



“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.



CEQA The Deck is Stacked

I This Soapbox has plagiarized a recent op-ed piece by Dick Spotswood, who writes for the Marin IJ:

CEQA Reform by Dick Spotswood:

Launched in 1970 with the most honorable of intentions, CEQA was co-authored by a Richmond Democrat, Assemblymember Jack Knox, a legislative giant. It was signed by then Gov. Ronald Reagan at a time when even conservative Republicans wanted to improve the environment.

Over the decades, due to legislative expansion and court rulings, CEQA moved far from its original goals. Its idea was to make certain that negative environmental impacts potentially incurred by new infrastructure would be spotted, then eliminated or appropriately mitigated.

Today, CEQA is abused to near uselessness. Special interests use the law not to learn if a project might produce environmental harm, but to delay and make prohibitively expensive housing and infrastructure projects that potentially could benefit rank-and-file Californians.

The most effective opposition to reforming CEQA comes not from the green activists but from organized labor particularly the building trade unions. They have real clout among the Democrats legislative supermajority to block change they oppose. The unions use CEQA as a vehicle to file lawsuits and administrative appeals that delay the planning process. The claim is invariably that the review performed was “inadequate.” The upshot is building anything becomes far more expensive and takes years not months longer.

These litigation-minded unions are happy to make deals. The infrastructure project’s private sector backers well know that their opposition evaporates if they exclusively employ union labor.

Continue on page 2

Inside this issue

- John’s Soapbox.....1
- Board of Directors.....2
- Member Spotlight.....3
- Father’s Day Car Show.....4
- ECA’s Golf Tournament.....5
- Safety Classes..... 6
- From the Desk of Jim Persons.....7
- Workplace Violence.....8
- News you can Use.....9
- Workers Comp.....10
- Emergency Response manual.....10
- Fire Clean up List.....10
- Sustaining Members.....11
- Committee News.....12



**2023
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT:
MIKE GULLEY
Northwest General Engineering

VICE PRESIDENT:
DAN GIORDANI
Argonaut Constructors

TREASURER
KIMBER CARPENTER LENNING
Kadon Trucking

SECRETARY
MATT STORM
Granite Construction

PAST PRESIDENT
ANTONIO MENCARINI
Ghilotti Construction Co

CONTRACTORS

KRISTI PRUITT
RCX, Inc

JOHN SERRES JR,
Serres Corporation

MIKE WOLFF
Wolff Contracting

CASEY WOOD
Ghilotti Bros. Inc

AFFILIATES

PAUL BARTHOLOW
Brelje & Race

JEFF CONNER
Aaction Rents

ART DEICKE
Environmental Pollution Solutions

CORINNA FERNANDEZ
PACE Supply

TRISHA MCCOMAS
Moss Adams LLP

VICTOR MCKNIGHT
InterWest Insurance

KEVIN NOONAN
Toby's Trucking

JEFF OKREPKIE
George Petersen Insurance

RYAN WILD SICH
Cal-West Rentals

GLENN SMITH
Smith Dollar PC

MARK SOILAND
Soiland Company

TROY SOILAND & SPENCER REID
Northgate Ready Mix

JAMES TRAPPE
Canyon Rock Co.

WALT TURNER
North Bay Petroleum

BILL WIGGINS
Trans Tech Consultants

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN BLY

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

Now for my commentary. CEQA will never be significantly reformed by California because many of the legislators are current or former labor organizers and lobbyists. Labor likes CEQA the way it is because they can oppose projects until “backroom” deals are struck making the project a union-only project. Don’t get me wrong, I am not judging whether this is right or wrong, I am simply stating facts.

Where this policy becomes “wrong” is when a much-needed project is stalled or abandoned due to the CEQA challenges to the project Environmental Impact Report by local associations using CEQA as a self-serving tool. Many of the CEQA lawsuits have little to do with actual harmful environmental challenges caused by the project, but more to do with a group trying to gain an advantage.

Why can we not keep CEQA to do the good it was designed to do, and eliminate the parts that are a disadvantage to needed development?

Because the deck is stacked. Labor is damn good at what they do, and let’s be honest, we all benefit from much of what Labor has been able to accomplish.

I just wish there was some middle ground sometimes. Sigh.

That’s All Folks

John



ECA MEMBER UPDATE



Granite Construction is a diversified construction and construction materials company that has provided Infrastructure Solutions for public and private clients in California for over 100 years. With offices in Santa Rosa, Ukiah, and Eureka, our local teams work together with project stakeholders to understand project objectives, constraints, and opportunities to provide project first solutions. Our local teams are experienced in site preparation, mass grading, underground utilities, concrete structures, paving, and flatwork concrete, and emergency response services. Ranked by ENR as the #1 Highway contractor in the US each of the last 3 years, Granite combines the resources of one of the country's largest contractors with a local team committed to service.



