



April 15, 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.

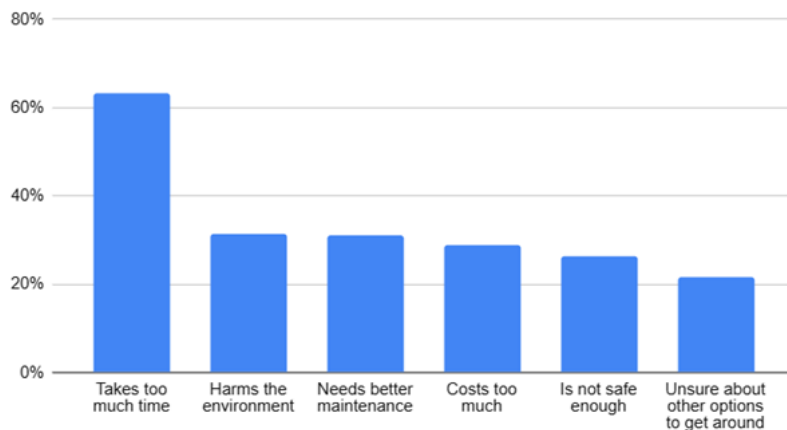


What are the Environmentalists Thinking?

This soapbox is designed to stir up individual thinking. So remember, it is more entertainment than fact. Don’t get all upset about the title of the soapbox-it is supposed to be humorous, not hurtful. I like the environment too.

The Sonoma County Transportation Authority puts out a comprehensive five-year plan that guides many of their actions. The SCTA says “We received over 600 responses to the Transportation Needs Survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their needs transportation needs with the SCTA team as we developed the Draft Moving Forward 2050 Plan.”

Top issues with the transportation system



I am not going to bore you with every survey response, but I want to share with you one of their findings:

Interestingly, “harming the environment” is as important to County survey respondents as safety and cost of fixing our county transportation system.

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Continued from page 1

I find this very interesting. As I ponder this survey response, I cannot help but think the environmentalists that are consumed by "climate change" issues, are the ones that think that fixing our transportation system in Sonoma County would "harm the environment".

What harm to the environment would we do if we fixed the Laughlin Road bridge?

If we fix all the potholes and reseal the surface roadway in and around the County, how would that "harm the environment"?

The only answer I come up with, is that if we fix our roads, the better road will somehow encourage people to drive their carbon fueled auto or truck more.

In order to get your arms around the perspective that having a safe bridge to cross a canyon, creek, or river, somehow will result in increased vehicle trips across that bridge, is the perspective you must believe in.

Do you believe that? I don't.

I think people drive their vehicles because they need to go get groceries, go to work, go to church, take the kiddos to classes or sports programs, go to the doctor and dentist, and finally, after all the other reasons you drive your vehicle, finally-perhaps, you have time to kill and choose to drive over that newly rebuilt bridge or road section for no other reason, then because it is nice and smooth.

I don't know about the rest of you, but at \$6/gallon for gas, or \$6.50 for diesel, I am not taking unnecessary trips in my car just to experience the smooth ride.

The other fallacy of the survey results, in my opinion, is that we should be riding bikes or walking instead of driving our gas-powered vehicles. There is some small truth to this, but if you have children you are taking anywhere, getting there in a car is the best, safest, and quickest way to travel. I am not (and I doubt you are either) loading up my toddlers and/or teenagers onto a bus to take them to school or pick them up from school. Or almost anything else. So, when I keep hearing that we need to not fix our roads (and I do hear this on the SCTA CAC committee meetings), I wonder how these folks that want to eliminate gas powered cars buy their groceries, furniture, materials for their home improvement/maintenance projects? Do the folks that think fixing our roads leads to harming the environment, get their groceries from somewhere other than a grocery store? No grocery store is going to be delivering and receiving their truckloads of goods via and electric truck, bicycle, or public transportation in our lifetimes.

OK-now I will get off my soapbox and stop whining about the "environmentalists" that did the survey

That's All Folks,

John

COMMITTEE NEWS

ECA Event Calendar—Click [HERE!](#)

ECA Father's Day Show and Shine Car Show, Sunday, June 16

ECA Annual Golf Tournament, Friday, July 12

ECA Days of Wine and Dozers Auction, Saturday, September 28

ECA Committee News:

A Spec Committee (Chairs are Dale Smith or RCX and Casey Wood of GBI)

i) follow-up on City of Santa Rosa Storm Water Standards Update

ii) Agenda items request for next Spec meeting to be held May 22, 4-5:30. If you have something you want the spec committee to look at or discuss, please let us know!

