



November 13, 2023

“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 rambblings that hopefully you find thought provoking. Remember-these are my opinions, not those of the ECA or any of its member firms.

Committee Oversight Behind the Scenes

The ECA does quite a bit of good work “behind the scenes”. I think it is good to remind our ECA family what the ECA does for the benefit of Sonoma County residents as well as the environment by virtue of some of our committee work that might not be well known to many of you.

As an example, I want to specially talk about the Sonoma County Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) that I am honored to be the Chair of. Mark Soiland is one of the Committee members, as is Brian Ling (former Alliance Executive Director).

What the CAC does is meet at least once a month to review and approve the Measure M tax revenues and the spending of those dollars. With the passing of the Go Sonoma Act (a 1.4% sales tax measure beginning in April of 2025 for 20 years), the CAC will also be reviewing and approving the income and expenditure of those sales tax dollars as well as the expiring 20-year tax Measure M which started in 2004 and “sunsets” in March of 2025.

Other grant dollars are taken in by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), and those dollars are also reviewed by the CAC to ensure the dollars are being collected and spent in accordance with the sales tax measures passed by the voters in Sonoma County in 2004.

The CAC also oversees the various municipalities that receive funding from the SCTA like the Local Bus Transit Authority, all nine cities in Sonoma County, the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works, some SMART train oversight, and various bicycle pedestrian pathway projects, as well as the Regional Climate Protection Authority of Sonoma County.

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The dollars we are talking about run around \$32 million per year in sales tax revenue and those dollars are split as follows:

- ◆ 40% for Highway 101 projects
- ◆ 20% Local Street Projects
- ◆ 4% Bike/Ped Projects
- ◆ 5% SMART passenger rail
- ◆ 20% Local Road Rehabilitation
- ◆ 10% Local Bus Transit
- ◆ 1% Administration

Every month, the CAC meets in person and reviews the efforts of the various groups that receive the funds each month. There are rules and reviews that go into whether a project will receive funding from Measure M. As an example, the City of Santa Rosa must submit a list of projects that they want to be eligible for funding each year. The CAC reviews how the City of Santa Rosa performed and executed the submission process as well as how many dollars the City of Santa Rosa is putting forth to fund the project being considered. The process is complex and the CAC reviews and probes the SCTA staff on each and every criteria.

It should be noted that one of the criteria that is VERY important to many of the CAC committee members, is to not expand the use of carbon fueled vehicle usage. The focus on "vehicle miles travelled" is real, and projects that simply expand the road width will probably not get approved in the process. It is a constant debate that occurs every month and ECA members should thank the leadership of Mark Soiland, Brian Ling, John Bly and a few others that take a holistic view of projects rather than a strict view of saying "no" if the project will result in additional vehicle miles travelled.

As an example, the Hearn Avenue overpass (over Highway 101) has been considered, and designed, and "tweaked" for many years. Some CAC members did not want it built at all as it will reduce waiting times on Santa Rosa Avenue and Hearn Avenue and they believe that will increase GHG emission into the atmosphere. Some of us debate that cars idling and waiting to cross Highway 101 add more GHG emissions due to their idling in place than the increased flow of traffic over the Highway 101. After several years, the project is now being constructed.

I will give you one example of a perspective by one of the Committee members: Last month, one member stated we (the CAC) should not be approving projects that make it more "attractive" to drivers of cars. This committee member was supporting the concept of allowing roads to get rougher and degraded so people would be forced to ride bikes or walk more.

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I pointed out that goods are delivered in transport vehicles and there is a safety issue to smoother roads where bikes and cars do not hit bad spots and lose control. I also pointed out the voters voted in these tax measures and what to spend the tax dollars on and it was not the committee's job to change the will of the voters.

Whether you are a member of the ECA or not, this is the kind of work the ECA is doing to make sure our roads and bikes and pedestrian paths are built and maintained to support ALL of the community while keeping an eye on the environment.

I am proud to Chair this Committee, and very proud of the work we do. Recently, the financial audit came back from a CPA firm and the audit found zero discrepancies in sales tax income and outgo. By the way, the sales tax projections made in 2004 have proven to be 97% accurate nearly 20 years later. That is due to good staff at the SCTA and good leadership and oversight by the CAC and the Board of Trustees for the SCTA.

That's All Folks

John



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!](#)

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ECA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



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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: <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me <input type="checkbox"/> Check (payable to ECA) <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	CVV _____
_____ email	_____ Credit Card #	_____ Exp. date _____ Signature



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

Thursday, November 16th
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. 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](#)



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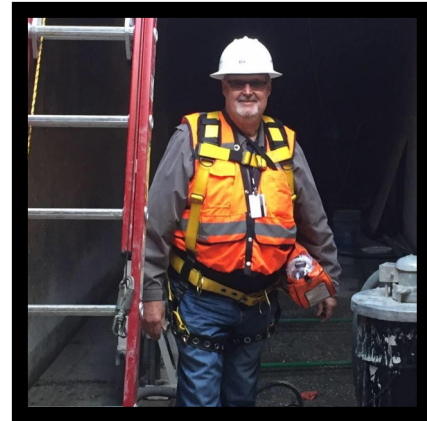
From the Desk of Jim Persons

Preventing Equipment Damage Incidents

There are many safety hazards that can be found on a construction site. Not because anyone is doing anything wrong, but because there are many things that can be dangerous.

The number one goal on a construction site is to ensure that everything is being done as safely as possible.

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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Warm Springs Dam,
Sonoma County

SAFETY TRAINING

Competent Person Trenching & Excavation

Friday, November 17, 2023

9 am—noon

The course will cover soil analysis, sloping, shoring and shielding, hazardous situations, excavation standards and more...

click [HERE](#) for flyer

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

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. Click [HERE](#) for flyer.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Napa County trying to fix their deteriorating roads-[Napa transportation agency ironing out details of ballot measure \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)

Richmond San Rafael Bridge gridlock starting to get some attention-[Richmond-San Rafael Bridge gridlock frustration stokes bike path debate \(marinij.com\)](#)

A casual discussion of How to Build in an Ever-Increasing Regulatory Environment was held last week at the NCBE. Thanks to David Noren of EBA, we had a nice turnout for a breakfast meeting that shared ideas on how to get projects built in today’s world. David addressed storm water compliance, CARB, and even Tiger Salamander issues that can affect our projects. Key thought was “Check, Verify, Amend” your plan to comply with any regulatory agency. Maintain good communication even when there is a problem with compliance. Agencies, for the most part, would prefer to mitigate and modify your plans rather than to issue a shutdown order or a fine against you.

Thank you, David! And thanks to all that attended and shared their thoughts on this subject. The main idea that the ECA got out of this session was that we need to try and have a seminar with the North Coast Regional Water Control Board, and I will be reaching out to try and make that happen!



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COMMITTEE NEWS

ECA Government Affairs Committee- led by Art Deicke, will continue to influence local elections.

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. Topics to be discussed will include the new Storm Water Standards for the City of Santa Rosa, as well as a discussion from the County of Sonoma on Conditions of Approval for permits to be issued.

ECA Executive Committee Meeting-next meeting is on Tuesday January 23, 2024, at 11:00 am. The Exec Committee meets every 4th 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 4th 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.



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November 29th, 2023, 8AM – 12PM

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

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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 ~ We would love to have you!



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