



“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.

ECA Government Affairs Committee – A Year to Renew Old relationships and Begin New Ones

The ECA Government Affairs Committee, chaired by Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions, will meet tomorrow to discuss what to focus on in a non-election year. The Committee Members will meet and discuss several ideas to focus on and whether we have the bandwidth to expand our influence.

For years, it has been a “want” of mine to expand the effective territory of the ECA Government Action Committee. We do very little in Napa County, very little in Marin County, and even less in Mendocino and Lake County. The problem is “bandwidth”. There is only so much we can expect from volunteers who are interested in those other areas, but who has the time and resources to foster relationships and track issues like we do in Sonoma County?

The biggest reason the ECA is primarily in Sonoma County is because of the alliance we have with several key organizations in Sonoma County that track and regularly meet to discuss regulatory issues. Although we have tried over the years to extend to Napa and Marin Counties in particular, there is no Sonoma County Business and Ag Consortium or Sonoma County Alliance that regularly discusses upcoming political issues in Napa and Marin Counties. In Sonoma County, the ECA also has close ties with the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber, the North Coast Builders Exchange as well as NORBAR and the Sonoma County Farm Bureau. Although we have a good relationship with the Marin Builders Exchange, we do not have close ties with the San Rafael Chamber or any of the other real estate or farm associations that typically have issues they are tracking and ask for collaborative involvement from the ECA on.

So how do we expand to Napa and Marin Counties? If you have any thoughts on this, please let me know. I know in the past we used to schedule meetings and workshops in Marin to encourage participation and to get new members from Marin and the greater Bay Area to consider joining the ECA. We have some long-standing members in Marin, and I am hoping one or two of them will read this Newsletter and have some ideas on how we might weigh in on Marin issues in a more effective manner.

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
Committee Meetings & Events	8
Workers Comp.....	9
Emergency Response manual.....	9
Sustaining Members.....	10
Committee News.....	12



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Continued from page 1

In the meantime, the GAC will meet and discuss broadening our influence if possible, as well as spending this off year bolstering some of our key elected official relationships and we will reach out to new elected officials to meet them and let them know what sort of ECA issues we are dealing with-the usual public works funding, streamlining contract issues so we can move quicker to get the shovels in the ground after the bid, and reasonable and competent contract management from the owners so we are not waiting months to close out contracts. Chairman Art has asked for and will present a list of possible elected officials to meet with us once a month-sometimes we will meet with two elected officials each month at our GAC meetings. I think this is a great idea and it should enable us to know some of these electeds better should an item come up on the Council or Supervisor meeting agenda that affects our ECA membership. If you are interested in attending our GAC meetings because you want to meet one of these electeds, please send me or Art a note and ask to be included on the agenda announcements so you can know when "so and so" is meeting with the GAC.

In the meantime- may all your bids be \$1 lower than everyone else's!

That's All Folks!

John

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **[What should Congress do about the Highway Trust Fund?](#)**
The House Highways and Transit Subcommittee is looking to address issues with the Highway Trust Fund, which has been insolvent since 2008. In a recent hearing, Chairman David Rouzer, R-N.C., emphasized the need for a new funding mechanism, as electric vehicles do not contribute to the fund. The subcommittee is considering options like a vehicle-miles-traveled tax and tolls -- though these have raised privacy and fairness concerns. **Full Story:** [Land Line Magazine](#)
2. **[Sonoma County to Suspend Impact Fees on Affordable Housing Projects for 2 years to Spur Development-Sonoma County supervisors move to waive impact fees for affordable housing developers in bid to spur projects - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
3. **[CRH Buys Dutra Quarry-Dutra sells Bay Area materials business to CRH - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
4. **[KOI Windsor Project Moving Ahead-Biden administration approves Koi casino project near Windsor, paving way for Sonoma County's 3rd tribal casino - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
5. **[Only \\$110 Billion-what could go wrong with this plan?- Marin officials laud Bay Area sea-level adaptation plan approval - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**
6. **[Yep-Another Indian Casino Project Moving Forward? - Vallejo tribal casino project gets federal trust status - The North Bay Business Journal](#)**



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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](#)



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From the Desk of Jim Persons

Come-A-Longs and Chain Hoist Safety

Hand operated hoists have many applications in rigging work. Typical applications include hoisting pipe or plate into position for welding or bolting, moving machinery, fence stretching and lifting engines or equipment during repairs.

These devices are simple to operate but misuse can result in sudden failure, property damage, and serious injury.

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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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.



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ECA 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!

The 2025 Employment Law Update is cancelled. We will reschedule at a later date.

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!

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

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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!

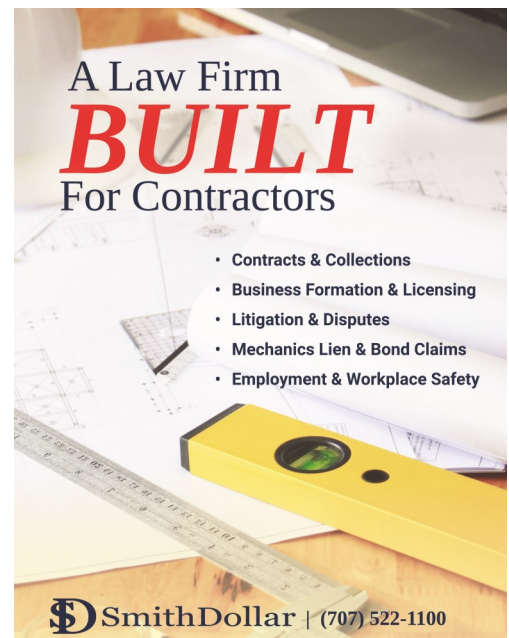
Click [HERE](#) for the emergency contact form

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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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**