



April 27, 2026

ECA Newsletter

-CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE-

We Are Not Just About Roads!

This week, the last week of April (hard to believe-right?!) moving into first week of May, has a lot of moving parts so here is an update on ECA items:

1. Obviously, Public Officials Night on Thursday at the Backdrop is top of our list. Thank you to all of the sponsors, all of you who have purchased tables and seats, and all of the public officials who are joining us. Sponsors include: [Team Ghilotti](#), [River City Bank](#), [Ghilotti Construction](#), [RCX](#), [Herc Rentals](#) [Trench Solutions](#), [Ghilotti Bros Inc](#), [Engelke Construction](#), [Exchange Bank](#), [LVI Engineering](#), [Roblar Quarry](#), [Stevenson Supply](#) and [GHD](#). The count right now as we go to print is 220 attending of which 42 are public officials. The list of public officials invited and coming can be seen on page 8.

2. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors are meeting and discussing budgets last week and this week. I wrote about our concern last week and wanted to include a copy of our letter that we sent to the Supervisors last week as they are considering possible cuts to our road repair budget. Please review the letter on page 9.

3. McKenzie, Keith, Sean Boylan and I met last week and the week before to dig into redoing our very outdated and “needy” ECA website. I will get an update early this week and we should see a brand-new website that is clean, inviting, easy to access, and effective within another week or two at the most (I hope).

4. Although this week is focused on Public Officials Night, it does not mean we are not working on the other three main events for the ECA in 2026.

A- The ECA Show and Shine Father’s Day Car Show is happening on well, yes, FATHER’S DAY, June 21 at Julliard Park. Walt Turner – longtime chair of this event, has been working hard to get t-shirts, plaques, hats ordered, he went in and recorded a radio spot promoting the event, and numerous other things needed for putting on our 31st Annual Car Show. We are lucky to have him so thank him please when you see him!

B- Dave Weller, Victor McKnight and I with McKenzie, will meet at Windsor on Wednesday this week to go over our ECA Annual Golf Tournament on July 10, 2026, at the Windsor Golf Club.

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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This is an event that most folk absolutely love so we are keeping things similar to past years and are already signing up Hole Sponsors to make the event fantastic. If you are interested in sponsoring a hole, setting up some informational items about your business, and making sure the golfers not only know about your company but appreciate you for being there, please let us know soon.

C-Auction night -Finally, we have toured facilities for our ECA Days of Wine and Dozers Auction night (early November 2026), and we have narrowed the possibles down to:

A. Appellation in Healdsburg. Beautiful venue, very upscale and it would be a night worth remembering. Yes-it is a bit pricier than some of the others on the following list, but I think it is worth it. Who would not want a very special evening for a few dollars more to close out 2026 if we can? At any rate, the Board of Directors will be hearing about these venues on Tuesday, April 28, and we will choose one.

B. Graton Event Center. Although going to the same “hall” we went to the last few years is not possible, the Graton folks are remodeling the old “smoke free” slot room and we could do that for our 2026 Auction. I have some worries about the distance from the kitchen and that we cannot see the venue now as they have not gutted and remodeled it yet.

C. Flamingo. We have had Installation and Awards nights at Flamingo, but never the Auction. Their facility is good, and this is one of the contenders. Pluses are rooms are not as pricey as Appellation in Healdsburg, but also they are not as upscale either. Everything has tradeoffs right?

5. We are getting a Community Relations Project presentation on Tuesday at the Board of Directors meeting. Antonio Mencarini is bringing the soccer club in to present the vision for an all-weather field complex across from Cardinal Newman high school. Lacey (CR Chair for many years) will present the project on Tuesday, and the Board may very well make a decision that day.

6. Dan Fowler (Stripe and Seal) brought a “continuing issue” to my attention last week or so, in that FEMA is redrafting their flood plain maps in and around Santa Rosa area. If you recall from a few years ago, the FEMA redrawn maps were based on bad data and the County of Sonoma (Nathan Quarles), Bill Olmo, Dan Fowler, Cynthia Murray, me, and others influenced the maps to be changed. Had we not been successful, most of lower Santa Rosa Avenue would have been labeled as being in a flood channel flow and nothing could be built or stored on those properties!

