



October 14, 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.

### Reap What You Sow

Next month, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is poised to implement new rules regarding production of high carbon fuels. The new regulations would add to penalties that could land on refineries and the refineries, in order to avoid those penalties, would institute new procedures in making gasoline and diesel fuels that would raise the cost of those fuels. In September of last year, CARB estimated the regulations could raise gas prices by 47 cents per gallon, but analysts, according to The Times, say customers at the pump could be paying 65 cents more per gallon if the regulations go through.

[Regulations being considered by California air board could dramatically raise gas prices \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)

The board will vote on the regulations just three days after the Nov. 5 general election.

I am bringing this little bit of warning to you all in case you are finalizing bids for work to take place in 2025 or later. Unless you have an “escalator” clause in your contracts, and unless you want to “eat” the extra cost, you might want to increase your bids by about 20% for fuel costs in 2025.

Now, let me ask you-if you do not like paying the highest fuel prices in the USA, maybe consider voting differently since the majority of appointments to the CARB are made by elected officials. CARB has a lot of power, and that power is costing you money. Lots of it. Shouldn't we elect that board rather than let the majority in Sacramento assign those positions?

Californians keep voting the same party into power, then complain about high crime, high regulations, and high costs of living.

We reap what we sow. Or “you eventually have to face up to the consequences of your actions.

Vote smart. But make sure you vote!

That's All Folks  
John



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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

1. **Sonoma County PLA-** It is agreed that **trucking will not be included in the new County PLA**

2. **Caltrans Hits Milestone!** [Caltrans reaches transportation contract milestone](#)  
The California Department of Transportation reports a record \$15 billion in ongoing construction projects, with a significant portion aimed at smaller companies. This growth is supported by state and federal funding, including California's Road Repair & Accountability Act and the federal Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. Caltrans completed \$306 million in work over the past month, with payments to contractors increasing significantly compared to last year. **Full Story:** [Equipment World](#)

3. **Private Projects Getting Some Positive News?** [Interest rate cuts drive down project abandonments](#)

ConstructConnect's latest report reveals a significant 49.8% drop in construction project abandonments in September, attributed to falling interest rates and a positive economic outlook. Despite this, the Project Stress Index rose by 16.7% due to a 9.8% increase in projects put on hold. Chief economist Michael Guckes notes that while the index is higher than in recent months, it remains within historical norms. Private and public sectors are seeing reduced stress levels, with optimism around lower interest rates driving improvements. **Full Story:** [Construction Dive](#)

4. **General Contractors Get Ready For Tax Season 2025-**[Column: How GCs can start getting ready for tax season](#)

General contractors should start preparing for the 2025 tax filing season by reviewing current projects to determine which will reach 95% completion by year-end, as this impacts taxable income, and consider deferring or accelerating project completion based on tax rate fluctuations, writes certified accountant Anita Mohamed. Contractors should evaluate potential tax savings from state pass-through entity elections and bonus depreciation phase-outs, and prepare for upcoming tax law changes before 2025, especially potential expiration of state and local tax caps. **Full Story:** [Construction Dive](#)

5. **Machines Running More Efficiently!** [Advanced controls make upgraded dozers more productive](#)

Companies like Case, Caterpillar, Develon, John Deere, Komatsu and Liebherr are enhancing dozers with features such as electrohydraulic controls, 2D/3D machine control and improved visibility to boost productivity and ease operator use. These advancements, seen in models like the Case M Series, Cat D8 and Develon DD130, offer customizable operator settings, intelligent machine control and optimized designs for various site conditions. **Full Story:** [Equipment World](#)

6. **Defending Rising Ocean Levels in Bay Area-**[Granite to stabilize perimeter dike at Calif. airport](#)

Granite Construction has secured a \$34 million contract to enhance the seismic stability of the perimeter dike at San Francisco Bay Oakland International Airport. Keller North America provided a solution that will allow crews to use cement deep soil mixing to strengthen 4,200 feet of the dike and protect the airport from water intrusion during seismic events. The project is expected to begin in early 2025 and should be completed by the third quarter of 2026. **Full Story:** [Construction Briefing](#)

## COMMITTEE NEWS

1. ECA Community Relations Committee-Chair Lacey Torkelson Smith led a ribbon cutting ceremony last Monday for our recent Children's Museum project just completed.
2. ECA Government Affairs Committee-Chair Art Deicke recently approved (with the full cooperation and vote of the ECA Directors) the complete list of ECA endorsed candidates and ballot measures can be found right [HERE](#).
3. ECA Spec Committee-Chairs Dale Smith and Casey Wood oversaw our Spec Committee meeting on September 25, and I will be coordinating with Dale and Casey on hosting a SWPP compliance and bios-wale design and installation workshop in the near future.
4. ECA Nominating Committee-Chair Antonio Mencarini has convened several committee meetings to recommend Award Winners for 2024 as well as new Officers and new ECA Directors for our Board for 2025. As Antonio finalizes his recommendations to present to the full ECA Board on October 22, we want to thank Antonio and his committee of Mike Gulley, Dan Giordani, Kimber Carpenter, Matt Storm, and special committee help by Mark Soiland.
5. ECA Annual General Membership Meeting-After input from our Directors and Exec Committee, we have set up our Annual GMM for Tuesday, November 26 from 12-2 pm at Sally Tomatoes in Rohnert Park. Our speakers will include David Rabbitt and James Cameron on all the auto roadway improvements being planned for, Eddy Cumins on the SMART train track and station projects extending to Healdsburg, Sonoma County Water agency's Grant Davis and senior staff official on the latest news from the Potter Valley/Eel River water diversions affecting our water supply as well as a proposed new reservoir and electrical generating facility at Warm Springs Dam. This is a final chance to get your name on the Flyer that will go out soon, and we will only seek two Premiere sponsors for this event at \$500 each. Click [HERE](#) for the sponsor form. Please let Mary know if you want to sponsor this event that will get a lot of coverage with staffers and elected officials in Sonoma County as well as Marin and Mendocino Counties. Thanks in advance to our ECA Sustaining Members for sponsoring this event along with all of our ECA events!

