

August 11, 2025



"CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE"

ECA Newsletter

John's 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.

"Failure is not the opposite of success: it's part of success." —
_Arianna Huffington

In This Edition:

1. **Soapbox**-Newsom and his Legislature continues to misrepresent CA budget woes
2. **ECA Events**: Auction night Nov 1 at Graton Event Center still upcoming as well as the ECA Annual General Membership Meeting 11/18/25 from 12-2pm Sallie Tomato's in Rohnert Park
3. **Upcoming Committee Meetings** 8-26-25 ECA Executive Meeting @11: -12:00 noon, ECA Board meeting 8-26-25 from 12-1:30pm, ECA Spec Meeting 8-27-25 from 3-5 pm, ECA Nominating Committee Meeting will be held at the Exec meeting
4. **News**: NextGen training young people, Caterpillar prepares for tariff impact, 800 housing units getting site prepped by NorthWest on Guerneville Road.



Just Give Us the Real Stuff

When Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders were drafting a more-or-less final 2025-26 state budget last month, they were closing what they described as a \$12 billion deficit, a number that the state's media repeatedly cited.

It was the wrong number; it minimizes the state's chronic gap between income and outgo, as the state's [official budget summary](#) released this week confirms.

The budget projects that the state will receive \$208.6 billion in general fund revenues during the fiscal year that began on July 1, but it will spend \$228.4 billion, a gap just shy of \$20 billion.

The \$12 billion figure stems from counting a \$7.1 billion diversion from one of the state's reserve accounts as revenue — an assumption that violates common sense as well as any legitimate accounting scenario. It is not true, not accurate, and seems intended to cover up for spending programs that cannot be sustained.

Would it bother you that California runs an entitlement program of expenditures that spends \$10 to \$20 billion more than it receives each year FOREVER!!!!???

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Continued from page 1

The more accurate figure of \$20 billion is important because it squares with projections by Newsom's Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office that California has what's called a ["structural deficit"](#) in the range of \$10 billion to \$20 billion a year.

In other words, financing all of the programs and services now in state law will indefinitely cost that much more each year than the state is likely to receive in revenues.

Why can't we be told the truth?

Remember when Newsom announced, as Senator Mike McGuire did, that California had a \$97 billion surplus so we could spend more money?

The surplus was a mirage, based on assumptions of a \$40 billion annual increase in revenues that never happened and that Newsom and McGuire and others in the Legislature knew would not happen. Last year, the Department of Finance acknowledged that revenues over four years would [fall short of expectations by \\$165 billion](#).

However, much of the phantom money was already spent, thereby creating the structural deficit that Newsom and Legislature basically ignored in putting together the current budget.

Budget cuts were discussed and modified recently in legislation action as the Governor's budget was adopted in June 2025. Public transit agencies and the University of California and California State University also avoid funding cuts under this spending plan, though some of the money for the university systems is deferred and they will be required to take out zero-interest loans from the state's general fund in the meantime. The deal includes \$45 million to help the [struggling Sonoma State University](#), in Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire's district, to turn around its financial woes.

It is high time we demand better and more honest "news" as to how bad things are in CA. Silently hoping the state economy will magically turn around and start feeding over \$20 billion in income per year, it is not only dangerous, but also borderline fraudulent.

I do not pretend to have the answers, because political survival is the doctrine that all elected officials have to deal with, but wouldn't it be refreshing to have our paid legislators tell us the truth?

Just give us the real stuff. We can handle it. The truth can set you free!

That's All Folks!

John

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 - next meeting Tuesday August 26, 2025 from 11:00am to 12:00pm and the Nominating Committee will be meeting at this time August 26.
- 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 – next meeting Tuesday August 26, 2025, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm, special guest presenter is **Sonoma Media Group**.
- C. **ECA Government Affairs Committee** Recurring Meeting-Every 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:30pm – 3:00pm from January through October, Place -NCBE small conference room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA –Note-***we are cancelling the August 26 GAC meeting***, so the next Meeting Tuesday, September 23, 2025 from **3:00pm-5:00 pm**- (Chair John Bly, Members Ross Liscum, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland, Mike Wolff, John Reid, and Aimi Dutra)-invited guests will be James Gore and Damon Connolly and this will be a joint meeting with the NCBE GAC to interview Gore and Connolly who are running for McGuire’s State Senate seat!
- 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 – next meeting Wednesday August 27, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm (Chairs Dale Smith/Casey Wood, Antonio Mencarini, John Reid, Geoff Coleman, Jason Nutt. Special guests for 8-27-25 will be the retiring head of Sonoma County PRMD **Tennis Wick!** [Sonoma County planning and permitting director Tennis Wick announces retirement - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
- E. **ECA Nominating Committee** will meet Tuesday, August 26 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at NCBE small conference room. Chair Mike Gulley, Kimber Lenning, Matt Storm, Casey Wood, and Dan Giordani are the committee members. We will be discussing 2025 Award Nominees, 2026 Board of Directors, and 2026 Officer Candidates

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!



Premier Sponsor



Skeet Shooting & BBQ



Friday, August 29th

12 noon—2 pm

1607 Baird Road

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Catering by The Bird

Please join ECA members for an afternoon of good food and Skeet Shooting!

\$55 for ECA member & \$75 for non-member

To register: email mary@nceca.org



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**ECA 33rd Annual Wine & Dozers Auction & Dinner
Sponsorship Form
Saturday, November 1, 2025
Grafton Resort & Casino**

Each of the Sponsorships will include

- ♦ Sign recognition of your level of sponsorship on the evening of the auction.
- ♦ Acknowledgment in our event program. (Must receive sponsor by **October 17** to be in program)
- ♦ Company name, logo & tagline in a multi-media presentation on the evening of the event.
- ♦ Recognition in the ECA's newsletters & website.

