



“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.



Building the Pyramid in California

Back in 2008, California voters approved \$9 billion in state bond sales to fund a high-speed train from Los Angeles to San Francisco that would be in place by 2030 and that would travel over 200 mph and shorten the trip to less than three hours.

After spending over \$5 billion the Train From Nowhere to Nowhere (TFNTN) , is now scaled back to 172 miles to connect a few cities in the Central Valley ([Train to nowhere: can California’s high-speed rail project ever get back on track? | California | The Guardian](#)).

Connecting Merced to Patterson? You freakin’ kidding me? Who cares? Governor Brown, explained how great his support for the train was back in 2018 by saying

“I make no bones about it: I like trains, and I like high-speed trains even better” ([Brown Defends His Vision for America's First Electric High-Speed Rail | Greentech Media](#)).

Pyramids in Egypt-These monumental structures were built as a testament to the power, wealth, and divine status of the Pharaoh in ancient Egyptian society.

Is the Train starting to look like a pyramid to you too?

Against my hope, funding for this expensive and misguided train project just arrived in time for Christmas ([Editorial: Funding for California's bullet trains puts the high-speed rail revolution back on track - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)). The Feds are giving us \$6 billion of our own money back to build the train! How nice.

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Continued from page 1

As we move forward and interview candidates in January that want to take over Jim Woods' Assembly seat, I have one question for them: "Will you support or oppose the High-Speed Train from Nowhere to Nowhere" (also known as the California Pyramid)?

I cannot wait to hear their responses.

That's All Folks

John

Save the Dates for 2024!!!

Public Officials Night— Thursday, April 10, 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 28, 2024, Graton Resort & Casino

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!



ECA NEW MEMBER

United Rentals Trench Safety

John Chambers
3963 Santa Rosa Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
707-523-2350
jchambers3@ur.com

[Trench Safety Rentals - Santa Rosa, CA 95407-8274 | United Rentals](#)



ECA MEMBER UPDATE

InterWest Insurance Santa Rosa and Petaluma offices has sold to Risk Strategies. They are now Risk Strategies.

See [HERE](#) for the press release.

[Risk Strategies - Insurance Brokerage & Consulting Firm \(risk-strategies.com\)](#)



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

COMMITTEE NEWS

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, meets when there is a specific project to consider. The CR Committee will next meet and present two projects at our February Board meeting (Feb 27, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30pm). Potential projects include the Children's Museum and the Boys and Girls Club of Healdsburg.

ECA Specification Committee-chaired by Casey Wood of GBI and Dale Smith of RCX, will next meet on January 24 from 4-5:30 pm and every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month from then on.



Providing creative solutions for complex environmental issues.



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The ECA Group is an integrity-driven group of environmental professionals. We put our clients first to help resolve their environmental issues. We are geologists, environmental engineers and scientists with the expertise to effectively manage complex environmental sites. We have been providing Clients professional service and problem-solving for over 30 years.

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Installation & Awards Dinner

Saturday, February 24th

**Hyatt Regency
170 Railroad Square
Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

Welcome incoming President:
Mike Gulley, Northwest General Engineering &
The 2024 ECA Board of Directors

We will be also honoring
Volunteers of the Year
Mary, Megan & Robin Turner
Contractor of the Year
Tom Swegle, RCX, Inc.
Affiliate of the Year
Aaction Rents

The **Hermesmeyer Hall of Fame Award**
will be awarded to Dick Ghilotti, Ghilotti Construction
Posthumous – John Ramatici, Don Ramatici Insurance

To Register, click [HERE!](#) To Sponsor, click [HERE!](#)

To make reservations for an overnight stay that evening click [HERE](#)

Thank you to:

[Ghilotti Construction](#)—Premier Sponsor
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[Argonaut Constructors](#)—Presidents Reception
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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](#)

Labor Law Posters 2024

Click [HERE!](#)



Cabrera & Associates

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.
Project Consultant
tacabrera@yahoo.com / 707-321-9951
www.cabreraassoc.com

Have you got a project in mind?

From the Desk of Jim Persons

The Deadly Dozen

We all know that there must be a cause for an accident to happen. In order to avoid accidents, we must remove the cause. Every cause is a result of an unsafe act or unsafe condition. By recognizing the unsafe act or condition, we can effectively remove the exposure to them.

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



Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

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SAFETY TRAINING

CPR / First Aid

Thursday, January 4, 2024
9—11 am

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

Traffic Control / Flagger Training

Thursday, January 4, 2024
1– 3 pm

This certified course will instruct on the fundamentals of keeping workers safe on California Highways and roads, how to erect traffic control zones, handling emergency situations, and more!

Click [HERE](#) for flyer!

Competent Person Trenching & Excavation

Thursday, January 11, 2024
1– 3 pm

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

Click [HERE](#) for flyer!

Confined Space

Tuesday, January 30
1-3 pm

This course covers proper procedures for making entry into Permit Required Confined Spaces. Participants are prepared to operate in the capacity of Entrant, Attendant or Entry Supervisor during confined space operations. Participants are familiarized with CFR 1910.146 and how to properly employ the permit program. This course is a combination of classroom instruction and practical application in actual permit spaces utilizing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, meters and ventilation. This course is required by OSHA before an employee can enter a Permit Required Confined Space. *Certification of completion is provided.*

Click [HERE](#) for the registration flyer.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Sonoma Raceway repaving for first time in 23 years-[Sonoma Raceway Completely Repaving Road Course For First Time In 23 Years - Roadracing World Magazine | Motorcycle Riding, Racing & Tech News](#)
2. Cheaper to Build Housing in Marin County than in Windsor? This is a very interesting article-[How higher costs can hurt local housing construction \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
3. California will see growth in 2024, just may not outperform other areas in the USA-[California's economy will see slow growth in 2024, economists say. Here's why \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)



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.

If you would like to join a committee, please email mary@nceca.org ~ We would love to have you!



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email: john@nceca.org

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email: mary@nceca.org

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