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This would be disastrous if you thought about the land right across from Freidman's being in a flood channel. Anyway, FEMA changed the mapping. Now, however, other areas are being mapped and there are reasons to appeal to FEMA and Flannery at the City of Santa Rosa is "on it". Lots of things go on behind the scenes that many members are unaware that we are working on and it is so important that you all know we are not just about roads!

7. Monday, 4-27-26, I will be chairing a meeting at Sonoma County Transportation and Climate Authority (SCTCA), and we will discuss the Sonoma County roads budget and their possible cutting of that budget. The SCTCA is powerful and years ago we implemented a "Minimum of Effort" clause in the grant funding mechanism that makes municipalities spend as much or more on their road projects in the upcoming years as they did in a "rolling 3-year average" of expenditures in the past. If Sonoma County cuts roads budget, the SCTCA will be discussing how grant funding and future tax revenues from the Go Sonoma Act may go to other agencies rather than Sonoma County. Too much info? Sorry, but getting funding for roads is a complex matter.

8. Politics: The ECA has endorsed Tom Schwedhelm for District 4 Supervisor and some of you reading this Soapbox "answered the call" and donated to his campaign (as I personally did!). June voting is almost here. Tom needs your help so please call me for sign placements, donations, and if you actually want to walk a precinct to support the effort, May 2 and 3 are big walking days on that weekend!!

9. More Politics: The ECA has endorsed Sylvia Lemus for Rabbitt's District 2 Sonoma County seat. We have sent Sylvia a few dollars to help her campaign out, but please spread the word and let your employees know Sylvia will continue the good work Rabbitt did for our ECA members! Vote for Sylvia for District 2 Supervisor.

10. Yet More Politics: The ECA endorsed Tanya Potter for Windsor Mayor a few weeks ago. If you live in that area, Tanya is good person and will work hard as Mayor.

11. This week we also will be hearing from David Noren of EBA as our guest Affiliate on Tuesday at the ECA Board Meeting. One of the items Noren will talk about is a follow-up to our meeting a few weeks ago on dump sites in our area. Directors and any guests that want to attend will learn something to be sure!

12. Our ECA GAC meeting on Tuesday will host Terry Sanders who is running for Santa Rosa City Council. We will also be discussing ballot measures that affect your businesses. From requiring you to have a certain number of electric vehicles in your fleet to perform Public Works projects (bet you haven't heard about that one yet, have you?), to other issues, our GAC is on it for our members!

13. ECA Spec meeting on Wednesday this week will meet with Lori Urbanek from Santa Rosa Utilities. Lori is a long-time friend and is getting ready to retire this year so this may be your last chance to hear what is happening at SR Utilities and upcoming projects.

There's more, but I am guessing you need to get back to making money and let us "weed through" all the issues out there on your behalf.

That's All Folks, John

ECA COMMITTEE NEWS

1. ECA Executive Committee (Officers) Meetings are recurring every month and are held every Last Tuesday from 11:00am - 12:00pm, in the small NCBE conference room. Next meeting will be April 28, 2026, from 11am to 12pm.
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. Next meeting will be April 28, 2026, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm.
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. Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 29 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm.

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.
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

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
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ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

April:

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 5/7: [Fall Protection “Competent Person” - English](#) 9 am - 11 am

Wednesday 5/13: [Confined Space “Competent Person” - English](#) 1 pm - 3 pm

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

From the Desk of Jim Persons

Theft from a Construction Site

Theft is a major concern for all companies. Construction companies especially deal with unique challenges in protecting themselves. According to the National Equipment Register, construction jobsite theft costs the industry up to \$1 billion each year. It is important to consider the challenges of protecting a worksite from theft and take steps to prevent it from occurring.

To read more: [Click HERE](#)



NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. [Two Santa Rosa residents arrested after monthslong investigation into copper thefts](#)
2. [Vallejo City Council approves \\$23M golf course concept plans – The Press Democrat](#)
3. Anybody want to know why it is ridiculously expensive to build in Marin County-Look here-[Marin supervisors reject appeal by Lucas Valley developers](#)
4. The Ongoing Saga of a New Santa Rosa City Hall-Chapter “Umpteen”: [Is Santa Rosa once again exploring replacing City Hall? Recent discussion appears to indicate a new plan is in the works](#)

JOB LISTING

Landesign Construction & Maintenance is growing and looking for a hands-on Construction Project Manager / Designer to lead high-quality landscape projects in Sonoma County. Must have 3–5+ years in landscape construction, strong estimating skills, and the drive to protect margin and deliver results. Salary \$90K–\$120K plus incentives and full benefits package. To apply, please send your resume to Kelley Lazzareschi at kelley.l@landesign-inc.com or call 415-412-6332.



