



“CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

ECA Newsletter

John's Soapbox

Remember-this is an op-ed piece and I do not speak for the ECA or any of its members in this “Soapbox”. These are just my ramblings that hopefully you find thought provoking.

- A. Soapbox-AB288 will create economic and bureaucratic chaos.
- B. Upcoming Committee Meetings:
 1. ECA Government Affairs Meeting every last Tuesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 1:45pm to 3:30pm at NCBE Board room,
 2. ECA Spec Meeting every last Wednesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at NCBE Board Room
 3. ECA Exec Meeting every last Tuesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 11:00am to 12:00pm in the small conference room at NCBE
 4. ECA Board of Directors meeting every last Tuesday of the month starting in January 2026 from 12:00pm to 1:30 pm at the NCBE Board room
 5. ECA Community Relations Committee meetings as needed
 6. ECA Nominating Committee meetings as needed
 7. ECA Auction, Golf Committee meetings as needed
- C. News You Can Use:
 - Estimating software most trusted, trucking schools going away, nearly \$600billion in CA water projects getting started0021



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The Most Dangerous Assembly Bill in Recent History?

AB288, sponsored by California labor unions and carried by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, an Inglewood Democrat, expands the authority of California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB-which oversees union management activities in state and local governments and school districts) to include private sector employment.

PERB steps into the role performed for decades by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Generally, states can legislate on labor issues only in economic sectors not covered by federal law. That is why, 50 years ago, California could create the PERB and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to oversee employment on farms and in food processing plants.

There are opponents to AB288, and they are suing in federal court to stop this power grab. Should AB288 survive the legal challenge, every state would be free to create its own set of laws governing unionization of workers.

Continue on page 2



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Continued from page 1

Blue states such as California, could virtually mandate unionization of private sector employees as it already has for public employees and farm workers. Meanwhile, red states could virtually prohibit unions from organizing workers to make states more attractive to industry and insulate them from NLRB oversight even if Democrats regain the White House.

If AB288 survives the legal challenge, it would create chaos in the national economy. Private employer groups oppose AB288 and I do too. Do we really want partisan politics deciding private workforce having to be unionized?

Let the workers decide!

That's All Folks!

John

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NBCC



TOGETHER WE CAN!



Join Redwood Credit Union, A Simple Gesture and North Coast Builders Exchange as we collect food for families in need. Together, we can make a meaningful difference – right from your doorstep. Scan to QR Code to register and leave non-perishable food items on your doorstep on A Simple Gesture’s food pick-up dates.

For each donor who enrolls, the North Bay Construction Corps will receive a \$10 donation.

PANTRY LIST:

- Natural Peanut Butter
- Canned Proteins like Tuna
- Pasta, Rice & Beans
- Healthy Cereal, Oatmeal & Breakfast Bars
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables and Fruits
- Energy Bars, Nuts & Raisins
- Cooking Oil, Cornstarch & Sugar
- Ziplock & Garbage Bags

Use the above flyer. For every person who uses the QR Code on the flyer, RCU and A Simple Gesture will donate \$10 to the North Bay Construction Corps.

There is also a bin at NCBE, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa for food donations.

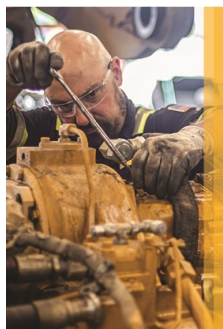
COMMITTEE NEWS

- A. **ECA Executive Committee** Recurring Meeting (Dan Giordani President, Kimber Lenning Carpenter Vice-President, Matt Storm Treasurer, Casey Wood Secretary, Mike Gulley Past President) **Every Last Tuesday** (this is a change!!) of the month from 11:00am-12:00pm from January through October, Place NCBE small conference room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA - next meeting Tuesday February 23, 2026 from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- B. **ECA Board of Directors** Recurring Meeting – **Every Last Tuesday** (this is a change!) of the month from 12:00pm -1:30pm from January through October, Place – NCBE Main Board Room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA – next meeting Tuesday January 27, 2026, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm. This is our first meeting of the year, and we will do strategic planning for the year so Directors, please don't miss this meeting!
- C. **ECA Government Affairs Committee** recurring meetings will be every last Tuesday starting in January 2026, from 1:45 pm to 3:30 pm- (Chair John Bly, Members Ross Liscum, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland, Mike Wolff, John Reid, and Aimi Dutra).
- D. **ECA Spec Meeting**-Recurring Meetings will be every last Wednesday of the month from January 2026 through October 2026 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Place-NCBE Main Board Room, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA – Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 28, 2026, from 3-5:00pm.
- E. **ECA Nominating Committee** will meet after the 1st of the year to nominate the Bridge Award and the Golden Hardhat Awards for 2026.
- F. **ECA 50 Year Anniversary Committee will meet as needed.**
- G. **ECA Community Relations Committee will meet as needed.**

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Save the Date!

