



“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.



Dick Tracy Watches Yesterday, Autonomous Project Sites Tomorrow?

Looking back, you can see we did not know what innovations were 10-20 years into the future. Today, I doubt anybody can predict what innovations construction workers of 2050 will be implementing. With the advent of artificial intelligence just emerging, I can imagine that we cannot even imagine what is coming. From a comic strip called “Dick Tracy” we saw a watch that enabled us to make and receive phone calls. Obviously, that far-fetched sci-fi idea has come into reality. Who could have imagined the huge impact drones are now having on the world? What other far-fetched innovations might be coming our way?

1. The “Smart” hardhat. Companies are working on integrating motion detection and AI into hard hats to detect when a worker loses his/her balance and falls, along with many other (maybe) useful implementations of a smarter hard hat.
2. Drones are being examined in Europe to oversee construction projects to spot safety dangers that might not be obvious to a ground level safety inspector.
3. Studies are being done on what is being called “cobots” where humans wear a type of robotic gear that enables them to lift heavier items, strike at something with 100 times the power humans are capable of generating now, and even how “exoskeletons” could be utilized to reduce the strain on the human body.
4. Artificial Intelligence is quickly adapting “scenario planning” to ascertain dangers in repetitive motions, sequencing of common installation techniques, and other concepts that could become commonplace in the next few decades. [Can technology make construction safer? - Construction Briefing](#)
5. Managing workforce resources is known to be a limiting factor in how many projects a firm can handle. Some software firms are trying to do analytics that help with predictive planning that can avoid expense and maximize efficiencies. [Bridgit Bench](#) is a workforce planning solution built for contractors to track pursuits, project changes, and forecast workforce needs. Project teams can push awarded and opportunity projects from Autodesk Construction Cloud to Bridgit Bench, keeping projects up to date as changes are made.

Inside this issue

John’s Soapbox.....	1
Board of Directors.....	2
News you can use.....	2
Committee News.....	3
General Membership Meeting.....	5
From the Desk of Jim Persons.....	6
Safety Classes.....	8
Workers Comp.....	9
Emergency Response manual.....	9
Sustaining Members.....	10
Low Impact Development Training....	12



**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 SICH
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

6. I have always been a fan of capturing crew production data and utilizing it for future estimates and project planning. A new software called Risk-cast provides a way for crews to easily capture labor, equipment, and production plus more, without multiple systems and complex spreadsheets. Teams can sync real-time data into Autodesk Cost Management Performance Tracking to see actuals vs. planned.
7. Construction robots are used on building sites to increase accuracy, improve productivity, reduce accidents, and save costs. The most common are demolition robots, which currently comprise 90% of the construction robot market. However, thanks to rapid advancements in AI and machine learning (ML), on-site robots are becoming more autonomous and more highly skilled. Today, these machines are used for excavating and lifting heavy objects, bricklaying, welding, plastering, drilling, assembling, and 3D printing. A combination of increasingly affordable hardware and worker shortages is fueling the growing demand for robots in construction.
8. Replacing bricklayers? https://youtu.be/xDDbc-Kwn_U
9. Autonomous equipment? How close are we? <https://youtu.be/zBvnbOLq3t0>
10. Offsite software interface installed on your excavator/dozer/loader/compactor to increase efficiencies? <https://youtu.be/6oqEKyseu2U>

Accessing all of this innovation can be dizzying, distracting, and a waste of money for most of us. The purpose of this op-ed segment is like all of my “Soapboxes”: to make you think so you can be aware of things in a very fast changing environment. Construction has long been fairly stagnant in implementing innovations. I would say the widespread CAD takeoff equipment that most estimators now use is an exception. Most firms are using some sort of digitizing takeoffs to do earthwork and mechanical takeoffs to assist their estimators. Robotics are already prevalent as attachments to our equipment where you program the finished grade and the gps and software assist the operator in autonomous operation of many repetitive tasks that our equipment performs. What is next?

With the labor shortage probably getting worse in the next decade or two, perhaps autonomous equipment and robotics will become even more prevalent. As we stretch our mid-level managers and our area managers, technology will become an absolute focus in the near future. Who can manage workers without some sort of tech programs that check the sub manager’s work in safety management, equipment maintenance, checklist upon checklist for preplacement of concrete in forms, etc. etc.?

