

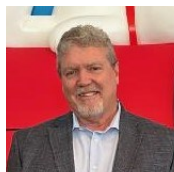


March 11, 2024

"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.



## Bits and Pieces

***Here is a little bit of what we have been, and will be working on in the short term for our ECA members:***

1. New Dues Policy for end of 2024: the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors have decided to modify our ECA Dues Policy as follows:
  - a. When the ECA sends out a statement for dues renewals, the "invoice" will include language that states "the membership will be dropped after 90 days" if dues renewals are not returned with payment within the same 90 days. The reason for this is to avoid treating dues the same as other invoices (say for an auction item or a seat at the Installation Dinner for instance). Dues are voluntary on the part of the member firm and as long as we are clear with what the dues renewal statement says, and we do a "follow-up" after 60 days to remind the ECA member their membership will be dropped at the 90-day date, the Board feels this is fair and reasonable.
  - b. Dues renewal statements will be sent out one more time for a six-month period (July 1 through December 31, 2024). In December of 2024, the ECA will send out a dues renewal statement for the entire year rather than six months. The ECA will also allow a 3.5% discount for those ECA members that pay for the yearly dues before the end of December 2024. We will send out dues renewal statements in early December for the period of Jan 1, 2025, through Dec 31, 2025
  - c. If ECA members pay for items (dues, seats, sponsorships, etc.) with a credit card in lieu of a check, the ECA will assess a 3.5% service charge (which is roughly what the bank charges us for handling credit card billings).

### Inside this issue

John's Soapbox.....	1
Board of Directors.....	2
Committee News.....	3
Upcoming Events.....	4
Public Officials Night.....	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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MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

1. The ECA is participating in a “workshop” with the City of Santa Rosa on 3/25/24 from 1-3pm at Santa Rosa City Hall conference room. Items to be discussed by appropriate City of Santa Rosa staffers will include:
  - a. How the City will enforce their new Project Labor Agreement Policy on Public Works projects. Discussion will include submission of certified payroll, local trucking compliance for work under the PLA, and other items of interest including what the city will do if nobody can meet the PLA requirements for asphalt, aggregates, bioswales, concrete, and other items required to be under the PLA scope.
  - b. We will also discuss the trend of younger, less experienced City of SR staff not approving or responding in a speedy manner to RFI's, submittals, change orders, progress payment quantification, and other contract issues including closeout and release of retention. The city is well aware that there is a perceived (or very real) problem in these areas and wants to discuss ways to mitigate the effects on our ECA members.
  - c. Material lab representatives will be on hand to discuss bioswale issues, specified aggregate compliance, roller compacted concrete specs, and other material issues that have created some issues on recent contracts.
  - d. Santa Rosa personnel will be also discussing the issue of change orders issued as “T & M not to exceed” and how these change orders create controversial time extension discussions with contractors. Also to be discussed are rain days vs working days issuance and getting CMs on the same page as the Owner and Contractor.
  - e. If anybody would like to participate on 3/25/24, please let John know and he will include you with details of the agenda and the meeting.
3. The ECA is also exploring possible workshops with various municipalities to review their policies for public and private work in order to make the process more efficient for ECA firms that participate. The ECA would like to include Petaluma, Marin, Napa, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, Rohnert Park, and Windsor to start. John will be reaching out the various municipalities as part of the outreach for Public Officials Night invites, and hopefully, the workshops will gain traction with public entities and ECA members. If you have any questions or comments, please give John a call to discuss or ask questions.
4. During last week's election cycle, several ECA members asked us to provide a more comprehensive “voter guide from the ECA perspective” to our members. Art Deicke and I are discussing this, and we assure you there will be a more comprehensive recommendation on who to vote for, and what to vote for, as it effects our industry members.

That's All Folks,

John

## COMMITTEE NEWS

**ECA Executive Committee Meeting**-next meeting is on Tuesday March 26, 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 on Tuesday, 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. Our current plan is to present the Children's Museum project to be considered on April 23, 2024, by our full Board of Directors.

