



“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.



What Have We Been Doing?

From time to time, it is important to remind folks of the good work the ECA is doing. A few of the items the ECA has been working on to benefit our industry and our loyal members:

1. Continued conversations with elected officials and staffers to consider modifying rules and regulations that make it hard for local workers to be employed on locally funded projects.
2. Vetting political candidates for Council and Mayor seats for Cloverdale, Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Windsor, Santa Rosa, Cotati, Rohnert Park, Sonoma, and Petaluma.
3. Formed a partnership with the Construction Corps to donate, provide training for students, and to provide firms to interview and hire the graduates of the latest graduates of the Construction Corps. Click [HERE](#)
4. Started our Community Relations Project to benefit the Children’s Museum in Santa Rosa. Supervisor James Gore will be attending the ribbon cutting ceremony at 9am onsite on 9-30-24. Everyone that is part of the ECA is welcome to attend!
5. Fostering relationships with the North Coast Regional Water Control Board in order to avoid violations and gain knowledge on how to mitigate difficult rain occurrences on our projects.
6. Collaborating with Public Works Directors in the North Bay area to “beef up” prevailing wage compliance and reporting so that all companies and subcontractors are able to participate on local projects without being at a disadvantage to any other firms.
7. Continuing to work with Sonoma County Transportation Authority to facilitate tax dollar funding for road projects, bike paths, pedestrian walks, and bridges in Sonoma County.
8. Finally-we are working on recognizing the contributions of our fellow ECA members for awards so we can continue to set the standards for achievement in our industry by recognizing those that have excelled.

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Keep in mind that the ECA gets involved in issues and regulations that promote fair business practices amongst our ECA members, protect the rights of local workers to work on local projects and receive fair payment for their work, foster relationships with public officials in order that belonging to the ECA and having an ECA contractor perform the work in the public arena provides a level of comfort to the local municipalities that an ECA contractor is a step above a contractor that is not an ECA member.

You all have enabled the ECA to continue this important work since 1976. 48 years and counting. Thank you for all you have done for the local workers, the local economy, and the public at large!

That's All Folks
John

COMMITTEE NEWS

Government Affairs Committee- Chair Art Deicke and the Government Affairs met on 8-28-24 and 8-29-24 and will have a final interview with candidates on 9-11-24. Here are the candidates we have vetted and will have recommendations to our Board of Directors:

City of Santa Rosa: Dianna MacDonald, Jeremy Newton

City of Rohnert Park: Gerard Giudice

City of Petaluma: Mike Healy, Alex DeCarli

City of Sonoma: none of the candidates responded.

City of Sebastopol: Neysa Hinton

City of Healdsburg: Ron Edwards, Heather Hannan Kramer, Linda Cade, David Hagele, Ariel Kelly

City of Cloverdale: Mark Laskey

Town of Windsor: JB Leep, John Leyba

City of Cotati: Susan Harvey

Although we sent out invitations and questionnaires to ALL of the candidates running for City and Town Councils, these listed above were the only ones who were interested in being interviewed. Following our Board Meeting on 9-24-24, we will provide a complete list of those who we believe represent ECA member interests the best.

Father's Day Show and Shine Car Show Committee-Save the date! Sunday, June 15, 2025. If you would like to be part of the committee let Mary know.

mary@nceca.org

Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Committee-We have a record number of attendees coming to this event. Yes, there is room for sponsorships and registration and donations. If you have any of those, please let Mary know as soon as possible! See you at the Days of Wine and Dozers on 9-28-24 – the evening begins at 5:30 pm.

Continued from page 2

Community Relations Committee-Brand new news! The Children's Museum project is under way. Giving back to the community has become a core value of the ECA. This project adds to the estimated \$4 million of donated labor, equipment, and materials in the last decade to deserving charities.

Special thank you to:

- Kevin Ghilotti and Team G for sourcing the off-haul materials!!
- Tom Swegel and RCX for mass excavation and load out of spoils!!
- Dan Fowler and Richard Owens for Project Management
- Tim Schramm and Adobe for survey and staking!
- Canyon Rock for base rock sourcing
- Valdivia, Kadon and Toby's for trucking services
- Ghilotti Construction Company for fabric and coordination
- Lacey Torkalson Smith for leading our Community Relations Committee and staying on this project for the past six or so months!

