



“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.**

### **Insurance-Senate Bill 1060 Aims to Allow Insurers (Who Utilize Risk Models for Underwriting Policies) to Consider Wildfire Risk Reduction Factors**



Following devastating losses from a series of wildfires across California over the past decade, Fire departments and local municipalities are trying hard to put mitigation efforts into preventing those wildfires from reoccurring.

*Fire officials, lawmakers, insurance agents and others are asking homeowners to help lower the risk of devastating wildfires by making improvements to their properties — in some cases at great expense — and often in the context of trying to hang on to their insurance policies. The state has spent about \$3.7 billion on forest management in the past seven years. Communities, fire districts and others are doing their part, too.*

*But some insurance companies citing growing risks and costs have paused or stopped writing new policies in California, causing a crisis of home-insurance affordability and availability. Some homeowners have [seen their premiums spike](#) or are being priced out, while others have been forced to turn to the [ever-growing FAIR Plan](#), the insurer of last resort that offers less coverage but higher insurance premiums anyway.*

A bill authored by Becker seeks to incorporate mitigation into insurance companies’ underwriting decisions — when they consider whether to write or renew policies. [Senate Bill 1060](#) awaits a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mortgage lenders demand protection from liability as well so they require the insurance coverage that is so darn tough to find today. We all have heard the horror stories of long-time insurance carriers who have had zero claims by a homeowner, simply refusing to renew their policy of late. We have also heard the stories of cancelled home sales caused by the inability to find insurance policies that satisfy lenders in some areas. Either the policy cannot be found or the premium shoots the possible homeowner way over the debt-to-income ratio negating the sale.

These are big problems facing California. There are a plethora of bills trying to address the situation going through committees in CA.

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Continued from page 1

Let's hope some of the bills will bring some relief to our insurance carriers and to homeowners and lenders trying to do something about California's lack of housing in every category.

That's All Folks  
John



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## COMMITTEE NEWS

**Government Affairs Committee-** Chair Art Deicke and the Government Affairs met on 8-28-24 and 8-29-24 and interviewed 11 candidates running for City and Town Councils for Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Cloverdale, Rohnert Park and Windsor. We will interview two (Cotati and Windsor) more on 9-5-24, and the last one from Petaluma TBD. For the most part, city council candidates are wrestling with how to continue service levels in cities that are not experiencing growth strong enough to sustain the increased costs of the services to be provided. I am generalizing, but most of the candidates seem to be disconnected from economic development being the key to sustaining services to the constituents. I would say Rohnert Park and Healdsburg seem to be in the best shape budget wise and in the realization that they need more businesses to come to their city to sustain services. Thanks to Art Diecke, Keith Woods, Mark Soiland, Mike Wolff and Dale Mahoney for attending some of the interviews. A full report of our GAC recommendations will go to our Board on September 24, 2024, to determine endorsements and/or dollar contributions.

**Community Relations Committee-**Brand new news! The Children's Museum has their permit in hand. This was a project that the CR Committee reviewed and presented to the full Board of Directors and the BOD said we would help them get the required permits before a full commitment. Now is the time to discuss what sort of commitment we might be able to make toward their project. I will be reviewing with Lacey and Dan Fowler and report back to the Board on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

**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](mailto:mary@nceca.org)

**Days of Wine and Dozers Auction Committee-**September 28, 2024, is the date, and Graton Event Center is the Place! One approach I have made successfully is that I am comping one of the major donors to my purchased table as they donated a high value item, and I know they will spend money!! Please consider doing that to get "other wallets" in the seats at the event!

**ECA Specifications Committee-**chaired by Dale Smith and Casey Wood organized a great spec meeting that had 14 attendees on 8-28-24. That may be the largest spec meeting I have ever attended. The attendees included two staffers from the North Coast Regional Water Board (NCRWQCB), as well as Nick Sudano and Anna Perrez from Santa Rosa and Windsor respectively. Detailed discussion as to how to deal with avoiding runoff problems at our sites was very helpful. The meeting was so positive, we decided to schedule another meeting and invite the same attendees to discuss bioswale engineering and construction topics for our next meeting. Following that meeting we will convene a joint meeting with NCBE and the ACEC as well as The Construction Coalition to share our findings. Great work by Chirs Casey Wood and Dale Smith!

**ECA Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, July 11, 2025, back at Windsor again!!**

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## ECA NEW MEMBER

### **Syndicate Freight Brokerage Inc.**

Sean Rogan

PO Box 94

Petaluma, CA 94952

Phone: 707-772-6650

Email: [sean@syndicatefreightbroker.com](mailto:sean@syndicatefreightbroker.com)

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**Syndicate Freight Brokerage** is a freight brokerage based in Petaluma, CA specializing in construction freight in the NorthBay as well as food safe tankers and dry vans. Syndicate is focused on providing excellent service and competitive rates to contractors no matter the job. We take pride in creating transportation solutions and building relationships with our clients.

