



September 29, 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**-King of Flip Flops Gavin Newsom
- 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 Meeting on Tuesday October 28 from 1:45-4:00pm, ECA Executive Meeting on Tuesday September 23 from 11:00-12:00 noon, ECA Board meeting on Tuesday Sept 23 from 12-1:30pm



King of Flip Flops

Remember-if you do not want to read an opinion piece, just jump down to the committee news and other parts of this newsletter. This is an opinion piece about Governor Newsom. I will preface the opinion here with the statement that I consider Newsom to be the worst Governor of CA in the last 50 years. That is saying a lot when you consider Governor Moonbeam (best move he ever made was to be with Linda Ronstadt), and Grey Davis (who sold the State down the proverbial river for public pension guarantees. You could lump in Arnold into this group of crappy Governors, but he pales in comparison. In my mind, Newsom holds a special place as being the "greasiest" of all seven we have had in the last 50 years. He is the King of Flip Flops. Just my opinion folks!

Over the last half-century, California has had seven governors — counting [Jerry Brown](#) twice — who varied widely in temperament, ideology and efficacy.

One variable trait has been consistency, whether their positions on issues have changed and, if so, whether they own up or duck accountability.

Brown, who held the position from 1975 to 1983, was particularly prone to policy pirouettes, most spectacularly regarding [Proposition 13](#), California's iconic taxation limit.

Continue on page 2

Inside this issue

John's Soapbox.....	1
Board of Directors	2
Sonoma County Honor Field.....	3
Committee News.....	4
Wine & Dozers Auction.....	5
New Members.....	7
From the Desk of Jim Persons.....	8
News you can Use.....	9
Links to Support Your Business.....	10
Workers Comp.....	11
Emergency Response manual.....	11
Sustaining Members.....	12
NBCC.....	14
Save the Dates 2025.....	14



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
	PRESIDENT DAN GIORDANI Argonaut Constructors
	VICE PRESIDENT KIMBER CARPENTER LENNING Kadon Trucking
	TREASURER MATT STORM Granite Construction
	SECRETARY CASEY WOOD Ghilotti Bros. Inc
	PAST PRESIDENT MIKE GULLEY NorthWest General Engineering
CONTRACTORS	ANTONIO MENCARINI Ghilotti Construction Co KRISTI PRUETT RCX, Inc MIKE WOLFF Wolff Contracting
AFFILIATES	RAMSAY BROWN Exchange Bank JAKE BEHRENS Aaction Rents JEREMIAH COOK Cresco Equipment Rentals CORINNA FERNANDEZ PACE Supply TRISHA MCCOMAS Moss Adams LLP RYAN MCKNIGHT InterWest Insurance KEVIN NOONAN Toby's Trucking JOHN REID CRH GLENN SMITH Smith Dollar PC BRENDAN SNYDER George Petersen Insurance 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

Prior to its overwhelming approval in 1978, Brown repeatedly labeled the measure a “rip-off.” After its passage, however, Brown immediately declared himself a “born-again tax cutter” as he ran for reelection that year. He also sponsored a state income tax cut and a subsequent [spending limit ballot measure](#). He even ran for president in 1980 (unsuccessfully) as an advocate of reduced spending and a balanced federal budget.

I could go into the other 5 governor’s actions over the last 50 years, but I want to jump to Gavin Newsom-basically Brown’s nephew from the [decadeslong intertwining of the Newsom and Brown families](#).

Newsom’s governorship has resembled Brown’s first stint: promises of bold action on issues such as single-payer health care, housing shortages, homelessness and climate change, followed by backtracking with excuses.

He has termed campaign promises such as creating single-payer health care and building 3.5 million new homes as “aspirational,” rather than doable, and [blamed local officials for not attacking homelessness](#) effectively. As Newsom enters the last phase of his governorship and appears to be preparing for a presidential campaign, ala Brown 1.0, he is navigating his biggest flip-flop.

A year ago, Newsom was [denouncing gasoline refiners for gouging consumers](#) and pocketing huge profits. He demanded that the Legislature help him crack down.

During the just-concluded legislative session, however, he and legislators [acted to increase oil production in California](#). Meanwhile, the California Energy Commission has [stalled proposed regulations meant to curb refiner profits](#).

What happened? The 2024 presidential election revealed popular angst about the cost of living. Meanwhile, two refineries announced plans to shut down, possibly leading to gasoline shortages and much higher prices, which would backfire on a Newsom presidential campaign.

Aha-now this opinion piece takes shape. Newsom couldn’t care less about what his policies do to the average citizen of CA, he only cares about what might affect his chance at taking his failed policies from CA to the Federal office of President.

God help us if he succeeds.

Bloomberg reported this month that Newsom and legislators are even considering [giving one of the refineries millions](#) of dollars to remain open.