Granite Construction Company

Matt Storm

1324 S. State Street

Ukiah, CA 95482

707-467-4129

Email: matt.storm@gcinc.com

<https://www.graniteconstruction.com/>

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!





Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show

Thank you to all of our Sponsors and Volunteers~~~

For Photos of the Event click [HERE!](#)



Showcase Sponsor



Thank you to our sponsors & donators:

[Aaction Rents](#)—Donation

[Cresco Equipment Rental](#)—Donation

[Engelke Construction](#)—Awards Sponsor

[Ghilotti Bros. Inc.](#)—Raffle Sponsor

[Herc Rentals Trench Solutions](#)—Donation

[North Bay Petroleum](#)—Sponsor

[RCX, Inc.](#)—Donation

Winners

Best Hot Rod—Adam Holtzinger, 1955 Chevy Bel Air

Best Truck—Mike Buegelelsen, 1937 Ford Truck

Best Motorcycle—Tom Swegle, 1940 Harley Davidson & Tim Tewksbury, 1972 Honda CB750

Best Stock = Chris Garcia, 1978 Chevy Blazer

Best Rat Rod—Jerry Teverbaugh, 1949 Ford 1

Best Flames—John & Rochelle Berizzi, 1932 Ford Tudor

Best Engine—Ted Green, 1955 Chevy

Best Lowrider, - Mico Quiroz, 1964 Impala

Peoples Choice—Bill Laird, 1970 Ford Bronco

Cabrera & Associates

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.
Project Consultant

tacabrera@yahoo.com / 707-321-9951

www.cabreraassoc.com

Have you got a project in mind?
Let Cabrera & Associates provide solutions
Land Use Planning
Real Estate Development
And Governmental Relations



ECA's Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 12, 2024
Windsor Golf Club



Sold Out!

To Sponsor Click [HERE!](#)

SPONSORS!

[BoDean Company](#)—Showcase Sponsor
[Northgate Ready Mix](#)—Showcase Sponsor
[Core & Main](#)—Reception Sponsor
[Ghilotti Construction](#)—Reception Sponsor
[Ritchie Bros.](#)—Bar Sponsor & Hospitality Hole Sponsor
Roblar Quarry LLC—Reception Sponsor
[PACE Supply](#)—Beverage Cart Sponsor
[Aaction Rents](#)—Putting Sponsor
[Argonaut Constructors](#)—Putting Sponsor
[BC Engineering Group](#)—Cart Sponsor
[Devincenzi Concrete, Inc.](#)—Putting Sponsor
[EBA Engineering](#)—Raffle Sponsor
[George Petersen Insurance](#)—Hospitality Hole Sponsor
[Ghilotti Bros Inc](#)—Raffle Sponsor
[Herc Rentals Trench Solutions](#)—Beer Cooler & Tee Sponsor
[Newfront](#)—Beverage Cart Sponsor
[Peterson Trucks](#)—Hospitality Hole Sponsor
[Soiland Company](#)—Hospitality Hole Sponsor
[Toby's Trucking](#)—Driving Range & Tee Sponsor
[West Coast Diesels](#)—Hospitality Hole Sponsor
Jim Persons, Safety Pride—Hospitality Hole Sponsor
[United Rentals Trench Safety](#)—Cart Sponsor
[Engelke Construction](#)—Beer Cooler
J.M. Turner—Tee 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 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.

Friday, June 28—[Flyer](#)
9 am—11:30 am



Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

- County Application and Work Plan Preparation
- Coordination of Asbestos Survey and Fire Debris Disposal
- Air Monitoring, Erosion Control and Confirmation Sampling
- Cleanup Certification Report by Civil Engineer

info@TransTechConsultants.com

Office (707) 837-8408 or after hours (707) 478-2097

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Muddy Conditions Safety

When performing a job that is primarily done outside, there are many weather conditions that can pose a problem.

When it rains, it is going to create damp, wet, and muddy conditions, which can make certain tasks dangerous or even impossible to complete.

To read more 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 or sign up for an upcoming class!



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.



Providing creative solutions for complex environmental issues.



(Formerly Edd Clark & Associates)

The ECA Group is an integrity-driven group of environmental professionals. We put our clients first to help resolve their environmental issues. We are geologists, environmental engineers and scientists with the expertise to effectively manage complex environmental sites. We have been providing Clients professional service and problem-solving for over 30 years.

