



"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.

1. ECA Government Affairs Meeting every last Tuesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 1:45pm to 3:30pm at NCBE Board room,
2. ECA Spec Meeting every last Wednesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at NCBE Board Room
3. ECA Exec Meeting every last Tuesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 11:00am to 12:00pm in the small conference room at NCBE
4. ECA Board of Directors meeting every last Tuesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 12:00pm to 1:30 pm at the NCBE Board room
5. ECA Community Relations Committee meetings as needed
6. ECA Nominating Committee meetings as needed
7. ECA Auction, Golf Committee meetings as needed



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Annual Company Review and Maintenance Items

Month-DECEMBER!

As we head into the last month of the year, it is time to make whatever tax moves you want to do to lower your 2026 taxes. I heartily recommend you sit down with your accountant to see what he/she gives you as options. Prepayment of certain invoices in 2025 that are not due until 2026 is an easy way to lower your tax owed for 2025. Things like prepay mortgage payments, property tax payments, bonuses for employees, capital purchases, depreciation of certain assets. I am no expert, so let the experts advise you!

After our capital project Annual General Membership Meeting two weeks ago, there will be some nice projects to bid on in Sonoma and Napa Counties. We did not hear from Marin County, and I apologize for that, but Santa Rosa, SCTA, Napa County and Sonoma County have lots of projects hitting the bid sheets in 2026. I have included the presentations that we have from that meeting right here for you to share with your executives for your own forecasting of possible projects. James Cameron's PowerPoint-[SCTCA-ECA-GeneralMembersip-20251118.pdf](#) For Napa's road plan. [Napa-County-roads-5-year-paving-plan.pdf](#)



**2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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City of Santa Rosa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOHN BLY

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

MARY KENNEDY CABRERA

Continued from page 1

As we continue to see slowdowns due to weather, the other traditional things contractors, engineers, suppliers do in the slower months, is to review their employee training programs for safety/continuing education/specialty trainings. Perhaps it is a good time to go through your fleet and get rid of older equipment that is costing you too much in maintenance and break-downs and use your negotiating skills to modernize your fleet of equipment in focused areas.

Lastly, maybe it is past time to sit down with your key people and review your company core values, how those values are passed along to your workforce, and to identify items you can do better at getting “buyin” from your associates that will lead to future profits and values!

That’s All Folks!

John

Click [HERE](#) for the interview with John Bly in Between the Ditches with Paul Foley, Bulk Exchange

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2050008480074



TOGETHER WE CAN!

Join Redwood Credit Union, A Simple Gesture and North Coast Builders Exchange as we collect food for families in need. Together, we can make a meaningful difference — right from your doorstep. Scan to QR Code to register and leave non-perishable food items on your doorstep on A Simple Gesture's food pick-up dates.

For each donor who enrolls, the North Bay Construction Corps will receive a \$10 donation.

PANTRY LIST:

- Natural Peanut Butter
- Canned Proteins like Tuna
- Pasta, Rice & Beans
- Healthy Cereal, Oatmeal & Breakfast Bars
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables and Fruits
- Energy Bars, Nuts & Raisins
- Cooking Oil, Cornstarch & Sugar
- Ziplock & Garbage Bags

Use the above flyer. For every person who uses the QR Code on the flyer, RCU and A Simple Gesture will donate \$10 to the North Bay Construction Corps.

There is also a bin at NCBE, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa for food donations.

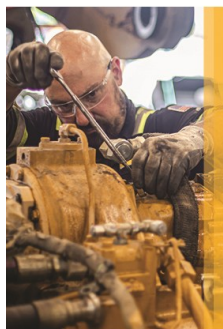
COMMITTEE NEWS

- 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** (this is a change!!) 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** (this is a change!) 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** recurring meetings will be every last Tuesday starting in January 2026, from 1:45 pm to 3:30 pm- (Chair John Bly, Members Ross Liscum, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland, Mike Wolff, John Reid, and Aimi Dutra).
- D. **ECA Spec Meeting**-Recurring Meetings will be every last Wednesday of the month from January 2026 through October 2026 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.**

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Save the Date!

48th Annual ECA Installation & Awards Dinner

Saturday, January 31, 2026
Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club

To Sponsor click [HERE](#)

We are honoring the following at the Awards Dinner

Contractor of the Year—Western Water Constructors Inc.

Affiliate of the Year—Toby's Trucking

Hermesmeyer Hall of Fame – Louie Gobbi, Heavy Equipment Rentals

Hermesmeyer Hall of Fame, Posthumous – Frank Palagi, Ghilotti Bros Inc.

Thank you Sponsors:

[Soiland Co.](#)—Hermesmeyer Award Sponsor



The advertisement features a laptop displaying the Landesign website. The website has a green header with the company logo and navigation links. The main content area shows a large image of a modern building with palm trees and the text "Enhancing your property's value through quality, passion, and expertise." A spotlight effect from the right highlights the laptop screen. Below the laptop, the website URL is displayed.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

From Mark Smith, Smith Policy Group— California has enacted two significant reforms that will reshape private construction contracts starting **January 1, 2026**. These changes impact **change-order payment procedures** and **retention limits**, creating new compliance obligations for owners, contractors, and subcontractors. Please see below for a breakdown of everything you need to know before SB 440 and SB 61 take effect.