“We are all the beneficiaries of oil and gas. No one’s naive about that,” Newsom said at a recent press conference. “So, it’s always been about finding a just transition, a pragmatism in terms of that process.”

Sure it is. So says the King of Flop Flops.

That’s All Folks!
John



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



6600 Noble Road
Sonoma

Sponsor a Flag

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

Proceeds benefit veterans, the families of veterans
and first responders.



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.*

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 October 28, 2025 from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- 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 October 28, 2025, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm, Jonathan Meronek of SCS Engineers will be introducing us to what SCS is up to these days!
- 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, October 28, 2025 from 1:45pm to 4:00pm- (Chair John Bly, Members Ross Liscum, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland, Mike Wolff, John Reid, and Aimi Dutra)
- 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 will be Wednesday, October 29, from 3-4:30pm. Our guests will be Scott Orr (Tennis Wick replacement at Sonoma County PRMD). And Nathan Quarles from Sonoma County PRMD along with the new inspector for the County of Sonoma, Joshua Ricci, Engineering Inspections Supervisor.
- E. **ECA Nominating Committee** will meet after the 1st of the year to nominate the Bridge Award and the Golden Hardhat Awards for 2026.

WINE & DOZER LIVE AUCTION PREVIEW

The Ultimate Experience for Four 49er Fans!

VIP parking ~ early admission to the stadium and access to the United Club. The United Club features centrally located action cooking stations, as well as a focal point full-service bar. All You Can Eat and Free to the United Ticket Holder. Seats on the 40-yard line in the exclusive Club Level Section 139, Row 20.

Donated by: [Ghilotti Construction](#)



Giants Hospitality Suite

Bring the whole gang to enjoy watching your favorite team in Granite Construction's Giants Hospitality Suite! This is good for 12 suite tickets and one parking pass.

Donated by: [Granite Construction](#)

The Dubs are in the House

Don't miss out on getting Two tickets to a Warriors 2024-2025 game. Courtside Club Seats.

Donated by: [Ghilotti Bros. Inc.](#)



ECA's Wine & Dozer Annual Dinner & Auction

Saturday, November 1st
Graton Resort & Casino
288 Golf Course Drive
Rohnert Park, CA

Reception & Silent Auction 5:30 pm
Dinner 7 pm
Live Auction 8 pm
Port & Cigars 9 pm

Invitation click [HERE!](#)

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

To book a room at the Oxford
Booking Instructions:

Booking Link - <http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=4957898&hotelID=106575>

Call Ins or Walk Ins: Book directly with our on-site reservations team by calling **707-584-0333** and mentioning your group name (NCECA) when booking.

The group cutoff date is: **October 2, 2025** ~ *All reservations to be booked by this date*

Thank you to our Sponsors!

[Ghilotti Bros. Inc](#) - Platinum Sponsor

[Peterson CAT](#)—Platinum Sponsor

[Team Ghilotti](#) - Bar Sponsor

[Aaction Rents](#) - Champagne Sponsor

[Ritchie Bros](#) - Auctioneers!

[Engelke Construction](#) - Gold Sponsor

[Cresco Equipment Rentals](#)—Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor

[RCX Inc.](#) - Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor

[Stevenson Supply & Tractor Company](#) - Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor

[BoDean a CRH Company](#)—Live Auction

[Ghilotti Bros Inc.,](#) - Live Auction

[Ghilotti Construction](#) - Live Auction

[Granite Construction](#) - Live Auction

[Mill Creek Safety](#) - Live Auction

Jim Persons, Safety Pride - Live Auction

[Sound Ideas](#) - Live Auction

[Wolff Contracting](#) - Live Auction

[Exchange Bank](#) - Bronze Sponsor



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW LOCATION IN HEALDSBURG

@ 13666 HEALDSBURG AVE

WE'RE BRINGING PREMIUM ROCK, AGGREGATE & CONCRETE
TO NORTH COUNTY & THE HEALDSBURG AREA
TO BETTER SERVE CONTRACTORS, LANDSCAPERS & DIY'ERS

- **NOW ACCEPTING
ASPHALT & CONCRETE
FOR RECYCLING & REUSE**

- **SAND & GRAVEL**
- **ALSO SUPPLYING THE
PRODUCTS YOU'VE COME
TO KNOW & LOVE**



THE TRAPPE FAMILY
IS PROUD TO SERVE YOU.
(707) 887-2207

CANYONROCKINC.COM

**ONE OF THE LAST
LOCALLY-OWNED, FAMILY-OWNED
QUARRIES IN SONOMA COUNTY**

ECA NEW MEMBERS

Dutra Materials

Aimi Dutra
1000 Pt. San Pedro Rd.
San Rafael, CA 94901
Phone: 628-295-9875
Email: aimi.dutra@dutramaterials.com
<https://dutramaterials.com/>



LVI Engineering

Dennise Riddle
4280 Redwood Hwy #6
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: 415-599-9575
Email: admin@lviengineering.com
<https://lviengineering.com/>



