



ECA Newsletter

-CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE-

Note: There are a number of long time ECA members who have not yet renewed their memberships as of this writing. A brief reminder that at the end of this month, those members who have not renewed will be dropped as ECA Members. Please keep the industry strong and get your dues renewals in to the ECA as soon as possible-please!

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.

Remembered and Missed

Many years ago, there was a Sonoma County District 2 Supervisor race that was pivotal. David Rabbitt, more moderate than Torliatt, was running against fellow Petaluman Pam Torliatt to succeed Mike Kerns in representing District 2. Torliatt, seemed on her way to a win as she was fresh from her stint as Mayor of Petaluma, well-funded, and with a lot of support, ran against Rabbitt in 2010 and Rabbitt won a tight race 54.2% to 45.3%. It may be of interest to you to read the PD article from 2010 about this result:



[New Sonoma County 2nd District supervisor credits moderate leanings – The Press Democrat](#)

Many of you veterans may recall the key point in the campaign was when sanctuary cities came up as a topic and Torliatt proclaimed support for them while Rabbitt deferred and said he needed more information before taking a position. A targeted independent expenditure campaign raised money and sent out a flyer that noted a recent violent crime in San Francisco by a person who could have been deported had San Francisco not been a sanctuary city. My, how things have not changed in 16 years, right?

At any rate, the flyer was widely distributed at a point in the campaign that had Torliatt leading Rabbitt, and apparently, the flyer hit a nerve amongst enough voters to turn the election towards Rabbitt.

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Although we won't ever know what Torliatt would have done as a Supervisor, we do know what Rabbitt accomplished in his 16-year tenure. Some of his major accomplishments are noted in the Press Democrat article below:

[Sonoma County Supervisor David Rabbitt won't seek re-election, leaving open race for 2nd District seat](#)

As Rabbitt came in and took his seat representing District 2, my tenure began around the same time with the ECA. Back in 2010, funding for Sonoma County roads was dismal, public pensions were out of control, and there were heavy obstacles for the ECA membership. Rabbitt realized early on the logic of fixing our 1300 plus miles of county roads before they completely failed and helped support county funding to do just that.

Although well deserved, Rabbitt's retirement at the end of 2026 will end an era that was unprecedented in Sonoma County. I think everyone in the county would agree that Sonoma County is in much better shape as Rabbitt leaves office than when he came into office 16 years ago.

There has not been a better advocate in public office from the ECA's perspective than David Rabbitt. Enjoy your retirement David, take satisfaction in your many accomplishments, and know that the ECA members will always appreciate your calm, deliberate, logical, and financially responsibility that dictated your 16 years of service to Sonoma County.

You will be remembered and missed.

That's All Folks

John

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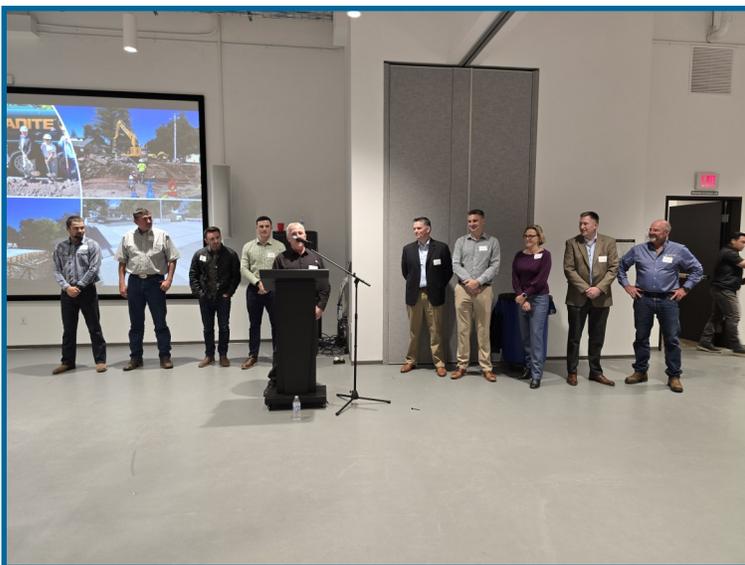
2026 Public Officials Night is coming up on Thursday, April 30th!

