



# ECA Newsletter

-CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE-

## I Had A Dream

Recently, Mill Valley joined Marin County and the City of Sausalito in adding carbon free concrete as a requirement for projects using more than 13 cubic yards of concrete.

The State of California continues to pass new rules and regulations that add to the cost of construction and ultimately, to the price of housing.

Please also note that when you say, “affordable housing” you really mean “subsidized housing”. Someone has to pay for it-and guess what-it is you and me!

The CalGreen Code changes are right here for your reading pleasure- [2025 CalGreen Code Changes - CalGreen Energy Services](#)

As we face growing pressures in our industry to hire and retain young people to replace retiring baby boomers, the last thing we need is to see the price of housing continue to rise needlessly. Part of the puzzle to find and retain younger construction workers and engineers is to find a way to pay them enough to live in our beautiful Northern California region. If we were really serious about building housing that is more affordable, I say go on a campaign right now to suspend a lot of the green construction regulations that add to the cost of housing. You wouldn’t have to do it indefinitely, just for say 10 years. I doubt losing the green code requirements for new housing for a decade would make much difference in climate change, but it might keep the cost of housing from going up any higher.

While you are at it, maybe suspend some of the regulations pertaining to storm water runoff and see our construction season expand which would lead to lower costs and more capacity.

## 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.*



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If we suspended some of the CARB regulations, and most of the Green Code regulations for a decade, I am guessing we could impact on the price of housing. Throw into that mix a suspension of mitigating habitat for the tiger salamander and some other “endangered” species, and watch housing starts go up.

Before you label me a guy who wants to poison the environment, consider that we simply suspend some of the regs for a decade and see what happens. We need to keep young workers here and they need a place to work. By lowering their housing costs maybe, we get away with not having to pay higher and higher wages for the decade we streamline our regulations.

Can you think of one or two easy regulations that would cut your costs if they were suspended? I bet you can.

I bet we would see a 20% decrease in the price of building a house if we could streamline rules from site grading to utilities to the materials that have to be built into the houses these days.

When we interview candidates for elected office it would be great to hear them say “my priority is to cut 10 regulations before I propose a new regulation.

Oh, then I woke up and saw the cost of a new condo was over \$800,000.

That’s All Folks

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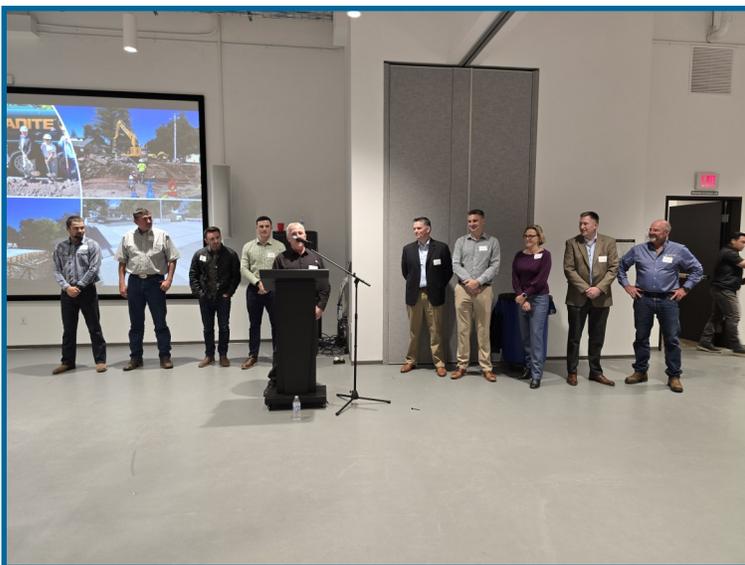
## 2026 Public Officials Night is coming up on Thursday, April 30th!

