



December 26, 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.

The Trend Is Not Our Friend!

I know I have to be careful to not piss off those that are allocating where our tax dollars go, but in some very obvious cases, we are not getting the truth. Duh. Hey “Captain Obvious”, what do you mean?

I mean our fuel taxes are way more than any other state and those fuel taxes fund (in a major way) our road and bridge repairs. Yet our road quality is not getting that much better in the Bay Area.

I know the City of Santa Rosa is spending some \$44 million on road repairs right now - [Santa Rosa plowing \\$44 million into 4 major road projects underway through early 2024 | PD Plus \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)

Here is what is true:

I have gathered a map of how much fuel tax you pay in the Bay Area and contrasted that with the Pavement Condition Index of our roads in the Bay Area. Based on the two factual reports, my conclusion is -

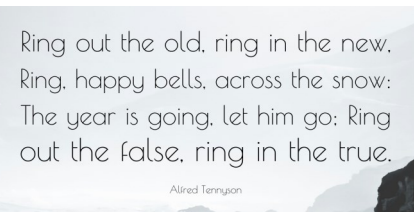
We are not spending enough on our roads.

California pays more in fuel excise taxes than any other state. Here is a map showing taxes state by state. California pays 77 cents on each gallon of fuel in excise taxes.

Continue on page 2

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!



Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go: Ring
out the false, ring in the true.

Alfred Tennyson

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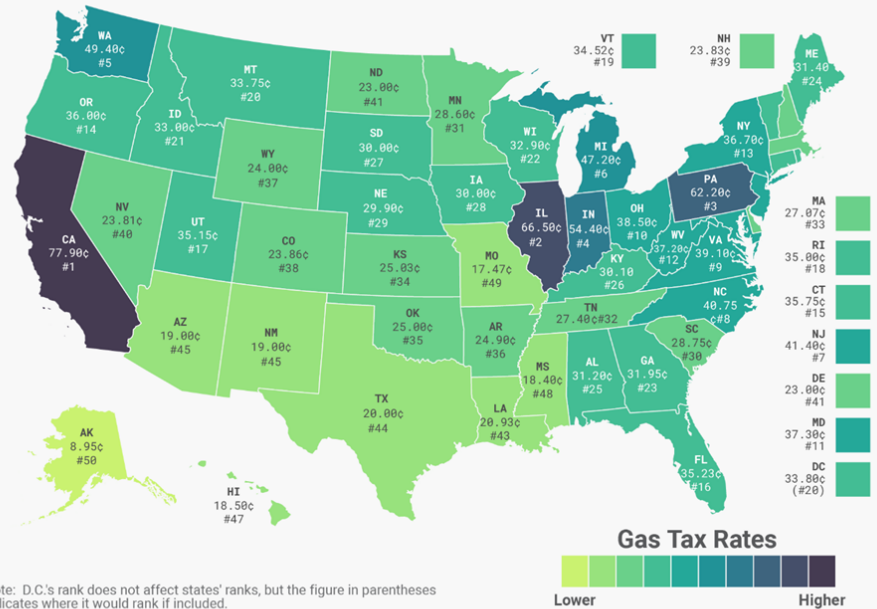
JOHN BLY

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

How High are Gas Taxes in Your State?

U.S. State Gas Tax Rates, Cents Per Gallon, July 1, 2023



Note: D.C.'s rank does not affect states' ranks, but the figure in parentheses indicates where it would rank if included.
Source: State Statutes, American Petroleum Institute, Author Calculations



In spite of all those fuel taxes flowing in, our roads are not getting better. A recent comprehensive study of Bay Area roads (county by county and city by city) shows we have not made overall gains in road quality. To be sure, some cities have shown remarkable progress and turned their road quality around, but the overall Bay Area's 44,000 miles of roads have not seen much improvement. To see the summary, click on this link [Pavement Condition of Bay Area Jurisdictions, 2022 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/pavement-condition-2022)

My conclusion is that with super high fuel excise taxes taking money out of your wallet, you ought to see some improvement in road quality in the Bay Area.

Why are we not seeing better road quality?

Probably because we had ignored the trend for decades before we started repairing our roads with local "self-help" tax measures that have helped. But we have been fighting really bad roads that have cost a lot to fix because they needed total road reconstruction. That is my opinion.

So, are we heading in the right direction?

Nope.

California's funding from gas taxes will drop by nearly \$6 billion in the next decade due to the state's electric car rules and other climate programs, "likely resulting in a decline in highway conditions for drivers," according to a [new state analysis released today](#).

Continued from page 2

As California phases in major policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions — such as the mandates for zero-emission cars and trucks — consumers buy less gasoline and diesel, and consequently pay less taxes.

Those declines in tax dollars will be partially offset by the state’s road improvement fee, which drivers pay when they register their electric cars. But the Legislative Analyst’s Office stressed that overall the state will still see a \$4.4 billion drop in funding, a 31% decline, over a decade, so the Legislature and governor must come up with substantial new funding sources.

I am kind of repeating myself today, but **the trend is not our friend!**

That’s All Folks

John

Save the Dates for 2024!!!

Public Officials Night— Wednesday, 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



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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.



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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
[NorthWest General Engineering](#)—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!](#)



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From the Desk of Jim Persons

“Leave Yourself an Out”

“Leave Yourself an Out” Leaving yourself an out is exactly what it sounds like, never have yourself in a situation without a way out of danger.

When you are on a worksite, there are many scenarios that can happen to put you in harm's way, the line of fire. When you are working in an area, you should always be aware of your surroundings and know what you would do in case of an emergency.



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, 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. Highway 37 Funds Approved-[New State Grant Gives Big Boost to Hwy. 37 Upgrades | Metropolitan Transportation Commission \(ca.gov\)](#)
2. City of Santa Rosa spending \$44 million on road projects - [Santa Rosa plowing \\$44 million into 4 major road projects underway through early 2024 | PD Plus \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)
3. CARB rules and deadlines-pay attention folks-register by 12/31/23- [New California Requirements for Heavy-Duty Vehicles and TRUs | California Air Resources Board](#)
4. What Does Belonging to the ECA Mean for Your Business? Click [HERE!](#)



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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