



“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.



“E-All of the Above”

In 2012, part of the Democratic “platform” included this quote:

The United States can move towards a sustainable energy-independent future if we harness all of America’s great natural resources. That means an all-of-the-above approach to developing America’s many energy resources, including wind, solar, biofuels, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, oil, clean coal, and natural gas. President Obama has encouraged innovation to reach his goal of generating 80 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources by 2035... We can further cut our reliance on oil with increased energy efficiency in buildings, industry, and homes, and through the promotion of advanced vehicles, fuel economy standards, and the greater use of natural gas in transportation.

But that stance changed quickly when progressive groups attacked this “all” approach as not progressive enough.

In 2014, 18 environmental organizations, including Earthjustice, the Environmental Defense Fund, the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club sent Obama a sternly worded protest letter. They characterized his policy as “a compromise that future generations can’t afford. It...locks in the extraction of fossil fuels that will inevitably lead to a catastrophic climate future.” By the late teens, Democrats were in a completely different space than 2012.

In February 2019, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) formally introduced a congressional resolution advocating a Green New Deal. This Green New Deal proposal was everything the increasingly radical climate movement could have wished for and more. The proposal affirmed that the United States must become net zero on carbon emissions by 2030 through a dramatic and far-reaching transformation of every aspect of the economy. And far from entailing sacrifice, this economic transformation would provide full employment in high-wage jobs, accompanied by universal high-quality health care and housing. It would end all oppression of indigenous people, “communities of color,” migrant communities, and other “frontline and vulnerable communities.”

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The proposal generated enormous publicity and was injected into the mainstream of Democratic Party discourse. Six Senators who would become contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination endorsed it: Cory Booker (D-NJ), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Kamala Harris (D-CA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Sanders would go on to release a \$16.3 trillion Green New Deal plan of his own during his campaign for the Democratic nomination.

But the Democratic tune is changing once again. As Trump cancels or cuts back much of the IRA with remarkably little public protest, Democrats are starting to realize their Green New Deal-type plans are out of step with both the physical realities of America’s thirst for energy in the age of AI and what American voters actually want from their energy system. Their grand plans just don’t have much support, outside of professional class liberals and climate NGOs.

Survey Says!!

To support effort to clarify that debate, the AEI 2024 Energy/Climate Survey was conducted about a month before the 2024 election. The survey asked more than 3,000 registered voters about their views on trends in extreme weather, IPCC climate projections, climate tipping points, favored energy sources, priorities and preferences on energy policy, willingness to bear costs to fight climate change, personal energy consumption behavior, and much more.

Here are some findings that show why Democrats are warming back up to all-of-the-above—and why the Green New Deal is basically dead.

First, what are voters’ overall views on the appropriate energy strategy for the United States? Answer: it’s all-of-the-above and it isn’t even close!

55% of those surveyed favored an “all of the above” strategy rather than Green New Deal strategy. In other words, oil and gas, solar, water, nuclear, coal and natural gas were all needed.

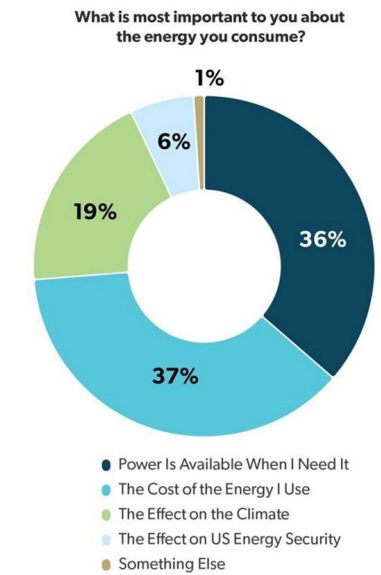
71% of those surveyed felt that the United States should use a mixture of fuels for their energy needs.

Does that mean voters actually want more fossil fuel production? Answer: yes they do, especially working-class voters!

What is most important to voters about the energy they consume? Answer: it’s cost and reliability (not climate) and it isn’t even close!

What’s most important to voters about efforts to fight climate change? Answer: it’s keeping costs low and promoting economic growth (not getting to net zero) and it isn’t even close!

