



February 16, 2026

"CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE"

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.

EPA Climate Change Rollback? Not So Fast!

On February 12, 2026, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, alongside President Trump, announced the finalization of the repeal of the 2009 Endangerment Finding, which served as the legal basis for regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. Zeldin framed this as a major deregulatory action aimed at cutting costs, removing vehicle emission standards, and reducing federal intervention in the energy sector.

Key details regarding the action taken by Administrator Zeldin include:

- **Action Taken:** The EPA repealed the 2009 Endangerment Finding, which formally identified greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as a threat to public health and welfare.
- **Economic Impact:** Zeldin cited that the repeal would save over \$1.3 trillion by removing requirements for reporting, certifying, and complying with vehicle GHG emission standards.
- **Regulatory Focus:** The move aims to reverse Biden-era regulations on electric vehicles (EVs) and, according to Zeldin, to "end the war on the American internal combustion engine".
- **Scientific Basis:** The repeal involved questioning the scientific consensus on climate change, utilizing reports from scientists who challenge mainstream climate models.
- **Reaction:** Environmental groups described this as the largest attack on federal climate authority in U.S. history. Legal challenges against the rollback are expected

My take on this is that there will be a flurry of lawsuits and this will end up being decided by SCOTUS in a year or two at the earliest. The rest of my opinion on this is that in California, there will be little or no change in regulatory requirements as CA has decided to be a "net-zero" carbon emission state and California, arguably, has the right to regulate carbon emissions with or without the EPA finding.

Continued from page 1

In the meantime, what does it mean to truckers, equipment manufacturers, contractors, and the rest of us?

“In practical terms, without the endangerment finding, regulating greenhouse gas emissions is no longer a legal requirement. The science hasn’t changed, but the obligation to act on it has been removed.”

Previous [analysis](#) from the University of Oxford noted that, despite a walkback on federal climate policy in Trump’s second presidential term, 19 US states – covering nearly half of the country’s population – remain committed to net-zero targets.

I would not jump for joy yet as this is a largely ceremonial announcement that, in my humble opinion, will have little to no effect on conducting business in California. Bottom line-climate change rollback in CA? Not so fast my friends.

That’s all folks,

John

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A graphic of a spotlight with a yellow beam of light shining downwards.

Please join us in welcoming Joe Hadley to Landesign as our Construction Division Manager. With years of experience in the landscaping industry, Joe brings deep experience in design, architecture, horticulture, project management, and team leadership. We’re excited to have his knowledge and leadership on our team! [Contact us](#) for your next project!

Welcome to the team!



Joe Hadley
Construction Division Manager

ECA COMMITTEE NEWS

1. **ECA Executive Committee (Officers) Meetings** are recurring every month and are held every Last Tuesday from 11:00-12:00pm, in the small NCBE conference room.
2. **ECA Board of Directors meetings** are recurring every month and are held every last Tuesday from 12:00-1:30pm, in the main conference boardroom at NCBE.
3. **ECA Government Affairs Committee (GAC) meetings** are recurring every month and are held every last Tuesday from 2:00pm-3:30pm in the main conference boardroom at NCBE.
4. **ECA Specifications Committee** are recurring every month and are held every last Wednesday from 3:00-4:30pm in the main conference board room at NCBE

ECA EVENTS

1. **April 30, 2026 - ECA Public Officials Night** will be held at The Backdrop, 1455 Corporate Center Parkway in Santa Rosa, CA from 5:30pm – 9:00pm.
2. **June 21, 2026 -ECA Show and Shine Car Show** will be held at Julliard Park at 227 Santa Rosa, Ave. in Santa Rosa from 9:00am-3:30pm
3. **July 10, 2026 -The ECA Golf Tournament** will be held at the Windsor Golf Course at 1340 19th Hole Drive in Windsor, CA from 11:00am-7:00pm

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Rigging Sling Inspection

Lifting and rigging is a vital and common task in many workplaces. Slings are devices used to lift and move items mechanically. At times, they can be put under great stress, which can lead to damage. This safety talk identifies common sling failures and covers best practices when inspecting these devices to ensure a safe working experience.

To continue reading, [Click HERE](#)



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Gary Huddle | Construction Superintendent (Lake/Mendocino) | Cell: (707) 272-0136 | Gary.Huddle@gcinc.com

1. Why is it important to have ECA and NCBE host a panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence in the construction industry?

Roughly 70% of employers now screen social media profiles as part of the applicant screening process – but manually scrolling through Facebook posts, X feeds, and Instagram photos is time-consuming and inconsistent. Enter social media AI investigations tools that promise to streamline the process. These platforms use natural language processing (NLP) to scan candidates' public posts, analyze language patterns and sentiment, and generate personality assessments predicting traits such as teamwork, openness, adaptability, or leadership potential. The pitch is compelling: get deeper insights into candidates' "real" personalities beyond what resumes and interviews reveal, all while saving your HR team countless hours. But before you deploy AI to comb through applicants' social media, you need to understand the significant legal risks these tools create and consider some best practices.

