



# ECA Newsletter

-CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE-

## Government Affairs

Let's take a look at some of the State and County races affecting ECA Members:

**State Senate for Districts that affect our geographic area (there are 40 State Senators in CA-30 Democrat and 10 Republican):**

**District 2:** The incumbent is Mike McGuire who because the Democrats successfully created a newly defined 1<sup>st</sup> District, will be running for State Senate 1<sup>st</sup> District. His District 2 Senate Seat is being contested by **Damon Connolly**. No other candidates have registered.

**State Assembly for Districts that affect our geographical area (there are 80 Assembly Members in CA-60 Democrat and 20 Republican):**

**District 12:** The incumbent is Damon Connolly who is vacating his Assembly seat to run for McGuire's State Senate seat for District 2 Senate Seat (see above).

The candidates running for District 12 Assembly seat are Eli Beckman, Eric Lucan, Steve Schwartz, Holli Their. Although the ECA GAC has interviewed both Lucan and Beckman, the GAC has yet to recommend endorsement. All candidates are Democrat.

**District 2:** The incumbent is Chris Rogers (former Mayor of Santa Rosa) and he is running unopposed. Democrat

**District 4:** The incumbent is Cecillia Aguiar-Curry and she is running unopposed. Democrat

My take on the State Senate and Assembly seats is that there is no effective difference between the candidates because of the "lock" the democratic party has on the Senate and Assembly majority. Anybody elected WILL follow the Dem Party directions of they won't get committee assignments or reelection support. They would be "one and done". So, if you like how Sacramento has run California for the last decade or two, you will be happy no matter which candidate is elected.

## 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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**Sonoma County Supervisor Races:**

**District 4:** Incumbent is James Gore who decided to retire from office at the end of 2026. The ECA has endorsed and contributed funding to Tom Schwedhelm.

The candidates running for Gore’s District 4 seat are:

**Melanie Bagby**-former Cloverdale Council Member and Cloverdale Mayor. She touts her experience and advocacy for underserved communities in her area.

**Tom Schwedhelm**-former Santa Rosa Mayor and police chief. Generally viewed as a “moderate” with strong political ties and has the ability to navigate public policy without making enemies.

**Todd Lands**-former Cloverdale Mayor and sheriff deputy. He focuses on rural constituents and water issues regarding the Potter Valley diversion issue.

District 2: Incumbent is David Rabbitt who has served 3 terms and decided to retire at the end of 2026. This opens up his vacated seat to several candidates who are:

**Shelina Moreda**-mainly from the Cotati and Petaluma areas, Shelina has raced motorcycles for the last decade.

**Sylvia Lemus**-Cotati Mayor has been endorsed by David Rabbitt. That’s enough for me as I have the utmost respect for Mr. Rabbitt. We had a chance to interview Sylvia last week.

**Joanna Paun**-the hand-picked candidate for SEIU. For me, enough said. She would not be interested in ECA advocacy.

**John King**-rural Petaluma “often candidate” who is interested mainly in rural water rights.

Because of the short timeline until the June primary election, the ECA GAC needs to make a recommendation for District 2 Sonoma County Candidate. Our Board meeting is on 3-31-26 from 12-1:30pm while our GAC meeting is on the same day but 2:00pm-3:30pm. Therefore we will be considering a motion at the Board level to endorse and fund a candidate based upon the Government Affairs Committee recommendation that will actually happen after the Board meeting. Tricky, but we can do it. We will let you know what we decided in next week’s newsletter!

That’s All Folks,

John

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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 have contacted the 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!! Other sponsorships include [RCX](#) and [Herc Rentals Trench Solutions](#) sponsoring the raffle, [River City Bank](#) sponsoring the Bridge Award, [Ghilotti Construction](#) as the showcase sponsor and [Ghilotti Bros Inc](#) for donating 49ers pre-season tickets for a raffle item. We do need other sponsorships to help pay for the expected 50 public officials who will be attending. Raffle item donations are also greatly appreciated.

**If you would like to attend or sponsor, please respond to this newsletter or e-mail McKenzie directly at [mw@nceca.org](mailto:mw@nceca.org) or calling 707-546-5500.**



## 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. One of the main issues facing the Directors at the meeting on 3-31-26 will be a 'conditional endorsement' of a District 2 candidate for Sonoma County Supervisor. Stay tuned!!
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. Next meeting will have Petaluma Councilman Alex DeCarli and Windsor Councilperson Tonya Potter on March 31, 2026. The GAC will also be reviewing the Sylvia Lemus interview from last week and my 30-minute conversation with incumbent David Rabbitt on the District 2 candidates. We have very little time due to the late decision made by Rabbitt not to run and for Andrea Krout to decide that running the County Fairgrounds is a way better gig for her then being the District 2 Supervisor. The GAC will vet the candidates and make a recommendation on Tuesday, March 31.
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. Discussions that will be on the agenda for March 25, 2026 will include new paving standards for the County of Napa, suggestions to public agencies on modifying their contracts with CM firms to address CM firms hiring staff from contractors that they will then be dealing with compliance and contract issues possibly administered by former contractor employees. Spec Committee will also be addressing Contractor retention amounts withheld by certain agencies (Petaluma specifically) and how to help agencies streamline progress payments on public works projects. Get involved or get eaten!!!