At the 2025 Public Officials night, we were honored to have individuals from the following entities: Councilmembers and staff from the City of Santa Rosa, City of Healdsburg, City of Cloverdale, City of Petaluma, Town of Windsor, City of Rohnert Park, City of Sebastopol and City of Fairfield. Other attendees represented the City of Sonoma Public Works Department, Sonoma County Public Infrastructure, SMART, Representation from Supervisor Gore's Office, Sonoma County Engineering Development Services, Santa Rosa Water (Environmental Services Division), as well as Sonoma County Supervisors.

We will contact those same individuals from last year and ask them to attend this year, as well as distribute to others that they think would enjoy this event. If you have specific individuals that you would like to invite, please use the attached invitation and send it to those whom you think would like to attend. Please have them RSVP through you, to us or directly to us ([mw@nceca.org](mailto:mw@nceca.org) or calling 707-546-5500), as we need a head count. Remember, the public officials are not charged to attend this dinner event.

We want to thank Team Ghilotti for being our premier sponsor! We do need other sponsorships to help pay for the expected 50 public officials who will be attending. Please reserve your seats and sponsorships through the following links.

**Please see the next pages for the Public Officials Invitation, sponsorship form and the event Flyer.**





# ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 8249, SANTA ROSA, CA 95407  
707-546-5500 | www.nceca.org

2026

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOHN BLY

### MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

MCKENZIE WEXLER

March 2, 2026

The Northern California Engineering Contractors Association (ECA) cordially invites you to join us at the annual **Public Officials Night Appreciation Dinner** on **Thursday, April 30** at The Backdrop, 1455 Corporate Center Parkway, Santa Rosa, **5:30 – 9 pm.**

Developing and maintaining strong communications and working relationships are important steps in serving the public and building our communities. Together, we can work toward "Constructing a Better Way for Our Future."

*Casual attire is appropriate.*

Also that evening The Bridge Award is awarded. This is "An annual award given to a Project that has demonstrated collaboration between the Public and Private sectors to create a project that has had major impact on the Community".

This year it is being awarded to:  
The City of Santa Rosa  
Hearn Avenue Overcrossing Project

I hope that you can join us.

Sincerely,

John Bly  
Executive Vice President  
Engineering Contractors Association

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ Sorry, unable to attend

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please respond by emailing [mw@nceca.org](mailto:mw@nceca.org) by April 16. If you have any questions, please call McKenzie Wexler at 707-546-5500**

### ECA Corporate Members





Please Choose your sponsorship choice and return by April 3

# 2026 Public Officials Night

Thursday, April 30, 2026

## Sponsorship Form

**Showcase Sponsor – \$3000**

Logo on Registration Flyer    Listed on Website  
 Logo on Event Program        Logo on Sponsored Banner  
 Listed on Email Bulletin       Table of 8

**Public Officials Sponsor \$2000**

Logo on Event Program        6 Admissions  
 Listed on Website                Listed on Email Bulletin  
 Logo on Sponsor Banner

**Video Sponsor \$1000**

Logo on Video  
 Listed on Event Program  
 Listed on Website & Email Bulletin  
 Logo on Sponsor Banner  
 4 Admissions

**Bridge Award Sponsor \$500**

Listed on Event Program    2 Admissions  
 Listed on Website & Email Bulletin  
 Listed on Sponsor Banner

**Premier Sponsor**



**Raffle Sponsor \$500**

Listed on Event Program  
 Listed on Email Bulletin & on Website  
 Listed on Sponsor Banner  
 2 Admissions

**Raffle Donation**

Listed on Event Program  
 Listed on Email Bulletin  
 Listed on Sponsor Banner

Donated Item \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3% service charge for Credit Card payments

Check enclosed:  Please Invoice:  Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/Master Card/AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

For further information call McKenzie Wexler at the ECA office at 707-546-5500 or email mw@nceca.org.

ECA Corporate Members





Premiere Sponsor

The Bridge Award will be presented to the City of Santa Rosa, Hearn Avenue Overcrossing Project

Come join the Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

# Public Officials Night!

Public Officials Night is for developing and maintaining strong communications and working relationships with public officials and ECA members. P.O. Night starts important steps in serving the public and building our communities.

