



"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**-GOP and Dems got it wrong by trying to stack the deck at the expense of their constituents!
- 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, ECA Annual General Membership Meeting 11/18/25 starting at noon at Sallie Tomato's in Rohnert Park
- C. **Upcoming Committee Meetings** 8-26-25 ECA Executive Meeting, ECA Board meeting 8-26-25, ECA Spec Meeting 8-27-25, ECA Nominating Committee Meeting will be held at the Exec meeting on 8-26-25
- D. **News**: Federal changes to the PLA policies? Finally, is California going to spend their water bonds and build a storage facility in the Valley? Gas Station approved by City of Santa Rosa!!

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

Stacking the Deck

At some point, the quaint idea of congressional districts actually representing the citizens of that district might come back into fashion. However, Trump decided to open "Pandora's Box" by leading Texas into gerrymandering their districts to gain seats, rather than to better represent their constituents.



This gerrymandering of districts to "stack the deck" for political power is nothing new. Both parties have taken a ride to solidify their power in the past. This mid term blatant power grab by Texas has now invited California to do the same gerrymandering of their district boundaries to pick up 4-5 more democratic seats where there was one fairly solid GOP seat held by LaMalfa.

It seems both the Dems and the Republicans are hell-bent on choosing the "fastest way to the bottom" again. Tit for Tat seems to be the reasoning for it. The problem is that the voters are the ones that are screwed in this strategy. If most of the constituents in an existing district are rural, and conservative, they are not going to get proper representation from a partisan city-based democrat that lives hundreds of miles away from the rural district. That same argument is true on either side of this "wrong tactic" of redistricting. If most of the folks that live in a district are "democratic leaning", then let them be democrats and let their elected representative provide advocacy that they prefer rather than force feeding them to be represented by a party that thinks and believes differently than them.

It is a crap move in Texas followed by a crappier move in California. Quit "stacking the deck".

That's All Folks!
John

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COMMITTEE NEWS

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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City of Santa Rosa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOHN BLY

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MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

- 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 as well
- 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 Note-we are cancelling the August 27 Spec 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. We had to postpone Tennis Wick until September so there is no spec meeting in August!! Special guest for 9-24-25 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
- F. **ECA 50 Year Anniversary Committee** (Keith Woods, Mark Soiland, Antonio Mencarini, Casey Wood) will meet Tuesday, 8-26-25, from 1:30-1:45pm to discuss new Logo and any other ideas for our 50th year anniversary!

YOU'RE INVITED!



UNDERGROUND SAFETY BOARD

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MEETING

Sharing What Works, Shaping What's Next



Monday, September 8, 2025
1 p.m. - 5 p.m



Tuesday, September 9, 2025
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m

In-Person

Auditorium
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Online

Teams Webinar

FREE EVENT!

presentations
exhibitor tables
networking



Scan the QR code or visit
energysafety.ca.gov
to learn more and register

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

VISA/Master Card/Amex # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

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Name _____ Phone _____

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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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ECA SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING



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

Two Types of Workplace Stress

How we feel at work greatly affects our performance as well as our ability to work safely. One thing that affects whether or not we feel our best is the level of stress we experience while on the job.

When discussing stress, the traditional two types of stress are often discussed. The two types are positive stress which is the good stress, and there is distress which is negative stress.

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

- A. What We Have Been Sayin'!!! [Why we need to rethink RFPs in construction | Construction Dive](#)
- B. Is There "a Change a Coming?" [AGC Urges White House to Reform PLA Mandate - AGC News](#)
- C. Time to build a big pond finally!! [California reservoir project awarded extra \\$219M, searching for CMAR](#)
- D. ECA was "at the table" when Santa Rosa did their Hillside Ordinance some 30 years ago. [San Anselmo considers new hillside code - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
- E. Yikes-here is yet another proposal for the "gateway" project in Windsor! [Proposed Windsor town home project could serve as Town Green gateway ... finally - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
- F. A moment of clear-headed thinking on the part of 5 of the 7 Santa Rosa Council Members-New Gas Station Approved! [Santa Rosa council approves city's last new gas station despite community concerns - The North Bay Business Journal](#)

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 a sponsor 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
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