Sponsorship Levels

- ☐ \$6500 – **Premier Sponsor** – VIP Table of 10, prime placement, to host clients, colleagues or friends. Logo in Auction Program and advertisement in the ECA Email bulletin for a year.

Other Opportunities—\$1000 Sponsors—advertisement in the Newsletter for 3 months.

- ☐ \$1000 - Platinum Sponsor
- ☐ \$1000– Reception Sponsor
- ☐ \$1000 – Bar Sponsor
- ☐ \$1000 – Martini Bar Sponsor
- ☐ \$750 – Champagne Sponsor
- ☐ \$750 – Table Wine Sponsor
- ☐ \$500 – Photo Booth Sponsor
- ☐ \$500– Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor
- ☐ \$500– Gold Sponsor
- ☐ \$350—Bronze Sponsor

☐ I will be happy to donate _____ est. value: \$ _____

☐ I will be happy to donate a live auction item: _____ est. value \$ _____

Here is how I would like my sponsorship listed in the program:

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Engineering Contractors Association | PO Box 8249 | Santa Rosa, CA 95407 | 707.546.5500 | www.nceca.org | mary@nceca.org

Auction-click [HERE](#) for the sponsorship flyer!



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August 28 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

[Click HERE for Flyer](#)

CPR / First Aid

September 4 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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.

[Click HERE for Flyer](#)



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Recognized Versus Unrecognized Hazards

There are many hazards in our workplaces and at home that can cause great harm if exposed to them. So companies spend much time, effort, and money to train their employees to be able to recognize hazards in an attempt to prevent injuries from occurring in the workplace. While it is often thought that new employees of a company who may not understand the hazards of the job are most at risk for injury, a case can also be made for those experienced employees who have become complacent with the hazards of their work.

A question to consider- Which are more dangerous- the hazards we recognize or the ones we do not?

To read more.

[Click HERE](#)



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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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Caterpillar braces for major tariff headwind—Caterpillar anticipates \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion in tariff-related costs this year, primarily from tariffs that are set to take effect today. During the second quarter, Caterpillar faced a \$350 million tariff impact, contributing to a 19% decline in net profit to \$2.2 billion. The company is implementing cost control measures, such as cutting discretionary spending and enhancing dual sourcing, to mitigate these effects. Full Story: [Manufacturing Dive](#)
2. **Burgeoning startup aims to be "Tesla of mini excavators"** HeavyTech, a startup based in Indiana, aims to be the "Tesla of mini excavators" by producing modular compact machines that switch between battery-electric and diesel-hybrid systems. The company's innovative approach and alternative funding model set it apart from established manufacturers. Full Story: [Construction Briefing](#)
3. NorthWest starts work-[Construction begins on nearly 800-home project in northwest Santa Rosa - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
4. Another group training young people for construction careers! [NextGen Trades Academy graduates celebrated in hard hat ceremony - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
5. "No Soup For You"-Windsor Town Green-[Windsor Town Green hotel project halted indefinitely - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

ECA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Landesign Construction & Maintenance, Inc. is proud to announce they have received the following awards in the North Coast Chapter CLCA Achievement Awards Program:

- 1st Place Award for Montgomery Village Shopping Center, Small Commercial Installation, Santa Rosa
- Recognition Award for The Meritage Resort and Spa, Design/Build and Renovation, Napa



CLCA's Awards Program reflects the association's commitment to promoting professionalism within our industry. The program is designed to recognize outstanding performance by the chapter members, foster company pride in superior workmanship, publicize our industry, and encourage business for CLCA contractors and suppliers.

Look for our trucks Greening the Way in the North Bay!



USEFUL LINKS TO SUPPORT YOUR BUSINESS

- A. Resilient 37 Policy Committee Meetings (open to the public) – Next meeting March 6, 9:30-11:30 am-link [State Route 37 Policy Committee - Sonoma County Transportation Authority](#)
- B. Metropolitan Transportation Commission website-link [Meetings & Events | Metropolitan Transportation Commission](#)
- C. Sonoma County Transportation Authority-link [Sonoma County Transportation Authority | SCTA](#)
- D. Transportation Authority of Marin Website-link [Transportation Authority of Marin](#)
- E. Marin Builders Exchange website-link [Home - Marin Builders Association, CA](#)
- F. North Coast Builders Exchange website-link [North Coast Builders Exchange – NCBE Online](#)



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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 ~ 2025—2026

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 2025-2026 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!





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NORTH BAY CONSTRUCTION CORPS

Training The Next Generation of Construction Workers

The North Bay Construction Corps (NBCC) is an after-school, 3-month basic construction training program for seniors in their last semester of high school. Classes are taught by local contractors and construction managers. Participants are introduced to a variety of trades and earn certifications in Personal Protective Equipment and CPR/First Aid.

Each meeting is led by a contractor or tradesperson who presents information about his/her particular trade and then leads students through a hands-on skill-building activity. There is a strong focus on safety awareness at each meeting.

2025 NBCC Schedule: Click [HERE](#)

For additional information, contact: NBCC Sonoma: Mackenzie Smith
(707) 542-9502 / mackenzie@ncbeonline.com

Save the Dates for 2025!

ECA Luncheon at Glenn Smith's Home –Friday, August 29
Wine & Dozers Auction—Saturday, November 1 at Graton Resort & Casino
ECA Annual General Membership Meeting—November 18th, Sallie Tomato's



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Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

The ECA, and its Board of Directors, has been the voice of the engineering construction industry for almost 50 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.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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