



September 15, 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**-what is the better idea for local quarries, asphalt plants?
- B. **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
- C. **Upcoming Committee Meetings** ECA Government Affairs Committee meeting September 23 @ 3-5pm, Sept 23 ECA Executive Meeting @11: -12:00 noon, ECA Board meeting Sept 23 from 12-1:30pm, ECA Spec Meeting Sept 24-25 from 3-4:30 pm, ECA Nominating Committee Meeting will be held at the Exec meeting on Sept 23 from 11:15 to 12 noon



Then I Woke Up

Canyon Rock was recently in the Press Democrat regarding their efforts (in the early stages) to build an asphalt plant at their property in Forestville. According to the Press Democrat, 700 residents have already sounded the alarm that the proposed plant could "pollute waterways, fuel wildfires and threaten endangered species".

Not surprisingly, our friends the Trappe's, say the plant would "would reduce truck trips, lower emissions from long hauls and provide a more efficient supply for local road projects".



A man's true wealth is the good he does in the world.

~ Khalil Gibran

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**2025
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I am always amazed at NIMBYs who don't want quarries, concrete ready mix plants, or asphalt plants near where they live although they do not seem to mind if more truck traffic is needed because of their opposition to local production of the needed products for bike paths, road repairs, bridge construction, etc.

I recall when there was a huge environmental protest of getting aggregates out of the Russian River some 40 years ago. The shift was made to go to hard rock mining of aggregates, and no more river rock was removed. Part of the argument back then was that "we should bring the aggregates in from British Columbia and Mexico" and stay out of hard rock mining as well as Syar's river aggregate removal. No legitimate thought seemed to be given to how the aggregates were mined in foreign countries, how much damage to the environment would occur from barging the rock for thousands of miles in the ocean, and what environmental controls/worker compensation/safety protocol policies would be experienced in a foreign country vs us taking care of our own needs for rock, concrete and asphalt with local sources that could be controlled and monitored.

Ideological virtue noise. That is how I saw most of the arguments back then. When folks spoke passionately about environmental damage from taking aggregates out of the Russian River, they never acknowledged the wet weather flows that, in one season, could move gravel bars 20-25' deep, from one side of the river to the other. There were many instances where bridge abutments were washed out, farmers and ranchers would lose hundreds of acres of prime land to erosion from the river channel being moved toward a bank that then collapsed into the river flow. Tremendous good could have come from removing gravel from the Russian River and it could have been done without getting into the river flow at all.

But I digress. That ship has sailed. Quarries got out of the river and went to hard rock mining on land.

When Dutra wanted to build their asphalt plant at Haystack Landing in Petaluma, I went to several town hall meetings where people would get up and talk about how much cancer would increase from the vile poison the plant would put into the streams and air. Although there was zero factual basis for fear mongering, boy was it effective. As we all know, the plant was not built at Haystack Landing.

BoDean has had their share of neighborhood "hand wringing" over the years from supposed fumes harming the neighborhood near their plant on Maxwell Court in Santa Rosa. They have been working on the entitlement process to move to an industrial area near where the old Standard Structures were in Windsor. Neighborhood outcry was early and often about how folks could never open their windows again if the plant would be built there.

Now Canyon is hearing the same outcry that Syar, Dutra, and BoDean have heard for decades. It doesn't matter that the rock, concrete, and asphalt need to be processed somewhere and delivered to the project site.



Honor a Hero. Support the Field.

Field Open November 9-16, 2025

Opening Ceremonies: November 9, 11 am - 2 pm

Closing Ceremonies: November 16, 11 am - 2 pm



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\$40 in honor of active military, veterans and first responders.

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Sponsor the Field

Sponsorship Levels	Patriot \$7,500	All American \$5,000	Hero \$2,500	Stars & Stripes \$1,000
Flags Received	25	10	5	2
Website Logo Placement	Prominent	Large	Standard	Font
Logo on Banner at Field of Honor	Individual	½ Flag	Shared	Shared
Logo on Media & Promo Materials	✓	✓	✗	✗
Invitation to Donor Reception	12 Guests	8 Guests	4 Guests	2 Guests

**All logos due October 15th for print media.*

I try to imagine the group “Russian River Community Cares” thinking about a better solution to local mining and manufacturing. In order to adequately prepare for my “better solution”, I need to get into the proper frame of mind. I either call one of my buddies and light up, or just light up and think of a better solution on my own:

I dream of rock being hauled in from Marysville and the Sacramento Valley (no-I do not give a crap about the logic of adding trucks to the roads being harmful to the environment-after all this is my dream and I will dream how I want!). Maybe some can be barged into the San Francisco Bay from highly polluting quarries (what do I care about Mexico and British Columbia?) that mine rock from land once inhabited by indigenous peoples and now is so polluted local fisheries are being made barren. I take another hit and don't really give a crap. Please do not bother my daydream and ask how and where we actually make the concrete and asphalt to put on our roads and bridges. I don't have an answer for that. My dream of a better solution doesn't cover that. Aah, I will take another hit and write another letter to my supervisor about how we should not allow them to build the plant. Where the product comes from is up to some other person.

Then I woke up.

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 September 23, 2025 from 11:00am to 12:00pm and the Nominating Committee will be meeting at this time September 23 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 September 23, 2025, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm **Kevin Ghilotti to make a presentation on the Sonoma County Honor Field Sponsorship opportunities, and Keith Woods to speak on membership drive**
- 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 –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** and **SCAPAC** to interview Gore and Connolly who are running for McGuire's State Senate seat!
- D. ECA Specification Committee 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 September 24, from 3:00pm to 4:30pm (Chairs Dale Smith/Casey Wood, Antonio Mencarini, John Reid, Geoff Coleman, Jason Nutt.
- E. ECA Nominating Committee** will meet Tuesday, September 23 from 11:00 am to 11:30 am 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, September 23, from 11:30-11:35am to discuss new Logo and other ideas for our 50th year anniversary!

ECA's Wine & Dozer Annual Dinner & Auction

The ECA Wine & Dozers Auction Committee is hard at work gathering gift certificates, wine, auction items for the upcoming Wine & Dozers auction on **Saturday, November 1st** at the Graton Casino!

The theme this year is Masquerade!

We are now accepting Sponsors for ECA's biggest event of the year!



Invitation click [HERE!](#)

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Jim Persons ~ Safety Pride





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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.

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From the Desk of Jim Persons

Battling Complacency on the Job

Complacency is often a focal point when discussing workplace safety at many companies. For the most part, we understand what complacency is and what areas of work or life it affects us in. However, even though we may acknowledge it, we may not fully grasp the consequences it can have or what we need to do to overcome it.

To read more [Click HERE](#)



ECA EVENTS

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

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.

Thank you to **PACE Supply** for stepping up and sponsoring!

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. 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!

NEWS YOU CAN USE



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!

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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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!

Wine & Dozers Auction—Saturday, November 1 at Graton Resort & Casino
ECA Annual General Membership Meeting—November 18th, Sallie Tomato's



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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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