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ECA Newsletter

John's Soapbox



Remember my disclaimer -this Soapbox is my own opinion and does not necessarily reflect any official ECA position, nor any opinion of any ECA member firm. This is my stuff only and is intended to be thought-provoking as well as educational.



New Laws for 2026 and Proposed New Petaluma Policy on Disqualification of Bidders

There are several new laws that you need to pay attention to, and here is a nice article by our friend Quackenbush for the Press Democrat running them down for you:

[California contractors: 7 key law changes for 2026](#)

One of the biggest possible changes is coming before the Petaluma City Council next week as to how they want to disqualify bidders on public works projects. You can read the proposed Ordinance that was first brought to the City Council for discussion/consideration on Dec 1, 2025. It will come before the Council on January 26, 2026, for discussion and possible adoption:

Scroll down to consent calendar #9

[Dec 01, 2025 CITY COUNCIL/PCDSA REGULAR MEETING - Petaluma, CA](#)

Both the ECA and the NCBE are working on some possible recommendations to modify this ordinance so it not so "heavy handed". The Petaluma City Attorney is amendable to making some modifications to this ordinance prior to the Council meeting on 1-26-26. The ECA and NCBE will be sending out some emails to existing Council members on several issues regarding this and other ordinances such as:

- A. Why did the City of Petaluma not reach out to either of our organizations (NCBE or ECA) for input before Dec 1 first reading of this "Disqualification of Bidders" at City Council meeting?

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B. Let's try to tone down the negative in this and other ordinances and try to be more collaborative with contractors and subcontractors so bidding to Petaluma is not so much "one side pitted against the other side" attitude.

C. Whenever a City is trying to legislate the bidder qualifications (which is our livelihood) they should try to remember contractors have choices in whether they bid or not bid, and whether they put extra bid dollars to compensate for a "crappy attitude" by the municipality. Let's try to be more of a "team" moving forward!!

If you want to go on to the Petaluma City website and read the attachments from Dec 1, 2025 Council meeting on this ordinance, please do so and let me know your thoughts so I am not working and responding and suggesting "in a vacuum".

Thank you!
Happy New Year!

That's All Folks!

John



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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 (Kimber Lenning Carpenter -President, Matt Storm – Vice President, Casey Wood - Treasurer, Dan Giordani- 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 January 27, 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 – 1:30pm
- C. **ECA Government Affairs Committee** Recurring Meeting-Every LAST Tuesday of the month from 2:00pm – 3:30pm from January through October, Place -NCBE small conference room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA –next Meeting Tuesday, January 27, 2026 from 2 pm to 3:30pm, (Chair John Bly, Members Ross Liscum, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soilard, Mike Wolff, John Reid, and Aimi Dutra)-invited guests for the January 27th meeting will be Eric Lucan and Eli Beckman who are running for Damon Connolly's Assembly Seat for the State of California. This will also be a joint meeting with the NCBE Government Affairs Committee for this meeting.
- D. **ECA Spec Meeting** Recurring Meeting Every LAST 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 Wednesday January 28, 2026, from 3:00pm to 4:30pm (Chairs Dale Smith/Casey Wood, Antonio Mencarini, John Reid, Geoff Coleman, Jason Nutt. Guests and Topics for this meeting will be announced next week. If you have a specific issue you want us to look at, please let Casey, Dale, or myself know in the next week so we can get the correct people at the 1-28-26 meeting. Thank you!
- E. **ECA Nominating Committee** will meet on Tuesday, Feb 24, 2026, from 11:00 am to 11:30 am in the NCBE small conference room. Chair Mike Gulley, Kimber Lenning, Matt Storm, Casey Wood, Mark Soilard and Dan Giordani are the committee members. We will be considering Bridge Award candidates as well as the Golden Hardhat candidates for the Public Officials Night.
- F. **ECA 50 Year Anniversary Committee** (Keith Woods, Mark Soilard, Antonio Mencarini, Casey Wood) will meet Tuesday, January 27, from 11:30-12:00pm at the small conference room, 1030 Apollo Way, to discuss new Logo and other ideas for our 50th year anniversary!

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 mw@ncea.org with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!

Upcoming Event!

48th Annual ECA Installation & Awards Dinner

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

To Register click [HERE](#)
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

Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame – Louie Gobbi, Heavy Equipment Rentals

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

Thank you Sponsors:

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

[Ghilotti Construction](#) - Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame Sponsor

