



SUMMER

OUR 61st YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

December 2024

Merry CHRISTMAS



As we close another year, we gratefully pause to wish you a warm and happy holiday season, and we thank you for your continued support.

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER, NECA

Joey Reed & Sharon Spare

Reminders:

SOUND AND COMMUNICATIONS Wages & Fringe Benefits

Effective December 1, 2024

The image shows three overlapping wage schedule documents. The top document is titled 'WAGES & FRINGES SCHEDULE "A"' and lists various job classes and their corresponding wages and benefits. The middle document is titled 'WAGES & FRINGES SCHEDULE "B"' and lists job classes and their corresponding wages and benefits. The bottom document is titled 'WAGES & FRINGES SCHEDULE "C"' and lists job classes and their corresponding wages and benefits.

[Wage Schedules](#)

The image shows a document titled 'Schedule E: Cost/Hour'. It contains a table with columns for 'Job Class', 'Wage', 'Health', 'Retirement', 'Fringe', and 'Total'. The table lists various job classes and their corresponding costs per hour.

[Schedule E: Cost/Hour](#)

The image shows a document titled 'Schedule E: Shift Rates'. It contains a table with columns for 'Job Class', 'Day Shift', 'Evening Shift', and 'Night Shift'. The table lists various job classes and their corresponding shift rates.

[Schedule E: Shift Rates](#)

MARKET ADVANCEMENT CE/CW Wages & Fringe Benefits

Effective January 1, 2025

The image shows a document titled 'Appendix "B" Construction Electrician/Construction Worker Wages and Fringe Benefits'. It contains a table with columns for 'Wage Rates', 'Health', 'Retirement', 'Fringe', and 'Total'. The table lists various wage rates and their corresponding costs per hour.

[CE/CW Wages & Fringe Benefits Download](#)

January 1, 2025 rates reflect a \$2.75/hour increase to CE2, moving the wage rate from \$42.23 to \$44.98. In addition, there was an increase in the Health Contribution of \$0.16/hour bringing the total cost increase to \$2.91/hour for 2025. In January 2026, there will be an additional increase of \$2.75/hour. There is a maintenance of benefits provision for the Health Plan so the actual increase for 2026 will likely be somewhat higher.



**NECA -Electrical Contractors of California Trust
2024 End of Year Legislative Report**

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Introduction

The 2024 California Legislative Session concluded on September 30th, marking the final day for Governor Newsom to sign or veto pending legislation. This year, NECA achieved another successful session, not only advancing key industry initiatives but also working extensively to defeat measures that would negatively impact our industry. While we were successful in preventing several concerning proposals from becoming law, it's essential that contractors and industry stakeholders are aware of the significant new laws that were enacted.

Among the notable legislative victories were major reforms to the Private Attorney General Act (PAGA), including an extension to the PAGA carveout for the unionized construction sector. This carveout enables union signatory contractors to exempt themselves from all PAGA litigation through language in their collective bargaining agreements.

Please click the below link to view summary of all pertinent legislation passed during the 2024 session that will impact contractors and the broader construction industry. All newly enacted laws will take effect on January 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified.

For questions, comments, or further information, please feel free to contact our office. I can be reached by email at bernacchi@politicogroup.com or by phone at (916) 444-3770.

[2024 End of Year Legislative Report](#)

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Sweeney Mason

LLP

Federal Court Halts 01/01/2025 Enforcement of Corporate Transparency Act Requiring Small Businesses to Disclose Their Beneficial Owners in 2024 And Beyond

By Roger Mason, Sweeney Mason LLP

The Corporate Transparency Act (“CTA”) was enacted on January 1, 2024, to combat money laundering, tax fraud, and other illicit activities. The CTA requires many businesses operating in the United States to identify and report their “beneficial owners” to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (“FinCEN”) using the portal located at <https://boiefiling.fincen.gov>. “Beneficial owners” are individuals who control at least 25% of an entity’s ownership interests or otherwise exercise substantial control over the entity.

The CTA’s reporting requirements were set to go into effect on January 1, 2025. However, on December 3, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas granted the Plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction prohibiting the federal government from enforcing the CTA. The court stated that:

“the CTA, 31 U.S.C. § 5336 is hereby enjoined. Enforcement of the Reporting Rule, 31 C.F.R. 1010.380 is also hereby enjoined, and the compliance deadline is stayed under § 705 of the APA. Neither may be enforced, and reporting companies need not comply with the CTA’s January 1, 2025, BOI reporting deadline pending further order of the Court.”

The bottom line is unless, and until this injunction is overturned, reporting companies need not comply with the upcoming January 1, 2025, deadline for filing beneficial ownership reports.

