

October 13, 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-SWPPP Compliance**
- 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 October 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:00 noon, ECA Board meeting on Tuesday October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 12-1:30pm



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## Rain Events Making It Tough to Comply

The first rains have arrived, and I am hearing contractors complain that cities and counties are not applying the rules and regulations uniformly. With that in mind, the ECA has arranged for the parent agency, the North Coast Regional Water Control Board, to present the rules for General Construction Permits in 2025 and 2026 and there are some changes that some people might not know about. I have also invited the SWPPP public officials from the County of Sonoma, City of Cloverdale, Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Petaluma and the Town of Windsor. We have invited both the members of the North Coast Builders Exchange as well as our ECA members to attend a workshop on 10-29-25 from 3-5pm at the training room in the NCBE building at 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa.

We are not charging for this event, but if someone wants to sponsor it we would appreciate it. We will supply soft drinks, water, cookies and snacks and we think the timing for this workshop is perfect to keep all of our members out of violation problems as well as keeping our streams clear of silt and sediment runoff.

That's All Folks!  
John



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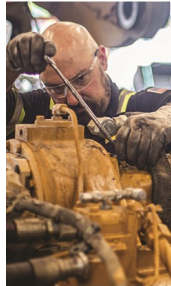
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## ECA EVENTS

Rules for General Construction Permits in 2025 and 2026 to be held on 10-29-25 from 3-5pm at the training room in the NCBE building at 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa. Email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) to register.

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.



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## 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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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)  
**ECA Specification Committee Meeting**-Recurring Meeting Every 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3-5:00pm. October 29<sup>th</sup> will be a special SPEC meeting dealing with stormwater rules and compliance. Our guests will be Nick Sudano from Santa Rosa, and the main speaker will be Walt Dragaloski from the Regional Water Control Board.
- A. **ECA Nominating Committee** will meet after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year to nominate the Bridge Award and the Golden Hardhat Awards for 2026.
- B. **ECA 50 Year Anniversary Committee will meet as needed.**

## 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](#)

## Blast & Brews

For 8 Guests! Bring your closest friends or family and come out to detonate a blast at BoDean's Mark West Quarry. Wrap the afternoon up with lunch and drinks at Russian River Brewery in Windsor.

Donated By: BoDean Company, A CRH Company



# 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!

## Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Jim Persons, Safety Pride - Live Auction  
[PACE Supply](#)—Live Auction  
[Serres Corporation, Wing & Barrel Ranch](#)—Live Auction  
[Sound Ideas](#) - Live Auction  
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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### 1. **James Gore Pulls out of Senate Race**

My friends,

I love this country, I love California, and I especially love the people and communities of Northern California. For the past 25 years, it has been the honor of my life to lead as a public servant through these chaotic times.

Leadership comes in many forms, and it asks us to be honest with ourselves and with those we serve. After much reflection, I have decided that the State Senate is not the right path for me or my family at this time. I have worked relentlessly to embrace this campaign, but cannot commit to be everywhere all the time at the expense of my life as a father and husband. Therefore, today, I am stepping away from the campaign we have all worked so hard to build together.

I want you to know how deeply I value the trust you've placed in me and in this process. That trust is sacred. While I will not continue this campaign, I am not stepping away from service. I believe my greatest impact right now is to finish my full term as Supervisor of Sonoma County and to focus my energy on forging a new path to build a vibrant and resilient future for our community, our California, and our country.

I will not seek reelection as County Supervisor. A new path awaits, but I will relentlessly pursue ways to bring people together, to solve problems with integrity, and to push forward the vision of a sustainable, prosperous future.

Thank you for walking beside me on this journey. Thank you for your belief in our shared work. Though this chapter closes, the story of service continues, and I look forward to all we will build together in the years ahead.

James Gore

### 2. **Report: Construction** spending could hit \$1.89T by 2030

US construction spending to reach about \$1.89 trillion by 2030, with metropolitan areas accounting for 64%, according to a forecast report by Merlo America. Data centers are expected to drive industrial demand, while agricultural regions are poised for sustained employment gains.

Full Story: For Construction Pros

### 3. **Steel tariffs to raise construction equipment costs by 27%.**

US steel and aluminum tariffs are expected to increase construction equipment prices by 27%, according to Off-Highway Research, with imported equipment potentially 45% more expensive, and US-made machinery costs rising by 20% to 25%. The tariffs, which now apply to products derived from steel and aluminum, have prompted companies such as Caterpillar and JCB to warn of significant cost increases.

Full Story: Construction Briefing

### 4. **Expedited work authorized to widen Highway 37 in Calif.**

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed Assembly Bill 697, allowing expedited construction for a \$500 million project to widen part of Highway 37, which is sinking into Bay Area marshland. The project aims to reduce congestion for low-income commuters but offers minimal protection against rising sea levels, raising concerns about its long-term effectiveness.

Full Story: The Sacramento Bee (Calif.) (tiered subscription model)



## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### Achieving Safety Goals

Any company that focuses on improving workplace safety aims to get their employees home in the same health they came into work or better every single day.

For many companies, there are larger expressed goals attached to this effort. Often the main goal for many worksites or companies as a whole is to make it an entire year without any injuries. For other companies, it may just be no lost time injuries in a year.

To read more

[Click HERE](#)



# 2025 Annual Low-Impact Development Training

for the Russian River Watershed

*Intended for Private Design Community and Public Agency Staff responsible for the design, compliance, or review of LID measures.*

**Training Topics Include:**

- LID Requirements
- Stormwater Calculator
- Plan Review
- Final SWLID Submittals
- Common Construction Issues
- Q&A (including RWQCB staff)

**QR Code:** 

**RSVP Required:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/mtrmdr88>

**Date:** Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 8a.m. – 12p.m.

**Location:** Healdsburg City Council Chamber  
401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Virtual on-line option available upon request**

In Partnership with:



## ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

### **October:**

10/15/25

CPR + First Aid October - English and Spanish

Link: <https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/CPR-First-Aid-October-English-and-Spanish-2225/details>

10/22/25

Trenching/Excavation "Competent Person" - English and Spanish

Link: <https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Trenching-Excavation-Competent-Person-English-and-Spanish-2250/details>

10/29/25

Scaffolding Training "Qualified Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Scaffolding-Training-Qualified-Person-English-Spanish-2249/details>

10/30, 10/31, 11/4, 11/5

OSHA 30-Hour for Construction - English and Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/OSHA-30-Hour-for-Construction-English-and-Spanish-2229/details>

### **November:**

11/4/25

Confined Space "Competent Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Confined-Space-Competent-Person-English-Spanish-2260/details>

11/7/25

Scaffolding Training "Qualified Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Scaffolding-Training-Qualified-Person-English-Spanish-2258/details>

11/12/25

CPR + First Aid November - English and Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/CPR-First-Aid-November-English-and-Spanish-2226/details>

11/20/25

Trenching/Excavation "Competent Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Trenching-Excavation-Competent-Person-English-Spanish-2256/details>

### **December:**

12/2/25

Fall Protection "Competent Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Fall-Protection-Competent-Person-English-Spanish-2257/details>

12/9/25

CPR + First Aid December - English and Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/CPR-First-Aid-December-English-and-Spanish-2227/details>

12/12/25

Confined Space "Competent Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Confined-Space-Competent-Person-English-Spanish-2261/details>

12/16/25

Scaffolding Training "Qualified Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Scaffolding-Training-Qualified-Person-English-Spanish-2259/details>

## 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](#)



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## 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](mailto: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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### 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](mailto:john@nceca.org)

**Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director**  
email: [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org)

**Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper**  
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