



August 18, 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.

In This Edition:

- A. **Soapbox-**
- B. **ECA Events:** Skeet Shoot Luncheon at Glenn Smith and Rachel Dollar's beautiful home on August 29, 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
- C. **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 on 8-26-25 from 11:15 to 12 noon



Bits and Pieces

There is a lot going on at the ECA these days. From time to time, I choose to use the Soapbox to highlight some of the items the ECA is involved with to inform our members, so here goes:

- A. Our Nominating Committee will be meeting on August 26, 2025, to sort out possible award winners, 2026 Board of Director members, and officers for 2026. We want our membership to be involved in forwarding names to our committee for consideration. Please take a moment and review who has won in the past, and who is currently on the Board of Directors so if you would like to be considered, or forward a name to be considered, [HERE](#) are the past award winners and the current board of directors: [HERE](#)
- B. Our Annual General Membership Meeting is upcoming on November 18, 2025 from 12-2pm at Sallie Tomatoes in Rohnert Park. As I have stated elsewhere in this newsletter, we will be saying goodbye to two long-term employees Cheryl Long and Mary Kenedy Cabrera at this meeting. Please consider attending and sponsoring so we can properly send our gratitude to both Cheryl and Mary for many years of dedicated service to the ECA members!
- C. The ECA Auction is coming up and we ask our ECA members to consider donating sports tickets, a weekend stay at a vacation home, or some ECA or industry related memorabilia so we can have a successful fund raiser. The most important item to consider is who to invite as your guests. We need people who will enjoy the evening and hopefully be able to bid as a group on some of the items being auctioned off. Please start putting your table mates together and getting them to save the date at the Graton Resort Event Center for November 1, 2025.

"I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one." —Maya Angelou

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2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
PRESIDENT	DAN GIORDANI Argonaut Constructors
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	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

- D. The ECA is presenting a letter to the City of Santa Rosa asking them to consider excluding certain trades from their Project Labor Agreement policy. The reason for this is to lower uncertainties in the bidding process for the City projects as there are several work categories that do not have local companies that can comply with the PLA requirements and contractors have to go outside the local workforce to bid to the City of Santa Rosa. This has clearly impacted on the number of bidders on some of their public works projects as some contractors simply choose not to bid on the projects due to the uncertainty of the PLA restrictions. As we all know, more qualified bidders will keep the bid numbers lower from a competitive perspective. We feel it is in the best interest of the rate payers, the local work force, and the city staff to have local workers build their projects.
- E. The ECA has met with public works directors from several different cities and the County of Sonoma recently. The discussions have been focused on how we can assist in getting projects built and finalized more quickly and with less manhours from "labor strapped" municipalities being needed. Partnering, reconsideration of how municipalities contract with 3rd party construction management firms, and better processes in dealing with progress payment procedures and retention issues, all have been discussed. Our goals are aligned with the City and County municipalities who are putting the work out. We are working towards efficiency improvements that will deliver savings to the owner, and less "headache" to suppliers, subcontractors, engineers, and contractors in the short term and the long term. Our ECA Specification Committee has been front and center on these meetings and we encourage ECA members to get involved in our Spec Committee. We are doing really good things under the leadership of Dale Smith from RCX and Casey Wood from Ghilotti Brothers Inc.
- F. Government Affairs issues will be heating up as we close out 2025 and move into an election year of 2026. From a tax initiative for the SMART train, to two Sonoma County Supervisory seats up for election, there is no end to the need to be informed and proactive. As Bob Blanchard (R.I.P.) once said, "if you are not at the table, you are probably the meal being eaten". Our GAC is active, and meeting nearly every month, and we are seeking two new members for this Committee. If you want to be more involved and influential in local races in Marin, Sonoma, Lake, and Napa counties, please consider getting involved.
- G. Finally, I just want to thank our Officers and our Directors for their leadership this year as we head into the last quarter of 2025. Dan Giordani in particular should be singled out for his leadership as President in this year that was filled with much trepidation and uncertainty. The ECA continues to be an industry influence that is very much needed. From chairing the important Sonoma County Transportation Authority oversight committee, to fostering relationships with public officials that put out our work and manage the contracts, we have to stay vigilant and involved or we will get steamrolled and have to deal with bad regulations (yes regulations can get worse!). I urge you to take the opportunity to participate in our events, thank the officers and directors, and continue to support the ECA who exists for one purpose-to speak for the ECA members and represent their interests.