Detailed information regarding the requirements of the CTA, including FAQ’s, can be found at [here](#) and [here](#).

Sweeney Mason LLP is here to help and can assist with the compliance process and answer any questions you may have with respect to the CTA.

For more information, please contact Roger Mason at rmason@smllp.com

SOLAR POWER glut boosts California electric bills. Other states reap the benefits.

Story by Melody Petersen

California is making so much solar energy that large commercial operators are increasingly forced to stop production, raising questions about the state's costly plan to shift entirely to carbon-free sources of electricity.

In the last 12 months, California's solar farms have curtailed production of more than 3 million megawatt hours of solar energy, either on the orders of the state's grid operator or because prices had plummeted because of the glut, according to an analysis of data by The Times.



That's enough to power 518,000 California homes for a year, based on average electricity usage.

The amount of curtailed solar power has more than doubled from 1.5 million megawatt hours in 2021, state records show, and is up eight times from levels in 2017.

The waste would have been even larger if California had not paid utilities in other states to take the excess solar energy, documents from the state's grid operator show. That means green energy paid for by California electricity customers is sent away, lowering bills for residents of other states.

Arizona's largest public utility reaped \$69 million in savings last year by buying from the market California created to get rid of its excess solar power. The utility returned that money to its customers as a credit on their bills.

Also reaping profits are electricity traders, including banks and hedge funds.

The increasing oversupply of solar power has created a situation where energy traders can buy the excess at prices so low they become negative, said energy consultant Gary Ackerman, the former executive director of the Western Power Trading Forum. That means the solar plant is paying the traders to take it.

"This is all being underwritten by California ratepayers," Ackerman said.

California grid officials [warned in 2017](#) that the curtailments were a sign that the state was overbuilding renewables and "not financially sound."

Since then the problem has grown exponentially. Once the state curtailed solar power only on sunny mild spring days when there was little need for air conditioning. Now solar farms must be shut down even on hot summer days when demand is high.

Solar is the linchpin of California's plan to generate all its electricity from carbon-free sources by 2045, but some energy experts question the feasibility of the plan given the state's inability to use its existing solar capacity.

Click [here](#) to read more . . .

Project Labor Agreements in Contra Costa County

| Awarding Body | Thresholds |
|---|--|
| Bart | All projects \$10 million & Above (Committee may subject projects of lower value to PLA) |
| City of Antioch | All projects \$1 million and over |
| City of Concord | All projects \$750K & over |
| City of El Cerrito* | All projects \$1 million and over |
| City of Hercules* | All projects \$1 million and over |
| City of Martinez | All projects \$1 million and over |
| City of Pinole | All projects \$1 million and over |
| City of Pittsburg | All projects \$1 million and over |
| City of Richmond | All projects \$1 million and over |
| Contra Costa Community College District | All projects \$1 million and over |
| Contra Costa County | All projects \$1 million and over |
| West Contra Costa Unified School District | All projects \$1 million and over |
| John Swett Unified School District | All projects \$1 million and over |
| Martinez Unified School District | All projects \$1 million and over |
| Pittsburg Unified School District | All projects \$1 million and over |
| Mt. Diablo Unified School District* | All projects \$1 million and over (applies only to projects funded w/Bond Money) |
| Delta Diablo Sanitation District* | All projects \$1 million and over |
| West County Wastewater District | All projects \$1 million and over |

* Project Labor Agreements added during 2024



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| <p>SYNERGY E Links</p> |
| <p><u>SOUND AND COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT</u> <u>With Updated Wages & Fringes Schedules</u></p> |
| <p><u>Sound and Communications Wage and Fringe Schedules A, B, C, D, & E</u></p> |
| <p>Sound and Communications - Schedule E: <u>Cost/Hour</u> <u>Shift Rates</u></p> |
| <p><u>CE/CW Wage Schedule Effective January 1, 2025</u></p> |
| <p><u>2024 End of Year Legislative Report</u></p> |
| <p><u>2025 New Laws White Paper</u></p> |



December 2024

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thur</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|------------|------------|---|---|--|--|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | Retirement Trust Training Center Martinez @ 9:00 a.m. | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | | | | Health & Welfare Trust Training Center Martinez @ 11:00 a.m. | Sound & Communications Interviews Training Center Martinez @ 9:00 a.m. | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | |  | | | |
| 29 | 30 |  | | | | |

Inside Wireman Holidays:

Dec. 25, 2024 - Christmas Day

Sound and Communications Holidays:

Dec. 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve Holiday & Dec. 25, 2024 Christmas Day

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER, NECA

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