Together, we can work toward "Constructing a Better Way For Our Future."

We send invites to Public Officials in the surrounding area. If you would like someone invited please let us know.

Casual dress attire. Ribeye Steak Dinner

THE BACKDROP

Thursday, April 30  
5:30pm - 9:00pm  
No Host Cocktails 5:30 p.m. - Dinner 7 p.m.

Location  
The Backdrop  
1455 Corporate Center Parkway, Santa Rosa, CA

Public Officials Night | Thursday, April 30, 2026

RSVP by April 16 to [mw@nceca.org](mailto:mw@nceca.org)

Table of 8: \$560

ECA Members \$70

Non members \$100

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

- Bill Me
- Check (payable to ECA)
- Visa/MC/AMEX

cvv# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDEES:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3% service charge for Credit Card payments

ECA Corporate 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. Latest decisions by Exec include: Bridge Award to the Hearn Avenue Bridge Project, keeping the price of public officials PO Nite dinner at \$0, considering next year's Bridge Award be decided on PO Night instead of before (that way you might have three projects being considered, all the projects would be represented at the dinner, and a judging panel would vote and award the winner that night).
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. Recent decision by the Board of Directors was to expand the role of the Community Relations Committee by having the ECA create and maintain social media content that we feel will foster our relations with the community without having to spend a lot of money. Soon, we will be creating our LinkedIn page, and ECA Facebook and ECA Instagram Pages.
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. Recent meeting was held with Tom Schwedhelm (running for Sonoma County Supervisor), and Eli Beckman/Eric Lucan (running for Damon Connolly's Assembly seat) interviews the month prior.
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. Recent discussions at the Spec level found that there is a deviation form that can be filed in the SWPP area that can allow for more liberal interpretations of the General Construction Permit compliance.

## 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
4. Upcoming BoDean/CRH Mixer, see flyer on next page

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## CONSTRUCTING OUR FUTURE

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COASTAL REGION | NORTH COAST AREA | 707.467.4100

**For EMERGENCIES call:**

Matt Storm | Construction Manager | Office: 707.467.4129 | Cell: (916) 825-6509 | Matt.Storm@gcinc.com  
Lorne Chase | Construction Superintendent (Sonoma/Napa) | Cell: (707) 272-1294 | Lorne.Chase@gcinc.com  
Gary Huddle | Construction Superintendent (Lake/Mendocino) | Cell: (707) 272-0136 | Gary.Huddle@gcinc.com

# Join Us for an Industry Mixer at Mark West Quarry

Hosted by



## WHEN

Wednesday  
May 27, 2026  
4:00pm-7:00pm



## WHERE

Mark West Quarry  
4611 Porter Creek Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



## RSVP by May 22

to Aimi Dutra  
at [aimi.dutra@na.crh.com](mailto:aimi.dutra@na.crh.com)  
or call (628) 295-9875

