



SYNERGY

OUR 61st YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

January 2024



In this issue:

- January Membership Meeting
- 2023 End of Year Legislative Report
- Politico Alert: Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation Summary - What Contractors Need to Know
- Notice to Retirees
- PG&E Rate Increase - Money Saving Tips for Businesses
- Inside Wireman Agreement Wage/Fringe Adjustment
- California Minimum Wage Increase
- Business Standard Mileage Rate Increases
- Synergy eLinks
- Calendar



January Membership Meeting

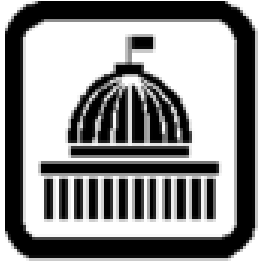
The next regular meeting of the Chapter Membership will take place on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024 beginning with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., at Jack's Restaurant, 60 Crescent Drive, in Pleasant Hill.

The main order of business will be an overview of our forthcoming negotiations with Local 302 over the Inside Agreement. Toward that end, we ask that you bring any ideas you have to improve our agreement.

Also, pursuant to the Chapter Bylaws, an election will be held at the January meeting for a position on the Chapter's Board of Directors. The Chapter nominating Committee has nominated Skip Stewart of Crockett Electric (incumbent) for the position. Additional nominations can be made by contacting the Nominating Committee (Rick Crowell or Sean McPeak) or at the meeting by any member in good standing. As is the case in all Chapter matters requiring a vote, only the accredited representative or designated alternate will be eligible to vote at the January meeting.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.





NECA - ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS of CALIFORNIA TRUST 2023 End of Year Legislative Report

Politico Group 1127 11th Street, Suite 747 - Sacramento, CA 95814
PHONE: (916) 444-3770 | www.PoliticoOnline.com

Introduction

The last actions of the 2023 California legislative session took place on October 14th, which was the deadline for Governor Newsom to sign or veto legislation. NECA again had a productive legislative session pursuing industry measures, including furthering efforts to secure market share for union contractors on industrial facilities and updating contractors' state licensing law to ensure contractors stay informed and properly licensed. Many other measures affecting the industry were passed into law this legislative session as well.

Below is a link taking you to an overview of all the pertinent legislation that was passed during the 2023 legislative session that will have an impact on contractors and the construction industry overall. All the newly enacted laws will become operative January 1, 2024, unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like additional information, please contact Eddie Bernacchi, our Legislative Advocate. He can be reached by email bernacchi@politicogroup.com or by phone (916) 444-3770.

[2023 End of Year Legislative Report](#)

POLITICO ALERT

www.PoliticoOnline.com "Connecting you to California"

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

Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation Summary What Contractors Need To Know

As we have recently fielded a few questions on the [California Air Resources Board – Advanced Clean Fleets Regulations](#), we thought it would be a good idea to put together the following Q&A to assist contractors who must comply. It's important to note that the [Truck Regulation Upload, Compliance, and Reporting System \(TRUCRS\)](#) has been recently updated and is now available for fleet owners to report and update company, vehicle, and engine information to meet Advanced Clean Fleets reporting requirements.

What is the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation?

The Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation is part of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) approach to accelerate a large-scale transition to zero-emission medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles. This regulation works in conjunction with the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) regulation, approved in March of 2021, which pushes manufacturers to bring zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) to market. The ACF is the purchase mandate for fleets and the ACT is the sales mandate for truck manufacturers. The ACF regulation was promulgated under the authority of the [Governor's Executive Order N-79-20](#).

What is the status of ACF rulemaking?

The ACF has been approved by CARB and takes effect January 1, 2024.

Who must comply?

The ACF regulation applies to fleets performing drayage operations, fleets owned by State, local, and federal government agencies, and **high priority fleets**, which may cover contractors.

When would a contractor be considered as owning a high priority fleet?

✦ Any contractor that owns, operates, or directs 50 or more covered vehicles, with at least one covered vehicle in California.

Any contractor with more than \$50 million total gross annual revenue that operates at least one covered vehicle in California.

What types of vehicles are covered?

The regulation covers medium-duty and heavy-duty on-road vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 8,500 pounds, off-road yard tractors, and light-duty package delivery vehicles. It does not apply to passenger vehicles and light duty passenger trucks.

Compliance

High priority fleets must phase zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) into their fleets, for covered vehicles, beginning in 2024 according to one of two available compliance pathways—the “Model Year Schedule” (which is the default compliance pathway) or the “ZEV Milestones Option” (which is the alternate, opt-in compliance pathway).

Option 1 - Model Year Schedule Timeline:

Compliance is achieved through zero-emission vehicle additions and the removal of existing ICE vehicles at the end of their useful life. Exemptions and delays are available for qualifying fleets.

✦ Starting January 1, 2024, all additions of covered vehicles to a fleet must be zero-emission.

ICE vehicles must be retired after 18 years old or 800,000 miles, whichever comes first.

Option 2 - Zero-Emission Milestone Timeline:

Zero-emission vehicle percentage milestones as determined by preset vehicle groups. Fleets can add ICE vehicles to their fleet if they reach the zero-emission percentage milestones outlined below.

ZEV Fleet Milestones by Milestone Group and Year

Table 1: ZEV Fleet Milestones by Milestone Group and Year					
Percentage of vehicles that must be zero-emission	10%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Milestone Group 1: Box trucks, vans, yard tractors	2025	2028	2031	2033	2035 and beyond
Milestone Group 2: Work trucks, day cab tractors	2027	2030	2033	2036	2039 and beyond
Milestone Group 3: Sleeper cab tractors and specialty vehicles	2030	2033	2036	2039	2042 and beyond

What are the reporting and recordkeeping requirements?

