



“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.

Cynicism and Hope

Brightline West has broken ground on the long discussed high speed rail system linking Los Angeles to Las Vegas. Armed with some \$3 billion from the \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure bill for “seed money” and adding to that some \$3.5 billion in private funding (primarily in bond sales), the proposed \$12 billion project (arguably) has 50% of the needed funding to complete the project. This, of course, assumes the estimates are accurate and will hold the final cost at some \$12 billion ([BRIGHTLINE WEST BREAKS GROUND ON AMERICA’S FIRST HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT CONNECTING LAS VEGAS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | Brightline](#)).

So how solid is the financial backing of \$3.5 billion in bond sales plus \$3 billion from the infrastructure act when the cost is twice that total (estimates are \$12 billion)?

In my humble opinion, the financing is not secure at all!

Where will the other \$11.5 billion come from? Tickets are now on sale for 2028 to go from Rancho Cucamonga to Las Vegas should you want to prepurchase tickets 4 years (at least!!) in advance. It might pay to prepurchase those if they guarantee the price right now as the prospectus discussed a ticket price of \$80 but is not being discussed as \$200.

Seems like a sketchy financing plan to me.

How much is the owner Brightline actually putting up with their own money?

I have spent hours researching this and cannot find out much of anything.

Brightline has a pretty “sketch” track record of building high speed rail to begin with. They did build a small rail system in Florida, and they have gotten through the EIR process to run the rail up the median strip of I15 for most of the planned route. That is commendable. They also have hired a design firm and have a contract with Siemens to build the rail cars. Not surprisingly, they have the support of organized labor so all work on the rail system will be union. Neither here nor there, but I would suggest that is partly how they were able to get through their EIR process so seamlessly.

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Continued from page 1

At any rate, this rail project makes far more sense than the HSR that I have written about before that was planned from the SF Bay Area to Los Angeles. That one is far more expensive to build, and it is being built 100% with taxpayer dollars. At least this HSR from Rancho Cucamonga (where the hell is that anyway!?!?) to Las Vegas only has \$3 billion (so far) in public money.

I wish this project well despite my cynical comments. Do I think it gets built?

Cynicism=Nope.

Hope = But I hope it does.

How's that?

That's All Folks

John

We want to highlight a member each week in our MEMBER SPOTLIGHT. 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!

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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





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!](#)

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ECA's Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 12, 2024
Windsor Golf Club



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Jim Persons —Hospitality Hole Sponsor

SAFETY CORNER

Safety Classes-Please be sure to use ECA for your safety classes to 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. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Wednesday, May 29th—[Flyer](#)

1 pm—2:30 pm

Friday, June 28—[Flyer](#)

9 am—11:30 am



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Excavation & Trenching Safety

The excavator has made what used to be a daunting task—digging—much easier for construction workers.

However, these machines can be incredibly dangerous, especially if you are not aware of the risks.

Recognizing the risks of using an excavator and understanding the best ways to avoid them can help keep your workplace safe

To continue reading click [HERE!](#)



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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CALIFORNIA’S NEW WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

No later than July 1, 2024, covered California employers must implement extensive workplace violence prevention plans (WVPP) and deliver specified training to employees under new legislation signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 30, 2023. In order to comply on time – including preparing plans that are “*specific to the hazards and corrective measures for each work area*” as required – employers will need to prepare early.

Senate Bill 533 adds section 6401.9 to the California Labor Code. The legislation is intended to help employers prevent and respond effectively to workplace violence.

Covered employers must deliver the training to all employees no later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **County of Sonoma PLA Negotiations Are at an Impasse Regarding Local Trucking**-on May 21, 2024, the Board of Supervisors will have a public hearing on whether to include local trucking under their new PLA policy. As many of you know, if you want to write a letter to the Supes, or better yet, show up on May 21, your voice can be heard regarding this potential huge impact on our local workforce. For those that are doing their best to do their homework, there is no document draft available to review ahead of time. You have to rely on my “word of mouth” information that I have sounded off on.

