SYNERGY

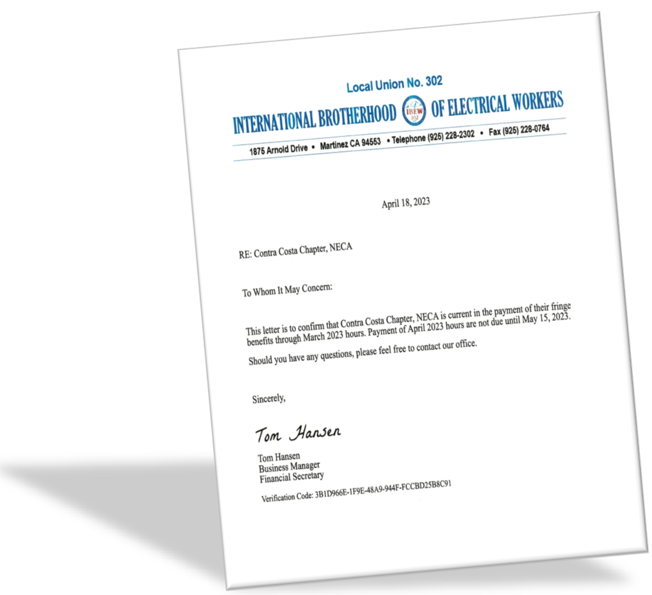
NECA
NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

OUR 60TH YEAR	CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER	May 2023

Inside Wireman Agreement

We have finished our negotiation process with Local 302 over the Inside Wireman Agreement without resolving all of the issues. The Council of Industrial Relations will hear out case during the week of May 15^{th} and attempt to resolve those issues for us. We anticipate a decision during the week of May 22 and will pass it along to you then.

Use NECAStar to Generate Benefit Letters



Local Union No. 302
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
1875 Arnold Drive • Martinez CA 94553 • Telephone (925) 228-2302 • Fax (925) 228-0764

April 18, 2023

RE: Contra Costa Chapter, NECA

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that Contra Costa Chapter, NECA is current in the payment of their fringe benefits through March 2023 hours. Payment of April 2023 hours are not due until May 15, 2023.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Tom Hansen

Tom Hansen
Business Manager
Financial Secretary

Verification Code: 3B1D966E-1F9E-48A9-944F-FCCBD25B8C91

If you are not already doing so, we wanted to make you aware that you can use NECAStar reporting system to generate your "Benefit Letters" that any general contractors or owners may require for payment (this is especially prevalent on public works projects). Simply have the person who handles the fringe benefit reporting function click "Reports" on the top bar of the opening screen in NECAStar. From there, choose "Benefit Letters" from the menu on the left side of the screen. Click on the most recent month available at the top (currently March of 2023) and hit "Generate Letter."

One more good reason to be vigilant about making sure your fringe benefits are always paid on time.

POLITICO ALERT

www.PoliticoOnline.com "Connecting you to California"

1127 11th St., Suite 747 / Sacramento, CA 95814 / (916) 444-3770/ FAX (916) 442-6437

Cal/OSHA PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS TO LEAD STANDARD

Cal/OSHA recently released their draft proposal for revisions to the current lead standard. It includes significant changes, including reducing the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) from 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air as a time-weighted average to 10 micrograms per cubic meter of air; and, reducing the Action Level (AL) from 30 micrograms per cubic meter of air to 2 micrograms per cubic meter of air. The proposed changes are significant and will impact the entire construction industry. We are working closely with a broad industry coalition to respond to the draft proposal.

BACKGROUND

In March, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board published revisions to California's standards on lead for both the construction and general industry sectors.

The Cal/OSHA Standards Board's first hearing on the issue is scheduled for April 20, 2023.

The Board argues that the proposed amendments are needed to adequately protect employees who have occupational exposure to lead. They further state that the current regulations are over 40 years old and that more recent evidence demonstrates that harmful health effects can occur at exposure levels well below those currently allowed by existing regulations.

PROJECTED COSTS

The Board estimates that the cost to a typical construction business would be $10,647 in the first year and $8,515 in the second year.

