



"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:

1. **Soapbox**-Loose ends – updates on several items including ECA Annual GMM in November-you do not want to miss this one!
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** 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

Loose Ends



Beaverdilly, Silverado Resort mid-August: I was fortunate enough to attend the 2025 Beaverdilly event in August. I saw several of our ECA members represent there: Ghilotti Construction, Bulk Exchange, Ghilotti Brothers, and Granite were all there enjoying mixing, mingling, eating, and the camaraderie that always attends these events. If you can wrangle an invite next August, GO! I was able to meet several prospective new ECA members such as Teichert Aggregates, Flatiron, and several possible Affiliates who specialize in drone information processing. I will follow up on all of the possible new ECA members. Just a note-me attending did not cost the ECA one dollar! I paid out of pocket. In case you were wondering----

ECA Annual General Membership Meeting on November 18, 2025, at Sallie Tomatoes in Rohnert Park: This year will be a special "twist" on our traditional "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" theme from past AGMMs. We are inviting Public Works Directors and their Capital Projects Manager to present the list of upcoming projects that are coming out to bid or are in planning or design. We are inviting Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Napa, and Sonoma County Public Works directors to bring staff and make a 20-minute presentation so we can see what is "in the pipeline" for bidding in late 2025, all of 2026 and beyond. We already have Sonoma County and Santa Rosa confirmed. This is a great opportunity for sponsoring an important ECA luncheon event. Please contact Mary if you are interested in supporting this event!

Sonoma County Supervisor Race Updates include the fact that Ariel Kelley dropped out of the race for James Gore's seat in 2026. That leaves Todd Landis (Cloverdale) and Tom Schwedhelm (Santa Rosa) as the two announced candidates for this important County Supervisory seat. David Rabbitt has announced he will run again and that is welcome news for all ECA members.

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All things are difficult before
they are easy –Thomas Fuller

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State Senate Race Updates include James Gore running against Damon Connolly for Mike McGuire's California Senate seat in 2026. The ECA is honored to host a chance to interview Gore and Connolly on September 23 from 3-5pm at the NCBE main Board room. We have invited the Sonoma County Alliance Political Action Committee and the North Coast Builders Exchange to join our ECA Government Affairs Committee to learn what makes each candidate different and worthy (or not) of your vote. If you are not a member of the ECA GAC, and you want to attend, please RSVP to me or Mary and we will accommodate you!

Sonoma County Transportation Authority updates include upcoming discussion and change as to who is invited to participate on the Citizens Advisory Committee (soon to be changed to Community Advisory Committee). Over 20 years ago, committee members were invited as to their respective influence in the just passed Measure M tax measure that helped fund Highway 101 widening amongst other transportation projects over the past 20 plus years. Times have changed and some invited members have not shown up to a committee meeting in years. I am trying to change the admin code so we can drop those non-attending members and invite others who have shown interest in participating at this CAC level. The CAC reviews and provides advice and input to the SCTCA Board of Trustees who manage tens of millions of dollars each year for projects that help transportation infrastructure and public transit in Sonoma County. This is one of the more subtle ways that the ECA influences public policy and public funding of worthy projects each year.

ECA Nominating Committee is meeting in September to finalize their recommended list of ECA Award winners, Directors for the Board in 2026, and we want to hear from you. Do you have an opinion on who we should contemplate for Affiliate of the Year, Contractor of the Year, or Hall of Fame induction? If so, let me or Mike Gulley know who you are thinking of!! The Nominating Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 23, at 11 am.

Prevailing Wage Update. Did you know that if you are performing a private project you can still be required to pay prevailing wage on portions of the project no matter how it is funded? Even if zero public funds are used, you can still be called out by the Division of Industrial Relations for not paying prevailing wages (this just happened to one of our good contractors!). I believe it is time we held a winter workshop meeting to discuss prevailing wages and how to handle the increasing burdens of compliance with labor laws. None of you want to get into trouble! I will be reaching out to Smith Dollar to set up a workshop after the rain hit so we can discuss specific projects and situations so you are better informed as to how to protect yourselves. More to come after the rain hit!

Safety Training Updates. North Coast Builders Exchange and the ECA have decided to combine all of our safety trainings as if we were one association. This is welcome news to Larry Richmond who puts on the trainings and it will result in less cancellations of classes due to limited participation in the future. Start looking for joint flyers for safety trainings for this winter with ECA and NCBE. Did you know that Mill Creek Safety now has Spanish speaking classes as well as English? Well they do!