ECA Annual Days of Wine and Dozers Auction and fund raiser-Chaired by Mary Kennedy Cabrera and attended by well over 200 ECA supporters and partiers, was held last Saturday night (September 28, 2024) at the Graton Event Center in Rohnert Park. A special additional thank you and note of appreciation to the list of donors of items to be auctioned off in both the silent and live auction segments. Please click on this [link](#) to see all the generous donors who made this such a memorable evening!

### Save the Dates!

General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, November 26  
Installation & Awards Dinner - Saturday, February 1, 2025  
Public Officials Night - Wednesday, April 23, 2025  
Father's Day Car Show - Sunday, June 15, 2025  
ECA Golf Tournament - Friday, July 11, 2025

## Volunteer Opportunities!

### **GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS | Group Volunteer Project** **Enterprise Mobility**

11/20 | Presidio Habitat Stewards (CP), location varies, 9 am -12 pm. Maximum capacity: 15 volunteers  
Restore and preserve the park's natural areas, while learning about the plants and animals found in our local creeks, dunes, grasslands, and woodlands. Activities often include planting, weeding, watering, or spreading mulch.

If you would like to participate Please [register here](#)



**SPONSOR A FLAG.**

**\$40 IN HONOR OF ACTIVE MILITARY, VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS. PROCEEDS BENEFIT VETERANS AND THE FAMILIES OF VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.**

**FIELD OPEN NOVEMBER 10-16, 2024**  
**OPENING CEREMONIES** NOVEMBER 10, 11 AM- 2 PM  
**CLOSING CEREMONIES** NOVEMBER 16, 1PM -3 PM  
FIELD OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM - 2 PM FOR ALL VISITORS.

**PICK UP YOUR FLAG** NOVEMBER 16 FROM 2-4 PM  
**UNCLAIMED FLAGS** WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE SONOMA COUNTY FIELD OF HONOR AND WILL BE SOLD IN 2025.

**FIELD LOCATION:** WING AND BARREL RANCH,  
6600 NOBLE ROAD, SONOMA, CA

**WWW.SONOMACOUNTYFIELDOFHONOR.ORG**



# Planes, Trains & Water

Noon—2 pm

Tuesday, November 26

**Sally Tomatoes**

**1100 Valley House Dr, Rohnert Park.**

**Our speakers will include:**

**Supervisor David Rabbitt and James Cameron, SCTA** on all the auto roadway improvements being planned for, **Eddy Cumins, SMART** on the SMART train track and station projects extending to Healdsburg, Sonoma County Water agency's **Grant Davis, Sonoma Water** and senior staff official on the latest news from the Potter Valley/Eel River water diversions affecting our water supply as well as a proposed new reservoir and electrical generating facility at Warm Springs Dam.

To Register click [HERE](#)

To Sponsor click [HERE](#)

Thanks again to our Wine & Dozers Sponsors and those that donated!

Click [HERE](#)

Photos from the ECA's Wine & Dozers Auction

Thank you again [irenececilia.com](http://irenececilia.com)!

Click [HERE](#) to see the photos on our Facebook page!



## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### New Equipment Safety

Every single day, new technologies and equipment are being introduced into the marketplace. These technologies and equipment eventually make it to our workplaces. It is important to thoroughly understand these new tools before beginning work. Often new tasks and equipment are a source of injury on the job.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



### Workplace Violence Program

Implemented – 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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The advertisement features a background image of architectural blueprints, a yellow level, and a ruler on a wooden surface.

## SAFETY CORNER

### CPR / First Aid

Training includes bleeding control, strokes, seizures, broken bones and other life-threatening emergencies. Adult/child/infant CPR & airway obstruction management covered. This course is designed as both a course for first-timers and as a refresher.

Thursday, November 13 / 1 pm–3 pm

Click [HERE](#) for flyer.

### Confined Space

This course covers proper procedures for making entry into Permit Required Confined Spaces. Participants are prepared to operate in the capacity of Entrant, Attendant or Entry Supervisor during confined space operations. Participants are familiarized with CFR 1910.146 and how to properly employ the permit program. This course is a combination of classroom instruction and practical application in actual permit spaces utilizing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, meters and ventilation. This course is required by OSHA before an employee can enter a Permit Required Confined Space. Certification of completion is provided.

Wednesday, December 4 / 1 pm–3 pm

Click [HERE](#) for the flyer.

### Competent Person Trenching & Excavation

The course will cover soil analysis, sloping, shoring and shielding, hazardous situations, excavation standards and more...

Wednesday, December 11 / 1 pm–3 pm

Click [HERE](#) for flyer.





## 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](#)

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### Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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John Bly, Executive Vice President  
email: [john@nceca.org](mailto:john@nceca.org)

Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director  
email: [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org)

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper  
email: [cheryl@nceca.org](mailto: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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) ~ We would love to have you!