



SUMMER

OUR 52ND YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

December 2015



As 2015 draws to a close, we would like to draw your attention to some odds and ends that will be unfolding over the next several months:

Sound and Communication Wage/Fringe Benefit increase effective December 1, 2015: Wages increase \$1.50/hour, pension \$.50/hour and health \$.50/hour. New Wage Sheets [here](#) and Cost Per Hour Sheets [here](#).

New Agreement Booklets: Our Inside Agreement has been reprinted and we will mail two copies to all signatory contractors. If you need additional copies let us know [here](#) and we will get them to you.

Year End Holidays: Note that Friday, December 25th (Christmas Day), and Friday, January 1st (New Years Day) are holidays under the Inside Agreement with Local 302. There are no additional off-days associated with any of the holidays, so both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are regular work days for those that need to use them. Also, remember that Sound and Communication Holidays are tied to Inside Holidays/Off-Days on a Local by Local basis. The full schedule of 2016 Holidays for Local 302 can be found [here](#).

Inside Fringe Benefit Reporting: The Fringe Benefit report (Transmittal) that you send this month (for hours worked in November) will be the last that will go to Los Angeles. In next months newsletter we will provide revised instructions for the new bank and new mailing address for December Hours/January payment. Note also that the due date will be the 15th of the month beginning with the new arrangement.

Sound and Communication NECA Service Charge increase: NECA service charge will change from 1/2 of 1% to 1% of gross labor payroll for the Sound and Communication Industry for hours worked after January 1, 2016. Our Inside industry has been paying 1% all along.

Inside Wage/Fringe Benefit Increase on February 29, 2016: This is a "first" as we agreed to make the 2016-2018 adjustments in late February rather than June.

ACA Reporting: Under the Affordable Care Act, there are new requirements (Form 1095 and Form 1094) that may apply to your situation. If you have no idea what this is, start [here](#) to quickly get your arms around what you need to be doing now.

Foreman Call Changes January 1, 2017: Beginning in about 13 months, an individual will need to have taken our Foreman Training Class at the JATC to be eligible to take a Foreman Call under the referral procedure in our Inside Agreement. If you have people that bounce back to you from time to time, make sure they are aware of the requirement. The next class is currently set to start on Thursday, February 11, 2016.

Lets hope for a "Sweet 16"

Have an interesting, prosperous and enjoyable New Year!

All you need to know about . . .

Obtaining and Maintaining Your California Contractor's License



California law requires that all contractors operating in the State be properly licensed by the Contractors State License Board (CSLB). Harsh penalties may be assessed against an unlicensed contractor for performing work in California. An unlicensed contractor may be subject to both civil and criminal penalties and disciplinary action by the CSLB.

[California Contractors License Law & Reference Book](#). We have selected the portions that may be helpful while going through the application process.

Currently, the typical processing time for a new California contractor's license is 3-6 months. While applicant fingerprinting and background check requirements can cause some delays, the most common delay is due to incomplete and incorrect applications submitted to CSLB.

Politico Group employs full time staff available to help you through the application process, including answering questions and solving problems relating to CSLB and its requirements. CSLB, like many public oversight boards and commissions, is lined with red tape that continues to grow. Our expert staff has years of experience which can assist California NECA member contractors through this process.

Politico Group assists its contractors by providing expert consultation both before and after a license has been obtained, which includes:

- ☐ Guidance in preparing and completing applications.
- ☐ Hand-delivering applications to CSLB headquarters in Sacramento.
- ☐ Monitoring the progress of license applications.
- ☐ Assistance in solving issues related to a license or license applications.
- ☐ Assistance in making changes to current licenses.

Download the Complete Summary [Here](#).

Become a Certified CALCTP – Acceptance Tester - Technician

**The ZERO Net Energy Center
is holding a 2-day training/certification class.**



Open to all IBEW/NECA Members

Saturday 12/12 & 12/19 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (16 CEUs)

Description:

Lighting controls acceptance testing, introduction and installation requirements, acceptance test procedures, exercises / laboratory sessions, review and exam.

State registration fee required.

For more information go to: www.calctp.org

Prerequisite: Must be CALCTP Certified.

Fee for Class & Materials: \$10.

