



January 8, 2024

“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.



Allow USA Firms to Compete

For those of you who have been governed by Davis-Bacon wage rules for most of our lives, we are aware that the rules only apply to those workers who are **“mechanics and laborers employed directly upon the site of the work”**. **The rule, enacted in 1931 and amended in 1935, specifically excludes material suppliers and trucking of materials from being covered by Davis-Bacon. That is fairly easy to understand for USA-based suppliers. If materials are made off site, and are then trucked to the site, they are not subject to Davis-Bacon rules of prevailing wages.**

For a full explainer on what the Davis-Bacon Act is and how it is changing, [click here](#).

Recently, the DOL recommended expanding the Davis-Bacon act to consider material suppliers and trucking. The Association of General Contractors has launched a legal action to block the US government from making a major update to construction labor regulations.

My point of this “op-ed” piece is not to debate the merits of the Davis-Bacon act or to bash organized labor’s attempt to make suppliers be privy to prevailing wage rules, but to comment on the trend of this administration to expand the “giant hand of the government” influencing all aspects of our businesses and lives. Putting more rules on businesses is not what our economy needs. Given the amount of our goods that are made overseas and what the pandemic taught (or should have taught us) about being dependent on the foreign market for necessary goods, we certainly do not need to make it more complex for USA-based suppliers. Does anybody think that if rules on local suppliers (by local I mean USA based) are made more stringent, that the shift will not go to overseas suppliers?

Continue on page 2

Inside this issue

John’s Soapbox.....	1
Board of Directors.....	2
Committee News.....	3
Installation & Awards Dinner.....	5
Workers Comp.....	6
Emergency Response manual.....	6
Fire Clean up List.....	6
From the Desk of Jim Persons.....	7
Workplace Violence Program.....	7
Safety Classes.....	8
Sustaining Members.....	9
News you can Use.....	10



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Continued from page 1

We are having enough trouble making ourselves independent from OPEC, from China's Government subsidized supply houses, and others. Shouldn't we be moving in the other direction? Making rules easier to follow for USA firms? Having an attitude that heaps more rules on USA firms is not the right path in my humble opinion.

Make the Government work with USA firms to allow USA firms to compete. Restricting businesses or making the rules harder to follow is the wrong path. Go AGC Go!

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



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. Our new Officers for 2024 are:

President Mike Gulley of Northwest General Engineering

Vice President Dan Giordano of Argonaut Constructors

Treasurer Kimber Lenning Carpenter of Kadon Trucking

Secretary Matt Storm of Granite Construction

Past President Antonio Mencarini of Ghilotti Construction Company

Thanks to Antonio for leading us in 2023 to a very successful year! Thanks to all of our Exec Committee for agreeing to lead us in 2024!

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. The new Board of Directors for 2024 Click [HERE](#) !

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.

**Recently, the City of Santa Rosa (led by Gabe Osborn) came to our Spec meeting and asked the ECA to review their proposed changes to their Storm Water Standard Drawings. Several Spec Committee members have provided feedback to the City and those comments will be considered in issuing the final version of the Storm Water Standards when they are adopted in June of 2024 by the City Council. Thanks to Dale of RCX, Rhett Paro of Pace, Bob Harder, and Geoff Coleman of BKF for their feedback to the City of Santa Rosa. These are the important "building blocks" of how to foster relationships and influence policies with local regulations! The proposed drawings and notes and comments from our ECA peeps are included here in this link: Click [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE!](#)

ECA Government Affairs Committee-chaired by Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions will meet on January 22, 2024, at 5:00pm to 6:00pm to meet with Chris Rogers who is running for the vacant Jim Woods seat in the California State Assembly. We will interview Chris and make a recommendation to our Board of Directors on possible endorsement and campaign contribution on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.





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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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[North Bay Petroleum](#)—Bar Sponsor
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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

General Trenching & Excavation Safety

It has been well established what the risks are when using an excavator - it is probably time to go over the ways you can avoid these risks once again.

Here are some safety standards you and the people at your worksite can do to avoid excavation hazards:

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Workplace Violence Program

Implementation "Target Date" – July 1, 2024

Senate Bill 553 requires employers to create, implement and maintain a Workplace Violence Program by July 1, 2024. Employers must also train their entire workforce.

The Workplace Violence Program must include a reporting mechanism (how is the employee going to report incidents), detailing who will be responsible for receiving complaints, and who will be responsible for identifying and mitigating workplace hazards.

Jim Persons has developed a Workplace Violence Program and Active Shooter Guidelines that meet the requirements of this new regulation. He can also provide training resources for your employees.

Contact Jim if you are interested in getting his help on a Workplace Violence Program, 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

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.

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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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Well Respected Economist Team Predicts Positive Growth for California in 2024-slow, but positive-[California's economy will see slow growth in 2024, economists say. Here's why \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](https://www.northbaybusinessjournal.com)

2. Infrastructure Act-Where is the Money Going Cuz It Isn't Coming Into our Local Area-[FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Historic Progress in Rebuilding America Ahead of Two-Year Anniversary of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law | The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

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!

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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