



“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.

Gavin for President? How Good is he at Balancing CA Budget?

Newsom indefinitely [postponed his annual state of the state address](#) because of the uncertainty. Governors usually try to strike upbeat themes in such addresses and that would be particularly difficult this year.

Some reports say the budget shortfall is \$38 billion, some say in excess of \$73 billion. Regardless, it is certainly uncertain at this point.

The situation is a sticky wicket, to use an old-fashioned term from the sport of cricket, for the countless interest groups that depend on money from the budget. Even with the injection of money from reserves, the spending side of the budget will have to be trimmed, although by how much and from what programs are still guesswork at this stage.

Budget stakeholders are jockeying for position on the priority list with private lobbying of legislators and public pronouncements of vital need.

In theory, there’s another way Newsom and legislators could truly balance the budget and satisfy those clamoring for money – by raising taxes. Both of Newsom’s last two predecessors, Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger and Democrat Jerry Brown, faced deficits of comparable magnitude and both won legislative or voter approval of tax increases to close their gaps.

Left-leaning legislators have proposed tax increases, and one might think that Newsom, who is ideologically to the left of both former governors, would be willing to embrace that solution.

However, [Newsom has publicly shunned tax increases](#), apparently concerned that they might drive more high-income taxpayers or corporations out of the state, but perhaps because a tax hike would also undercut his strenuous efforts to [raise his national political standing](#).

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Continued from page 1

In the meantime, the high speed rail project is getting ridiculed by many folks for spending a lot of taxpayer money for very little-[California mocked over high-speed rail bridge to nowhere \(msn.com\)](http://msn.com)

Note to Gavin: Stop building the stupid train. Quit spending money on illegal immigrants. Stop giving away taxpayer dollars to homeless people.

Balance your budget Gavin!

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!

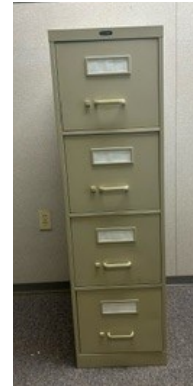


Office Furniture for Sale

L Shape Desks (we have 5 total)
\$100.00 each
65" x 77" x 29" deep



single desk (we have 1 total)
\$100.00 each
35" deep x 72" wide



Vertical filing cabinets (we have 3 total)
\$100.00 each
52" high x 18" deep x 36" wide

filing cabinet (we have 1 total)
\$50.00 each
52" high x 25" deep x 16" wide



Desk set (we have 1 total)
\$100.00 each
21" deep x 66" wide
36" deep x 72" wide

heavy duty office safe
\$400.00
25" high x 23" long x 23" deep



office chairs (3 misc.)
\$25.00 each



black mesh office chair
\$100.00



small toaster oven
\$30.00



Contact:
Kim Fowler, President
V. Dolan Trucking, Inc.
cell (707) 753-0828

kfowler@vdolantrucking.com





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, Safety Pride—Hospitality Hole Sponsor
- [United Rentals Trench Safety](#)—Cart Sponsor



Soiland Company—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

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

How to Avoid Heavy Equipment Accidents

To avoid struck-by or caught-in accidents caused by heavy equipment, being aware of your surroundings at all times is a huge part of staying safe.

When you know exactly what is going on around you, you can be aware of your way out as well as avoiding heavy equipment. Making sure that your coworkers know when you are in the area is also extremely helpful as they then know your location so they can avoid incidents as well

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. We have lost a precious member of our ECA family. Our hearts and prayers go out to Doug and Lori Hamilton regarding their tragic loss of their son Ryan. R.I.P. [Ryan Hamilton Obituary \(1991 - 2024\) - Petaluma, CA - Press Democrat \(oregonlive.com\)](#)
2. 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.
3. REMINDER: California's New Workplace Violence Prevention Plan and Training Requirements Take Effect on July 1, 2024; How to Get Ready Employers must implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan (WVPP) and provide employee training on the WVPP by July 1, 2024. The WVPP requirement (under California Labor Code Section 6401.9), augments the existing obligation for California employers to create and maintain an injury and illness prevention plan and is intended to combat incidents of workplace violence, which is the second leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in the United States, according to OSHA.
4. Compensation costs up 1.2% Dec 2023 to Mar 2024 and up 4.2% over the year ending Mar 2024 Compensation costs increased 1.2 percent for civilian workers, seasonally adjusted, from December 2023 to March 2024. Over the year, total compensation rose 4.2 percent, wages and salaries rose 4.4 percent, and benefit costs rose 3.7 percent. [HTML](#) | [PDF](#) | [RSS](#) | [Chart](#)
5. [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](#)
6. [New highway stripes get Calif. drivers to slow down](#) Orange-and-white highway stripping in place of solid white to designate a construction zone is succeeding in getting drivers' attention and encouraging them to slow down, according to the California Department of Transportation. The added orange in a pilot project is also expected to make the stripes more visible in rain and fog. **Full Story:** [KTLA-TV \(Los Angeles\)](#)
7. Go Jeff Okrepkie!! Huffman, McGuire on Home Insurance News-[Wine Country fire threat spreads to insurance coverage - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
8. In order to best serve the ECA members, here is a statement of positions on what we consider important attributes of local public officials. Send us your comments! We would love to hear from you.
 - 1) Candidates should be supportive of hiring local workers with local public funds
 - 2) Candidates should support fixing and maintaining our roads and bridges regardless of whether the improvement of the road encourages more vehicle miles to be travelled
 - 3) Candidates should support and encourage a collaborative and partnering process to build publicly funded projects
 - 4) Candidates should support purchasing materials for public projects from local sources
 - 5) Candidates should support their transportation and public works departments to aggressively put projects out to bid as soon as possible
 - 6) Candidates should not promise or pledge their support of any special interest group on future policy, personnel, or project issues
 - 7) Candidates should encourage transparency and communication with the ECA on a regular basis so they can better understand how their votes can affect the local engineering contracting industry
 - 8) Candidates should support a minimum % of a municipality's general funds be allocated for infrastructure upgrades and replacement of aging public works assets

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**-Chaired by Art Deicke, the GAC met on Monday, April 22 via Zoom to discuss expansion of the issues and candidates the GAC will consider vetting. The perspective of the GAC will always be “what is good for the local general engineering contracting industry” as our guidelines for vetting issues and candidates that will generate our recommended “how to vote” recommendations. The ECA Board will review the GAC recommendations and we hope to have “how to vote” recommendations for Sonoma and Marin County voters in late September 2024.
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. Collete Michaud and Mark Setterland presented on behalf of the charity, and Lacey framed the “ask” of the Directors. After thorough discussion, it was decided to continue to assist the Children’s Museum to get permits or waivers on their project but unless and until the uncertainty of permits has been satisfied, the ECA will not move to fully adopt the project due to potential risk to those that choose to build the project. I have full confidence we will continue to work with the Children’s Museum and the City of Santa Rosa to get the uncertainties out of the project soon! I have already followed up several times with the Children’s Museum to see how they are progressing and how we could assist them.
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 did a great job recording his radio ad and it will be broadcast on nine radio stations beginning around June 1, 2024. See page 4 for the registration flyers to enter a car or sponsor opportunities!
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.
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. John is trying to set up a meeting at the Regional Water Board for our next spec meeting so we can address the Regional Water Board directly with comments and questions.
6. **ECA Golf Committee**-chaired by John has no meeting scheduled but the Tournament info can be found right here, right now on page 5!

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



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