



"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**-Sacramento and our high cost of unemployment insurance
- 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 October 28 from 12-1:30pm



Hidden Costs to Businesses

Five years ago, California borrowed \$20 billion from the federal government because its unemployment insurance system didn't have enough money to pay a strong surge of claims. More than [two million Californians had lost their jobs](#) after Gov. Gavin Newsom forced many businesses to shut their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

California was not alone in borrowing to maintain benefits for jobless workers, although no other state approached its huge debt, and [all others — most recently New York and Connecticut — have repaid their loans](#). And California's debt is still increasing.

Even though the state's unemployment rate, currently at 5.5% of its workforce, is just a third of what it was in 2020, it's still the nation's highest, with more than a million jobless workers. California's Employment Development Department is [paying out \\$7.4 billion](#) to those covered by unemployment insurance this year while collecting less than \$5 billion in payroll taxes.

California's debt will reach \$23.2 billion by year's end, according to the state's most recent report, and it's likely to grow even more in 2026. The state's also on the hook for more than \$600 million a year in interest.

A quarter-century ago, California had a comfortable surplus in its Unemployment Insurance Fund, but the Legislature and then-Gov. Gray Davis began draining it with a sharp increase in benefits.

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

Since California hasn't repaid its loans and is still borrowing money, federal officials have hiked payroll taxes on California employers. As the California Business Roundtable recently noted in a report, the state's employers will soon pay a 5.2% payroll tax — nearly nine times as much as those in other states that are debt-free — plus their state payroll taxes.

This is a gigantic mess born of shortsighted political decision making and cowardice and compounded by lying to the California taxpayers.

Unless we want to see hidden costs of doing business in California continue to go up by nine times more than other states, we have to call out the entrenched Democratic power block of elected officials. That means calling out our friends that are in Sacramento like McGuire, Connolly, and others. They need to stop billing business owners for their bad governance. This unemployment funding mess is one of the prime examples of how they have been lying to us. Many of the electeds have stated that the unemployment fund debt is because of fraudulent claims during the pandemic. Nope. They know that the fraud, while real, involved a separate program of extended benefits [financed completely with federal recovery funds](#). California's huge debt involves only the state's unemployment insurance system. And California's leadership has contributed a lot to the hidden costs to businesses in California.

Message to Sacramento: "Stop spending money you do not have! Take care of the businesses that still remain in California".

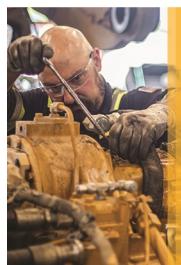
A special thank you to Dan Walters for his latest op ed piece that I borrowed heavily from for this Soapbox.

That's All Folks!
John

» CAT FINANCIAL

Visit us online at
Petersoncat.com/0-for-36

PETERSON



0% FOR 36 MONTHS
WITH NO PAYMENTS FOR THE FIRST 6 MONTHS*

On repairs and new or remanufactured Cat® Parts, with or without service. For a limited time, use your Cat® Card account on qualifying repairs and new or used remanufactured Cat parts. Ends 12/31/25.

**Additional terms and conditions apply.*



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



VIP Tasting & Brewery tour for 10

Enjoy a VIP Tasting & Brewery tour for 10 guests at Cuver Brewery in Windsor while you enjoy PizzaLeah's Pizza!. Their staple beers are the award-winning Pepperwood (Session Saison), Dobbels (Belgian Dark Abbey Ale), Tripel (Belgian Golden Abbey Ale), Bell Road (Bohemian Pilsner) and award-winning Hoppy Don (Belgian IPA)

Donated by: Cuver, Don Mills & Pizzaleah

Spirits of ECA

Bourbon lovers finally get their event! Twelve lucky folks will meet for a special rare tasting of some of the finest bourbon, whiskey, rye, and scotch we can find at Mike Wolff's fabulous home. Special expensive and hard to find spirits will combine with special recipes and Mike's fabulous Old Fashion concoction for an unforgettable evening. With industry expert Sam Ham presenting his knowledge of how and where the spirits came to be, to a special celebrity guest presenter from Kentucky talking up bourbon history and stories, enjoy tastings, heavy appetizers, cigars and a special spirits giveaway! Find 11 buddies and get this one in your name!



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!

[Ghilotti Bros. Inc.](#) - Platinum Sponsor
[Peterson CAT](#)—Platinum Sponsor
[Risk Strategies Insurance](#)—Bar 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
[PACE Supply](#)—Live Auction
[Sound Ideas](#) - Live Auction
[Wolff Contracting](#) - Live Auction
[Exchange Bank](#) - Bronze Sponsor
[River City 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

How Your Choices at Home Can Affect Safety on The Job

There are many choices we make at home that can have major effects at work. Whether it is safety-related or lifestyle choices, many of these choices have repercussions that carry over from home into the workplace. It is important to realize how closely connected our personal and professional life can be.

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)

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

Date: Thursday, December 4th, 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:



NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **Napa's Busiest Transportation Choke Point-any relief in sight?** [Relief for Napa County's busiest highway choke point? Not anytime soon – The Press Democrat](#)
2. **Assembly Bill 697 awaits Newsom's signature to start work on environmental first steps to relieve congestion on Hwy 37. Maybe if Newsom can stop grandstanding and sign the bill, commuters could see relief soon.**

Join us for our Campaign Kickoff Celebration

Tom Schwedhelm

For Fourth District Supervisor

WHEN
Friday, October 10, 2025

TIME
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



Schwedhelm
TOM 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# 1483854.

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@eddclarkandassociates.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