



# ECA Newsletter

-CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE-

## Tom Schwedhelm Is Our Candidate!

The race for Fourth District Supervisor presents a clear and consequential choice, but it is not one we can take for granted. Complacency could very well cost our endorsed candidate, Tom Schwedhelm, the chance to serve the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Sonoma County.

The ECA has endorsed Tom Schwedhelm. He is running against Todd Lands and Melanie Bagby. It is no “lock” that Tom Schwedhelm will get past the Primary and be one of the two candidates to face off in the General Election in November. It is generally assumed that more “centrist” voters will vote for Tom and Todd, which effectively splits the “centrist” votes amongst those two. The more progressive and partisan Democratic vote is assumed to go Bagby’s way. This creates a very uncertain outcome for the Primary.

Why is this a problem?

While Todd Lands is a candidate with more centrist perspectives than Bagby, he is not regarded as the great “team player” that Schwedhelm is. The fear is that if Lands beats Schwedhelm in June, he does not have as good a chance to beat Bagby in a head-to-head race as Schwedhelm does. That is because Tom Schwedhelm has spent his entire public service life managing to “get along” with and find common ground with, electeds that were far more “out there” than he was. Tom has a knack for listening, collaborating and getting results for the majority of constituents rather than being obstinate and stubborn and alienating people. It is being discussed that Tom’s ability to be effective without being polarizing, is why he would be a better candidate to run against Bagby in the General Election. Todd Lands has not received the same consideration as being collaborative, and that could mean that some Democrats that might vote for Schwedhelm in a head-to-head race vs Bagby, might not be so inclined to vote for Todd Lands vs Bagby. That could mean the District 4 seat swings Bagby’s way if Schwedhelm is knocked out in the Primary.

Continue on page 2

## 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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Schwedhelm enjoys, at the moment, support from members of the current Board of Supervisors, Congressman Mike Thompson, Assemblyman Chris Rogers, and numerous local elected leaders, who would be unlikely to support Lands if it is him vs Bagby.

The path forward is clear. WE MUST UNITE RIGHT NOW AND DECISIVELY BEHIND SCHWEDHELM in the Primary.

We have been asked to help because this is critical. We cannot assume others will do the heavy lifting for us-we must do it! We must provide Tom Schwedhelm with the resources and momentum to finish strong and secure this seat.

Please go (RIGHT NOW) to "[VoteTom.com](http://VoteTom.com)" and endorse and write a check to his campaign. Do not wait until Tuesday or Wednesday. Please do it right now! Make certain you and your employees, your family and your friends, know you are supporting Tom. Signs, phone calls, conversations, social media, water cooler conversations, they all are needed like right now people.

Let's get this fine candidate and proven leader to the finish line.

That's All Folks,

John



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## 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. The Nominating Committee will be meeting simultaneously to decide on the Golden Hardhat award winner to be presented and honored at the Public Officials Night, April 30, 2026.
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. Sylvia Lemus will be at our Board meeting at noon so we can listen and ask questions to see why Rabbitt has endorsed her for the District 2 Supervisor race.
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 as well as our Board meeting with Sylvia Lemus 2 hours before our GAC meeting. 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 than being the District 2 Supervisor. Although it is awkward having the GAC meeting after the Board meeting, we hope to have both our Directors and our Government Affairs Committee agreeing on the District 2 candidate to endorse for Rabbitt's seat.
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 April 1, 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!!!
5. A special meeting has been proposed by Jason Holtzinger of Northwest General Engineering for Tuesday at 4:00 pm to discuss what is going on with dump sites for Contractors in our area. If you have not been invited, please contact me and I can give you the details of the casual meeting. We hope to hear from a good cross section of private and public contractors and some truckers as to how much more difficult it is going to be to secure a legit dump site for our offhaul.

## ECA EVENTS

1. April 30, 2026- the 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. 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.
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

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

We want to thank [Team Ghilotti](#) for being our premier sponsor!!

Other sponsorships include:

[Ghilotti Construction](#) as the showcase sponsor


[RCX](#) and [Herc Rentals Trench Solutions](#) sponsoring the raffle

[River City Bank](#) sponsoring the Bridge Award

[Ghilotti Bros Inc](#) for donating 49ers pre-season tickets for a raffle item as well as a raffle sponsor

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, sponsor or know a public official whom you think would enjoy attending this event, please respond to this newsletter or e-mail McKenzie directly at [mw@nceca.org](mailto:mw@nceca.org) or calling 707-546-5500. Remember, the public officials are not charged to attend this dinner event.**



*You are cordially invited to a  
Spring Fundraiser for  
**Tom Schwedhelm**  
Candidate for Sonoma County  
Board of Supervisors*

Please join friends and supporters as we share wine and small bites  
on the Redwood Deck of the

**Madrona**

1001 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA

Thursday, April 30<sup>rd</sup>, 5 pm – 7 pm

Sponsorships available at:

Full sponsor: \$1,000.00, includes 4 guest tickets

Co-sponsor: \$500.00, includes 2 guest tickets

Ticket price: \$150.00 per person

Make checks payable to:

Tom Schwedhelm for Supervisor 2026, or

Donate online: [VOTETOM.COM/DONATE](https://VOTETOM.COM/DONATE)

RSVP by April 20th to: [MEGAN@VOTETOM.COM](mailto:MEGAN@VOTETOM.COM)

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

## 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 heard from one or two of our ECA members that that view may not be what northern Bay Area industry people think.

So, we put out a survey of our own and gave folks until April 10, 2026, to respond. In the first week we got back 42 surveys from our ECA members and the NCBE has also put out the same survey for their members. This is a big deal so if you have not seen the survey (it is in this Newsletter and you can access it right here: [ECA Construction Survey](#) , please let McKenzie know and she will get it to you ASAP. Between our ECA members and the NCBE members, we should get a very good perspective on how contractors, suppliers, and engineers are seeing 2026 shape up. It is our plan to share the results (no names of course) with planners, electeds, and staff so they can appreciate how you all are seeing 2026 unwind. I have reviewed the responses so far and it is quite powerful. PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY, it only takes a few minutes. Thanks!!

**I am keeping the news you can use to a minimum as there is enough news out there for this week already!!**

### Connect with the ECA on social media!



[Instagram](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[Facebook](#)

## ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

### 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

Thursday 4/9: [Worker's Comp Office Hours](#) 1 pm - 4 pm

Tuesday 4/14: [CPR + First Aid \(English & Spanish\)](#) 9 am - 11 am

Thursday 4/23: [Confined Space "Competent Person"](#) - English 9 am - 11 am

Tuesday/ Wednesday April 28 & 29: [OSHA 10-Hour for Construction](#)

April 28th 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

April 29th 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

***(Both days attendance required for certification)***

### MAY

Thursday 5/14: [Key legal Concepts for Public Works for Subcontractor](#) 9 am - 11 am

Thursday 5/14: [Worker's Comp Office Hours](#) 1 pm - 4 pm

Thursday 5/21: [Latinos in the Workplace - Leading through Uncertainty](#) 7:30 am - 11:30 am

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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### General Rules for Safety at Work

Here is a list with key points regarding general rules for keeping yourself as well as other around safe in the workplace,

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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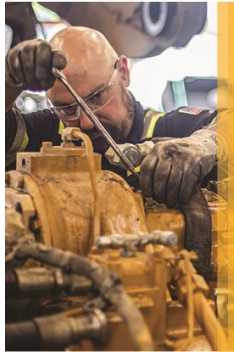
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