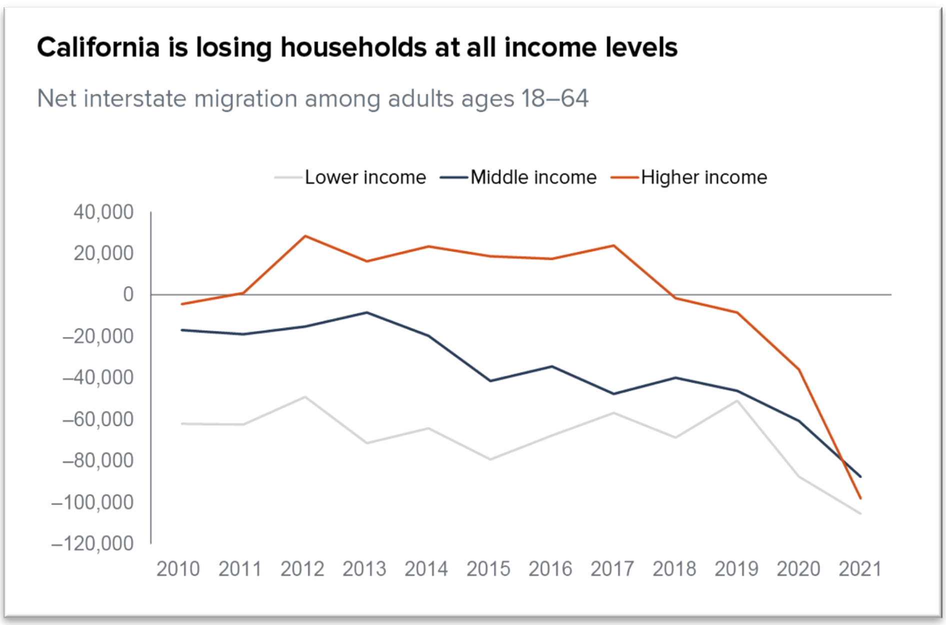
NEXT STEPS

Our coalition has responded with a detailed letter of concerns, suggestions and impacts on the industry. We will continue to update as the process moves forward. The coalition letter of concerns and suggestions is attached.

Who's Leaving California and Who's Moving In?

California is in unprecedented demographic territory, one in which population declines characterize the state. Lower levels of international migration, declining birth rates, and increases in deaths all play a role. But the primary driver of the state's population loss over the past few years has been California residents moving to other states.

According to the American Community Survey, from 2010 through 2021 about 7.7 million people moved from California to other states, while only 5.8 million people moved to California from other parts of the country. According to Department of Finance estimates, the state has lost residents to other states every year since 2000. Over the past few years, the movement out of the state has accelerated with a record net outflow of 407,000 from July 2021 to July 2022.



Most people who move across state lines cite employment, housing, or family as the primary reason. PPIC Statewide Survey finds that 34% of Californians have seriously considered leaving the state because of high housing costs. Since 2015, California has experienced net losses of over 500,000 adults who cite housing as the primary reason, according to the Current Population Survey. About half of those who leave the state buy a house in their new state, whereas only one-third of those moving to California buy a house.

If the interstate migration patterns continue as discussed in the article *"Who's Leaving California- and Who's Moving In?"* —California could experience sustained population losses for years to come.

Click here to read entire article.

California Considering Expanding Paid Sick Leave to Seven Paid Days

(April 24, 2023)

Earlier this week, the California Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Committee approved SB 616. This bill now moves on for consideration by the Senate appropriations committee. SB 616, sponsored by California State Senator Lena Gonzalez from Los Angeles County, if enacted in its current form, would more than double mandatory paid sick leave available for California employees, starting next year.

Increased Paid Sick Leave in California

Currently, California employees are entitled to three days or twenty-four hours of paid sick leave that must be available to the employee to use by the completion of the employee's 120th calendar day of employment. SB 616 would substantially increase the amount of paid sick leave available annually to California employees to seven (7) days or fifty-six (56) hours.

More specifically, if enacted in its current form, SB 616 would modify the required paid sick leave accrual method to require that California employees have no less than 56 hours of accrued sick leave or paid time off by the 280th calendar day of employment or each calendar year, beginning January 1, 2024.

