



October 7, 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.

For Jerry’s Daughter-Yes on Prop 36



In 2014, voters in California approved Proposition 47-here is the short version of what the voters decided:
Proposition 47

		
November 4, 2014		
Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute. Requires misdemeanor sentence instead of felony for certain drug and property offenses. Inapplicable to persons with prior conviction for serious or violent crime and registered sex offenders. Fiscal Impact: State and county criminal justice savings potentially in the high hundreds of millions of dollars annually. State savings spent on school truancy and dropout prevention, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and victim services.		
Results		
Choice	Votes	%
✓ Yes	4,238,156	59.61%
✗ No	2,871,943	40.39%
Valid votes	7,110,099	94.63%
Invalid or blank votes	403,873	5.37%
Total votes	7,513,972	100.00%

Inside this issue

- John’s Soapbox.....1
- Board of Directors.....2
- Committee News.....3
- Wine & Dozers.....4
- New Member.....5
- 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



Continue to page 2

**2023
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT:

MIKE GULLEY
Northwest General Engineering

VICE PRESIDENT:

DAN GIORDANI
Argonaut Constructors

TREASURER

KIMBER CARPENTER LENNING
Kadon Trucking

SECRETARY

MATT STORM
Granite Construction

PAST PRESIDENT

ANTONIO MENCARINI
Ghilotti Construction Co

CONTRACTORS

KRISTI PRUITT
RCX, Inc

JOHN SERRES JR,
Serres Corporation

MIKE WOLFF
Wolff Contracting

CASEY WOOD
Ghilotti Bros. Inc

AFFILIATES

PAUL BARTHOLOW
Brelje & Race

JEFF CONNER
Aaction Rents

ART DEICKE
Environmental Pollution Solutions

CORINNA FERNANDEZ
PACE Supply

TRISHA MCCOMAS
Moss Adams LLP

VICTOR MCKNIGHT
InterWest Insurance

KEVIN NOONAN
Toby's Trucking

JEFF OKREPKIE
George Petersen Insurance

RYAN WILD SICHI
Cal-West Rentals

GLENN SMITH
Smith Dollar PC

MARK SOILAND
Soiland Company

TROY SOILAND & SPENCER REID
Northgate Ready Mix

JAMES TRAPPE
Canyon Rock Co.

WALT TURNER
North Bay Petroleum

BILL WIGGINS
Trans Tech Consultants

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN BLY

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

Voters were told by Prop 47 co-author George Gascon (the very controversial District Attorney of Los Angeles), that trying to treat addiction and drug dealers and drug users by putting them in jail is the wrong approach. Voters in California “bought” this opinion to the tune of voting yes on Prop 47 59.61% to 40.39%. Now, after 10 years, many voters in California are “pissed off” that drug dealers and drug users and thieves and many other criminals are not serving jail time for their illegal actions. Many are thinking that appeasement and being soft on crime is not doing our communities any good at all.

Prop 36 has been drafted to “correct” many of the “soft on crime” results Californians have seen from Prop 47 being passed in 2014. Prop 36 would strengthen criminal penalties for repeat offenders involving retail theft and fentanyl possession. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom [has come out against the measure](#), which has also been the target of criminal justice reform and drug treatment advocates.

Whether you are a democrat or republican, whether you work in our ECA industry or in professional sports (note the shooting on Ricky Pearsall in San Francisco a few months ago), we are all affected by the lawlessness in California and the easy or non-existent jail sentences for many that are making us all unsafe. Whether you believe that putting offenders in jail will solve addiction problems, or simply punish the offenders, we are all living with the effects of the soft on crime prop 47 that lets these criminals roam free rather than serve time.

It is time to change that tune.

A personal story about the soft on crime judicial system in California. Last week I spoke with an old friend that some of you may know – Jerry Min-ton. Although Jerry and I had served on the NCBE Board together for many years, Jerry moved to Oregon several years ago and we lost touch with each other. Reconnected, he shared with me his tragic loss of his daughter to a fentanyl overdose. A beautiful young lady about to graduate from college and starting her journey, she was no different than many in their young years regarding dabbling in substances that enhance or alter the social interaction in college get togethers. Regrettably for her, a dealer gave her fentanyl and she apparently had no idea she was being exposed to it and it ended her young life.

Many, including her father, would consider this murder or at least manslaughter for the drug supplier. Yet, after years of trying to reach justice for his daughter's life, this guy *will serve 3 months in jail for killing Jerry's daughter*.

Think how any of us would feel if that were our child.

Jerry asked me to simply do one thing when I expressed my sympathy and asked if there was anything I could do. He asked me to promote Prop 36 for him.

Read about Prop 36 here - [California Proposition 36: Penalties for theft, drug crimes \(calmatters.org\)](#).

Well, Jerry, your “ask” is being responded to in this Soapbox.
For Jerry’s daughter, for your own children’s and grandchildren’s sake, let’s put these assholes in jail for a lot longer than prop 47 requires-get real about protecting our children and vote yes on Prop 36.

VOTE YES ON PROP 36-

PLEASE!