Call (510) 351-5282 to Register



**Instructor:
Joe Buhowsky**

Holds both the CALCTP & AT Certificates.
Also provides the Contractor AT Certification Course.

POLITICO ALERT

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DIR Electronic Certified Payroll Reporting Update

Public works reforms (SB 854) were signed into law on June 20, 2014. The reforms made several significant changes to the administration and enforcement of prevailing wage requirements by the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). Among other things, SB 854 established a public works contractor registration program to replace prior Compliance Monitoring Unit (CMU) and Labor Compliance Program (LCP) requirements for bond-funded and other specified public works projects. The fees collected through the registration program established by SB 854 are used to fund DIR's public works activities. All contractor registration fees go into the State Public Works Enforcement Fund and are used to fund the following items:

- Administration of contractor registration requirement;
- DIR costs for administering and enforcing public works laws;
- Labor Commissioner's enforcement of other Labor Code violations on monitored public works projects.

An additional requirement of SB 854 stated that DIR establish an Electronic Certified Payroll Reporting (eCPR) system and that all contractors and subcontractors must furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner (also known as the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement).

The phase-in timetable for this requirement is as follows:

June 20, 2014: Any project that was being monitored by the CMU/Labor Commissioner prior to the adoption of SB 854 will continue to be monitored by the Labor Commissioner afterward; and the contractors on those projects must continue to furnish certified payroll records to the Labor Commissioner until the project is complete.

April 1, 2015: For all new projects awarded on or after this date, the contractors and subcontractors must furnish electronic certified payroll records to the Labor Commissioner.

January 1, 2016: All contractors (except those listed as Exemptions just below) must furnish electronic certified payroll records to the Labor Commissioner through the eCPR data system.

Exemptions: The following projects are exempt from the requirement to have contractors and subcontractors furnish certified payroll records (CPRs) to the Labor Commissioner:

Any projects monitored and enforced by the following legacy LCPs:

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- City of Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- County of Sacramento

Projects covered by qualifying project labor agreements, at the Labor Commissioner's discretion.

SB 854 also required that awarding bodies submit a PWC-100 notice (contract award notice) for all public works projects to DIR. An awarding body must submit a PWC 100 in order for contractors to submit their eCPR. Awarding bodies are required to provide notice to DIR on all projects within five days of project award. Awarding bodies must register in the PWC-100 project registration system (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/pwc100ext/>) in order to notify DIR of their public works projects.

Our office has fielded numerous calls and e-mails from contractors who are frustrated with the new eCPR system. The most common complaint is that previously existing payroll systems used by contracting agencies are more user friendly than the XML format DIR chose. We have expressed these concerns to the Department and they are working on expanding the XML software interface. To this, DIR recently invited payroll software developers to have their products tested in order to join a list of vendors that public works contractors can use to submit certified payroll records electronically. A number of vendors have developed their own software and transmission methods for submitting certified payroll records in XML format, and are listed on DIR's website (http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/eCPR_System-XML_Upload.html) under "Optional Vendor Software."

We will continue to work with DIR to help address implantation issues of the eCPR system that harm our contractors.



Employers Signed to the Inside Wireman Agreement

Between IBEW Local 302 and Contra Costa Chapter, NECA

We are providing this advance notice to our employers that effective January 1, 2016, there will be several important changes to the remittance process for employer contributions due on employees covered by the Inside Wiremans Agreement covering Contra Costa County.

First, we will have a new custodian bank for the receipt of employer contributions (your transmittal report and checks). Union Bank will replace the Bank of America as the receiving bank for those reports and contributions. We will provide the exact instructions at a later date, but for now, know that you will be sending your reports and check to a San Francisco address beginning in January (for hours worked in December).

