



"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**-A Big Week for ECA, what happened?
2. **ECA Events:** ECA Annual General Membership Meeting 11/18/25 from 12-2pm Sallie Tomato's in Rohnert Park
3. **Upcoming Committee Meetings** ECA Government Affairs Meeting with special guests Damon Connolly, NorthBay Leadership Council, NORBAR, NCBE, SCAPAC and Farm Bureau, on Thursday November 18 from 3-5:00pm



A Big Week for ECA

Last week the ECA had several big things that I feel we should inform you about. Here goes:

At our Tuesday, 10-28-25 Board of Directors Meeting, the Directors finalized our choices for the Award Winners to be honored at our Installation and Awards Dinner on January 31st-at the Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club:

Contractor of the Year-Western Water Constructors

Affiliate of the Year-Tobys Trucking

Hermesmeier Hall of Fame Posthumous Inductee-Frank Palagi

Hermesmeier Hall of Fame Inductee-Louie Gobbi

Our Directors were busy Tuesday as they finalized our 2026 Officers and Directors, and here they are:

Officers for 2026

President-Kimber Lenning Carpenter from Kadon Trucking

Vice President-Matt Storm from Granite Construction

Treasurer-Casey Wood from Ghilotti Brothers Inc.

Secretary-Antonio Mencarini from Ghilotti Construction Company

Past President-Dan Giordani from Argonaut

Directors for 2026

Contractors-Kristi Pruett, Mike Wolff, Mike Gulley, Lucas Doherty, Kevin Ghilotti
Affiliates-Ramsay Brown, Jake Behrens, Jeremiah Cook, Corinna Fernandez, Trisha McComas, Ryan McKnight, Kevin Noonan, Omar Coronel, John Reid, Glenn Smith, Brendan Snyder, Brett Wilmes, Walt Turner, Aimi Dutra, Guy Levinson

Dan Hennessey is an advisory guest to the Board of Directors and John Bly will also be-non-voting

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Continued from page 1

ECA Had our last big fundraising and fun event for 2025 Saturday night. I hope everyone had a great time and we had a full house of 220 people celebrating getting dressed up and Masquerading at the Graton Event Center. I know I picked up a few Christmas presents at the auction!! Thanks to all of our Sponsors, Donors, and Attendees, but mostly, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO BID ON THE ITEMS AND PLAYED OUR FUN GAMES!! And thank you to Brent Bjornstad of Ritchie Bros for helping us once again on the auction!

Our generous attendees raised a lot of money for two worthy causes: We raised \$5500 for the Sonoma County Honor Field which helps first responders and veterans, and we raised \$9400 for the Construction Corps which helps train and place high school graduates in our industry to start their careers!

The ECA and the NCBE coordinated and hosted a workshop on Storm Water management and the General Construction Permit changes in 2025. Our special guest speaker was Walt Dragaloski from the North Bay Water Control Board who, along with our good pal Nick Sudano from the City of Santa Rosa, let the contractors, engineers, and service providers in the room know what will get them in trouble this rainy season. We had Jeff Quackenbush from the NorthBay Business Journal on hand and here is a link to his article in the Press Democrat this morning: [California North Coast contractors confront tougher stormwater rules](#)

Thanks Everyone!

That's All Folks,

John



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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.
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.*

Sponsored by:



Upcoming Capital Improvement Projects

Upcoming projects in the following areas:
County of Sonoma, City of Santa Rosa,
Napa County, Sonoma County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, November 18

Noon—2 pm

Register [HERE](#)

Sally Tomatoes ~ 1100 Valley House Dr, Rohnert Park.

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 Last 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 February 23, 2026 from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- B. ECA Board of Directors** Recurring Meeting – Every Last 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 January 27, 2026, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm. This is our first meeting of the year, and we will do strategic planning for the year so Directors, please don't miss this meeting!
- C. ECA Government Affairs Committee** next Meeting Tuesday, November 18, 2025 from 2:00 pm to 4:00pm- (Chair John Bly, Members Ross Liscum, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland, Mike Wolff, John Reid, and Aimi Dutra). Special Guest will be Damon Connolly who is running for Mike McGuire's Senate Seat, and we are inviting our allies at the NorthBay Leadership Council, North Coast Builders Exchange, NORBAR, SCAPAC, and the Farm Bureau. We want Mr. Connolly to be very clear on what we all want him to focus on should he win the Senate seat.
- D. ECA Specification Committee Meeting**-Recurring Meeting Every Last Wednesday of the month from January through October from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Place-NCBE Main Board Room, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA – Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 28, 2026, from 3-5:00pm.
- E. ECA Nominating Committee** will meet after the 1st of the year to nominate the Bridge Award and the Golden Hardhat Awards for 2026.
- F. ECA 50 Year Anniversary Committee** will meet as needed.
- G. ECA Community Relations Committee** will meet as needed.

ECA's Wine & Dozer Annual Dinner & Auction

It was a fun night on Saturday at the Wine & Dozers Event.

Thank you again to our sponsors!

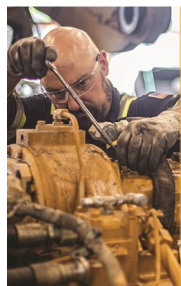


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[Stevenson Supply & Tractor Company](#) - Port & Cigar Bar Sponsor
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[Ghilotti Bros Inc.](#) - Live Auction
[Ghilotti Construction](#) - Live Auction
[Granite Construction](#) - Live Auction
[Mill Creek Safety](#) - Live Auction
Jim Persons, Safety Pride - Live Auction
[PACE Supply](#)—Live Auction
[Serres Corporation, Wing & Barrel Ranch](#)—Live Auction
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. **Will Jenkel** from Garton Tractors announced his retirement last week. Great guy. Enjoy your next phase Will!
2. **Doug Holmes** of Gordon Ball announced his last day of employment last week as well and Doug heads off to a well-deserved retirement phase based out of Idaho! We will miss you Doug!

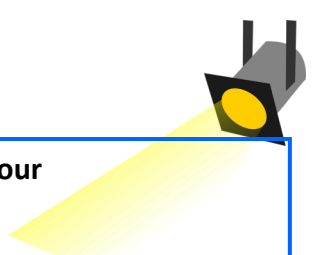
3. **DOT clarifies DBE rule, but some questions remain**

The Department of Transportation has updated guidance on its Disadvantaged Business Enterprises interim final rule, which removes race- and sex-based presumptions of disadvantage. The Oct. 24 guidance clarifies that there are no set deadlines for submitting reevaluation documents or for Unified Certification Programs to complete reevaluations, and it confirms that firms must be reevaluated by their jurisdiction of original certification. However, the guidance does not address standards for evaluating social and economic disadvantage, leaving some uncertainty for stakeholders.

4. **OSHA faces challenges as government shutdown continues**

The ongoing government shutdown, which has lasted over three weeks, is significantly impacting OSHA's operations, with only about 20% of staff working to address critical safety needs. This disruption may affect OSHA's ability to meet deadlines, such as issuing citations within six months of inspections. Additionally, the shutdown complicates the rulemaking process, including the proposed heat injury and illness standard, which has an October 30 deadline for public comments. Employers are advised to stay vigilant about compliance and deadlines despite the government's closure.

Full Story: [Construction Dive](#) (10/23)



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!

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Good Enough Mindset

For most of us, we have been doing our jobs long enough to know what the right way is to do something and what falls short to “good enough.” When it comes to workplace safety, “good enough” does not cut it. When addressing hazards, having this mindset will lead to exposure to risk that will eventually result in incidents and injuries occurring.

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 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:



ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

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October:

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>

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](#)



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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



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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

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Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper
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