If you think this does not affect the general engineering contracting industry, think again as we face increasing theft of our equipment, our materials, and our personal freedom as we simply try to walk or ride on a public sidewalk these days. Drug use is everywhere and appeasing the drug users is not working. We must help to save our communities and put these murderers in jail-for a long time!

For Jerry’s Daughter-Yes on Prop 36.

That’s All Folks
John



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. Go to page 8 to see some photos of the ribbon cutting
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 it was apparent that we need to get information out to our ECA contractors on new enforcements of SWPP plans and General Permit requirements as well as bioswale design and installation and compliance. I will be coordinating with Dale and Casey on hosting a SWPP compliance and bioswale 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 works hard to get his recommendations ready 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.

Continue on page 4

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

Continued from page 3

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 one or two Premiere sponsors for this event at \$1,000 each. 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 of our ECA Sustaining Members for sponsoring this event along with all of our ECA events!

6. 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. The ECA thanks all the donors, attendees, sustaining members, and purchasers of all the games and auction items!! It was a success from the "get go" and the evening was enhanced by generous sponsorship of the Construction Corps at the end of the auction event as we raised over \$8,000 for support of this great program introducing young people to our industry. Again-thanks to all of you, and all our volunteers who worked hard to make the evening fun for all of you!!



Photos of the Ribbon Cutting at the Children's Museum

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **Sonoma County PLA**- Following the ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, September 30, 2024, I followed Supervisor James Gore's advice to call Yvonne Suh of Sonoma County to find out where the new PLA policy was at Sonoma County. Yvonne informed me there were some details being worked out with the union trades but that the issue of **trucking material to and from County public works project sites was not one of the issues being worked on**. It is agreed that **trucking will not be included in the new County PLA!!** This is a tribute to those that bravely stood up and wrote or spoke on behalf of the trucking industry and material suppliers a few months ago-thank to Kevin Ghilotti, Wendell Trappe, Jeff Roades, Kimber Carpenter, and others that expressed their opinion that trucking should not be a part of the PLA for Sonoma County. Your voices were heard and Yvonne said the language of the PLA will exclude trucking.
2. The Capitol Update for 10-4-24 for California-here is a lot of information from one of the best lobbyists in our industry-Click [HERE](#)



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Three Types of Poor Housekeeping Hazards

Housekeeping is a basic foundation for not only a safe workplace but also a productive one. When workplace housekeeping is poor, employees are more likely to be hurt on the job. The unsafe conditions present due to poor housekeeping practices is often a contributing factor or a direct cause of workplace injuries.

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 or phone: 707-889-0881 or sign up for an upcoming class!



Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

- County Application and Work Plan Preparation
- Coordination of Asbestos Survey and Fire Debris Disposal
- Air Monitoring, Erosion Control and Confirmation Sampling
- Cleanup Certification Report by Civil Engineer

info@TransTechConsultants.com

Office (707) 837-8408 or after hours (707) 478-2097



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!



EBA ENGINEERING - SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR AN EVOLVING WORLD

EBA Engineering

825 Sonoma Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707.544.0784
www.ebagroup.com

**Cabrera
& Associates**

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.
Project Consultant
tacabrera@yahoo.com / 707-321-9951
www.cabreraassoc.com

Have you got a project in mind?
Let Cabrera & Associates provide solutions
Land Use Planning
Real Estate Development
And Governmental Relations

A Law Firm
BUILT
For Contractors

- Contracts & Collections
- Business Formation & Licensing
- Litigation & Disputes
- Mechanics Lien & Bond Claims
- Employment & Workplace Safety

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.

SmithDollar | (707) 522-1100

RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE EXTENDED PARKING LOT AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM SONOMA COUNTY



Collette Michaud, CEO



Supervisor James Gore



Lacey Torkelson Smith & James Gore cutting the ribbon.

TEAM Ghilotti
INCORPORATED
ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR
707-763-8700
PETALUMA, CA

www.teamghilotti.com | 707-763-8700
2531 Petaluma Blvd. S., Petaluma, CA 94952
CA Lic. #895384 | DIR#1000002085

EXPERIENCE. EXPERTISE. INTEGRITY.

Sound Ideas MEDIA
VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHY DESIGN

Aerial Video & Stills
Video & Commercial Production
Photography ★ Animation
Info & Motion Graphics
Virtual Events ★ Media Services

SOUNDIDEASMEDIA.TV
707.321.6803

Warm Springs Dam,
Sonoma County

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](#)

Providing creative solutions for complex environmental issues.



(Formerly Edd Clark & Associates)

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.

Services:

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)
Soil, Groundwater, Soil Vapor and Indoor Air
Quality Investigations
Remediation Services
Hydrogeologic Assessments
Watershed Management
Project and Construction Management
Indoor Air Compliance

Contact: (800) 474-1448 ~ (707) 792-9500
505 San Marin Drive, Suite A200, Novato, CA 94945
info@eddcClarkandassociates.com



CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS





Kadon Trucking Inc.

Hauling Material to create where you drive, live, work,
and play since 1980!

Serving the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Marin,
Solano, Contra Costa, Lake,
Mendocino and more.

New location:
369 Todd Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
707-838-8008

Quality ~ Service ~ Experience

Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

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

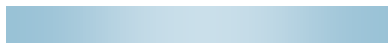
Time: 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. PST

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!