Services:

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)
Soil, Groundwater, Soil Vapor and Indoor Air
Quality Investigations
Remediation Services
Hydrogeologic Assessments
Watershed Management
Project and Construction Management
Indoor Air Compliance

Contact: (800) 474-1448 ~ (707) 792-9500
505 San Marin Drive, Suite A200, Novato, CA 94945
info@eddclarkandassociates.com

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. River Rock Casino is planning a major expansion-are you on the preferred bidding list?- [County seeks public input on River Rock Casino expansion - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
2. I am certain many of you have been following the saga of the storm drain pipe and subsequent sink holes. Our very own Granite Construction is on the job fixing things so have no fear! [Another hole discovered in Sonoma County airport runway prompts emergency repairs - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
3. The framework for development for the next few decades is under way in Sonoma County. Here is some information-[The ins and outs of updating Sonoma County's land-use policy - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
4. Employee Benefits-already expensive, what can firms do?- [Power of Two columnists offer cost containment strategies for employee benefits - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
5. Politics in Petaluma-our GAC led by Art Deicke, is all over the upcoming City Council races, but here is a preview of some of the candidates we will be vetting for the ECA-[Two new candidates enter Petaluma's race for City Council - The Press Democrat](#)
6. Onsite Wastewater Treatment Standards (septic systems mostly), have been regulated and discussed by the Realtors and ECA for many years. We (ECA) recently signed on to a letter to the Supervisors regarding the regulations that affect hundreds (if not thousands) of properties in Sonoma County. Thanks to Lisa Badenfort for being a "CHAMPION" on this issue for many years! click [HERE](#) for letter.

You're Invited

JAMES GORE
STATE SENATE

Checks Payable:
James Gore for State Senate 2026
1017 L Street, # 522
Sacramento, CA 95816

Contribution Levels:
\$5,500 - Platinum Sponsorship + Activity
\$2,500 - Includes Activity
\$1,000 - Per Ticket

Sunday, June 23rd
12:00-3:00 PM
Wing & Barrel Ranch
6600 Noble Road, Sonoma, CA 95476

RSVP@BLRFUNDRAISING.COM
Reservation due before 6/16

The California Political Reform Act (Proposition 34) places limits on contributions to candidates for state office and imposes certain prohibitions. This request does not seek a contribution in excess of applicable limits or from prohibited sources. An individual, union, political action committee, association, partnership, business, or corporation may contribute a maximum of \$5,500 to the committee per election. A registered Small Contributor Committee may contribute a maximum of \$1,000 to the committee per election.

PAID FOR BY JAMES GORE FOR STATE SENATE 2026 FPPC#1464998

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!](#)





CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS



COMMITTEE NEWS

1. **Government Affairs Committee**-Our Government Affairs Committee, led by Art Deicke, has begun to gather information on the November ballots facing our ECA membership. Please consider giving a “thank you” to our GAC committee members when you have a moment: Art Deicke-Chair, Keith Woods, Ross Liscum, Brian Ling, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland, Joanne Webster (NBLC) and John Bly.
2. **Community Relations Committee**-Lacey has been in contact with The Children’s Museum and is tracking their progress in procuring the necessary permits for their parking lot expansion.
3. **Father’s Day Show and Shine Car Show Committee**-chaired by Walt Turner happened on Father’s Day. By all accounts, a great success and a fun “family” day. Improvements being discussed are how to shorten the line to get the cars into the park, and how to shorten the line for beers and waters. Thanks to Walt and his family, Mary Cabrera and her staff of volunteers: Corinna Fernandez, Chris Felciano, Robin Weller, Stephen Knuttel, Elaine McCann, David Whitehurst, Hiromi Young, and all that sponsored, donated, and participated. Special shoutout to Ghilotti Brothers and Casey Wood for parking cars so efficiently, and to Ghilotti Construction and Antonio Mencarini for helping out with unloading and loading tents, tables, chairs, etc. at the end of a long day! Also can’t forget our photographer! Irene Cecelia Photography. click [HERE!](#) To see the photos.
4. **Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Committee**-September 28, 2024, is the date, and Graton Event Center is the Place! Get your table mates together to have a great evening!
5. **ECA Specifications Committee**-chaired by Dale Smith and Casey Wood are following up on new water runoff rules. We have made contact with and set up a meeting with the North Coast Regional Water Board for August. This is a FIRST! Thanks Dale!
6. **ECA Golf Committee**-Players are filled up and we are still looking for sponsors-we need just a few more. If you can sponsor, we would really appreciate it!! Awards have been ordered, the Cannon guy is scheduled, and hole sponsors and food and drink are all set up. The ECA Golf tournament should be another great event for us! Thanks to all our sponsors and our Premiere Sponsors!

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!



Kadon Trucking Inc.

Hauling Material to create where you drive, live, work,
and play since 1980!

Serving the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Marin,
Solano, Contra Costa, Lake,
Mendocino and more.

New location:

369 Todd Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
707-838-8008

Quality ~ Service ~ Experience

Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

John Bly, Executive Vice President
email: john@nceca.org

Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director
email: mary@nceca.org

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper
email: cheryl@nceca.org

Postal Address: P.O. Box 8249 Santa Rosa, CA 95407 ~Phone: 707.546.5500