Figure 8. Voters’ Energy Priorities



Source: AEI Energy/Climate Survey, conducted by YouGov, September 20–26, 2024. Note: N = 3,093.

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So what should we be doing according to the voters?

Toss out the Green New Deal, and climate change policy has to embrace energy abundance being pursued while

we make efforts to mitigate climate change **within those boundary conditions, rather than climate change being pursued as the paramount goal and with energy abundance limited by pursuit of those goals.**

All of the Above is back in, and the Green New Deal is out.

That's All Folks!

John Bly

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 4th Tuesday 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 July 22, 2025 from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- B. ECA Board of Directors** Recurring Meeting – Every 4th Tuesday 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 July 22, 2025, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm.
- C. ECA Government Affairs Committee** Recurring Meeting-Every 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:30pm – 3:00pm from January through October, Place -NCBE small conference room 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA –Note-we are cancelling the July 22 GAC meeting, so the next Meeting Tuesday August26, 2025 from **1:45pm to 3:00pm**- (Chair John Bly, Members Ross Liscum, Keith Woods, Joanne Webster, Dale Mahoney, Mark Soiland, Mike Wolff, John Reid, and Aimi Dutra)-invited guests TBD soon
- D. ECA Specification Meeting** Recurring Meeting Every 4th Wednesday of the month from February through October from 3:00pm to 4:30pm, Place-NCBE Main Board Room, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA – next meeting (**Special Day!!**) Tuesday July 22, 2025, from 3:00pm to 4:30pm (Chairs Dale Smith/ Casey Wood, Antonio Mencarini, John Reid, Geoff Coleman, Jason Nutt, (and invited guests linked to topics). Special guests for 7-22-25 will be Paul Kaushal P.E. Director of Public Works for the City of Petaluma and Jonathan Sanglaret Director of Capital Improvements Projects for the City of Petaluma
- E. ECA Auction Committee Meeting** – Thursday, July 31st 3:30 – 5 pm

ECA Lunch & Skeet Shooting



Northern California Engineering Contractors Association



ECA Lunch
Outdoor Gourmet BBQ

Friday, August 29th
12 noon – 2 pm
1607 Baird Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

*Join us in the beautiful hills above Santa Rosa
At Glenn Smith & Rachel Dollar's Home*

\$ SmithDollar
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Please join ECA members to an afternoon of good food and
Skeet Shooting!



ECA Member Lunch ~ Friday, August 29th
\$55 for ECA member & \$75 for non member
to register: email mary@nceca.org

*We encourage you to bring a potential ECA
Member to this lunch!*





The ECA 32nd Annual Golf Tournament was a lot of fun!

Thank you again to our Sponsors:

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ECA SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING



Confined Space

July 17 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

This course covers proper procedures for making entry into Permit Required Confined Spaces. Participants are prepared to operate in the capacity of Entrant, Attendant or Entry Supervisor during confined space operations. Participants are familiarized with CFR 1910.146 and how to properly employ the permit program. This course is a combination of classroom instruction and practical application in actual permit spaces utilizing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, meters and ventilation. This course is required by OSHA before an employee can enter a Permit Required Confined Space. Certification of completion is provided.

[Click HERE for Flyer](#)

CPR / First Aid

August 7 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Training includes bleeding control, strokes, seizures, broken bones and other life-threatening emergencies. Adult/child/infant CPR & airway obstruction management covered. This course is designed as both a course for first-timers and as a refresher.

[Click HERE for Flyer](#)

Competent Person / Trenching & Excavation

August 28 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The course will cover soil analysis, sloping, shoring and shielding, hazardous situations, excavation standards and more...

[Click HERE for Flyer](#)



From the Desk of Jim Persons

Ground Personnel and Mobile Equipment Safety

Construction sites pose many dangers for the individuals who have to walk through them. Trip hazards, dust, slick conditions, and dropped objects are just a few of the many possible hazards present for those individuals walking around a construction site. A major hazard that can result in serious injury or fatalities for workers on the ground is mobile equipment operations.