Risks of Social Media Sweeps

Like all tools, use of social media AI investigations tools comes with risks.

Bias and False Inferences

There is a real risk of bias and the creation of false inferences. False inferences can be caused by things such as cultural or linguistic styles, code-switching, slang, sarcasm, and memes, all of which could lead to misclassification by NLP. And bias can arise when "proxy" signals (follows, networks, location) are analyzed, as they can reveal or stand in for protected traits.

Privacy Issues

There are numerous privacy, transparency, and consent concerns to consider. Some state comprehensive consumer privacy laws and a patchwork of AI laws may require notice, choice, or assessments. Global job applicants can also implicate international laws, such as the GDPR, which requires lawful basis, transparency, and DPIA, and has restrictions on special-category data.

Biometric Concerns

Additionally, social media AI investigations tools can raise biometric issues (if the tools use facial analysis). Some states require express consent (e.g., BIPA) and others have password protection laws which restrict requesting account access.

NEWS YOU CAN USE CONTINUED

Robotic Limitations

Current limitations of social media AI investigations tools also pose accuracy, authenticity and context concerns. In their existing iterations, AI tools don't understand context or sarcasm and are at risk of misreading humor, quotes, or historical posts. They are also vulnerable to false positives as a result of impersonation/deepfakes, wrong person matches, or stale content.

Discrimination Potential

Reviewing social media feeds can reveal religion, disability, pregnancy, age, political views, and a host of other protected factors that should not be considered at the time of hire. And when utilizing social media AI investigation tools, knowledge of these factors could be imputed to the employer, which may end up tainting employment decisions.

Fair Credit Reporting Act

Even if a third party supplies a "social-media report," it may trigger the FCRA and the requirements that go along with it: disclosure, authorization, pre-adverse/adverse action, dispute process, and accuracy duties.

Data Security

Social media AI investigations tools can also pose security and retention risks. Scraped data creates breach and litigation risk.

Miscellaneous Laws

Finally, off-duty conduct/lawful activities protections (state laws) and whistleblower protections may apply to situations where you monitor social media posts. Employers may also have a hard time proving outputs are job-related and consistent with business necessity.

And all the above and more is why the NCBE and the ECA is putting together an AI Workshop soon to be announced!! Stay Tuned!

ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

February:

Tuesday 2/17

[CPR + First Aid February - English and Spanish](#) 9 am - 11 am

Wednesday 2/18

[Scaffolding Training "Qualified Person" - English](#) 1 pm - 3 pm

Tuesday 2/24

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

March:

Thursday 3/12

[NorCal Safety Expo](#) 8 am - 12 pm

[Workers' Comp Office Hours](#) 1 pm - 4 pm

Tuesday 3/17

[CPR + First Aid March - English and Spanish](#) 9 am - 11 am

Wednesday 3/18

[OSHA 30-Hour for Construction - English](#)

March 18th 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Board Room)

March 19th 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Training Center)

March 24th 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Training Center)

March 25th 8 a.m. – 4 p.m (Board Room)

(Attendance all four days required for certification)



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.

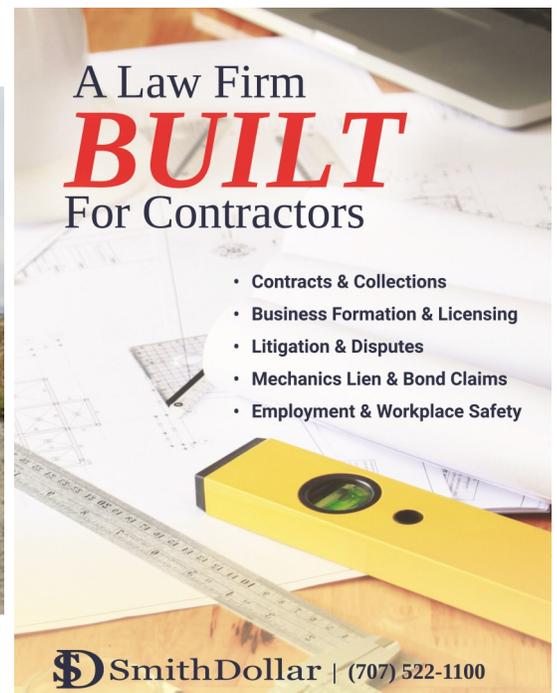


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USEFUL LINKS TO SUPPORT YOUR BUSINESS

- 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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825 Sonoma Ave.
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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

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

Susan Maners, Bookkeeper
email: accounting@nceca.org

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