That's All Folks!
John

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
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Scan the QR code or visit
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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!

Thanks again to our sponsors for the Skeet Shoot and BBQ at the home of
Glenn Smith and Rachel Dollar of Smith Dollar PC!



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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 **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 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. 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, 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!

Save the DATE!

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!



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





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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.

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From the Desk of Jim Persons

Lifting and Rigging General Safety

Lifting and rigging work tasks are considered high-hazard tasks by many companies. There are a lot of associated hazards that accompany lifting any loads with cranes or equipment. It is important to not only understand proper rigging techniques, but also the other hazards that accompany this type of work task.

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.

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!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

[Vacaville construction device maker expanding in move to Santa Rosa](#)

Z Systems Inc., maker of devices that shore up soil for road and winery construction, is relocating from Vacaville to a larger facility in Santa Rosa. [Z Systems Inc.](#), a maker of devices that stabilize hillsides and foundations for road and other earthwork, is relocating from Vacaville to a significantly larger facility in southwest Santa Rosa.

The 3.5-year-old company is moving into a 47,000-square-foot industrial building at 170 Todd Road, more than doubling its previous space of about 20,000 square feet.

President and founder Carrick Pierce on Wednesday confirmed the move, describing it as a strategic shift. "The sooner the better. We want to be in Sonoma County and make it happen," Pierce said.

Founded in Solano County, Z Systems has maintained its Vacaville location at 777 Elmira Road since its inception.

Z Systems makes soil nails and micropiles, two types of safety devices that are increasingly used in both public works and winery projects to stabilize slopes and strengthen foundations.

Soil nails are threaded steel bars grouted into slopes. They reinforce soil and are commonly applied to highway cut slopes, excavation walls and vineyard terraces.

Micropiles are small-diameter drilled piles. They transfer structural loads into stronger soil or rock and are favored where access to the spot is tight and soils offer weak stability. They support bridges, retaining walls, and winery foundations.

While soil nails secure hillsides and wine cave portals, micropiles provide deep support for heavy tanks, storage buildings and historic winery retrofits.

The company currently employs about 10 people, and Pierce anticipates that the workforce may grow with the move to Sonoma County.



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!



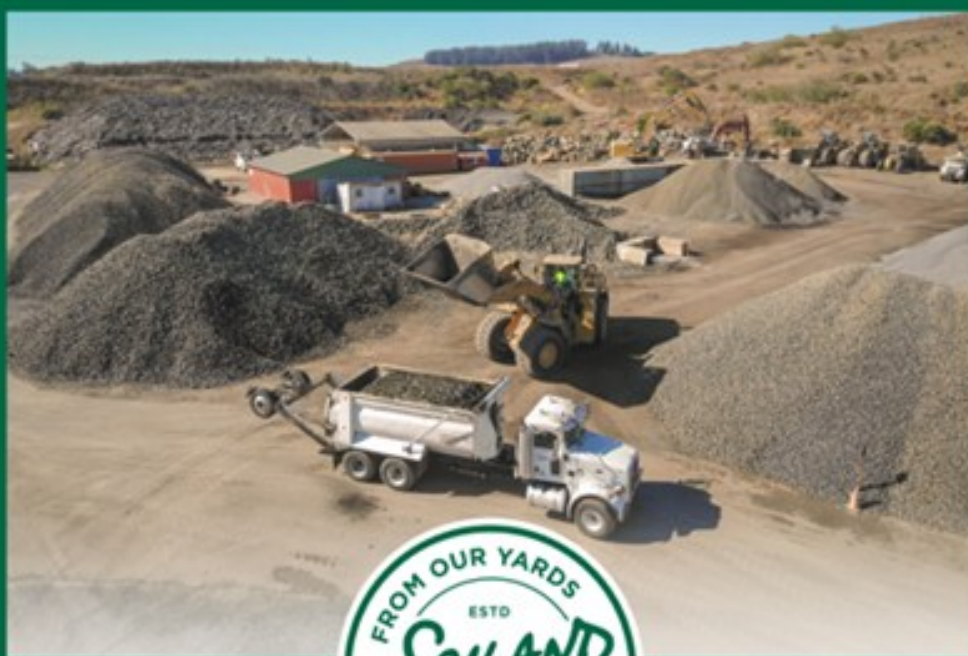


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The North Bay Construction Corps (NBCC) is an after-school, 3-month basic construction training program for seniors in their last semester of high school. Classes are taught by local contractors and construction managers. Participants are introduced 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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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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