Click on this [HERE](#) to see a possible sample letter to write to the Supervisors asking them to protect the local workforce!

2. **GOP pushes back on emissions mandates for trucks**
Republican members of Congress are trying to use the Congressional Review Act to stop emissions reduction mandates proposed by the Biden administration for heavy-duty trucks, along with light- and medium-duty vehicles. The proposal "highlights the need for EPA to include the operational realities of trucking in their final regulation," asserted Ed Gilroy, chief advocacy and public affairs officer for the American Trucking Association. **Full Story:** [Overdrive magazine online](#)
3. **Homeowners Insurance News-2 insurance firms agree to collaborate to write California home policies - The North Bay Business Journal**
4. **Charlie Palmer Backed Healdsburg Project News-Healdsburg hotel, dining, shopping project aims for approachable luxury - The North Bay Business Journal**
5. **Solano County Lake Berryessa Water Allocation Cut?- California recommends huge cut to Solano County water allocation - The North Bay Business Journal**
6. So if Tutor can get 8-10% Upfront Costs, Shouldn't We Get That as a Minimum?- [Tutor Perini sees shift to owner financing on megaprojects | Construction Dive](#)
7. **SB1031** - An impactful bill is working its way through the various committees in Sacramento that will try and solve the public transit fiscal cliff I have written about before. As a refresher, BART, CALTRAIN, and other public transit systems are around \$9 billion short of breaking even due to increased costs, the pandemic rewriting office worker habits, and other factors. In order to solve this fiscal emergency, a Senate Bill 1031 ([Senators Wiener & Wahab Launch The Connect Bay Area Act: Authorizing Transit Funding on the 2026 Ballot, Studying Consolidation, and Improving Regional Integration | Senator Scott Wiener \(ca.gov\)](#)) has been developed and is probably going to make it to the ballot in November, 2024. This would, if passed, be more taxation to fund public transit systems and it would affect a lot of folks in and around the Bay Area. I am following it and will report on it in an upcoming Soapbox soon!!

Save the Dates for 2024!!!

Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show—Sunday, June 16th, Juilliard Park
ECA's Golf Tournament, Windsor Golf Club—July 12, 2024
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.

[Flyer](#)



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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COMMITTEE NEWS

1. **Government Affairs Committee**-We are already getting requests to endorse some candidates for City Council (notable Dianna MacDonald who is running for Santa Rosa City Council). That request and the others that are sure to come, will be reviewed and vetted by Chair Art Deicke and his “crack” committee in the next few months.
2. **Community Relations Committee**-Chaired by Lacey Torkelson Smith, met and presented a possible new Community Relations Project for the Board to consider on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at the Children’s Museum. The ECA conditioned their support on the Children’s Museum getting proper permits before we fully commit. We are waiting to see their results on this. More to come---
3. **Father’s Day Show and Shine Car Show Committee**-chaired by Walt Turner went into Sonoma Media two weeks ago and recorded a promo for the 2024 Father’s Day Car Show on June 16, 2024, at Julliard Park in Santa Rosa. Walt and Mary are meeting with the City of Santa Rosa to check out the park and go over last minute details!
4. **Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Committee**-
The Auction Committee met last week and is deciding on some fun aspects of the 2024 Auction night, including what “Theme” will be adopted. If you have some ideas for a theme for this year let us know! Email mary@nceca.org.
5. **ECA Specifications Committee**-chaired by Dale Smith and Casey Wood, will be meeting soon to discuss new site water drainage requirements to be imposed by the North Coast Regional Water Control Board. Despite reaching out to both Nick Sudano from the City of Santa Rosa and the North Coast Regional Water Board, the ECA has been unsuccessful in setting up a learning seminar to hear about the new regulations that we fear will be “draconian”. We will keep trying to meet directly with the Regional Board to hear directly from them----
6. **ECA Golf Committee**-Get your registrations in soon and sponsor!!!





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