Open our minds, be careful what you invest in and make certain whatever it is you are investing in (software or equipment) is on a platform that can be adapted as these innovations come forward.

It’s a brave new world – kind of. It is coming!

That’s All Folks!
John

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **Don't forget to file your BOI by January 1, 2025:** [Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting | FinCEN.gov](#)
2. We held our Annual General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at Sally Tomatoes sponsored by Northgate Ready-mix, BoDean, CRH and Trans Tech Consultants. Speakers were David Rabbitt, Grant Davis, James Cameron and Eddy Cummins talking about lots of upcoming funding and projects as early as 1st quarter of 2025. To view the power point info, click on these links below:

SMART Click [HERE](#)
MTC/Golden Gate Bridge Click [HERE](#)
Sonoma County Transportation Authority Projects Click [HERE](#)
3. Check out our newly redesigned website at www.nceca.org. Let us know if you like it!
4. Petaluma plans to invest \$59 million in its streets over the next 5 years. Click [HERE](#)
5. Click [HERE](#) for upcoming bids lists for the City of Santa Rosa

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 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

**ONE OF THE LAST
LOCALLY-OWNED, FAMILY-OWNED
QUARRIES IN SONOMA COUNTY**



**THE TRAPPE FAMILY
IS PROUD TO SERVE YOU.
(707) 887-2207
CANYONROCKINC.COM**

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
- Wine & Dozers Auction—Saturday, November 1, 2025

The image shows a promotional graphic for Sound Ideas Media. On the left is the logo, which features a green drone icon above the text "Sound Ideas" in a stylized font, with "MEDIA" in a vertical oval to the right and "VIDEO. PHOTOGRAPHY. DESIGN." below. To the right of the logo is a list of services: "Aerial Video & Stills", "Video & Commercial Production", "Photography ★ Animation", "Info & Motion Graphics", and "Virtual Events ★ Media Services". Below the text is a photograph of a bridge over a river, with the caption "Warm Springs Dam, Sonoma County" in the bottom right corner. At the bottom left of the graphic, there is a red banner with the text "SOUNDIDEASMEDIA.TV" and the phone number "707.321.6803" in white.

SEASON OF GIVING

Bring Joy to Club Families This Holiday Season Through Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin's Holiday Gift Drive!

For 18 years, Boys & Girls Clubs has been asking community members like you to help hundreds of families through their Annual Gift Drive. This year, with over 300 families/1200 individuals in need, your kindness is more important than ever. They are collecting gift cards now through Friday, December 13th in order to ensure no family goes without this holiday season.

How Your Gift Helps:

- **\$150 Safeway Gift Card:** Provides a simple holiday meal
- **\$75 Target Gift Card:** Brings warmth with a coat or joy with a toy
- **\$50 Gas Gift Card:** Reunites families with a visit

Ways to Give:

- **Donate Gift Cards:** Deliver or mail them to 1400 N. Dutton Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Adopt a Club Family: Receive a family's wish list by emailing Hayley Bly at hbly@bgcsonoma-marin.org. (attached is one of the 300 families in need)

Make a Direct Donation: Let us purchase gift cards on your behalf. <https://www.bgcsonoma-marin.org/holidays>

Together, we can ensure every family experiences the joy and dignity of the season. Questions? Contact Hayley Bly at hbly@bgcsonoma-marin.org.



Click [HERE](#) for Aaction Rents locations

Toys 4 Tots

United Rentals Trench Safety



is collecting toys for Toys for Tots!

They have a drop off bin located at their office at **3963 Santa Rosa Ave. Santa Rosa**

If you are unable to drop off your donations, a sales rep will come pick up!

They are asking that it is a \$10 value toy unwrapped.



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Achieving Safety Goals for 2025

Any company that focuses on improving workplace safety aims to get their employees home in the same health they came into work or better every single day.

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

\$ SmithDollar | (707) 522-1100

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

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, January 8 / 1– 3 pm

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](#)

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@eddclarkandassociates.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

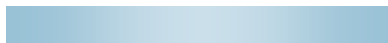
Time: 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. PST

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!