



July 1, 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.

Time for the City of Santa Rosa to Have a Reality Check, Not to Ask for Checks from Real Businesses!



Maybe you will have a different opinion than my quite cynical Soapbox title this week, maybe you agree with me. In either case, knowledge is power so here is some knowledge for you to consider.

The City of Santa Rosa has a budget problem. Apparently this budget problem has come as a surprise to the City of Santa Rosa leaders. Here is the problem in a condensed form:

Fiscal Year 24-25 has budget income of \$215.3 million and expenditures of \$228.6 million for a deficit of \$13.3 million.

The City has a reserve fund of \$24 million as of right now.

Santa Rosa Budget deficit grows from \$13.3 million/year in 2024-25, to \$36.4 million in 2028-29. The \$24 million reserve will be wiped out before mid-year 2026.

Now this is the same City that negotiates their labor contracts year in and year out and continues to tell us that they have trouble filling positions because they pay less than competing entities like MMWD, Sonoma County, and other areas that are all trying to lure the engineers, planners, and technicians into their workforce.

So, the numbers I just gave you came directly from the City of Santa Rosa Finance Department head Allen Alton just 3 days ago. Those budget deficits do not have any correction for paying more for their engineers, technicians and planners that are underpaid right now. So if the City was to fill positions, and not cut staff, the deficit would be much larger than that presented.

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Continued from page 1

Solution?

The City of Santa Rosa wants to consider putting a tax measure on the ballot in November to increase the business license tax and TOT taxes (those are the taxes for "room taxes" for motel and hotel stays).

The considered tax increases for TOT (Transit Occupancy Tax) would generate some \$2 million/year in additional revenue should the TOT be raised from the current 9% to a proposed 11%.

The TOT tax proposal is the little tax. The big one is the proposed Business License Tax.

Currently, the City of Santa Rosa caps the business license tax at \$3,000/year maximum. Businesses that currently pay less than the \$3,000 max tax rate today, will not see any increase in their business license tax. However, there are some 1388 businesses with gross receipts over \$5,750,000 annually would see an increase in their tax from \$3,000 annually to around 6 times that amount. In the case of "very large" businesses, they could see their business license tax increase far more than 6-times their current \$3,000 annual cost. Bottom line- the City of Santa Rosa wants to increase business license tax fees by over \$12,000,000 per year to help their budget deficit problem. Even this huge increase will not totally solve the budget deficit crisis the City finds itself mired in.

I have given you a bunch of numbers so far, now for the opinion part of this Soapbox:

Given no other commitments from the City of Santa Rosa to cut down on inefficiencies, streamline processes, curtail policies like their current PLA/CWA that prohibits many quality businesses from performing work on projects that the City puts out to bid, my initial reaction to possibly supporting their "budget crisis bailout is **No-HELL NO!!**

Here is a novel idea for the City of Santa Rosa-

QUIT SPENDING MORE THAN YOU ARE TAKING IN! Don't rely on local businesses to bail you out unless you can prove to us, like we would have to do in the private sector if faced with their budget dilemma, that the City has cut out inefficiencies and has stopped guaranteeing city worker pensions regardless of what the stock market return is. The other obvious and obnoxious part of this proposed business license tax is, for me at least, excluding lots of businesses from bidding on City of Santa Rosa projects unless they comply with the new PLA/CWA agreement in effect now. I cannot imagine a more diabolical double whammy than telling a business they can't bid on our projects but we still want to increase the cost of doing business with us!! **NOPE!**

Time for a reality check, not a check from real businesses!

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!



Happy 4th of July!!!



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Winners of the 2024 ECA Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show



Bill Laird, 1970 Ford Bronco.
Peoples Choice



Mico Quiroz, 1964 Impala,
Best Lowrider



Mike Buegeleisen. 1937 Ford Truck,
Best Truck



Ted Green, 1955 Chevy,
Best Engine



Adam Holtzinger, 1955 Chevy Bel Air,
Best Hot Rod



Chris Garcia, 1978 Chevy Blazer,
Best Stock



John & Rochelle Berizzi, 1932 Ford
Tudor, Best Flames



Tim Tewksbury, 1972 Honda CB750,
Best Motorcycle



Jerry Teverbaugh, 1949 Ford 1,
Best Rat Rod



Tom Swegle, 1940 Harley Davidson,
Best Motorcycle



ECA's Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 12, 2024
Windsor Golf Club



Sold Out!

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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 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—\$45 per person ~ 2 hrs for Supervisors \$60 per person

Active Violence Emergency Response Training— \$100 per person



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From the Desk of Jim Persons

OSHA's Fatal Four Hazards

Out of the wide range of risks construction workers face on the jobsite, OSHA has determined that there are four types of safety hazards that are responsible for the majority of worker fatalities.

These hazards are referred to as the “fatal four” or the “focus four.”

The fatal four hazards include falls, electrocutions, struck-by incidents, and caught-in/between incidents.

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.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. The city of Santa Rosa passes a budget that needs tax measures and reserves to make sense. [Santa Rosa's newly approved \\$508.8 million budget includes pay hikes, reserves to fill deficit - The Press Democrat](#)
2. ECA cosigned a letter on the issue of septic fixes being required of homeowners. The fix could cost a lot of money! [Russian River wastewater: Community meeting set regarding septic systems - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
3. \$81 million funding coming our way-where is it going? [California routes \\$81 million to North Bay to fix damaged, aging infrastructure - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
4. Solano County wary of water cuts that would have big effect on housing, development- [Solano County faces 75% water supply cut under Bay-Delta plan - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

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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.
[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**—Our Government Affairs Committee, will start working diligently on getting candidate information in July for interviews to take place in August.
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 is happening next Sunday, 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 water. We are already working on the Father’s Day Show and Shine Car Show for Father’s Day in 2025!
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! We do need some donations from you generous ECA Members!!
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 have set up a meeting with, the North Coast Regional Water Board for August. This is a FIRST! Thanks Dale and Casey!
6. **ECA Golf Committee**—Players are filled up at 128 players and we are still looking for sponsors—we need just a few more. 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—everyone is listed right here:

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