B Community Relations Committee (Chair Lacey Torkelson Smith from NEWFRONT INSURANCE)

Proposed CR Project at Children's Museum-the ECA Board of Directors will hear about this proposed project on April 23, 2024, to decide whether the ECA will adopt this as our latest CR project.

C Government Affairs Committee (Chair Art Deicke of ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION SOLUTIONS)

New Focus for GAC-we will be vetting candidates, ballot measures, for everything you will see on your ballot in November for Sonoma County and all Cities in Sonoma County. The ECA will provide you with voting recommendations that are in the best interests of the ECA membership. While we have been very selective in only endorsing and recommending certain measures and candidates, it is becoming clear that all of the items you see on your ballot have impact on our ECA businesses and our community. Therefore, all voting items will be examined, researched, and a recommendation will be provided to our membership.

D ECA Show and Shine Father's Day Car Show Committee (Chair is Walt Turner of North Bay Petroleum

Car Show needs sponsors, raffle items, and volunteers. This is our biggest event and most exposure of the year to the general public. Let's make it a success! To volunteer email mary@nceca.org

E ECA Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Committee—We need more committee members and volunteers for the day of the event. Our first meeting is Wednesday, April 24 at noon. Email mary@nceca.org

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- a. **State Farm dropping/not renewing home insurance policies in certain zip codes-[Insurance carriers: Dropping coverage in Sonoma and Napa - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
- b. **Impact and Development Fees Being Challenged-[Builders may challenge California's development 'impact fees,' Supreme Court rules - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
- c. **Bad Paving Job at Sonoma Raceway? [Sonoma Raceway's Turn 11 repaved, again - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
- d. **If You Have any Piece of This Work, Congratulations! PG & E Burying Lines - [PG&E burying Kenwood electrical lines, announces overnight traffic delays - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
- e. **Largest Unincorporated Housing Project in Many Years Going in by Sonoma County Airport-[A closer look at the large affordable housing project proposed near Sonoma County airport - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**

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!](#)



ECA's Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 12, 2024
Windsor Golf Club

To Register Click [HERE!](#)
To Sponsor Click [HERE!](#)



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Public Officials Night!

Thanks again to our sponsors and those that attended
Public Officials Night on April 10th!
Also can't forget to thank **Jimmy's Catering Company**



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SAFETY CORNER

Safety Classes-Please be sure to use ECA for your safety classes.

Keep up to date with all the requirements.

Contact Mary to set up any classes you may need. mary@nceca.org.

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

May 21—[Flyer](#)

June 18—[Flyer](#)

Upcoming Active Violence Emergency Response Training

Go Beyond Active Shooter Response Training. While other programs focus solely on active shooter or stop the bleed, AVERT goes beyond by combining both of these important topics in one training program.

When active violence occurs, seconds count, and you can't always wait for EMS to arrive.

AVERT enables you and your team to become immediate responders.

No later than July 1, 2024, covered California employers must implement extensive workplace violence prevention plans

Thursday, April 25—[Flyer](#)

Friday, June 28—[Flyer](#)

9 am—11:30 am

Competent Person Trenching & Excavation

Monday, April 29 - 9 am - 11 am

The course will cover soil analysis, sloping, shoring and shielding, hazardous situations, excavation standards and more...

Click [HERE](#) for flyer.

Confined Space

Friday, May 10—9 am—11:30 am

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.

Click [HERE](#) for flyer.

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Working Alongside Subcontractors

To run a business, you have to work alongside other companies. This is the case in about any industry that you are in.

You will have vendors and subcontractors that you deal with. This is how jobs get done and things progress forward.

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



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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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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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The **North Coast Builders Exchange** is thrilled to once again announce our **NCBE Scholarship program** this year! The NBCE Scholarship Program aims to support students pursuing higher education. This program offers financial assistance to individuals who demonstrate academic excellence, community involvement, and a strong commitment to pursuing higher education. Scholarships are awarded annually to deserving applicants, providing them with the opportunity to further their education and contribute to the growth and development of our local students.

Scholarships are open to you and your employees! Please forward this on to your employees with family members who may be interested in applying!

Please visit our website, www.ncbeonline.com, for the scholarship application and additional information. The deadline is Friday, April 19th at 5 P.M.! Be sure to apply prior to that deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Mackenzie at mackenzie@ncbeonline.com or 707-542-9502.

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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