



“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.

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’ ”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Well? CALL TO ACTION!

Last week’s Newsletter had an article on a Sonoma County moratorium in place for new wells. This is a result of a lawsuit brought by River Keepers and California Coast Keepers against Sonoma County for the SoCo ordinance on well drilling. After two years of meeting and (presumably) accepting compromises to the County well drilling ordinance, the lawsuit was reinitiated, and Judge Brad DeMeo issued the “writ” that effectively puts a moratorium on all non-emergency well drilling in Sonoma County.

The ECA will be working with Smith Dollar to submit a legal document called an “Amicus Brief” which is a legal document filed by an organization or a person who is not a party to the case but has relevant information to share as a “friend of the court”. The ECA is collaborating with many other organizations such as NORBAR, Farm Bureau, North Coast Builders Exchange, Operating Engineers, and others that are submitting Amicus Briefs and encouraging their members to write a “Letter of Hardship” and submit it to tennis.wick@sonoma-county.org. These “Letters of Hardship” will hopefully come from MANY different letterheads and will help to “tell a story” as to what a moratorium on well drilling means to our businesses, our communities, and individuals in Sonoma County and elsewhere (it is presumed that this lawsuit is a “test case” and will be not confined to Sonoma County in the near future).

Here is the CALL TO ACTION:

Please submit a letter of hardship referencing the recent Superior Court writ that puts a moratorium on all non-emergency well drilling in Sonoma County to tennis.wick@sonoma-county.org by 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

A letter of hardship could say something like this:

Continue on page 2

Inside this issue

- John’s Soapbox.....1
- Board of Directors.....2
- News you can use.....3
- Installation and Awards Dinner.....5
- From the Desk of Jim Persons.....6
- Contractor Safety Kickoff 2025.....7
- 2025 Employment Law Update.....7
- Committee Meetings & Events8
- Workers Comp.....9
- Emergency Response manual.....9
- Sustaining Members.....10
- Committee News.....12



2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
DAN GIORDANI
Argonaut Constructors

VICE PRESIDENT
KIMBER CARPENTER LENNING
Kadon Trucking

TREASURER
MATT STORM
Granite Construction

SECRETARY
CASEY WOOD
Ghilotti Bros. Inc

PAST PRESIDENT
MIKE GULLEY
NorthWest General Engineering

CONTRACTORS

ANTONIO MENCARINI
Ghilotti Construction Co

KRISTI PRUETT
RCX, Inc

MIKE WOLFF
Wolff Contracting

AFFILIATES

RAMSAY BROWN
Exchange Bank

JEFF CONNER
Aaction Rents

JEREMIAH COOK
Cresco Equipment Rentals

ART DEICKE
Environmental Pollution Solutions

CORINNA FERNANDEZ
PACE Supply

TRISHA MCCOMAS
Moss Adams LLP

VICTOR MCKNIGHT
InterWest Insurance

KEVIN NOONAN
Toby's Trucking

GUSTAVO OROZCO
Stephenson Supply

JOHN REID
CRH

GLENN SMITH
Smith Dollar PC

BRENDAN SNYDER
George Petersen Insurance

MARK SOILAND
Soiland Company

WALT TURNER
North Bay Petroleum

BILL WIGGINS
Trans Tech Consultants

JASON NUTT / DAN HENNESSEY
City of Santa Rosa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOHN BLY

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

To the County of Sonoma & California Superior Court in regard to Writ for Case #SCV 273415 Water Well Permit Closure Throughout Sonoma County

To Whom It May Concern:

Our business will indirectly and directly be damaged by a moratorium on well drilling in Sonoma County. Reasonable needs for water wells exist and will continue to exist to not only supply water for rural residents, but for fire protection and/or irrigation of agriculture that is a vital part of our community. To avoid irreparable damage to _____, I/we urge you to consider this letter of hardship to consider lifting the order to close well drilling in Sonoma County.

Respectfully submitted by _____

Folks-this is wrong, and it is unnecessary. Let's not sit back and be a victim. Let's instead, collectively rise up with our brothers and sisters in the community to right a wrong. It will not take much effort but could have a lot of effect on the situation.

Please get on this and submit a letter to tennis.wick@sonoma-county.org now.

Thank you!