48th Annual ECA Installation & Awards Dinner

Saturday, January 31, 2026
Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club

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We are honoring the following at the Awards Dinner

Contractor of the Year—Western Water Constructors Inc.

Affiliate of the Year—Toby's Trucking

Hermesmeyer Hall of Fame – Louie Gobbi, Heavy Equipment Rentals

Hermesmeyer Hall of Fame, Posthumous – Frank Palagi, Ghilotti Bros Inc.

Thank you Sponsors:

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EXCITING NEWS!
Check out our new website!

WWW.LANDESIGN-INC.COM

The advertisement features a laptop displaying the Landesign website. The website header includes social media icons for Facebook, Google+, and LinkedIn, along with a phone number (707) 578-2657. The main navigation menu lists: HOME, SERVICES, CLIENTS, OUR PROJECTS, ABOUT US, BLOG, CONTACT, and REQUEST A PROPOSAL. The website's main content area features a background image of a modern building with palm trees and the text: "GREENING THE WAY IN THE NORTH BAY" and "Enhancing your property's value through quality, passion, and expertise." A spotlight effect from the right side of the image highlights the laptop and the text above it.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Stay Cozy this Winter with the New EASE Home Program

Deep discounts on home comfort upgrades now available to qualifying Sonoma County households

As temperatures drop and winter settles into Sonoma County, keeping your home warm and comfortable becomes more important than ever. This season, qualifying residents have a new opportunity to make their homes cozier—and more energy-efficient—through the EASE Home program, launched by the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) in partnership with the County.

EASE Home, which stands for **Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Home**, helps income-eligible households access major home comfort upgrades at a fraction of the cost. The program provides personalized improvements such as **insulation, duct sealing, weatherization, and smart thermostats**—all designed to keep warm air in, cold drafts out, and energy bills under control. Everything is professionally installed, making it simple to get your home winter-ready.

How the Program Works

Participants start with a **free site visit** from a trained energy advisor who evaluates the home and develops a customized upgrade plan. BayREN then coordinates the entire process—from permitting to installation—using vetted contractors.

BayREN covers **up to 80% of the project cost**, while homeowners contribute a **20% co-payment**, capped at \$1,000

Who Qualifies?

To participate, residents must:

- Live in a **single-family home in Sonoma County**
- Be a **PG&E customer or Sonoma Clean Power**
- Have a household income at or below **120% of the Area Median Income**
 - * Up to **\$116,250** for a one-person household
 - * Up to **\$132,900** for a two-person household

Both homeowners and renters are eligible, as long as landlords approve the upgrades. [Learn more about eligibility here.](#)

Warm Up Your Home—Spots Are Limited

The scheduling portal opened this week, and appointments will fill quickly as winter weather arrives. If you've been thinking about improving your home's comfort or lowering your energy bills, now is a perfect time.

2. DOT could revoke accreditation for 3K trucking schools

The Department of Transportation has announced a major crackdown on the trucking industry, threatening to revoke accreditation for nearly 3,000 truck driving schools and trainers for not meeting federal requirements. This move aims to ensure that drivers are properly trained and eligible for commercial driver's licenses.

3. I'm Falling!! OSHA's top 10 violations: Fall protection leads again

For the 15th consecutive year, fall protection has topped OSHA's list of most frequently cited standards, with 5,914 reported violations for fiscal year 2025. The majority of these citations involved failures to provide proper fall protection systems for employees working six feet or more above lower levels, especially in residential construction and roofing activities. Other top violations include hazard communication, ladders, lockout/tagout and respiratory protection.

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From the Desk of Jim Persons

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS

Manlifts and scissor lifts are two pieces of equipment that many workers cannot imagine working without. This equipment, if used correctly, provides quick and safe access to work areas that at one time could only be reached from scaffolding or a crane's manbasket.

To continue reading

[Click HERE](#)



News you can use continued

4. 5 estimating tools contractors trust

Material costs continue to rise, with Turner Construction's Building Cost Index up 3.6% in Q1 2025. This makes accurate construction cost estimation crucial. Here are five trusted construction estimating software options: In Eight Estimate for heavy-civil projects, ProEst for large commercial GCs, STACK for mid-market contractors, Buildxact for small builders and Sage Estimating for enterprises using Sage accounting. Each offers unique features, from AI-powered takeoffs to seamless integration with existing tools, helping contractors protect margins and improve efficiency.