# 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**

To reserve a room at the nearby Oxford Suites guests can book online using the booking link: <http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=4445279&hotelID=106575> OR by using the group code: NCECA when calling to make a reservation. 707-584-0333.  
Deadline for this offer is extended until the 4th.

**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:

<p><a href="#">Argonaut Constructors</a>—Premier Sponsor <a href="#">Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers!</a> <a href="#">EBA Engineering</a>—Reception Sponsor <a href="#">Maggiora &amp; Ghilotti</a> - Platinum Sponsor <a href="#">Mike Brown Electric</a> – Platinum Sponsor <a href="#">Team Ghilotti</a>—Platinum Sponsor <a href="#">Aaction Rents</a>— Champagne Sponsor <a href="#">ASP, Inc.</a> – Dinner Wine Sponsor <a href="#">Canyon Rock</a>—Dinner Wine Sponsor <a href="#">Cresco Equipment Rentals</a>—Bar Sponsor <a href="#">Engelke Construction</a> – Bar Sponsor Northgate Ready Mix—Bar Sponsor <a href="#">Herc Rentals Trench Safety</a> - Table Wine Sponsor <a href="#">Peterson CAT</a> – Table Wine Sponsor <a href="#">Stevenson Supply</a>—Martini Sponsor</p>	<p><a href="#">W.A. Anderson Group</a> - Champagne Sponsor <a href="#">Adobe Associates</a> – Photo Booth Sponsor <a href="#">Brelje &amp; Race Consulting Engineers</a>—Port &amp; Cigar Sponsor <a href="#">Nunley Engineering</a> – Photo Booth Sponsor <a href="#">Daniel O. Davis</a>—Port &amp; Cigar Sponsor <a href="#">North Bay Petroleum</a>—Photo Booth Sponsor <a href="#">PACE Supply</a>—Photo Booth Sponsor <a href="#">RCX, Inc</a>—Port &amp; Cigar Sponsor <a href="#">Don Ramatici Insurance</a>—Gold Sponsor <a href="#">Stripe 'N' Seal Inc.</a>—Gold Sponsor <a href="#">Toby's Trucking</a>—Gold Sponsor <a href="#">United Rentals</a>—Gold Sponsor <a href="#">Valdivia Trucking</a> – Port &amp; Cigar Sponsor <a href="#">American Asphalt</a> – Bronze Sponsor <a href="#">Smith Dollar PC</a>—Bronze Sponsor</p>
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Live Auction Sponsors

[Serres Corporation](#)—Wing & Barrel Clay Shoot & Hog Hunt  
[Ghilotti Bros. Inc.](#)—Warrior Tickets!  
[Ghilotti Construction](#)—49er Tickets!  
[Granite Construction](#)—Giants Tickets  
[Mill Creek Safety](#)—CPR Class for 10  
Jim Persons—Safety Pride—Safety Class for 10  
Sonoma Media Group—Two VIP tickets to Country Summer

# ECA 32nd Annual Wine & Dozers Auction & Dinner

Just a couple 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



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### Battling Complacency at the Jobsite

Complacency is often a focal point when discussing workplace safety at many companies. For the most part, we understand what complacency is and what areas of work or life it affects us in.

However, even though we may acknowledge it, we may not fully grasp the consequences it can have or what we need to do to overcome it.

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](mailto: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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!



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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### 1. **Calif. offers vouchers of up to \$500K for e-equipment**

The application window is open through Feb. 13 for California's Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project, which offers vouchers of up to \$500,000 for the purchase or lease of electric construction equipment. Twenty-four models are eligible, including excavators and loaders from manufacturers including Caterpillar and Case Construction Equipment. **Full Story:** [Equipment World](#)

### 2. **AECOM to manage \$8.3B San Francisco rail extension**

AECOM will provide program and construction management services for the \$8.3 billion Downtown Rail Extension project in San Francisco with the company's selection by the Transbay Joint Powers Authority. The 1.3-mile extension will be mainly below ground with the use of cut-and-cover and mined tunneling. **Full Story:** [Construction Briefing](#)

### 3. **Turner kicks off delayed \$2.9B Calif. airport project**

Turner Construction last week began construction on a \$2.9 billion project to upgrade Terminal 3 at San Francisco International Airport. The work, which had been delayed by the pandemic, will renovate the western half of the terminal to include seismic fortification while also introducing 200,000 square feet of additional food and retail space. **Full Story:** [Construction Dive](#)

### 4. **Granite to rebuild Calif. I-40 rest area**

## 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](mailto: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



## 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 Kincadee 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](mailto: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](#)

## Save the DATE! Upcoming 2025 Events Dates

**Installation—Saturday, February 1**

**Public Officials Night—TBD**

**Father's Day Car Show—June 15**

**ECA Golf Tournament—July 11**





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### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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John Bly, Executive Vice President  
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## **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

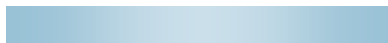
**Time:** 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. PST

**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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) ~ We would love to have you!