



“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.

In This Edition:

Soapbox-High Speed Rail gets defunded

ECA Events: Auction night Nov 1 at Graton Event Center still upcoming as well as the ECA Annual General Membership Meeting 11/18/25 from 12-2pm @ Sallie Tomato’s in Rohnert Park

Upcoming Committee Meetings ECA 50th Anniversary Committee Meeting 7-22-25 @ 11-11:45 am, 7-22-25 ECA Executive Meeting @11:45-12:00 noon, ECA Board meeting 7-22-25 from 12-1:30pm, ECA GAC Meeting 7-22-25 from 1:45 to 3pm, ECA Spec Meeting (**Special Date**) 7-22-25 from 3-5 pm, ECA Nominating Committee Meeting 7-24-25 @12-1:00pm

News: Tennis Wick retiring



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No No to the Choo Choo

I realize this high-speed rail project is one that only affects the ECA to the extent that our taxes have been and are being applied to building the project. It really doesn’t affect us all that much. Yet, I honestly feel it is representative of the types of crap that Sacramento has been doling out to the voters in CA for many years. We voters have to be smarter, and we need to stop listening with ears that listen to the politicians, and rather, listen with our common sense.

On July 16, 2025, the Trump administration pulled the \$4billion in grant funding that had already been awarded to the California high-speed rail project. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy attacked the project and California officials, saying “it’s time for this boondoggle to die.” As I expected, rather than declare a failure and stop spending money on this stupid train project from nowhere to nowhere, Sacramento has decided to seek other ways to fund this boondoggle.

The official loss of the federal money isn’t going to immediately derail one of the country’s largest-ever infrastructure projects. California official are already looking at the next phase of funding to get the first 171 miles of high-speed rail—the complete section between Merced and Bakersfield— open by 2033.

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.

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**2025
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Continued from page 1

While the project will continue to be financed through state taxes, as residents voted for in 2008, the CHSRA is moving forward on bringing private money into the mix, hoping to both speed the build-out of the 800-mile Los Angeles to San Francisco promise while infusing the project with additional capital to make it happen.

On the state side of the equation, Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed 2026 budget calls for the Legislature to commit \$1 billion annually to the project from cap-and-trade funding sources through 2045. That foundational backing, which is still in negotiation with the Legislature, would be enough to get private money interested, as CHSRA has already published **a request for expression of interest** from private companies.

When Californians were first pitched, in 2008, on the idea of a high-speed rail line connecting San Francisco and Los Angeles, the price tag was an estimated \$33 billion—and about 75 percent of those costs would come from federal taxpayers or private sources, the *Los Angeles Times* editorial board assured its readers at the time.

It should be obvious by now that the original low-ball estimates were meant to convince voters and state lawmakers to buy into the idea, so the sunk-cost fallacy could finish the job. If High-Speed Rail Authority CEO Brian Kelly's updated estimates are correct the project needs another \$100 billion to be complete.

Back in 2008, voters were lied to about the cost estimates (\$33billion vs around \$200billion for a much shorter project), voters were lied to about the source of funding (70% was supposed to come from the federal government), and voters have never been told what it will cost them in taxes every year to subsidize the operation of the train (should it ever get built).

We voters must stop believing what the Sacramento machine keeps trying to tell us. I think we could use the \$165 billion in better ways than a train from Merced to Bakersfield.

Pull the plug.

That's All Folks!

John



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 5:00pm (Chairs Dale Smith/Casey Wood, Antonio Mencarini, John Reid, Geoff Coleman, Jason Nutt. Special guests for 7-22-25 will be Nathan Quarles from Sonoma County Infrastructure, and 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 Nominating Committee** will meet Thursday July 24 from 12-1pm at NCBE small conference room.
- F. **ECA Auction Committee Meeting** – Thursday, July 31st 3:30 – 5 pm



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.

Email mary@nceca.org with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!

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*



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!*



ECA Events/Registration/Sponsorship

Auction-click [HERE](#) for donation handout to your suppliers/vendors and for the event flyer and registration /sponsorship information.

ECA Golf Tournament Photos. Go to our [ECA Facebook](#) page to see more!





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ECA SAFETY & EDUCATION TRAINING



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

Dropped Objects Safety

Dropped objects are a serious hazard at many worksites. In one recent past year, there were 237 workplace fatalities due to falling objects (the most recent statistics available) in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Furthermore, OSHA estimates that over 50,000 “struck-by a falling object” incidents occur each year on construction sites alone.

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

- A. **How contractors are adapting to tariffs**—Contractors are grappling with rising material costs and planning uncertainty as the Trump administration's shifting tariff policies, such as upcoming 50% levies on copper, steel and aluminum, disrupt procurement and delay projects. Economists warn that continued price hikes and limited domestic capacity could lead to stagflation in the construction sector. Firms like Swinerton and its Timberlab affiliate are adapting by turning to alternative materials like mass timber and vertically integrated supply chains. **Full Story:** [Construction Dive](#)
- B. **Sonoma County Airport needs 3rd party help**- [North Bay Business Journal, Bay Area Newspaper, CA news](#)
- C. **Tennis Wick to retire**- [Sonoma County planning and permitting director Tennis Wick announces retirement - The North Bay Business Journal](#)
- D. **Is Sonoma County getting their vegetation management work done as efficiently as Napa?** To be discussed at the ECA Spec meeting on 7-22-25!!

ON DEMAND TRAINING

Service provides relevant and targeted training, certification, or education when you **NEED IT NOW!**

Classes can be organized quickly so you can quickly get your employees back to work. In addition, business demands require flexibility. This service provides greater flexibility and added value. Classes can be set up at your facility or at the training room in Santa Rosa

Part of this **on-demand service** is a viable alternative to **in-house training** because it is designed for situations where only **one, two, three or four** people that need training. Importantly, this training can be very cost effective. We can combine the classes with other companies that need the training or you can have your own company class.

Whether you're in search of workplace safety training to meet OSHA compliance requirements, Competent Person, Trench Safety, Confined Space, CPR/First Aid initial or update training or implementing a Safety Program ECA can help!

The best way to beat an OSHA citation is to never get one at all.

Email mary@nceca.org to set up a class today If you don't see a class you need listed please contact me.

CPR / First Aid: 3 hrs - \$95 per person

Confined Space: 3 hrs - \$150 per person

Competent Person / Trench Safety: 3 hrs - \$125 per person

Flagger Safety Training: 2 hrs - \$125 per person

Sexual Harassment—1 hr for Employees—\$45 per person ~ 2 hrs for Supervisors \$60 per person

Active Violence Emergency Response Training— \$100 per person

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@edclarkandassociates.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—November 18th, Sallie Tomato's



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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

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Mary Kennedy Cabrera, Member Services Director
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Cheryl Long, Bookkeeper
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