ECA Nominating Committee-Chair Antonio Mencarini has held two meetings to determine the following:

2024 Contractor of the Year

2024 Affiliate of the Year

2024 Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame

2024 Hermsmeyer Posthumous Hall of Fame

2024 Golden Hardhat

2024 Ambassador of the Year

2025 Officers

2025 Board of Directors

Thanks Tony and your Nominating Committee of Mike Gulley, Dan Giordani, Kimber Carpenter, and Matt Storm.

ECA Specifications Committee-chaired by Dale Smith and Casey Wood organized a great spec meeting that had 14 attendees on 8-28-24. Our next meeting is scheduled for 9-25-24 beginning at the new time of 3:00pm.



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:

Argonaut Constructors —Premier Sponsor	W.A. Anderson Group - Champagne Sponsor
Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers!	Adobe Associates – Photo Booth Sponsor
EBA Engineering —Reception Sponsor	Brelje & Race Consulting Engineers —Port & Cigar Sponsor
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Live Auction Sponsors

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

[BoDean](#)—Blast & Brews

[Ghilotti Bros. Inc.](#)—Warrior Tickets!

[Ghilotti Construction](#)—49er Tickets!

[Granite Construction](#)—Giants Tickets

[Mill Creek Safety](#)—CPR Class for 10

PACE Supply—Shark Tickets

Jim Persons—Safety Pride—Safety Class for 10

Sonoma Media Group—Two VIP tickets to Country Summer

Russian River Vineyard—overnight stay

Cuver Brewery—Tasting & Tour for 10 Guests

ECA 32nd Annual Wine & Dozers Auction & Dinner



Just a few of the live auctions that we will have at the Wine & Dozers Event
on September 28th!~



Wing & Barrel Ranch—Sporting Clay Instruction plus Shoot
Lunch and Wine Pairing ant the Clubhouse for 6 people
Thanks to: Serres Corporation

Warriors Chase Center Courtside Club Seats for Two—2
Seat Location: Section 4, Row A3, Seats 17 & 18
Thanks to: Ghilotti Bros Inc



The Ultimate Experience for Four 49er Fans!
VIP parking, early admission to the stadium, pregame at the United
Club, luxury seat, full-service bar. seats on the 40-yard line in the exclu-
sive Club Level Section 139, Row 20! (mutually agreed upon game). Ex-
pires at the end of the 2024-2025 season and is not valid for
Playoffs. **Thanks to: Ghilotti Construction**

Giants Hospitality Suite
12 Suite Tickets to a TBD game date!
Includes one parking pass.
Thanks to Granite Construction



VIP Tasting & Brewery tour for 10
Enjoy a VIP Tasting & Brewery tour for 10 guests at Cuver Brewery in
Windsor while you enjoy PizzaLeah's Pizza!.
Thanks to Cuver Brewery, Don Mills & PizzaLeah

Overnight Stay in the Wild
Spend the night in a luxury safari tent at Safari West. Dinner at the Savannah
Café. And a tour adventure
Thanks to RCX, Inc.



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Embracing Change in the Workplace

Change can be good or bad, depending on what the change is and, more importantly, how you react to it. Change is a fact that is inevitable, and we all need to deal with it as best we can. Individuals who adapt and embrace change are the ones who continue to thrive, whether that is at home or in the workplace.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



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!



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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 news, an update on your company or 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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The advertisement features a background image of architectural blueprints, a yellow level, and a ruler on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on this image.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

\$7 Million Grant for SMART Bike Path and Pedestrian Walkway-[\\$7 million grant to pay for SMART Pathway completion - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

Engineering Firm expands to Lake County from Napa-[Napa civil engineering firm RSA+ expands to Lake County - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

Sausalito Injects \$1.3 Million for Ferry surface work improvements-[Sausalito awards contract for ferry plaza project - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

Sorry for Homeowners but Good for Contractors-[Russian River wastewater: Community meeting set regarding septic systems - The North Bay Business Journal](#)



COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



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](#)

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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

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.



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!