**ECA Specification Committee**-chaired by Casey Wood of GBI and Dale Smith of RCX. We will next meet on Wednesday, March 27 from 4-5:30 pm in the conference room at NCBE.

**ECA Government Affairs Committee**-chaired by Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions does not have a scheduled meeting upcoming. Now that the Primary elections are concluded, the GAC will be active in determining voting recommendations for the General Election in November 2024 as well as endorsements and financial contributions. It has become an issue that some members are not opting to contribute to our ECA Political Action Committee (PAC), and this is a reminder that without funding, the ECA cannot be an effective influencer in local politics. Please discuss this with your accounting department and make certain ECA members choose to contribute to our PAC if they want to continue to influence local political outcomes.

**ECA Public Officials Night** on April 10, 2024, is our next ECA event. Because the City of Petaluma took over operation of Herzog Hall from the Fairgrounds, some rules have changed and made our venue have to change. The new location will be The Backdrop, 1455 Corporate Center Parkway, Santa Rosa on April 10.



## Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show

Sunday, June 16, 2024  
Juilliard Park, Santa Rosa

Registration Flyer click [HERE!](#) To register online click [HERE!](#)  
Sponsor opportunities click [HERE!](#)



Showcase Sponsor

## ECA's Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 12, 2024  
Windsor Golf Club



To Register Click [HERE!](#)  
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# Public Officials Night!

**Wednesday, April 10**

**5:30pm - 9:00pm**

No Host Cocktails 5:30 p.m. - Dinner 7 p.m.

Place

**The Backdrop**

1455 Corporate Center Parkway, Santa Rosa

THE  
BACKDROP



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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!](#)

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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### The Deadly Dozen

Accidents never just happen on their own- there is always something that causes the accident. Sometimes there are multiple causes.

If we remove possible causes, we will drastically reduce the chances of an accident. If you learn to recognize common accident causes, you can act before somebody gets hurt.

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

## Upcoming CPR/First Aid Classes

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

9 am—11 am

March 19 - [Flyer](#)

May 21—[Flyer](#)

June 18—[Flyer](#)

1 pm—3 pm

April 16 - [Flyer](#)



**On Demand Training** service provides relevant and targeted training, certification, or education when you **NEED IT NOW!**

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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







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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Outlook upbeat for infrastructure projects in 2024  
Total US construction spending rose 14% last year, according to the Census Bureau, and the outlook for infrastructure spending remains positive for this year with federal money on the way, contractors say. An AGC survey found 32% of contractors expecting higher water and sewer project values while 30% were optimistic for transportation projects. Full Story: [Construction Dive](#)  
Fed's Bostic anticipates Q3 interest-rate cut
2. Raphael Bostic, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, predicts that the Fed will likely implement its first interest-rate cut in the third quarter, followed by a pause to evaluate its impact on the economy. Bostic also expressed concerns about potential excessive exuberance among businesses after the rate cut, which could fuel inflationary pressures. "I would probably not anticipate they would be back-to-back" cuts, Bostic said. "Given the uncertainty, I think there is some appeal to acting and then seeing how participants in the markets, businesses leaders and families respond to that." Full Story: [Bloomberg](#)
3. New "joint employer" rule suspended. The definition of a "joint employer" is the key consideration for a federal court in Texas as contractors await a decision on the Biden administration's widened standard. The Associated General Contractors of America is part of a coalition challenging the redefinition, saying it runs afoul of the National Labor Relations Act, and a stay is now in place until March 11. Full Story: [Engineering News-Record \(tiered subscription model\)](#)
4. FHWA proposes discontinuing Buy America waiver. The Federal Highway Administration has proposed suspending a longstanding general waiver of Buy America requirements for manufactured products used in highway projects receiving financial assistance from the federal government. The proposed rule would not alter current Buy America requirements for iron, steel, cementitious products, aggregates and aggregate binding agents and additives. Full Story: [Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration](#)
5. Training for Young People Wanting to get Into Trades: [Construction trades program offers free training in Sonoma \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)





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### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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