That's All Folks!
John

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

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **800 Home Project Gets Approval in NW Santa Rosa**-[Santa Rosa planning officials give OK to large housing project in city's northwest - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
2. **Moratorium on Well Drilling in Sonoma County**-[Court order forces Sonoma County to suspend non-emergency well drilling - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
3. **California Insurance Commissioner Plan for Coverage**-[Can new state regulations resolve California's existential insurance crisis? - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
4. **Are We Really Going to See No Tax on Social Security?**- [No taxes on Social Security checks? Here's what Trump's campaign promise could mean for American retirees in 2025 \(and beyond\)](#)
5. **Dutra Quarry Purchased by CRH**-[Dutra sells Bay Area materials business to CRH - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
6. **Biden Administration Clears Way for Windsor Casino and Hotel Despite Objections From Nearly Everyone**-[Biden administration approves Koi casino project near Windsor, paving way for Sonoma County's 3rd tribal casino - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
7. **Sonoma County Airport Paving Job by Granite Construction**-[New \\$20 million pavement project at Sonoma County airport seeks to rehab, expand boarding area - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
8. **CMAR sought for \$3B reservoir project in Calif.**
California is seeking a construction management at-risk firm for the **\$3 billion Sites Reservoir project** in the Sacramento Valley. The reservoir, planned since the 1950s, will be the state's eighth-largest artificial lake, covering 6,000 square kilometers and holding enough water for 7.5 million people annually. The project includes building two main dams, seven saddle dams and a spillway, with completion expected by 2032. **Full Story:** [Global Construction Review \(UK\)](#)



**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

Thank you to our Installation Sponsors!

Premier Sponsor



Roblar Quarry— Premier Sponsor

BoDean Company / Northgate Ready Mix/Dutra A CRH Company—Video Sponsor

Argonaut Constructors—President’s Reception Sponsor

Ghilotti Construction—Gold Sponsor

Moss Adams—Gold Sponsor

Peterson CAT—Gold Sponsor

Smith Dollar PC—Gold Sponsor

United Rentals—Awards Sponsor

Aaction Rents—Campagne Sponsor

Advanced Stormwater Protection—Dinner Wine Sponsor

Canyon Rock—Dessert & Coffee Bar

Engelke Construction, Inc.—Bar Sponsor

Exchange Bank—Dessert & Coffee Bar

Ghilotti Bros. Inc—Bar Sponsor

Heffernan Insurance—Centerpiece Sponsor

Herc Rentals Trench Solutions—Dinner Wine Sponsor

North Bay Petroleum—Bar Sponsor

RCX, Inc.—Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor

Stevenson Supply—Port & Cigar Bar

Bulk Exchange—Bronze Sponsor

Sound Ideas—Media Sponsor

The Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

cordially invites you to attend our

47th Annual Installation & Awards Dinner

Hyatt Regency

170 Railroad Square, Santa Rosa

Saturday, February 1, 2025

President's Champagne Reception 5:30 pm

Dinner & Awards 6:30 pm

Coffee, Dessert, Port & Cigars 8:30 pm

Welcome incoming President:

Dan Giordani, Argonaut Constructors &

The 2025 ECA Board of Directors

We will be also honoring

Volunteers of the Year

Stephen Knuttel, The ECA Group

Contractor of the Year

Kevin Holtzinger, NorthWest General Engineering

Affiliate of the Year

Wendel Trappe, Canyon Rock

Ambassador Award

Mark Soiland, Soiland Company

The Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame Award

will be awarded to Troy Soiland, Northgate Ready Mix

Posthumous – Randy Parker, North Bay Petroleum

To Register for the Awards Dinner, click [HERE](#)

To Sponsor the Installation & Awards Dinner Click [HERE!](#)

If you would like to reserve a room for the night click the link below.

[Hyatt Regency Sonoma Booking Link](#)



Premier Sponsor

From the Desk of Jim Persons

5 Important Issues in Construction Safety

While the hazards faced in construction are in some ways similar to those in other industries, there are unique issues that safety professionals and contractors must consider.

The implementation of a safety and health management system is much more challenging in the construction industry. These challenges can include low bid processes; transient workforces; environmental conditions because of outdoor working situations; multi-employer worksites; and an always-changing jobsite...just to name a few.



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

CONTRACTOR SAFETY KICKOFF CONFERENCE 2025

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
3 pm—5 pm

1030 Apollo Way, Training Room Santa Rosa

Click [HERE](#) for flyer

Speakers:

Jim Persons Safety Consultant

Larry Richmond Jr. Mill Creek Safety, Certified OSHA Trainer

Who Should Attend: Project Management, Supervisors, Human Resources, & Safety Managers will greatly benefit from attending the conference, others are highly encouraged to attend.

2025 Employment Law Update

The Essentials: What's Changed and Where are We Heading?

Learn the essential changes in the law, including discrimination laws, captive audience bans, and updated leave requirements that impact you and your company.

Diane Aqui leads the labor and employment department at Smith Dollar PC. She represents employers before federal and state administrative agencies, as well as counseling her clients on numerous compliance issues that effect employers of various industries.

Thursday, January 30th
NCBE ~ 1030 Apollo Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95407



11:30 –12:30 pm ~ Light Lunch provided

Click [HERE](#) for flyer



EBA ENGINEERING - SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR AN EVOLVING WORLD

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

ECA COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

I need to remind folks that if you schedule your safety training and compliance seminars through the ECA, you will not pay more and you will get exactly what you have been getting with the added benefit of HELPING THE ECA! We get a consideration if you schedule training through us. Why on earth would you not do that!?!? It costs you nothing but helps us!

