



November 4, 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.



If you are a Newsom fan, you probably should not read this soapbox. This Soapbox is critical to Newsom. You have been warned!

73% Can Hope

Crime has permeated our lives in California in many ways. Soft on crime Prop 47 deserves much of the blame in my opinion-read about Prop 47 here [2014 California Proposition 47 - Wikipedia](#).

With Prop 36 being on the ballot in an attempt to reform Prop 47, and the public support polling shows it is getting, it seems many of us believe the pendulum has swung too far in favor of criminal leniency.

Prop 47 was passed back in 2014 in CA.

I wrote a very personal plea for folks to vote “Yes” on Prop 36 to toughen our laws. Polling shows 73% of voters favor passing Prop 36 despite opposition from Governor Newsom and many other entrenched Dems in Sacramento. The survey can be found here- <https://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-government-october-2024/>

Newsom tried to get the Legislature to undercut Prop. 36 with a rival measure, but Democratic legislators, wary of the backlash, refused. Newsom could then have raised money for an opposition campaign but backed away, saying “it’s a question of bandwidth.”

Doubtful. Most of the contractors I spoke to would rather trust their own training skills rather than invest in an outsourced training school to produce operators.

“I fear I can’t do everything,” [he told reporters in September](#). “I’ve got, trying to get Kamala Harris elected President of the United States, trying to get through these 900 bills.”

Translation: Newsom knew that Prop. 36 was a slam dunk and didn’t want to risk a massive repudiation by leading an opposition campaign.

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**2023
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Maybe we are approaching a major shift in the politics of California. Two district attorneys who were elected on reform platforms, [George Gascón in Los Angeles County](#) and [Pamela Price in Alameda County](#), could lose their jobs. Gascón is running behind in his bid for a new term, and Price faces a recall.

Were two prosecutors in very liberal counties to be ousted, two years after [San Francisco DA Chesa Boudin was recalled](#), and were Prop. 36 to win massively, the political fallout could be felt for years, or even decades.

73% of us can hope, can't we?

That's All Folks!

John

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **SMART Gets Funding to Extend to Healdsburg-**[SMART's Healdsburg extension gets Plan Bay Area boost - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
2. **Farmers Lane Extension-not dead yet, but is the Vehicle Miles Travelled Climate Change issue going to kill it?** [Farmers Lane extension remains in Santa Rosa's long-range plans despite little progress - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
3. **Finally-One of the many proposed new hotels is moving forward-** [Construction begins on Hyatt Place located near Sonoma County airport - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
4. **Industrial Construction Is Not Dead in Sonoma County!-** [Warehouse and distribution center under construction near Sonoma County airport - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
5. **Diversity in Businesses Is Still Being Recognized in Sonoma County!-** [Diversity in Business Awards 2024, North Bay Business Journal, Bay Area Newspaper, CA news](#)
6. **Contractors Newsletter is full of useful information-dry?** Maybe a bit, but you still should familiarize yourself with CSLB Newsletter-here it is-[California Licensed Contractor Newsletter \(Fall 2024\)](#)

COMMITTEE NEWS

1. The next ECA Executive Meeting will be held at 11:00 AM to 12:00pm on **Tuesday, January 28, 2025**, in the NCBE small conference room followed by the Strategic Planning Retreat by the ECA Board of Directors
2. The **ECA Golf** Committee-no meeting scheduled yet. The 2025 Tournament will be held at Windsor on Friday, June 11, 2025
3. The ECA Auction Committee has no meeting scheduled yet. Chair for 2025 is Corinna Fernandez of Pace Supplies! The Annual Days of Wine and Dozers Dinner and Auction will be held on November 1, 2025, at the Graton Event Center in Rohnert Park.
4. The **ECA Public Officials Night** will be held at the Becoming Independent event center on Wednesday, April 23, 2025
5. The **ECA Installation and Awards Dinner** will be held at Hyatt Regency Sonoma County Wine Country, on Feb 1, 2025.
6. The **ECA Father's Day Show and Shine Car Show** will be held at Julliard Park in Santa Rosa on Father's Day, June 15, 2025.
7. **ECA Annual General Membership Meeting** to be held at Sally Tomatoes in Rohnert Park on Tuesday, November 26, 12-2pm. Sponsored by Northgate ReadyMix, BoDean, and TransTech Consultants, as well as all of our sustaining members RCX, Inc., NorthWest General Engineering, Soiland Co., Team Ghilotti, Broderick General Engineering, Ghilotti Bros., Sonoma Media Group, Ghilotti Construction, Herc Rentals, United Rentals Trench Safety, the discussion by speakers David Rabbitt, James Cameron, Eddy Cummins and Grant Davis should be very informative! Sign up now!
8. Check out our updated website! [Northern California Engineering Contractors Association | NCE Northern California](#)

ECA Recommendations for candidate and ballot measure endorsements Click [HERE!](#)

To see where you vote either by drop box or in person click [HERE!](#)



November 5, 2024

ECA MEMBER SPOT-



Team Ghilotti would like to invite our members to join with them to support the Sonoma County Field of Honor. It is a great nonprofit organization that wants to pay its respect to Veterans, active military, and first responders by flying 1,000 American Flags. All proceeds raised will be donated to organizations that help Veterans, Active Duty Military, and First Responders who dedicate their lives to serve our Country and Communities.

We are looking for people who would like to sponsor, purchase flags, and if all else at least come visit the field. I can't think of anything more spectacular than seeing 1,000 beautiful American flags beaming in all their glory.

Kevin Ghilotti, along with his sister Jennifer of Team Ghilotti is on their Founding Board. Partnering with Sonoma County Field of Honor was an emotional investment honoring the legacy of their father, Glen Ghilotti, who was the ultimate champion of our military and a regular partner with local First Responder agencies. Kevin and Glen would be found breaking fire lines or running water trucks to fire zones tirelessly throughout the last decade.

All donations are tax deductible. Click here to sponsor a flag <https://www.sonomacountyfieldofhonor.org/>

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

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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](#)



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Photos from the ECA's Wine & Dozers Auction

Thank you again irenececilia.com!

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

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Ladder Safety

From time to time, it is a good idea to step back and evaluate our safety guidelines with respect to all elements of project safety. Ladders are an integral part of completing certain tasks and their use should be well-thought out.

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!



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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.

SAFETY CORNER

Competent Person Trenching & Excavation

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

This class is with NCBE

Tuesday, November 12 / 1 pm–3 pm

Click [HERE](#) for flyer

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.

Wednesday, November 13 / 1 pm–3 pm

Wednesday, January 8 / 1– 3 pm

Click [HERE](#) for November flyer.

Click [HERE](#) for January 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

Wednesday, January 15 / 1– 3– pm

Click [HERE](#) for the December flyer.

Click [HERE](#) for the January 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–3:30 pm

Thursday, January 16 / 1–3:30 pm

Click [HERE](#) for December flyer.

Click [HERE](#) for January 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

EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANUAL

In the event of an emergency, we have put together the Emergency Response Manual to help our community receive quick service from our members. The manual 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 2023-2024 manual.

It is time to update the Emergency Response Manual. Help us gather this important information so that we can best serve our community in the case of an emergency.

Please fill out your contact information to the attached form, and email to mary@nceca.org.

If you have any questions, call Mary at 707.546.5500 or mary@nceca.org. Thanks!

Click [HERE](#) for the emergency contact form

Click [HERE](#) to sponsor in the Emergency Response 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

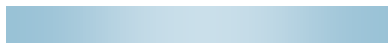
Time: 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. PST

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!