

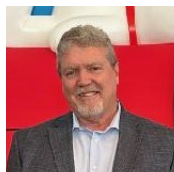


February 12, 2024

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

### It Ain't Over Until the Fat Lady Sings?

As you may recall, at our Annual ECA Membership Meeting in November 2023, we got a full report as to how PG&E accepted a proposal for wet weather diversions to continue after Potter Valley hydro plant is fully decommissioned and removed. This was as good as news could get for water users in Sonoma County, Mendocino County, and even Marin County. Hard work was done by Sonoma County Water and many others to get the plan into the PG & E final plan. Yes, the dams would still get removed, and yes, Lake Pillsbury would still get drained, but wet weather flows would continue which would ensure Lake Mendocino and the upper Russian River would get enough flow to not go dry.

Last week, PG&E changed their minds. Issuing a blockbuster announcement that they no longer would consider wet weather diversions as part of their FERC decommissioning plan, dealt a huge blow to Sonoma County residents and the impact to their water supplies for the next several decades. Here is the news report-[PG&E drops diversion options from its PVP proposal, Mendocino County officials report \(msn.com\)](#)

This announcement by PG&E was surprising and has folks scrambling to pursue alternatives for water flows needed to prevent Lake Mendocino going dry in 2 of every 10 years without any Eel River water flows.

The ECA and our fellow Associations (North Coast Builders Exchange, Sonoma County Alliance, Santa Rosa Metro Chamber, North Bay Leadership Council, Farm Bureau and Norbar will all be following this development and will share our advocacy efforts with all of you as more news develops.

Bottom line-if no wet weather flows are allowed, 600,000 water customers will lose approximately 15-23% of their available water resources. That would be catastrophic.

People are working on this and as we all know from the opera, "It Ain't Over Until the Fat Lady Sings". We can hope or we can advocate.



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Continued from page 1

The ECA will always choose to advocate rather than just sit back and hope.  
That's All Folks

John

**ECA Installation Dinner** on 2-24-24 is shaping up to be memorable. The Nominating Committee and 2023 Board of Directors did the ECA and industry proud by selecting the late John Ramatici and the icon Dick Ghilotti as our Hall of Fame inductees. Let's not forget recognition of Sound Ideas as our Ambassador of the Year and following a near fatal auto accident, Megan Turner stepped up and worked all day last year at our ECA Car Show getting her and the other Turner Girls the nod for Volunteer of the Year.  
Well Deserved All of You!

**Please get your sponsorships in and get your table attendees together for this wonderful occasion. This event is almost sold out. We still have sponsorships available. Get yours in today!**

**Thank you to:**

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

**ECA Executive Committee Meeting**-next meeting is on Tuesday February 27, 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. 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 our Exec Committee for agreeing to lead us in 2024!

**ECA Board of Director Meeting**-next meeting will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, Feb 27, 2024, from 12-1:30 pm. The Board of Directors meets 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 one possible project at our February Board meeting (Feb 27, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30pm. The possible project is the Children's Museum in Santa Rosa to help them with some minor landscaping work that they need/want.

**ECA Specification Committee**-chaired by Casey Wood of GBI and Dale Smith of RCX. We will next meet on Monday, March 25 from 1-3pm in the conference room in the City Manager's office on the corner of Sonoma Avenue and Mendocino Avenue.

For the notes from Geoff Coleman, BKF Engineers from the last Spec meeting. Click [HERE](#)

**ECA Government Affairs Committee**-chaired by Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions did a thorough vetting process and made a recommendation to our Board of Directors on Tuesday, 1-23-24 that was approved by our full Board of Director vote. Chris Rogers was endorsed, and a campaign contribution was made to his campaign. This election is very fast-tracked, and we urge ECA members to vote for Chris Rogers who will represent our interests in infrastructure work very well if he is elected. Read the Press Democrat editorial on Chris Rogers right here--[PD Editorial Endorsement: Chris Rogers stands out for 2nd District Assembly \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)



## 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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## Installation & Awards Dinner

Saturday, February 24th



Premier Sponsor

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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## 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](#)

## Labor Law Posters 2024

Click [HERE!](#)

## Cabrera & Associates

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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### CHECK BEFORE YOU MOVE

You have probably seen the havoc heavy construction equipment can cause. Maybe you know of someone who was killed or severely injured by being run over or backed over. And you may even have seen a parked car that had been crushed. Usually, this kind of accident happens because someone fails to take commonsense precautions.

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](mailto:jimpersons@safetypride.com) or phone: 707-889-0881



### Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

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# SAFETY TRAINING

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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



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!





## CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



## BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Eel River Water is Pulled Away- [PG&E decision jeopardizes Eel River diversions that keep the Russian River flowing year-round \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
2. Napa County next to adopt all electric construction? [Napa County jurisdictions preparing to adopt code encouraging all-electric construction \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
3. Solano County New City Just Like Rohnert Park Seven Decades Ago? - [How another North Bay city emerged fully pre-planned out of farmland \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)
4. New Solano County City Sets Boundaries-[Billionaire backers of new Solano County city reveal map and details of proposed development \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](http://northbaybusinessjournal.com)



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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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) ~ We would love to have you!



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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  
email: [cheryl@nceca.org](mailto:cheryl@nceca.org)

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