North Bay Association of Realtors ®

Lisa Bandenfort
1030 ApolloWay
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Phone: 707-636-4294
Email: lisa@nba.realtor
<https://nba.realtor/>



Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

- County Application and Work Plan Preparation
- Coordination of Asbestos Survey and Fire Debris Disposal
- Air Monitoring, Erosion Control and Confirmation Sampling
- Cleanup Certification Report by Civil Engineer

info@TransTechConsultants.com

Office (707) 837-8408 or after hours (707) 478-2097

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Seatbelt Use Safety

Everyone has heard that seat belt use is crucial for saving lives on the road, but not everyone wears one. The National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHSTA) reports that about 1 in every ten people did not wear their seatbelt in 2024. There are many reasons why people do not wear seatbelts, but the facts are that they save lives.

To read more

[Click HERE](#)



Join us for our Campaign Kickoff Celebration

Tom Schwedhelm

For Fourth District Supervisor

WHEN	TIME
Friday, October 10, 2025	5:30pm-7:30pm

WHERE
Sonoma Jet Center's Redwood Hangar
6000 Flightline Drive
Santa Rosa CA 95403
Complimentary appetizers and Sonoma County wines will be served

BECOME A PARTNER
Platinum: \$3,800 • Gold: \$2,500
Silver: \$1,500 • Bronze: \$1,000
For inquiries about partnerships, please call Megan at 707-542-4078

Tom Schwedhelm
SUPERVISOR
VoteTom.com

Please RSVP to Events@VoteTom.com
Free to Attend. Donations accepted but not required.

Paid for by Tom Schwedhelm for Supervisor 2026. P.O. Box 1019, Windsor CA 95402. FPPC# 1403054.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Common construction contract errors that lead to disputes

James Gallagher of Resolution Management Consultants identifies eight common mistakes in construction contracts that often lead to disputes, including lacking a detailed process for changes, outdated force majeure clauses, incomplete payment definitions and poorly defined project scope and timelines. Gallagher emphasizes the importance of anticipating potential issues during contract development to prevent disputes and save time and money.

Full Story: Construction Dive (9/19)

2. New levees to protect San Francisco Bay

Two miles of 15-foot-high levees have been built along the southern shoreline of San Francisco Bay, protecting the low-lying community of Alviso and the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility from flooding exacerbated by sea-level rise. The \$197 million project, part of the South Bay Shoreline Project, replaces old berms and is a key step in restoring 2,900 acres of former industrial salt ponds to tidal wetlands.

Full Story: East Bay Times (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

3. Emerald Isle senior housing project in Santa Rosa's Fountain Grove neighborhood revived



Emerald Isle is one of seven projects under development, including ones in Healdsburg and Petaluma, and the [company recently launched a new management entity](#), Gallaher Signature Living, to operate the properties.

Prior efforts to build on the undeveloped lot off Gullane and Thomas Lake Harris drives have run into opposition from neighbors concerned about density, particularly the impact hundreds of new residents could have on traffic, especially during an emergency.

Residents who turned out to a neighborhood meeting last week to get a first look at the project again voiced similar concerns.

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!

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!

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](#)



Providing creative solutions for complex environmental issues.



(Formerly Edd Clark & Associates)

The ECA Group is an integrity-driven group of environmental professionals. We put our clients first to help resolve their environmental issues. We are geologists, environmental engineers and scientists with the expertise to effectively manage complex environmental sites. We have been providing Clients professional service and problem-solving for over 30 years.

Services:

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)
Soil, Groundwater, Soil Vapor and Indoor Air
Quality Investigations
Remediation Services
Hydrogeologic Assessments
Watershed Management
Project and Construction Management
Indoor Air Compliance

Contact: (800) 474-1448 ~ (707) 792-9500
505 San Marin Drive, Suite A200, Novato, CA 94945
info@edclarkandassociates.com

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!





CORPORATE MEMBER SPONSORS



BUSINESS MEMBER SPONSORS





**Family owned and operated
in Sonoma County for over 60 years!**

STONY POINT
ROCK QUARRY

707-795-1775 • STONYPINTROCKQUARRY.COM

SOILS PLUS
SOILS & AGGREGATES

707-996-3400 • SOILS-PLUS.COM

GRAB N' GROW
SOIL PRODUCTS

707-575-7275 • GRABNGROWSOIL.COM



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!

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



EBA ENGINEERING - SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR AN EVOLVING WORLD

EBA Engineering

825 Sonoma Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707.544.0784
www.ebagroup.com

Cabrera & Associates

Anthony A. Cabrera, P.E., P.L.S.
Project Consultant
tacabrera@yahoo.com / 707-321-9951
www.cabreraassoc.com

Have you got a project in mind?
Let Cabrera & Associates provide solutions
Land Use Planning
Real Estate Development
And Governmental Relations

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