**BoDeanCompany.com**

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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1. California Forever, the Big Solano “New City” Detractors Fail to Recall City Council by Only a Few Hundred Signatures: [Effort fails to oust Solano County city council over annexation of big planned development’s land – The Press Democrat](#)
2. Bid Protest by Ghilotti Construction Company sways City of Santa Rosa in Pedestrian Bridge Project Award: [Santa Rosa sacrifices some transportation priorities to close gap on Highway 101 pedestrian bridge as costs soar](#)
3. Great read by Dan Walters on Newsom’s exponential spending problem that is the real reason for the state budget crisis- [Opinion | Here's how Newsom's spending created chronic deficits](#)
4. PF Changes Downtown Mall Store Will Change Traffic Configuration-[Downtown Santa Rosa mall drive lane and parking is approved amid opposition](#)
5. AGC Contractor Survey Results: Here is one decent survey result from the AGC as to what other California Contractors feel:
  - \*More than 79% of contractors are optimistic that their revenue and net profits will stay the same or increase in 2026.
  - \*80% of contractors are optimistic about their company’s success in 2026.
  - \*78% of contractors believe that construction will expand or stay the same in 2026
  - \*More than 83% of contractors project hiring will stay the same or increase in 2026 compared to 2025The main concerns for California Contractors are:
  - Workforce pipeline development
  - Regulatory requirements
  - Increased pay and benefits
6. Los Angeles Wildfire Victims Getting Insult Added to Injury by Mayor Bass: [Opinion | LA Mayor Bass adds insult to injury for wildfire victims](#)
7. Caterpillar has introduced Cat Rentals as the new brand for its dealers' rental activities, replacing the Cat Rental Store name. The rebranding comes with enhanced digital tools to improve customer experience, including a new website, [catrentals.com](#), for easier equipment rental and management. "It's all about making the rental process easier and offering better visibility, so Cat Rentals digital tools can help our customers meet their toughest challenges more efficiently," says Phil Kelliher, senior vice president of Cat Rental 26 Used.

Full Story: [Construction Briefing](#)

## ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

### March:

Wednesday 3/4 [Scaffolding Training "Qualified Person"](#) - English 1 pm - 3 pm

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)

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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### Shop Hazards and Typical Incidents

An incident is defined as "any observable human activity sufficiently complete in itself to permit references and predictions to be made about the persons performing the act." Therefore, it is safe to say that incidents or accidents do not usually just happen; they happen for a reason and are usually due to unsafe acts or conditions.

To continue reading [Click HERE](#)



## USEFUL LINKS TO SUPPORT YOUR BUSINESS

- A. Resilient 37 Policy Committee Meetings (open to the public) --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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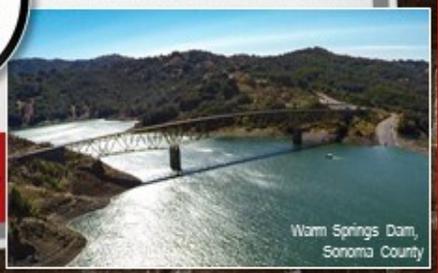


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Contact: (800) 474-1448 ~ (707) 792-9500  
505 San Marin Drive, Suite A200, Novato, CA 94945  
[info@edclarkandassociates.com](mailto:info@edclarkandassociates.com)

## 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.

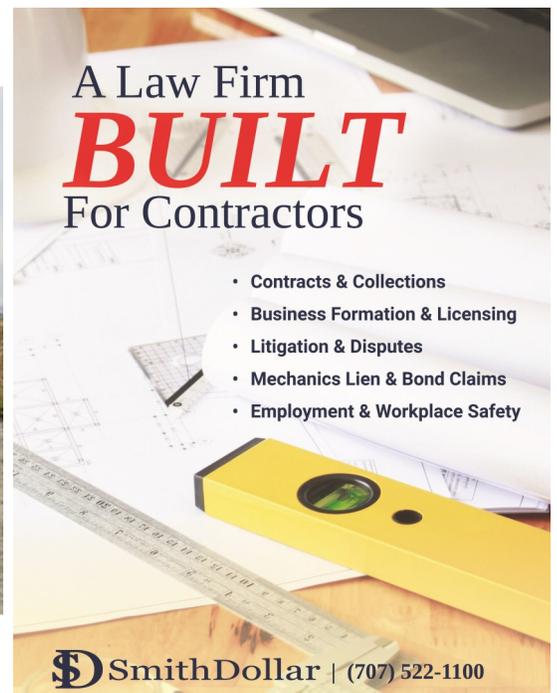


### Fire Debris Cleanup Management Services

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- Coordination of Asbestos Survey and Fire Debris Disposal
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- Cleanup Certification Report by Civil Engineer

*info@TransTechConsultants.com*

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