1. SB 440 – Private Works Change Order Fair Payment Act (Civil Code §§ 8850–8851)

For contracts signed on or after January 1, 2026, SB 440 introduces California’s first mandatory statewide process for handling change-order and extra-work disputes on private works projects. Key provisions include:

- **30-Day Response Requirement:** Owners must respond in writing to contractor claims within 30 days.
- **60-Day Payment Rule:** Undisputed amounts must be paid within 60 days or accrue 2% monthly interest.
- **Structured Dispute Resolution:** Disputed claims require meet-and-confer and mediation before litigation.
- **Right to Suspend Work:** Contractors may stop work if owners fail to comply with timelines or refuse mediation.
- **Subcontractor Protections:** Subcontractors can require general contractors to submit claims and approve settlements.
- **Waivers Void:** Contract provisions waiving these rights are unenforceable.

Sunset Clause: Law repeals January 1, 2030.

Impact: SB 440 strengthens payment protections for contractors and subcontractors while imposing strict compliance obligations and penalties on owners.

2. SB 61 – Retention Cap on Private Works (Civil Code § 8811)

Also effective January 1, 2026, SB 61 limits retention on most private construction projects to **5%** a major shift from the traditional 10%. Key provisions include:

- **5% Maximum Retention:** Owners may not withhold more than 5% retention on private works projects.
- **Flow-Down Requirement:** General contractors cannot withhold more than the owner withholds.
- **Residential Exception:** The cap does not apply to residential projects unless mixed-use and over four stories.
- **Bond Exception:** Higher retention allowed if a subcontractor fails to provide a required performance/ payment bond.

Attorneys’ Fees: Prevailing parties in enforcement actions recover reasonable attorneys’ fees.

Impact: Contractors and subcontractors benefit from improved cash flow, while owners may need to rely more on performance bonds and quality-control measures.

Equipment for Sale:

Pacific Coast Cutters is closing and everything must go...

we have 4 Dodges 2012 to 2019; many small tools including 4" & 7" hand grinders, roto hammers, safety supplies, rain barrels, electric cords, twist lock heavy duty electric cords, resettable gas monitor, diamond bits and blades. We are selling 30 years of accumulation some new some used. Call or come by soon things are going fast. 450 Lakeview Street, Suite B, Petaluma, CA 94952 707-765-0661
pcc@pacificcoastcutters.com

Go to their Facebook page for photos. [\(1\) Facebook](#) [\(1\) Facebook](#)

From the Desk of Jim Persons

DO CELL PHONES CAUSE MORE VEHICLE ACCIDENTS?

It is common knowledge that the number one cause of work-related fatalities is vehicle accidents. Most companies have at least one truck, if not a whole fleet of vehicles, and their drivers face the hazards of the roadway day after day. Sometimes a trip ends tragically. .

To continue reading

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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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>

1/8 & 9/26

OSHA 10 hour for Construction—English & Spanish

[OSHA 10-Hour for Construction -](#)



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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!



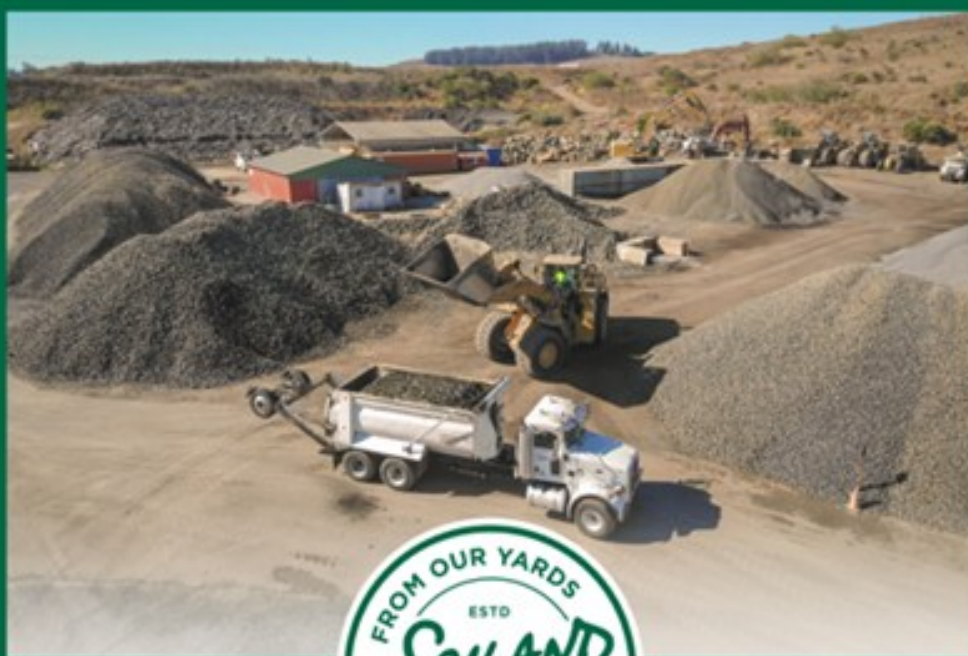


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NORTH BAY CONSTRUCTION CORPS

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



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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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Postal Address: P.O. Box 8249 Santa Rosa, CA 95407 ~Phone: 707.546.5500