



February 9, 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.*

### I Missed Mr. Bunny

I know-this is a place for opinions on road, utilities, and infrastructure. Every once in a while, I feel compelled to voice my opinion on other things. This is one of those times so if you are not interested, please jump down to the rest of the newsletter.

If you are still reading, here is my rant. I am sick of seeing and hearing agitators imposing themselves on us. Agitators can come in all shapes and sizes, but the common theme is to diss the USA. Agitators in Minneapolis and elsewhere, insert themselves into police actions and then sue or complain after putting the lives of the public safety officers at risk (along with themselves!). If police and/or ICE gives you a lawful order to "move back" or "stop blocking the sidewalks" then comply. This is not rocket science. Nor is it "gestapo or KKK" or any of the other idiotic "tags" these agitators like to proclaim when they destroy public and private property.

Related (at least in my opinion) is the common theme that athletes and entertainers need to tell us their political perspectives. Just like "sovereign citizens" claiming they do not need a driver's license or vehicular licensing or registration, agitators on the streets claiming "Free Palestine" or "ICE GET OUT", these all seem to be related these days. Passionate people who have not taken the time to actually know the law nor the facts, try to tell everyone what to think and what to do.

Are they qualified to be an "expert" on politics? I am trying to be careful not to share my own political opinions in this Soapbox, because who really cares about what I have to say any more than what Bad Bunny has to say? Hopefully nobody. I find it tough to take a guy seriously who has a name like Bad Bunny. But that's just me I guess.

I wanted to just watch sports this last week on tv. And I wanted to watch the Grammys.

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Here are some messages for certain athletes and entertainers:

1. Winter Olympics: United States Olympic members in Milan, Italy seem compelled to let us know they are not proud to be representing the USA. Why are you then representing the USA? I do not care what your politics are any more than I care what your favorite color is. I tune in to watch the competition, and you have qualified for the USA team. I will not watch the winter Olympics because of these athletes not respecting the USA. At least those advertisers who pay a lot of money to broadcast the Olympics won't influence my buying habits. Ski, don't speak. At least don't speak to me.
2. Basketball: I have longed watched and been a fan of the Warriors. Listening to Kerr (head coach of a very mediocre team). Guess what Kerr-I don't give a crap what your political opinions are. Run for office if you want to influence politics.
3. Basketball: Steph Curry-same comments as Kerr above. LeBron James-same comments as Kerr above. I have stopped watching LeBron, Kerr, Curry. I will save my money on tickets and refuse to watch their games, so advertisers once again won't influence my purchases. Just play basketball guys. Or retire. You have plenty of money.
4. Awards Shows: Really? Does anybody make their political mind up because Bad Bunny says something about politics? Or Billie Eilish?

Thanks, if you are still reading. Glad I got this off my chest. Next week, I will go back to general engineering contracting topics.

As I understand from others, I did not miss much by not watching the Grammys, winter Olympics, Warriors, Lakers, or Super Bowl halftime show. And I do not decide how to interact with public safety officers by listening to the agitators and sovereign citizens who seem so passionately ill informed about so many things. I will try to read Reuters, watch BBC as well as other news outlets, and form my own opinions. I also will not insert myself into any police action that would put me, the officers, or the public in any danger. But that's just me. I will just keep hopping along at my own pace!

That's all folks,

John

**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.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Drive in Windsor, CA from 11:00am-7:00pm

## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### **Horseplay on the Job**

Horseplay leads to many injuries and property loss damage incidents in the United States every year. A quick search on YouTube or Google will show you hundreds of these types of incidents. While you should enjoy the work that you do, your work should always be completed safely and responsibly.

To continue reading,

[Click HERE](#)





- 24-Hour Emergency Response
- Mud, Waste and Debris Removal
- Earthwork, Excavation, and Grading
- Retaining Wall Installation and Slide Repairs
- Pavement and Structural Repairs
- Drainage, Pipeline and Utility Repairs
- Asphalt and Aggregate Materials

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. SCTA came out with their 2025 Comprehensive Transportation Plan-here it is. My comment on it: It is a “fool’s errand” to state your mission/goal is carbon free transportation by 2050 - That is not going to happen.

Link: [SCTA-CTP21\\_v8.pdf](SCTA-CTP21_v8.pdf)

2. Calif. marks milestone on high-speed rail project

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced the completion of the California Railhead Facility in Kern County, a main logistics hub for the state's high-speed rail project. The project, which has generated 121,910 job-years and \$25 billion in economic output, has 119 miles under construction and 80 miles of guideway completed. "We're laying the foundation for cleaner, faster, and more connected transportation while investing in communities and creating good-paying jobs," Newsom says.

3. Bedrock partners with leading contractors to deploy autonomous systems

Bedrock Robotics has raised \$270 million in Series B funding to advance its autonomous construction machinery technology, bringing its total investment to more than \$350 million. The company aims to make fully autonomous fleets standard on job sites, having already tested its technology with major contractors such as Sundt Construction and Champion Site Prep. "It's a first step toward a future where entire fleets operate as coordinated systems, fundamentally changing how modern contractors plan, staff and execute work," Bedrock CEO and co-founder Boris Sofman says.

4. Wyo. could use robots to tackle expensive road work

Wyoming is facing a \$400 million to \$600 million budget shortfall for road repair, prompting discussions about the potential use of robots to reduce costs. Artificial intelligence predicts that by 2030, robotic fleets could repair roads 40% faster at half the cost, but the high upfront costs and logistical challenges make this scenario unlikely in the near future. Experts such as Dan Benford of the Associated General Contractors of Wyoming and Lynne Parker, a retired robotics professor, believe that while robots can assist in specific tasks, a fully automated road repair system is decades away.

## **ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING**

**ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE**

### **February:**

Thursday 2/12

[Trenching/Excavation "Competent Person"](#) - English 9 am - 11 am

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

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)



## 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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## 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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