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, Mark Soiland 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
Santa Rosa, CA 95409



**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

Guns and ammo will be provided for the skeet shooting.



TRANS TECH CONSULTANTS

Skeet Shooting Sponsor!



**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:

Business or Individual Name _____

Level of Sponsor _____

☐ Check (payable to ECA) ☐ invoice

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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](#)

Confined Space

September 26 @ 9 am—noon

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.

[Click HERE for Flyer](#)

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Why is Continued Safety Education Important?

Safety pros or those who have safety responsibilities at work should never stop learning. There are always new hazards and best practices that come to light. Workplaces and work processes are dynamic and getting buy-in from others in the workplace is never an easy task.

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. Beaverdilly is happening this week at Silverado in Napa County! I will be there representing the ECA so I hope to see a few of you there as well. Here is the event schedule - [Beaverdilly - Event Detail](#)
Finally! Retention is going to be maxed out at 5% throughout the state of California on both public and private projects! **SB 61 - 5% retention payments - signed into law by the Governor**

We are pleased to inform you that Senate Bill 61 (Cortese)— a key piece of legislation championed by Exchanges across California —was signed into law by Governor Newsom on July 14, 2025. This major victory follows years of advocacy by our (Smith Capitol Group and the California Builders Alliance groups) organization and partners dedicated to improving payment practices in the commercial construction industry. This landmark legislation addresses longstanding financial challenges faced by construction contractors and subcontractors working on privately financed projects.

Starting with contracts on or after January 1, 2026, SB 61 limits the amount of retention that can be withheld on private works of improvement to 5%, bringing private sector practices in line with the proven, effective cap already in place for public works across California.

2. **Granite is getting bigger and bigger!** [Granite sees record backlog with acquisitions](#)

Granite Construction has acquired Warren Paving and Papich Construction for \$710 million, expanding its materials business in the Southeast and California. The acquisitions are expected to add \$425 million in annual revenue. Granite's backlog reached a record \$6.1 billion in the second quarter, and revenue rose 4% year over year to \$1.13 billion. **Full Story:** [Construction Dive](#)

3. River Rock Breaks Ground on new Caesar's Expansion: [River Rock Casino to become Caesars Republic Sonoma County - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

4. Recent survey of some well known Contractors on the impact of Tariffs and AI on pricing: [North Bay commercial contractors reveal labor, tariff, AI trends for 2025 - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

5. **Time Sensitive-respond by September 3, 2025-Want to have input into new "Dig Safety" protocols? Here is their "ask" for public comment in its entirety: Click [HERE](#)**

ECA EVENTS/REGISTRATION/SPONSORSHIP

Auction-click [HERE](#) for donation handout to your suppliers/vendors and for the event flyer and registration / sponsorship information. Click [HERE](#) to sponsor!

Skeet Shooting and Luncheon at Glenn and Rachel Smith's Estate in Rincon Valley on August 29! Email mary@nceca.org to register. \$55 for ECA Members \$75 for non-members.

We are seeking sponsorship for our **Annual General Membership Meeting on 11-18-25.**

The program will be several different agencies presenting their upcoming project projections so our ECA members can get an idea of what is "in the pipeline" for projects coming out in 2026 both public works and private projects.

The AGM will also be where we announce the ECA Award winners and new Board and Officers for 2026. Finally, this AGM should be a very important meeting as it will be a chance for membership to say goodbye to Mary as she will retire in December 2025. The ECA will also be saying goodbye to Cheryl Long who has been our bookkeeper for many years, and she is retiring in December as well. A small portion of the AGM will be informing membership what our staffing changes will be to accommodate the two key retirements. Please let's send Mary and Cheryl off to retirement in style and get a nice big premiere sponsorship to end the year!! We will begin crafting the flyer for this AGM soon, and we want to incorporate the premiere sponsor for the event onto the flyer, so we get maximum "bang for the buck". The flyer will be sent to most of the public works directors and capitol improvement directors in Sonoma, Napa, and Marin Counties as well as all of our government elected friends and of course, all of the ECA membership. We want to make certain we have a great turnout for this, so your sponsorship will be seen by a lot of influential people in and around the industry!

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

John Bly, Executive Director
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Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director
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