!! To the Volunteers-THANK YOU! Although the final expenses will not be exact until Graton sends us the invoice, we have a pretty good idea where the expenses will land. This was a big "gamble" on the part of the ECA to hold the event at a more expensive venue, and the ECA President, Antonio Mencarini and his Board of Directors, deserve credit for choosing to upgrade the experience. The P & L report shows income vs expense for the event shows bettering our budget projections and that is a tribute to the generosity of all those mentioned in my comments above!

We hope you all had fun and bought some Christmas gifts for key employees or family members!!

2. The Annual General Membership Meeting is our last event of 2023 and will be held November 16, 2023, at Charlies at Windsor Golf, 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! Click [HERE](#) for flyer

Let Mary know if you would like to sponsor the General Membership Meeting. Click [HERE](#) for sponsor flyer

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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
Apply by emailing your resume to careers@brce.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 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

Company Name _____		Attendee _____	
Address _____			
Phone _____	Method of Payment:		
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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](#)

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.](#)

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Crane Lifts – Safety Measures

Cranes are used to lift and move heavy materials on construction sites. When a crane lifts and moves a load, the distance from the load's center of gravity to the crane's tipping axis changes.

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

On Demand Training service provides relevant and targeted training, certification, or education when you **NEED IT NOW!**

Classes can be organized quickly so you can quickly get your employees back to work. In addition, business demands require flexibility. This service provides greater flexibility and added value. Classes can be set up at your facility or at the training room in Santa Rosa

Part of this **on-demand service** is a viable alternative to **in-house training** because it is designed for situations where only **one, two, three or four** people that need training. Importantly, this training can be very cost effective. We can combine the classes with other companies that need the training or you can have your own company class.

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 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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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 pm. We discussed the effect of the recent Santa Rosa PLA on our truckers and general contractors. This was a very friendly but focused meeting with Councilman Stapp and he got a lot of information as to how a PLA can affect bids and local jobs.
2. **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.
3. **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 compliance for one topic.
4. **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. This is an important meeting as it “sets” the program for 2024. Thanks to all of our Officers and Board members for their participation in leading the ECA. Thanks to Antonio Mencarini for his guidance during 2023 for another very successful year for the ECA. Incoming President Mike Gulley has been busy behind the scenes working on the budget for 2024, choosing event sites and dates, and setting the Award and Directors with the help of Nominating Committee Chair Walt Turner.
5. **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

1. New City in Solano-I understand why folks are pissed- [For CEO behind a plan to create Solano city, business is personal \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
2. Did you think there was ever going to be a \$21 million estate for sale in Lake County? There is now-[Vintner Jim Fetzer's Lake County estate up for sale for \\$21 million \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
3. More oversight and training for contractors in California-good for consumers? [Newsom signs legislation that aims to improve contractor oversight \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
4. Energy Dept. targets \$300M for transmission projects States and tribes as well as local governments stand to benefit from \$300 million in grants to be distributed by the Energy Department for transmission and other qualifying projects. The goal is to step up construction of infrastructure needed to meet the goal of 100% clean energy by 2035. Full Story: Engineering News-Record (tiered subscription model) [US Energy Dept. Pushes \\$300M for State, Local Transmission Projects | Engineering News-Record \(enr.com\)](#)
5. Choo Choo Double Down? Las Vegas-to-L.A. rail could break ground this year Brightline's high-speed rail line linking Las Vegas and Los Angeles is expected to begin construction by year-end if federal funds are forthcoming. Taylor Lane gives a rundown of what to expect from the project, which could start service in 2027. Full Story: Las Vegas Review-Journal (tiered subscription model) [Las Vegas-to-Los Angeles high-speed rail line: What we know about the project | Tourism | Business \(reviewjournal.com\)](#)
7. Do you know Brookfield Properties? You better get with it! [Concord City Council unanimously selects developer for former naval station site – NBC Bay Area](#)

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!



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