



“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.**



### *Who Should Vote*

From time to time, I stray on this “Soapbox” from ECA items to personal views. This is one of those times so if you are not interested in my “kind of” tongue in cheek personal views today, do not waste your time. There is hard news about ECA items in the rest of the newsletter.

This op-ed piece is not intended to “bash” Tik Tok or any specific social media platform. Rather, this op-ed is my commentary on how public opinion and our society forms opinions on complex issues. What prompted me to write this op ed is due to recent articles that says the average adult’s attention span has decreased to 8.25 seconds. If that is the case, nobody is still reading this op-ed piece so I can say whatever I want, right?

The premise of this soapbox is that we should take our voting rights more seriously in these very dangerous, and important times. Think about trying to understand the history of oppression and aggression against Jewish people in 8.25 seconds!!! It cannot be done unless your opinion is formed by watching short video clips from broadcast news, social media, and reading headlines that come across your internet provider’s home page.

Case in point for my concern: Recently, I read that 43% of Tik Tok users say they regularly get news on the site. The other bit of information regarding where adults are getting their news from, shows the vast majority of those that get their news from Tik Tok are adults aged 18-29. Virtually nobody aged 65+ gets their news from Tik Tok. Two-thirds of all teenagers say they use the platform of Tik Tok.

I have regular conversations with many adults closer to my own age, who commonly say “I can’t watch the news anymore because it is so depressing”. Again, if that is a common way to think, I can state that 2/3 of our young adults are learning about current issues from Tik Tok, and 2/3 of older adults are not learning about current issues from any source at all. Remember-I can say anything I want now, because everyone’s attention span is exhausted in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of this Soapbox.

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**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

JOHN BLY

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MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

OK, now for the theory behind all of this exhaustive fact finding. I think we need to modify who is allowed to vote in the USA by the following restrictions:

1. If you have an Tik Tok account, an Instagram account, or a Twitter/X account, you are ok to vote if you pass this simple test with 75% correct answers:
  - a. If the President and Vice President are eliminated, who becomes our President?
    - I. Senate Majority Leader
    - II. Speaker of the House
    - III. Secretary of State
    - IV. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
  - b. Who of these has not been the Mexican President?
    - i) Vicente Fox
    - ii) Andres Obrador
    - iii) Pancho Villa
    - iv) Felipe Calderon
  - c. The current leader of Germany is.
    - i) Angela Merkel
    - ii) Olaf Scholz
    - iii) Helmut Kohl
    - iv) Willy Brandt
  - d. The current United States Speaker of the House is.
    - i) Kevin McCarthy
    - ii) Anthony Blinken
    - iii) Chuck Schumer
    - iv) Mike Johnson

I think this simple test should weed out many of those that are not qualified to vote in the United States. Here is the rest of my list:

- Convicted Felons
- Non-citizens of the United States
- Anybody who is not an ECA member.

There-I think that should do it. Oh-and by the way, I did not get 75% correct on my own quiz so I can't vote!

That's All Folks

John

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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!

## FOLLOW UP ON ECA EVENTS

### ECA Annual General Membership Meeting-“Where’s Our Dam Water?”

For those who attended this event at Charlies in Windsor on November 16, thank you. Here is some follow up information regarding upcoming deadline on public comment that was discussed at the meeting, and many of you may want to “sound off” on the PG & E proposal that is currently recommending dam removal and draining of Lake Pillsbury amongst other things. I have included the following from Stuart Tiffen (Sonoma County Water Agency) for your benefit:

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) published the Initial Draft Surrender Application for the Potter Valley Project on Nov. 17. The draft is the first opportunity for public comment on the Initial Draft Surrender Application and providing comment is extremely important to promote the included New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal calling for continued diversions into the Russian River as one part of a regional solution.

The deadline to submit comments on the Initial Draft Surrender Application is Dec. 22, 2023. Electronic submittal of comments is encouraged. Please submit comments to:

Tony Gigliotti  
Senior Licensing Project Manager  
Power Generation  
12840 Bill Clark Way  
Auburn, CA 95602  
Email: [PVsurrender@pge.com](mailto:PVsurrender@pge.com)

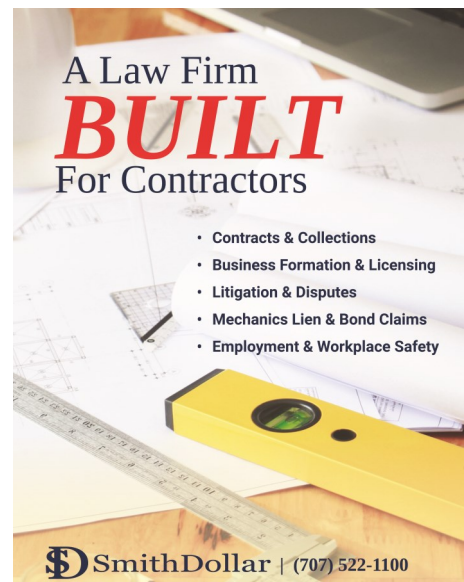
Information about PG&E’s decommissioning process, including pertinent documents, is available at the following website: <http://pottervalleysurrenderproceeding.com>, using the password PV\_Surrender. You can view the Proposal online at <https://sonomawater.org/pvp>.