5. California invests \$590M in major water projects

California has initiated eight water infrastructure projects meant to improve drinking water reliability, wastewater systems and climate resilience. Funded by nearly \$590 million in state grants and low-interest loans, the projects include PFAS removal in Irvine, a wastewater facility upgrade in San Luis Obispo and a desalination facility in Antioch. Together, they will add 2.9 billion gallons of clean water annually, supporting Gov. Gavin Newsom's broader strategy to modernize water systems statewide.

6. You Heard of Grupe? [What to know about Stockton developer Grupe Company and its big stake in project to transform Sonoma Developmental Center](#)
7. Big Project Starts-[Construction begins on new Vallejo Highway 37/Fairgrounds interchange – The Press Democrat](#)
8. Excellence In Construction-[A celebration of excellence in construction by the North Bay Business Journal](#)
9. Don't Do It-but if you do, don't get caught!! [Corte Madera increases fines for code violations](#)
10. Sea Level Rise not friendly to businesses and homeowners-[Sausalito bayfront interests throw cold water on sea level plan](#)

Equipment for Sale:

Pacific Coast Cutters is closing and everything must go...

we have 4 Dodges 2012 to 2019; many small tools including 4" & 7" hand grinders, roto hammers, safety supplies, rain barrels, electric cords, twist lock heavy duty electric cords, resettable gas monitor, diamond bits and blades. We are selling 30 years of accumulation some new some used. Call or come by soon things are going fast. 450 Lakeview Street, Suite B, Petaluma, CA 94952 707-765-0661 pcc@pacificcoastcutters.com

Go to their Facebook page for photos. [\(1\) Facebook](#) [\(1\) Facebook](#)

ECA & NCBE SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING

ECA MEMBERS PAY THE NCBE PRICE

December:

12/9/25

CPR + First Aid December - English and Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/CPR-First-Aid-December-English-and-Spanish-2227/details>

12/12/25

Confined Space "Competent Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Confined-Space-Competent-Person-English-Spanish-2261/details>

12/16/25

Scaffolding Training "Qualified Person" - English & Spanish

<https://members.ncbeonline.com/events/Scaffolding-Training-Qualified-Person-English-Spanish-2259/details>

1/8 & 9/26

OSHA 10 hour for Construction—English & Spanish

[OSHA 10-Hour for Construction -](#)



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USEFUL LINKS TO SUPPORT YOUR BUSINESS

- A. Resilient 37 Policy Committee Meetings (open to the public) – Next meeting March 6, 9:30-11:30 am-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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WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Worker's Compensation Endorsement By ECA-

HELLO!!! HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON TO CHECK OUT THE WORKERS COMP PROGRAM ECA HAS ENDORSED? Everybody likes to save money, don't they? Doesn't cost you a thing to consider this as an option! Jeff Okrepkie at 707-360-4338.

[Flyer](#)



George Petersen Insurance Agency

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.

Get Prepared Now! Here are some very useful tips from CalFire to get your own house/property "in shape" for fire season. [link](#)

Pocket Guide for CALOSHA For Contractors: Click [here](#) for the pocket guide you all need!

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NORTH BAY CONSTRUCTION CORPS

Training The Next Generation of Construction Workers

The North Bay Construction Corps (NBCC) is an after-school, 3-month basic construction training program for seniors in their last semester of high school. Classes are taught by local contractors and construction managers. Participants are introduced to a variety of trades and earn certifications in Personal Protective Equipment and CPR/First Aid.

Each meeting is led by a contractor or tradesperson who presents information about his/her particular trade and then leads students through a hands-on skill-building activity. There is a strong focus on safety awareness at each meeting.

2025 NBCC Schedule: Click [HERE](#)

For additional information, contact: NBCC Sonoma: Mackenzie Smith

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Support a local family this holiday season!

For 19 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marín's Annual Gift Drive has helped bring joy and comfort to families who need it most. With nearly 300 local families seeking support this year, your generosity makes all the difference.



WAYS TO GIVE:



Adopt a Club Family

When you adopt a family, you ensure no one goes without. We have letters from families that share their specific needs and wishes.



Make a Direct Donation

Donate directly to Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marín to help support the nearly 300 local families in need this holiday season.



Donate Gift Cards

Gift cards provide caregivers with the joy and pride that comes from choosing a specific gift for their child and support their needs for basic essentials this holiday season including food and clothing.



For information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marín Holiday Gift Drive scan the QR code or visit: bgcsonoma-marin.org/holidays

Thank You

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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