Higher Paid Sick Leave Accrual Cap

Under existing law, a California employer generally has no obligation to allow an employee's total accrual of paid sick leave to exceed 48 hours or 6 days. In other words, the paid sick leave bank can be capped at 48 hours. SB 616 would more than double the minimum accrual cap for paid sick leave in California from 48 hours or 6 days, to 112 hours or 14 days.]

Conclusion

This is one of many bills working its way through the California Legislature that the California Chamber of Commerce has labeled as job-killer bills. While CDF cannot predict which bills will actually pass through the legislature and be signed by Governor Newsom, there is a strong push to increase sick leave benefits, and we suspect that SB 616 is one of the bills that is likely to pass.

California employers should pay close attention to this progress of SB 616 over the next few months.

Friday, March 31, 2023
For Immediate Release

Mark Hinkle, Press Officer
press.office@ssa.gov

News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security Board of Trustees: Projection for Combined Trust Funds One Year Sooner than Last Year

Combined Funds Move Back a Year to 2034: OASI Fund Moves Back to 2033—A Decade from Now

The Social Security Board of Trustees today released its annual report on the financial status of the Social Security Trust Funds. The combined asset reserves of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance (OASI and DI) Trust Funds are projected to become depleted in 2034, one year earlier than projected last year, with 80 percent of benefits payable at that time.

The OASI Trust Fund is projected to become depleted in 2033, one year sooner than last year's estimate, with 77 percent of benefits payable at that time. The DI Trust Fund asset reserves are not projected to become depleted during the 75-year projection period.

In the 2023 Annual Report to Congress, the Trustees announced:

- The asset reserves of the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds declined by $22 billion in 2022 to a total of $2.830 trillion.
- The total annual cost of the program is projected to exceed total annual income in 2023 and remain higher throughout the 75-year projection period. Total cost began to be higher than total income in 2021. Social Security's cost has exceeded its non-interest income since 2010.
- The year when the combined trust fund reserves are projected to become depleted, if Congress does not act before then, is 2034. At that time, there would be sufficient income coming in to pay 80 percent of scheduled benefits.

"The Trustees continue to recommend that Congress address the projected trust fund shortfalls in a timely fashion to phase in necessary changes gradually," said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. "Social Security will continue to play a critical role in the lives of 67 million beneficiaries and 180 million workers and their families during 2023. With informed discussion, creative thinking, and timely legislative action, Social Security can continue to protect future generations." .

Other highlights of the Trustees Report include:

- Total income, including interest, to the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds amounted to $1.222 trillion in 2022. ($1.107 trillion from net payroll tax contributions, $49 billion from taxation of benefits, and $66 billion in interest)
- Total expenditures from the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds amounted to $1.244 trillion in 2022.
- Social Security paid benefits of $1.232 trillion in calendar year 2022. There were about 66 million beneficiaries at the end of the calendar year.
- The projected actuarial deficit over the 75-year long-range period is 3.61 percent of taxable payroll – higher than the 3.42 percent projected in last year's report.
- During 2022, an estimated 181 million people had earnings covered by Social Security and paid payroll taxes.
- The cost of $6.7 billion to administer the Social Security program in 2022 was a very low 0.5 percent of total expenditures.
- The combined trust fund asset reserves earned interest at an effective annual rate of 2.4 percent in 2022.

The Board of Trustees usually comprises six members. Four serve by virtue of their positions with the federal government: Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury and Managing Trustee; Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security; Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Julie Su, Acting Secretary of Labor. The two public trustee positions are currently vacant.

View the 2023 Trustees Report at www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2023/.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 **JATC** 2:00 p.m. Training Center Martinez	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 *Council on Industrial Relations* *May 16 - 18, 2023*	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Off-Day Holiday (Inside Wireman)	27
28	29 Memorial Day Holiday (Inside Wireman & Sound)	30	31			

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER
National Electrical Contractors Association
1024 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553

NECA 2023 Convention and Trade Show - Philadelphia, PA

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 2, 2023

SYNERGY
Annual Funding Notice NEBF
Inside Wireman: *New Wage Rates*, *Cost-Per-Hour Sheets*, and *Shift rates* Effective February 27th
Northern California Sound and Communications Agreement,
Notice of Summary Plan Information for the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF)
Sound and Communications Apprenticeship Applications