



“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.

We Have Become the Ostriches

The lack of actual economic planning for cities is becoming more evident every day. It seems like the news is full of one city after another claiming they have a budget crisis they did not foresee.

Cities have long depended upon simply passing a sales tax measure to make up for a lack of good, sound economic development policy.

Now that municipal income has been pinched because of some businesses that have left the area via retirement/excessive regulations/change in business climate/other reasons, some that have not survived the pandemic turndown, and the coming to terms with higher and higher payroll costs as well as benefits given to city employees over the decades, the time has come to have a reality check!

Santa Rosa has been (at least for a few months now) wrestling with a looming shortfall in their budget that has come into focus recently. Santa Rosa will be making some substantial cuts in services and up to a 10% reduction in city employees soon because they cannot possibly raise enough new tax revenue to bail themselves out of the crisis they now realize.

Tuesday, 8-6-24 the SR Council voted to send a tourist tax and business license tax to the voters to make their budget deficit reduce by \$4.6 million per year. That is not enough to make up for the budgeted shortfall, so cuts will be coming to services provided by SR. They have to cut. Read about the new tax increase here - [Santa Rosa council OKs 2 tax measures for November ballot - The Press Democrat](#)

Sebastopol is not immune to the budget crisis SR is experiencing. Today’s Press Democrat headline and article is about what Sebastopol is going to cut in providing services-[Sebastopol’s \\$2.63 million budget trim: Which services got the ax? - The Press Democrat](#)

My question continues to be a simple one:

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With all of the forecasting brainpower these cities have access to, shouldn't they have known the looming budget crisis sooner?

I mean, if I were going into labor negotiations for my private company employee salaries, I would want to fix (as best I could) my forecast income and expenses BEFORE I negotiated a several year commitment to my employees. You all know how to do this, and the Cities should know how to do this too. Yet, the City of Santa Rosa ignores staff recommendations two years ago that a PLA would cost the city more because of reduced competition and it would burden their over-worked staff to solve a problem that did not exist, and the Council in October 2022 ignored the protests of their own staff and approved a PLA that they could not afford.

Ostriches bury their heads in the sand, just like some council members did in October 2022 in Santa Rosa.

So as we continue to elect politicians who insist on spending more money (oh yeah, and its is OUR money not theirs!) than they take in, I guess we should not be surprised.

We have become the ostriches. Voters seem to be ok with burying our heads in the sand and voting strictly partisan choices for some reason. Ignore the policies the candidates say they stand for, just listen to the soothing BS promises they make. It is so easy and warm and isolated to not have to actually think when our heads are in the sand.

That's All Folks
John



COMMITTEE NEWS

1. **Government Affairs Committee**- Chair Art Deicke and the Government Affairs will be meeting on 8-28-24 and 8-29-24 to interview candidates for the 9 cities in Sonoma County running for Council or Mayor.
2. **Community Relations Committee**-no report
3. **Father's Day Show and Shine Car Show Committee**-no report
4. **Days of Wine and Place!** Please do not wait until the last minute to set your tables as we need you to put some effort and **Dozers Auction Committee**-September 28, 2024, is the date, and Graton Event Center is the thought into who you are inviting. We rely on our members to invite friends, clients, and employees who want to have a good time and hopefully bid on a few items so we can hit budget!! Thanks to all who are signing up for sponsorships and a few donations. We really appreciate it!
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 28, 4-5:30pm** at the NCBE Board Room. This is a FIRST! Thanks Dale and Casey!
6. **ECA Golf Tournament is ready to schedule for 2025!** No report.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

W.A. Anderson Group

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Design & Build—Many projects are designed on a budget to get permits and get building. Often that creates secondary design element questions. Wall systems in hillside situations go beyond height limits, grading can be adjusted to lower projected wall heights, excess spoils from the excavation can be used to create bonus usable space and area for outside recreation rather than costly exporting of material. Sewer, septic, process waste, fire systems also fit this category “as-built” drawings can be produced to re-route required utilities clear of ancient oak trees, around hard rock situations of expensive digging.

Winery & Brewery Construction

We have done numerous winery and even brewery projects over the years, many with sophisticated process waste systems, this item is constantly evolving as wineries are occupying smaller and smaller spaces requiring innovative design to meet strict county and state environmental requirements for wastewater. These systems require intermingling plumbing from crush pad to waste end, some cleaned and re-used as irrigation, some hauled away from containment tanks. We have done them all.

Hillside Specialists & Slide Repair

With over 40 years in hillside excavating and engineering we have done it all. Slide repair, buttress construction, hard rock removal, hillside cut and fill, crib walls, dry stack, boulder type, conventional retaining wall, back cutting, drainage backfilling, basement, elevator shafts, subterranean water storage, underground shooting ranges and bowling alleys.

To read more about W.A. Anderson Group, click [HERE!](#)

W.A. Anderson Group, PO Box 126, Vineburg, CA 95487, 707-210-4189, cell 707-372-8331
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ECA 32nd Annual Wine & Dozers



Auction & Dinner
Saturday, September 28th
Graton Resort & Casino



Enjoy an elegant and fun evening of generosity, delicious food, and signature drinks while coming together in support of ECA.

Saturday, September 28th
Graton Resort & Casino
288 Golf Course Drive
Rohnert Park, CA
5:30 pm Reception & Silent Auction
7 pm Dinner
8 pm Live Auction
9 pm Port & Cigar Bar

To register for the event click [HERE!](#)

Help us support the ECA by considering being a sponsor of the ECA's,
“Days of Wine & Dozers” Auction Fundraiser
We are also looking for live auction items!

For Sponsor opportunities Click [HERE!](#)

Thank you to our Sponsors:

[Serres Corporation](#)—Wing & Barrel Clay Shoot & Hog Hunt

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SAFETY CORNER

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—\$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

Listening Safety

Nearly all construction sites are filled with various sounds and noises. Each sound we hear is the result of an action of a worker using a tool or a piece of equipment.

In nearly every case, a tool or piece of equipment will signal its breakdown by a change in the normal operating sound.

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!

Providing creative solutions for complex environmental issues.



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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.

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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.

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!

Cabrera & Associates

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.
Project Consultant
tacabrera@yahoo.com / 707-321-9951
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Have you got a project in mind?
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Marin Election Taking Shape as we get past 8-9-24 filing deadline for most-[Marin election races take shape at candidates' filing deadline \(marinij.com\)](http://marinij.com)
2. Santa Rosa Council race takes shape-[At least 6 candidates vie for 4 Santa Rosa council seats in November - The Press Democrat](#)



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

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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

Come connect, collaborate, learn, and communicate with us in Healdsburg this December!

The Co-Permittees of the Russian River Watershed are excited to announce that registration for our free Annual Low Impact Development training is now open.

Title: 2024 Annual Low-Impact Development Training for the Russian River Watershed

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Time: 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. PST

Register Here: <https://stormwaterlidtraining2024.bpt.me/>

Intended for Private Design & Development Community and Public Agency Staff responsible for the design, compliance, or review of LID measures. This year's training will include case studies, discussions, and presentations including private industry civil engineers, municipal staff, and representatives from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Topics will include:

- Stormwater Calculator: A Design Engineer's Perspective
- Final SWLID Submittals
- FAQs
- Design/Installation Challenges
- Future of LID Manual and Calculator Updates

All participants are encouraged to attend in person; however, a virtual on-line option will be available (read instructions carefully). Space is limited and an RSVP is required.

Sign up now to reserve your spot and join us on Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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!