



September 9, 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.

### Labor Shortage? ECA Stepping Up and Partnering with NCBE to do Something About it!



Our biggest event of the year is coming up on 9-28-24-THE ECA DAYS OF WINE AND DOZERS annual dinner and auction. Many folks ask if the event supports any particular cause or charity.

The answer is YES.

The Construction Corps is a program that has been operational for many years. The premise is that high school seniors about to enter college or the work force, are invited to participate in an intensive program that gives these young people exposure to working in the construction business as a career. From plumbing to electrical to operating heavy equipment, these students volunteer to spend a lot of hours learning about good work habits, healthy habits, and they gain insight and skills that can help them decide to work building our infrastructure, our homes, and our commercial buildings that so need an influx of young workers.

The ECA has just committed to a partnership with the North Coast Builders Exchange to help teach and support these students in their efforts to decide to pursue a career or college or a combination of both. Many of these students would default to a career in a low paying job without much chance of advancement if this program was not available. Please watch this short video to get a better idea of what the Construction Corps is all about: Click [HERE!](#)

At the ECA Days of Wine and Dozers annual event, we will be making a substantial donation to the Construction Corps program. I hope this will influence your decision to come to the event at the beautiful Graton Event Center, invite some of your friends and donors to enjoy the evening, and to raise their paddles and help support both the ECA and the Construction Corps. After all, investing in the Construction Corps is investing in your own company’s future!

Continue on page 2

#### Inside this issue

- John’s Soapbox.....1
- Board of Directors.....2
- Member Spotlight.....2
- Committee News.....3
- Wine & Dozers.....4
- From the Desk of Jim Persons.....6
- News you can Use.....8
- Workers Comp.....9
- Emergency Response manual.....9
- Sustaining Members.....10
- Low Impact Development Training....12



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Continued from page 1

With the acute labor shortage we are facing in construction, having a seat to interview some of these motivated young people who have elected to go through this program is a big opportunity for ECA firms to interview and make an offer to some of these young people. Who knows-maybe one of these Construction Corps graduates will stick with your firm and spend their entire career there!

The ECA provides an opportunity for you to hire young people into our industry. Go to the Auction and support this opportunity please!

The rest is up to us!

That's All Folks  
John

**ECA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**STILLPOINT, INC**



Knowledge, developed from many years of experience, and our commitment to provide high quality service for our clients, results in successfully completed projects. Paying attention to detail is what allows our team to navigate through the construction process in a timely manner. Below is a list of our main services we offer our clients.

Our site development experience includes waterway projects, road building, underground utilities, septic systems and general grading. Please browse through our gallery of projects below. We look forward to offering our expertise.

Carl Burchfiel  
PO Box 14174  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
Phone: 707-526-1300  
Email: [stillpointinc@gmail.com](mailto:stillpointinc@gmail.com)  
<https://www.stillpointengineering.com/>



## 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.

**Community Relations Committee-**Brand new news! The Children's Museum has their permit in hand. We (the Board of Directors) adopted this project as our Community Relations Project. Our biggest "ask" right now-WE NEED A DUMP SITE THAT WILL TAKE 1300 CY OF MATERIAL TO OFF-HAUL FROM THE SITE.

**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! President Mike Gulley has a message for you all and here it is: [HERE](#)

**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!!**

# 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:

<a href="#">Argonaut Constructors</a> —Premier Sponsor	<a href="#">W.A. Anderson Group</a> - Champagne 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

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  
exclusive Club Level Section 139, Row 20! (mutually agreed upon  
game). Expires 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**

## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### Skid Steer Safety

Skid steers are a common piece of equipment found in a variety of industries. While they are small in size, the danger these machines can pose can be large.

It is critical to take time to recognize the hazards present during the operation of skid steers so that the necessary best practices can be followed.

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](mailto:jimpersons@safetypride.com) or phone: 707-889-0881 or sign up for an upcoming class!



### Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

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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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A background image for the law firm advertisement showing a construction site with a yellow level, blueprints, and a ruler.

The logo for SmithDollar, featuring a stylized 'S' and 'D' inside a circle.

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Loss for Climate Change Zealots? - [Sonoma County suspends ban on natural gas appliances in new construction following court ruling - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

You will recognize many ECA members on this list-congratulations to all of those that make your firm a GREAT PLACE TO WORK!- [Why these 102 Napa, Marin, Solano, Marin companies are Best Places to Work - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

For those who have seen the big expansion at Graton, this is no surprise, but if you have not been there for a while, big changes are happening! [Sonoma County's Graton casino opens 1,600-space parking garage - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

Confused over what the rules are for trucking prevailing wage requirements? This UCONN publication should be helpful! Click [HERE](#)



## 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 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](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](#)

**Providing creative solutions for complex environmental issues.**



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### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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