Beginning January 1, 2024, fleet owners are required to submit annual compliance reports beginning February 1, 2024, until February 1, 2045. Reports must be submitted through the online [TRUCRS reporting system](#). Fleet owners must keep the required reporting records and documentation for at least five years. Fleet owners must make such records available in an electronic or paper format upon request or make them available to CARB staff within 72 hours of a written or verbal request for audit.

Penalties

Penalty amounts are not specified in the regs, but the regs state that a fleet owner “*who fails to comply with the requirements of this article, who fails to submit any information, report, or statement required by this article, or who knowingly submits any false statement or representation in any application, report, statement, or other document filed, maintained, or used for the purposes of compliance with this article **may** be subject to penalties.*”

Is there funding for purchasing zero-emission trucks?

The 2021 and 2022 State budgets include a total investment of \$10 billion over 6 years to reduce CO₂ emissions from the transportation sector by supporting ZEVs and ZEV infrastructure. This funding has been administered by CARB, the California Energy Commission, the California State Transportation Agency, and the Governor's Office of Economic and Business Development. It includes funding for the [HYBRID AND ZERO-EMISSION TRUCK AND BUS VOUCHER INCENTIVE PROJECT \(HVIP\)](#) which provides funding for the purchase of clean trucks. You can review the program Here: <https://californiahvip.org/>.

Where can I get more information?

Information about the ACF is available at the [Advanced Clean Fleets | California Air Resources Board](#) website. If you have questions, call (866) 634-3735 or Email zevfleet@arb.ca.gov.

NOTICE TO RETIREES

RECEIVING A NORMAL OR EARLY RETIREMENT PENSION BENEFIT CONCERNING A *TEMPORARY* RETURN TO WORK AMENDMENT TO THE PLAN OF BENEFITS FOR THE NEBF

The Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF) and the National Employees Benefit Board have approved a *temporary* Return to Work Amendment to the Plan of Benefits for the NEBF that permits certain eligible retirees to return to covered and contributory employment for a period of time without a loss of pension benefits from the NEBF. Please read the following notice carefully as this amendment does not apply to all retirees or to all electrical employment.

As you are aware, the rules of the Plan generally provide for a suspension of benefits for a retiree who returns to employment in the electrical industry for forty (40) or more hours per month. This temporary Return to Work Amendment changes the suspension rules for certain eligible retirees. Following are the features of the amendment:

1. The temporary amendment is effective from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
2. All normal and early retirees with a pension effective date of December 2023 or earlier will be permitted to return to covered and contributory employment only and will be permitted to work for up to 600 hours during the above period without a loss of NEBF benefits. This amendment applies only to the NEBF Plan. **(In order to receive benefits from other funds it will depend on the rules of those funds.)**
3. Once an individual has worked for 600 hours in covered and contributory employment during the term of the temporary amendment, the individual will no longer be able to take advantage of this amendment and the normal rules (permitting work in the electrical industry for less than forty (40) hours per month without a suspension of benefits) will apply.
4. **Disability pensioners are not eligible (the existing rules applicable to disabled pensioners remain in effect).**
5. Only retirees who return to NEBF covered and contributory employment will be able to take advantage of this amendment – this amendment will not apply to persons who work for covered employers where no NEBF contributions are required or to persons who work for non-covered employers in the electrical industry.



25 Money-Saving Tips for Businesses

Click [Here](#).

This eBook contains proven practices that are helping small and medium-sized businesses in California save both energy and money.

- No-cost and low-cost energy management tips
- Next-level energy management tips
- High-impact energy management tips
- Rebates and financing options for businesses
- How to find and work with a qualified contractor

To view more resources available for businesses,

visit the Pacific Gas and Electric [Business-Resources/Business Center](#)

Energy Efficiency Financing (EEF)

PG&E offers 0% interest loans for replacing old and worn-out equipment with more energy-efficient models.

[Get financing for new, energy efficient equipment.](#)

Inside Wireman Agreement Wage/Fringe Adjustment

On Monday, February 26, 2024, there will be a \$3.75 increase in the Inside wage/fringe benefit rates. We will provide the specific allocation in next month's newsletter.

California Minimum Wage Increase

The State of California's minimum wage is set to increase to \$16 per hour (an increase of \$0.50 from the current minimum wage of \$15.50), on January 1, 2024. The state minimum wage will apply to all employers, regardless of their size.

The increase to the State minimum wage will also affect the minimum salary requirements for full-time exempt employees. Beginning January 1, 2024, the minimum salary for a full-time exempt employee will be \$66,560 per year (currently \$64,480 per year).

Business Standard Mileage Rate Increases to 67 Cents

The IRS announced that the business standard mileage rate for transportation expenses Paid or incurred beginning January 1, 2024, will be 67 cents per mile, up 1.5 cents from 65.5 cents per mile for 2023 [[Notice 2024-8](#), 12-14-23].



SYNERGY eLinks

[CE/CW Wage Schedule Effective January 1, 2024](#)

[Sign-up for Martinez Alerts](#)

[Sound and Communications Wage & Fringes](#)

[Sound and Communications Agreement December 1, 2023 - November 30, 2027](#)

[Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee Application Announcement](#)



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 New Year's Day Holiday	2	3 <u>NECA</u> JACK'S Restaurant Bd of Directors 4:30 p.m. Chapter: 6:00 p.m.	4 <u>JATC</u> Training Center Martinez 2:00 p.m.	5	6
7	8 <u>LMCC</u> Training Center Martinez 5:30 p.m.	9 Inside Apprentice <u>Applications</u> Local 302 - MTZ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday	16 Inside Apprentice <u>Applications</u> Local 302 - MTZ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Inside Apprentice <u>Applications</u> Local 302 - MTZ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			