## ECA EVENTS

1. April 30, 2026- ECA Public Officials Night (Premiere Sponsor For Many Years In A Row is Team Ghilotti) will be held at The Backdrop, 1455 Corporate Center Parkway in Santa Rosa, CA from 5:30pm – 9:00pm. The Bridge Award will be given to the Hearn Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. The recipient will be the City of Santa Rosa accepting on behalf of SCTCA and Caltrans and Ghilotti Construction Company. Let me remind you that the nominating committee selects the Bridge Award each year and if you had/have a project you would like them to consider, please let them know in July or August of 2026 that you have a project that you want considered for 2027. Since the Bridge Award is focused on the public projects, we try and rotate the projects to include as many different municipalities as possible. The nominating committee will be meeting on March 31, 2026, and will consider modifying the qualifications that projects have to have been substantially completed before the calendar year in which they are considered for the award. One modification to be discussed is projects that can be considered if completed within the past 5 years. If you have an opinion on that subject, please let me know before March 31 and I will advance your opinion to the committee. Also-the Nominating Committee *STILL does not have any Golden Hardhat nominees for this year.* If you have a “boots on the ground” person you want to nominate for their loyalty, ethics, skill and leadership, please let me know and we will discuss on March 31 for the Golden Hardhat award. If there are no nominees, there won’t be a Golden Hardhat award winner for 2025. That would be a shame.
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



**SATURDAY APRIL 18TH, 2026 - STARTS 9:30 AM**

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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1. A few newsletters ago, we included a survey done in California by AGC that said many contractors were cautiously optimistic for 2026. I got a few calls that made me want to put our own survey out as several contractors were wondering where all this optimism was coming from as they said their outlook for 2026 was a different reality than the survey showed. Here is the link to the ECA survey and we have asked NCBE to also share with their membership.

Thank you in advance for participating in this survey. Your company name will not be used or shared in any way as a result of your participation in this survey. Your company will not be targeted for membership or any other use other than to use results to establish construction industry confidence in the Northern Bay Region.

It is our hope that we will get widespread participation in this survey and we will send out the exact same questions in the future so we can build on local construction confidence by the firms performing the work. In order to do this, we do ask for your indulgence to respond by March 31, 2026 to this survey. Please send all responses to McKenzie Wexler at [MW@nceca.org](mailto:MW@nceca.org).

Please participate and fill out the survey!! Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDYTWSE>

2. Please join me for the final stop in our Community Engagement Series this coming Tuesday, March 24th at the Windsor Community Center (behind Safeway). This meeting will provide an opportunity to share more information about my background and candidacy, while giving you the opportunity to discuss your questions or concerns about the issues important to you and the future of Sonoma County. Over the last month, we've engaged dozens of residents in Santa Rosa, Cloverdale, Geyserville, and Healdsburg as part of our Community Engagement Series, and look forward to engaging with Windsor and North County residents as we cap off our series next week! Link to RSVP: [Events | Tom Schwedhelm for Sonoma County Supervisor D4](#)

3. SMART to break ground on its 9-mile, \$269 million extension to Healdsburg: [SMART close to breaking ground on \\$269 million extension to Healdsburg](#)



## ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

### March:

Tuesday 3/17:

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

[Fall Protection "Competent Person"](#) - English 1 pm - 3 pm

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

(Attendance all four days required for certification, must have attended March 18 and 19th)

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

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

Thursday 3/26: [HAZWOPER 40-Hour Training Certification](#) - Ukiah 7:30 am - 5 pm

Friday 3/27: [Trenching/Excavating "Competent Person"](#) - English 9 am - 11 am

### April:

Monday 4/1: [Heat Illness Prevention Training - English](#) 1 pm - 3 pm

Thursday 4/2: [HAZWOPER 40-Hour Training Certification - UKIAH - Day 2](#) 7:30 am - 5 pm

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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### Truck Tire Changing, Safety Checklist

Here is a checklist with key points in order to keep yourself and others safe while changing tires.

To read more:

[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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## 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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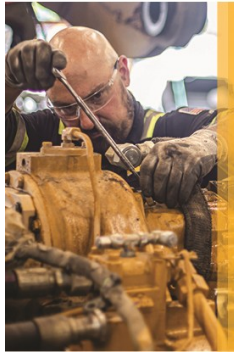
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