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 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](#) sponsoring the raffle, [River City Bank](#) sponsoring the Bridge Award and [Ghilotti Construction](#) as the showcase sponsor. We do need other sponsorships to help pay for the expected 50 public officials who will be attending.

Please see the next pages for the Public Officials Invitation, sponsorship form and the event Flyer. If you would like to have the forms sent directly to you, please respond to this newsletter or e-mail McKenzie directly at mw@nceca.org.





ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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

2026

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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 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

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.
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. Here is some information on what McKenzie has accomplished since the Board direction given to her on February 24, 2026: Creating a LinkedIn and Instagram profile for the ECA. Please follow us on LinkedIn (Northern California Engineering Contractors Association), as well as on Instagram (norcaleca). Decided on 3 community involvement activities and starting on one next month. Working on the ECA website so that it is more user friendly and easy to navigate.
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. Next meeting will have Santa Rosa Mayor Mark Stapp and Windsor Council person Tonya Potter on March 31, 2026.
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).

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. 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 projects that have been substantially completed before the calendar year in which they are considered for the award. If you have an opinion on that subject, please let me know before March 31 and I will advance your opinion to the committee.
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
4. Upcoming BoDean/CRH Mixer Flyer on next page!



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.

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
or call (628) 295-9875

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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

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Soiland rebrands: [North Bay landscaping company unveils new shop, rebrand](#)
2. Santa Rosa Pedestrian Bridge coming to reality: [Santa Rosa sacrifices some transportation priorities to close gap on Highway 101 pedestrian bridge as costs soar](#)
3. DOL seeks to repeal Biden contractor classification. The Department of Labor has proposed repealing a 2024 regulation that makes it difficult for businesses to classify workers as independent contractors, drawing support from industry groups such as Associated Builders and Contractors and Associated General Contractors of America. The proposal would revert to the 2021 employee classification analysis under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.
4. How to determine if a construction company is ready to implement AI. Construction companies that want to implement artificial intelligence need to show data maturity, a consultant writes. Companies that have disconnected systems -- where field data, financials, and materials tracking are siloed -- may not be ready to implement AI, he writes.
5. Gas and diesel prices- [How Much Will Gas Prices Rise After The Iran Strikes?](#)



ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

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

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

Wednesday 3/18: [OSHA 30-Hour for Construction - English](#)

(Attendance all four days required for certification)

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)

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

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Pinch Point Safety

Pinch points can occur anywhere a part of the body can be caught between two objects. Any place where equipment is transmitting energy, there is a pinch point.

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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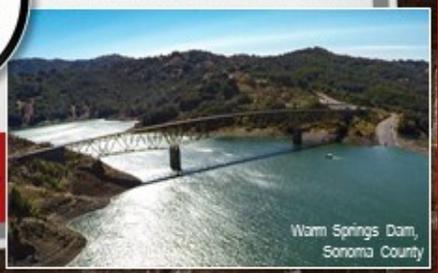


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505 San Marin Drive, Suite A200, Novato, CA 94945
info@edclarkandassociates.com

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.

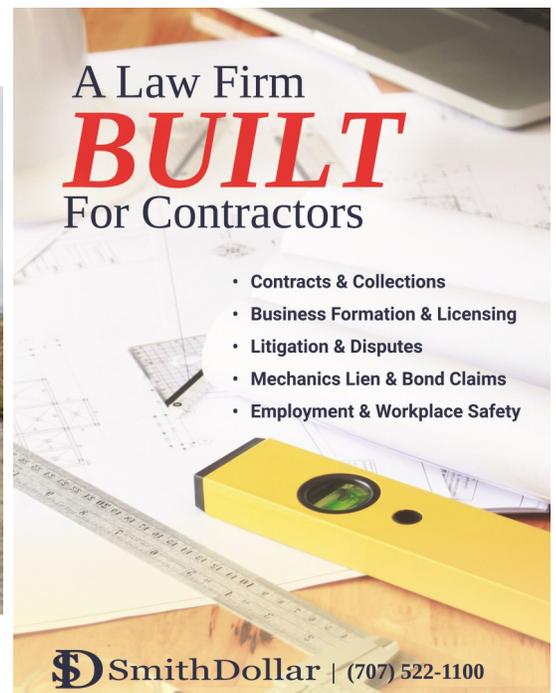


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