[Ritchie Bros.](#) - President's Reception



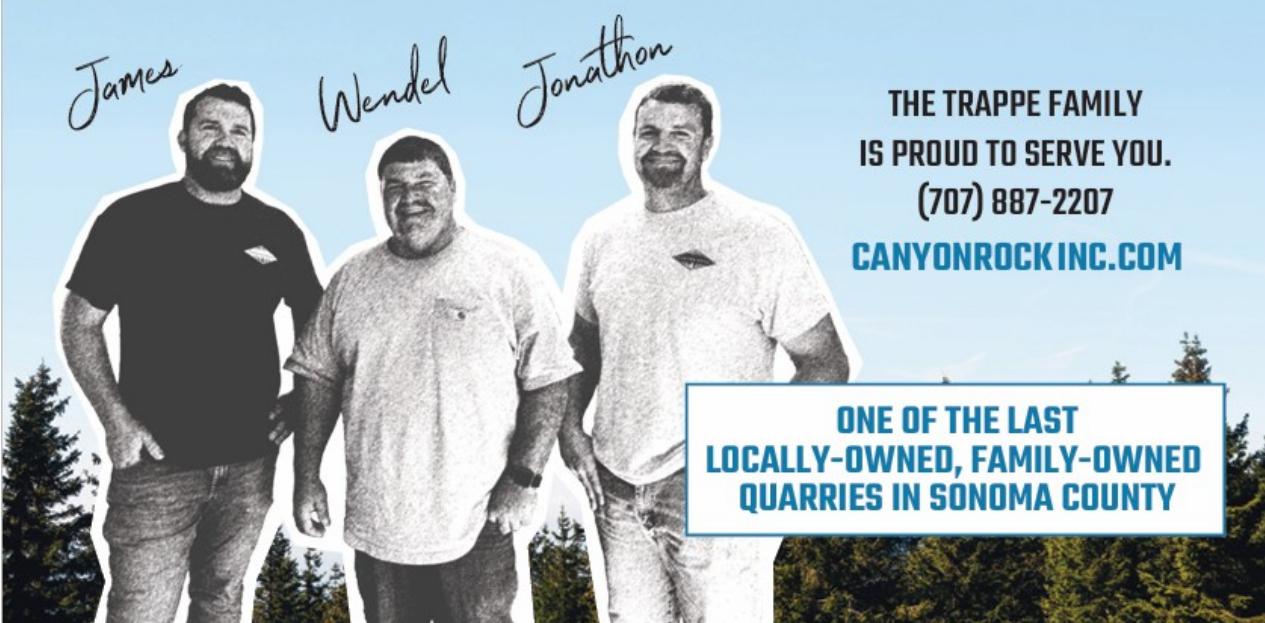
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Sorry to see him pass - Rick Moshier was Director of Public Works for Santa Rosa for many years. Rick was also a non-voting member of the ECA Board of Directors for many years and helped solidify our relationship with the City of Santa Rosa many years ago. Rick passed a few weeks ago-[Rick Moshier Obituary \(2026\) - Santa Rosa, CA - Press Democrat](#)
2. \$100 million in Santa Rosa projects coming our way-[\\$100 million surge in public works projects underway in Santa Rosa. Here's what's planned in 2026](#)
3. Sonoma County Spent \$90 million on road and bridge projects in 2025-did you get any of this work? [Sonoma County spent \\$90 million on road rehab and bridge projects in 2025](#)
4. Stalled Site North of Windsor Town Square Moving Forward? [Developer City Ventures puts forward 260-townhome project in Windsor along SMART tracks](#)
5. Housing project near St Eugene's is going to be very controversial-[Revived plans for development surrounding Santa Rosa's historic Carrillo Adobe to get first public look](#)
6. New Labor Postings Required:

Workplace Know Your Rights Act

Senate Bill (SB) 294 enacted Labor Code sections 1550-1559, also known as the Workplace Know Your Rights Act. The Act requires that an employer provide an annual notice to their employees regarding certain workplace rights, including the right to have their employer notify a designated emergency contact if an employee is arrested or detained at work.

Annual Workplace Rights Notice

On or before **February 1, 2026**, and each year after that, an employer must provide employees a required workplace rights notice. The Labor Commissioner has posted model notices on its website that an employer can use, **including versions in English and Spanish. Versions in Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi will soon be posted.** An employer must provide the notice in the language usually used to communicate employment-related information to the employee and which the employee understands, if the language is available as a template notice provided by the Labor Commissioner.

Continue Reading on Page 8

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Confined Space Safety Standards

Cal/OSHA's updated confined space safety regulations for construction will take effect January 1, 2026.

These updates include definitions and employer requirements for identifying and managing confined spaces.

To continue reading

[Click HERE](#)



News you can use continued

The annual notice to employees must include seven categories of information spelled out in the statute, which include information about workers' compensation, the right to notice of an I-9 inspection by immigration agencies, protection against unfair immigration-related practices, constitutional rights when interacting with law enforcement in the workplace, labor organizing rights, a description of new laws affecting workplace rights, and a list of the enforcement agencies that may enforce the underlying rights in the notice.

By **July 1, 2026**, the Labor Commissioner also will post a video for employees advising them of their rights and a video for employers advising them of their rights and requirements. All postings will be on the Labor Commissioner's Office website.

An employer who violates the notice requirement shall be subject to a penalty of up to \$500 per employee.