Please feel free to make use of the sample language included below in your public comments to PG&E.

Best regards,

Stuart Tiffen  
Senior Programs Specialist  
Community and Government Affairs  
Sonoma Water  
Cell (707) 322-1223

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

**ECA Government Affairs Committee**- led by Art Deicke, met on 11/30/23 and will make recommendations to the Board of Directors on the following issues that were discussed:

1. The GAC discussed and voted on whether the ECA should be involved in State or Federal elections-we will recommend to the Board that we should be involved in selective ballot measures and candidate races that affect the ECA members. We recommend that we limit our campaign funding to not more than 20% of our Political Action Committee fund, and that we focus on fostering relationships with candidates who we would like to have access to, and we would hope they would want to access the ECA for our opinion on issues that affect transportation and utility funding in the future.
2. The GAC discussed our current policy on "Candidate Endorsement regarding pledge signing of candidates seeking public office": I have attached the link to this policy for those that want to read it, and the GAC felt the policy, in effect since 2014, is still valid as written.
3. The GAC interviewed candidate Chris Coulombe who is running for Congress against Jared Huffman in 2024. The GAC will recommend the ECA endorse and provide a small campaign check to support Chris Coulombe in his campaign. We liked his views on infrastructure funding, water rights for Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties in regard to the Potter Valley/Eel River diversion. We found Chris to be pragmatic and accessible, and the GAC will present our recommendation to the ECA Board in February 2024 for voting.

**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, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from then on.

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505 San Marin Drive, Suite A200, Novato, CA 94945  
info@edclarkandassociates.com



## **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, Meghan & 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!](#)**

### **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



## 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](#)



## Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

- County Application and Work Plan Preparation
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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### “Situational Awareness in Construction”

“Situational awareness is an on-the-job safety skill that is critical for hazard identification, effective decision making, and accident prevention.”

Situational Awareness means paying attention and being aware of what is going on around you.

No matter what your role is at work, situational awareness is an important key to keeping everyone safe.

When you practice situational awareness at work, you remain alert and aware of things like:



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



## Cabrera & Associates

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.  
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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!

**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](mailto: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





## CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



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## BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS



**Continued from page 3**

[Sample public comment email]

Dec. XX, 2023

Tony Gigliotti  
Senior Licensing Project Manager  
Power Generation  
12840 Bill Clark Way  
Auburn, CA 95602  
Email: [PVSurrender@pge.com](mailto:PV Surrender@pge.com)

**Subject: Support for New Eel-Russian Facility**

Dear Mr. Gigliotti,

We are pleased to see and strongly support the inclusion of the New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal in the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Initial Draft Surrender Application published on Nov. 17, 2023. Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the Round Valley Indian Tribes and Sonoma Water submitted the proposal to PG&E in July to preserve water diversions into the Russian River, while also prioritizing upstream and downstream fish migration in the Eel River. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, County of Humboldt, California Trout and Trout Unlimited subsequently signed on to a revised proposal in November.

The Proposal seeks to maintain diversions into the Russian River watershed while not delaying PG&E's plans to remove Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam. The proposed New Eel-Russian Facility would provide for fish migration past the new diversion facilities while allowing water to be transferred to the Russian River when flows are high enough in the Eel River. These diversions are critical to the health of the Russian River watershed, to ongoing water supply for numerous communities in Sonoma, Mendocino and Marin counties, and to Russian River fisheries.

Russian River water users have made significant strides in reducing water use, improving water use efficiency, and developing alternative supplies (for example, Sonoma Water and its retail water customers take nearly 40 percent less water from the Russian River than they did 20 years ago, despite a growing population). However, halting the diversions, even temporarily, would directly threaten the drinking water supply for more than 97,000 people living in Russian River communities -- and would make the drinking water supply for 600,000 additional people less reliable.

The lack of diverted water would cause tens of millions of dollars of economic damage per year, result in drastic conservation measures and increased water rates, curtail needed new housing, and increase the region's vulnerability to droughts, wildfires and climate change. For these reasons, we support the New Eel-Russian Facility Proposal and are encouraged that it was included in the Initial Draft Surrender Application by PG&E.

Thank you for your consideration,

Name  
Agency/Organization

The ECA will be submitting a "public comment letter" on behalf of our membership, but many of you may wish to submit your own. All of the information you need to do that is highlighted above.

Again-thanks to Matt Storm and Glenn Smith and their respective firms Granite Construction and Smith Dollar Attorneys at Law for sponsoring this very important annual ECA GMM last month!

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Rest In Peace:

Chuck Bartley-[Chuck Bartley, Santa Rosa businessman and civic booster, World War II veteran, dies at 99 \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)

Robert Pitts-[Robert Pitts Obituary \(1943 - 2023\) - Santa Rosa, CA - Press Democrat \(syracuse.com\)](#)

SMART moves forward on building Windsor extension-[SMART restarts work on long-awaited Windsor rail extension \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)



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### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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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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John Bly, Executive Vice President  
email: [john@nceca.org](mailto:john@nceca.org)

Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director  
email: [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org)

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper  
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Postal Address: P.O. Box 8249 Santa Rosa, CA 95407 ~Phone: 707.546.5500