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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Public Officials Attending April 30, 2026:

Susan Adams, City of Rhonert Park, Councilmember
Andrew Bakersville, California Department of Transportation, Deputy District Director
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma, Director of Public Works
DeWayne Burgess, Sonoma County Water Agency
James Cameron, Sonoma County Transportation and Climate Authorities
Ashley Cotter, City of Sonoma, Project Manager
Julian De Anda, City of Rhonert Park Public Works, City Engineer
Terrence Erickson, City of Sonoma, Operations Manger
Fernando Espinoza, Sonoma Couty Water Agency
Lori Ann Farrell, City of Santa Rosa, City Manager
Vanessa Garrett, Sonoma County Public Infrastructure, Deputy Director
Seana Gause, SCTCA, Senior Programming and Projects
David Guhin, Sonoma County Executive Chief Administrative Officer
David Hagele, City of Healdsburg, Councilmember
Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma, Public Works Director
Dan Hennessey, City of Santa Rosa, Director of Transportation & Public Works
Johannes Hoevertsz, Sonoma County Public Infrastructure, Director
Thomas Jensen, Sonoma County Water Agency
Laura Luchini, City of Rohnert Park, Public Works Project Manager
Dianna MacDonald, City of Santa Rosa, Councilmember
Kevin McDonnell, City of Petaluma, Mayor
Kyle Monville, Sonoma Water Agency
Karen Nau, City of Petaluma, Mayor
Jason Nutt, City of Santa Rosa, Assistant City Manager
Jeff Okrepkie, City of Santa Rosa, Councilmember, Dist. 6
Felicia Ong, City of Santa Rosa, Associate Civil Engineer
Gabe Osbourn, City of Santa Rosa, Planning and Economic Development
Dezire Perez, City of Santa Rosa, Associate Civil Engineer
David Rabbitt, County of Sonoma, 2nd District Supervisor
David Ripperda, SCTCA, Director of Projects & Programming
Keith Roberts, Community Relations Specialist, Supervisor Gore's Office
Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa, Councilmember
John Shribbs, City of Petaluma, Councilmember
Mark Stapp , City of Santa Rosa, Mayor
Larry Unsworth, City of Healdsburg, Public Works Inspector
Michael Vierra, Sonoma County Water Agency
Ryan Walsh
Lisa Welsh, City of Santa Rosa, Capitol Projects Engineering, Supervising Engineer
Alicia Winokur, Mendocino County Department of Transportation, Deputy Director Engineering
Jason Wright, Sonoma County Water Agency
Terrie Zwilling, City of Healdsburg, Senior Project Manager



Dear Board of Supervisors:

The Northern California Engineering Contractors Association is extremely concerned about a tentative proposal to slash the budget of Public Infrastructure's Pavement Preservation Program. We are supporters of Save Our Sonoma Roads and when the organization began in autumn 2011, the future of our county road system seemed bleak because supervisors had failed to maintain what may be Sonoma County's most valuable asset. We have frequently congratulated the board for staying the course to implement the 2014 Long-Term Roads Plan, which has been a marathon and not a sprint. Each fiscal year there are issues, some new and some old, that challenge funding for our roads and other infrastructure that is vital to county residents and visitors. For over 12 years you have managed to resist budget cuts for this program. We urge you to stay the course and to fully fund the Pavement Preservation Program. If you fail to do so, the cuts will be amplified because some road funding sources, including SB1, require maintenance of effort to secure continued funding. We understand that the budget hearings today are only the first step toward adopting a budget in June.

On behalf of Northern California Engineering Contractors Association and its members, we urge you to keep up the momentum for the Pavement Preservation Program.

Thank you for your past efforts.

John Bly, Executive Director

ECA Corporate Members



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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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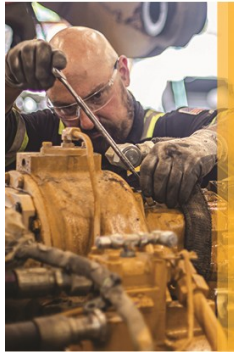
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