7. I Hate Announcing This, But—

High-speed rail project accelerates in Calif.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority has outlined plans to advance the state's high-speed rail project in 2026, including issuing a request for proposals for a track and systems construction contract and seeking private-sector partnerships. The project aims to connect major cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles, with the first segment set to be complete by 2032.

Full Story: [Newsweek \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (1/1)

8. Lots of Money for Road and Safety Projects-[USDOT investing \\$1B in 521 roadway safety projects](#)

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](#)

ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

January:

Thursday 1/8 & Friday 1/9

[OSHA 10 hour for Construction](#) 9 am – 4 pm

Tuesday 1/13

[CPR + First Aid - English & Spanish](#) 9 am - 4 pm

Wednesday 1/14

[Confined Space “Competent Person” - English & Spanish](#) 1 pm - 3 pm

Thursday 1/15

[2026 Labor & Employment Law Updates](#) 9 am - 11 am

[SB 61 Retention Caps and New Home Improvement Contract Requirements in 2026](#)

11 am - 1 pm

Thursday 1/22

[Confined Space “Competent Person” - English & Spanish - Ukiah](#) 8 am - 11 am

[Prevailing Wage Seminar](#) 9 am - 4 pm

[Heat Illness Prevention Training - English & Spanish - Ukiah](#) 10 am - 12 pm

Monday 1/26

[Fall Protection “Competent Person” English & Spanish](#) 9 am - 11 am



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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 Endorsement By ECA-

HELLO!!! HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON TO CHECK OUT THE

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[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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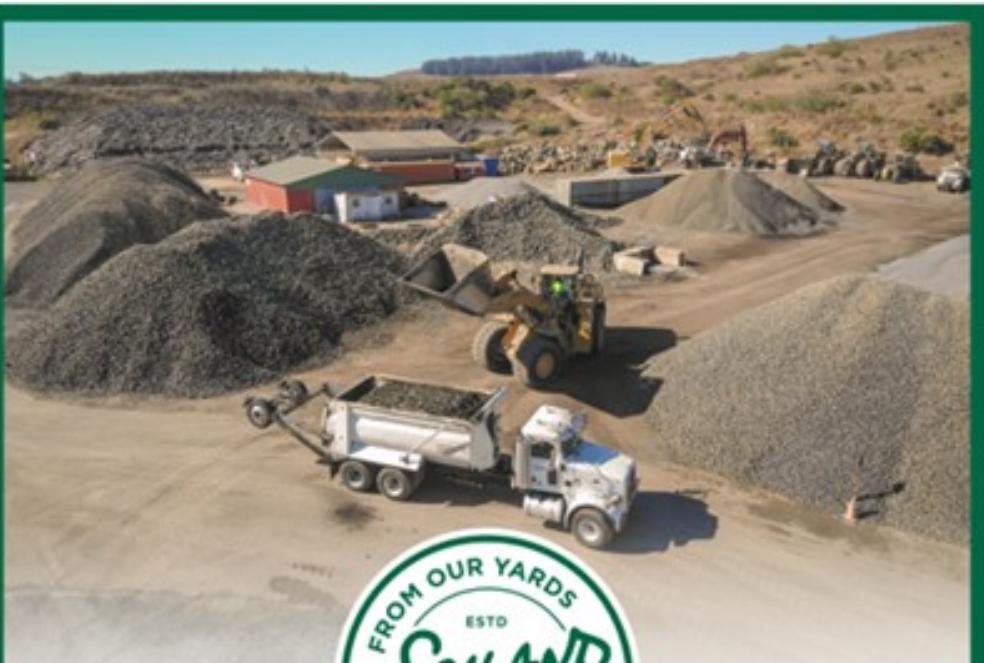


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The North Bay Construction Corps (NBCC) is an after-school, 3-month basic construction training program for seniors in their last semester of high school. Classes are taught by local contractors and construction managers. Participants are introduced 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

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Make a Direct Donation

Donate directly to Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin to help support the nearly 300 local families in need this holiday season.



Donate Gift Cards

Gift cards provide caregivers with the joy and pride that comes from choosing a specific gift for their child and support their needs for basic essentials this holiday season including food and clothing.



For information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin Holiday Gift Drive scan the QR code or visit: bgcsonoma-marin.org/holidays



Thank You

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

John Bly, Executive Director
email: john@ncea.org

McKenzie Wexler, Member Services Director
email: mw@ncea.org

Susan Maners, Bookkeeper
email: accounting@ncea.org

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



Happy New Year! I would like to introduce myself, I am taking the position of Member Services Director and my name is McKenzie Wexler. You can call or e-mail me with any questions or requests that you may have. I have big shoes to fill, as I am taking over for Mary Kennedy Cabrera who was with this awesome organization for 19 years! Thank you Mary for all that you have done for the ECA and lets allow her enjoy her retirement by directing everything to me at mw@nceca.org. I can also be reached at [707-546-5500](tel:707-546-5500)