Also-we have two important classes upcoming that have had very few signups to date:

2025 Employment Law Update class by Diane Aqui of Smith Dollar-Date January 30 @ 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Place- North Coast Builders Exchange 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa

Contractor Safety Kickoff Conference 2025 class by Jim Persons and Larry Richmond-Date January 28 3-5pm, Place- North Coast Builders Exchange 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa

We at the ECA are trying hard to bring you training and information, but we need you to send some people to these classes. Please!

Save the Dates for 2025!

2025 Employer Law Update class by Diane Aqui of Smith Dollar PC— Thursday, January 30
Contractor Safety Kickoff Conference by Jim Persons and Larry Richmond—Tuesday, January 28
Installation & Awards Dinner - Saturday, February 1 at Hyatt Regency
Public Officials Night - The Backdrop—Wednesday, April 23
Father's Day Car Show - Sunday, June 15 at Juilliard Park
ECA Golf Tournament - Friday, July 11 at Windsor Golf Club
Wine & Dozers Auction—Saturday, November 1 at Graton Resort & Casino
ECA Annual General Membership Meeting—Date/Time/Place TBD

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

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!

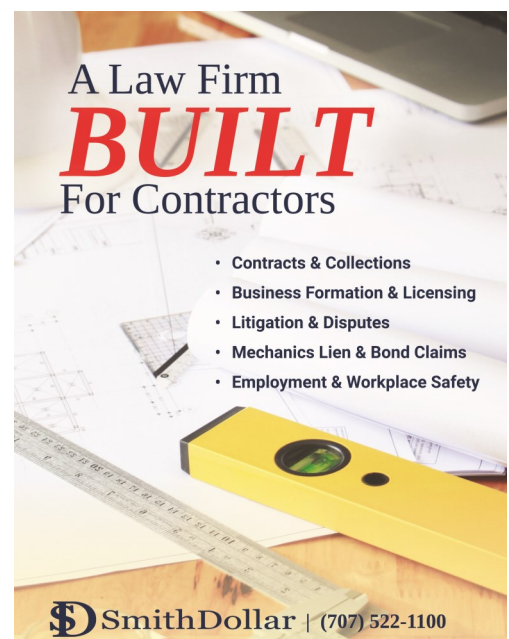
Click [HERE](#) for the emergency contact form

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](#)






CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS





**Family owned and operated
in Sonoma County for over 60 years!**

STONY POINT
ROCK QUARRY
707-795-1775 • STONYPINROCKQUARRY.COM

SOILS PLUS
SOILS & AGGREGATES
707-996-3400 • SOILS-PLUS.COM

GRAB N' GROW
SOIL PRODUCTS
707-575-7275 • GRABNGROWSOIL.COM

Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

John Bly, Executive Director
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

Save the Dates for 2025!

2025 Employer Law Update class by Diane AQUI of Smith Dollar PC— Thursday, January 30
Contractor Safety Kickoff Conference by Jim Persons and Larry Richmond—Tuesday, January 28
Installation & Awards Dinner - Saturday, February 1 at Hyatt Regency
Public Officials Night - The Backdrop—Wednesday, April 23
Father's Day Car Show - Sunday, June 15 at Juilliard Park
ECA Golf Tournament - Friday, July 11 at Windsor Golf Club
Wine & Dozers Auction—Saturday, November 1 at Graton Resort & Casino
ECA Annual General Membership Meeting—Date/Time/Place TBD



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!

COMMITTEE NEWS

- A. **ECA Executive Committee** Recurring Meeting (Dan Giordani President, Kimber Lenning Carpenter Vice-President, Matt Storm Treasurer, Casey Wood Secretary, Mike Gulley Past President)- Every 4th Tuesday of the month from 11:00am-12:00pm from January through October, Place NCBE small conference room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA 1st meeting January 28, 2025 from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- B. **ECA Board of Directors** Recurring Meeting – Every 4th Tuesday of the month from 12:00pm - 1:30pm from January through October, Place – NCBE Main Board Room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA
- C. **ECA Government Affairs Committee** Recurring Meeting-Every 4th Tuesday of the month from 2:00pm – 3:00pm from January through October, Place -NCBE small conference room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA 1st Meeting 1-28-25 From 2:00pm to 3:00pm- (Chair Art Deicke, Members Ross Liscum, Brian Ling, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland)
- D. **ECA Specification Meeting** Recurring Meeting Every 4th Wednesday of the month from February through October from 3:00pm to 4:30pm, Place NCBE Main Board Room, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA (Chairs Dale Smith/Casey Wood, Antonio Mencarini, Geoff Coleman, Jason Nutt, (and invited guests linked to topics)
- E. **ECA Car Show Committee Meeting TBD**
- F. **ECA Golf Committee Meeting February 19 at 10 am**
- G. **ECA Auction Committee Meeting – February 19 from noon – 1 pm**
- H. **ECA Community Relations Committee Meeting - TBD**