To read more.

[Click HERE](#)



Workplace Violence Program

Implemented – July 1, 2024

Senate Bill 553 requires employers to create, implement and maintain a Workplace Violence Program by July 1, 2024. Employers must also train their entire workforce.

The Workplace Violence Program must include a reporting mechanism (how is the employee going to report incidents), detailing who will be responsible for receiving complaints, and who will be responsible for identifying and mitigating workplace hazards.

Jim Persons has developed a Workplace Violence Program and Active Shooter Guidelines that meet the requirements of this new regulation. He can also provide training resources for your employees.

Contact Jim if you are interested in getting his help on a Workplace Violence Program, COVID-19 related issues or other health and safety programs.

email: jimpersons@safetypride.com or phone: 707-889-0881 or sign up for an upcoming class!



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. We would like to announce we were recently approved by the Water Boards for offering the [QSP](#) and [QSD Prerequisite](#) on-demand training in CA. That means no travel and minimal time off task to complete the prerequisite course for QSP or QSD certification required by the Construction Stormwater Permit in CA.

If you would be interested in discussing how to offer this course to their membership, we would be happy to engage in that discussion.

We will also be at the CASQA conference in September if you have representatives attending.

Thank you for the consideration and hope to discuss further with you soon.



Nathan Hardebeck

206.226.8820

[PUDLE Outreach](#)

2. **Construction materials sector thrives despite volatility**
The US construction materials sector is demonstrating resilience in the face of global volatility, supported by strong public infrastructure funding and disciplined pricing strategies. While aggregate production has declined, companies such as Vulcan Materials and Martin Marietta are maintaining financial performance through operational efficiencies. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act remains a key driver, with significant funds still available for projects. **Full Story:** [Pit & Quarry](#)
3. **Safety First: [OSHA final rule removes ACCSH consultation requirement](#)**
OSHA has published a final rule that removes the requirement for the administrator to consult the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health when modifying or revoking standards for construction work, aligning with President Donald Trump's deregulation push. The agency also has issued 25 proposed rules, including one clarifying the General Duty Clause and another removing medical evaluation requirements for certain respirators. **Full Story:** [Safety + Health](#)
4. ***Congratulations to Granite!!-***
[Granite wins work in San Francisco, Salt Lake City](#)
Granite Construction has been selected as the construction manager/general contractor for a \$115 million project at San Francisco International Airport to rehabilitate Runway 1R-19L and build Taxiway W. Preconstruction started last month and major construction is set to begin in March 2026. The company has also secured a \$111 million contract from the Utah Department of Transportation to rehabilitate infrastructure in Salt Lake City. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2025 and finish in November 2026. **Full Story:** [The Construction Broadsheet](#) [GuruFocus](#)
5. **Infrastructure Funding! [California Awards \\$5B for Infrastructure Improvements | Roads and Bridges](#)**

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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info@eddclarkandassociates.com

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
[\(707\) 542-9502](tel:7075429502) / mackenzie@ncbeonline.com

Save the Dates for 2025!

ECA Luncheon at Glenn Smith's Home –Friday, August 29
Wine & Dozers Auction—Saturday, November 1 at Graton Resort & Casino
ECA Annual General Membership Meeting—Date/Time/Place TBD



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Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

The ECA, and its Board of Directors, has been the voice of the engineering construction industry for almost 50 years.

The foundation of the ECA has been to address local needs and issues.

The purpose and goal of ECA and its staff are to provide services to the members that help them run their businesses safely, efficiently, and in compliance with the many rules and regulations and mandates of government.

The working committees are the heart and soul of the ECA. The committees are comprised of ECA members.

The committees promote events that enable the ECA to fund community projects that include: Fathers Day "Show & Shine" Car Show, Public Officials Night, the Golf Tournament, and, the "Days of Wine & Dozers" Auction Dinner.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

John Bly, Executive Director
email: john@nceca.org

Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director
email: mary@nceca.org

Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper
email: cheryl@nceca.org

Postal Address: P.O. Box 8249 Santa Rosa, CA 95407 ~Phone: 707.546.5500