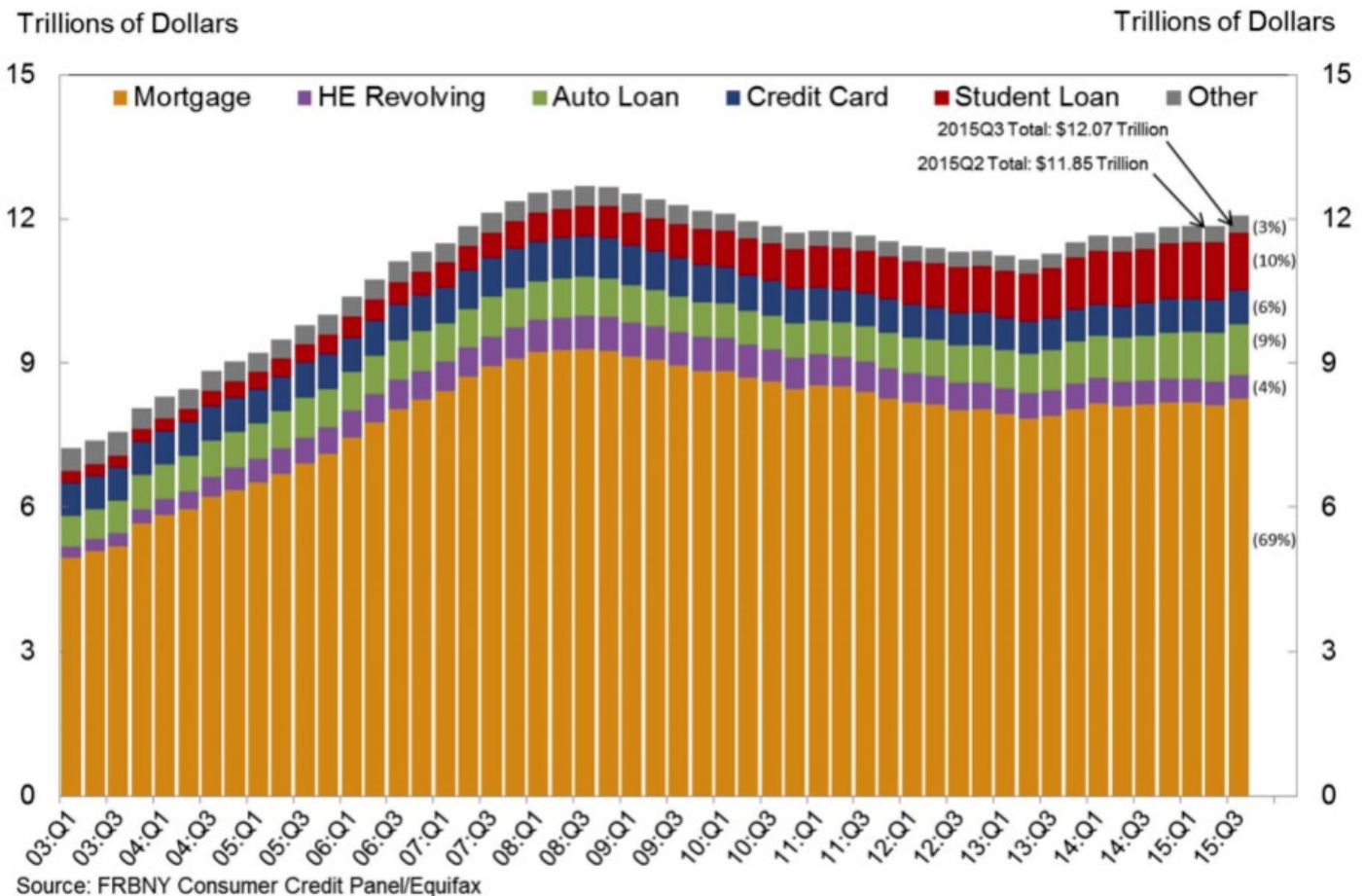
Second, the due date for all contributions will be moved from the 20th of the month to the 15th of the month. Transmittals and checks not received by the 15th will be considered delinquent and assessed liquidated damages. This change is significant. Our new due date will now match all of the other due dates for NECA/IBEW contributions in the Bay Area. We recognize this will affect your cash flow planning, hence we provide this advance notice so that the transition goes smoothly.

Third, we will be expanding NECA/STAR reporting so that you will be able to certify your report, lock it, and eventually transmit it online along with an ACH payment. It will take some time to accomplish all of this, but we anticipate the implementation will begin shortly after the first of the year. Your participation in NECA/STAR will remain optional on your part, but we believe the enhancements will be well-received by everyone in your office involved with fringe-benefit reporting.

CALCULATED RISK

Every picture tells a story, don't it?

Total Debt Balance and its Composition



“Calculated Risk” a Finance and Economic blog by Bill McBride.

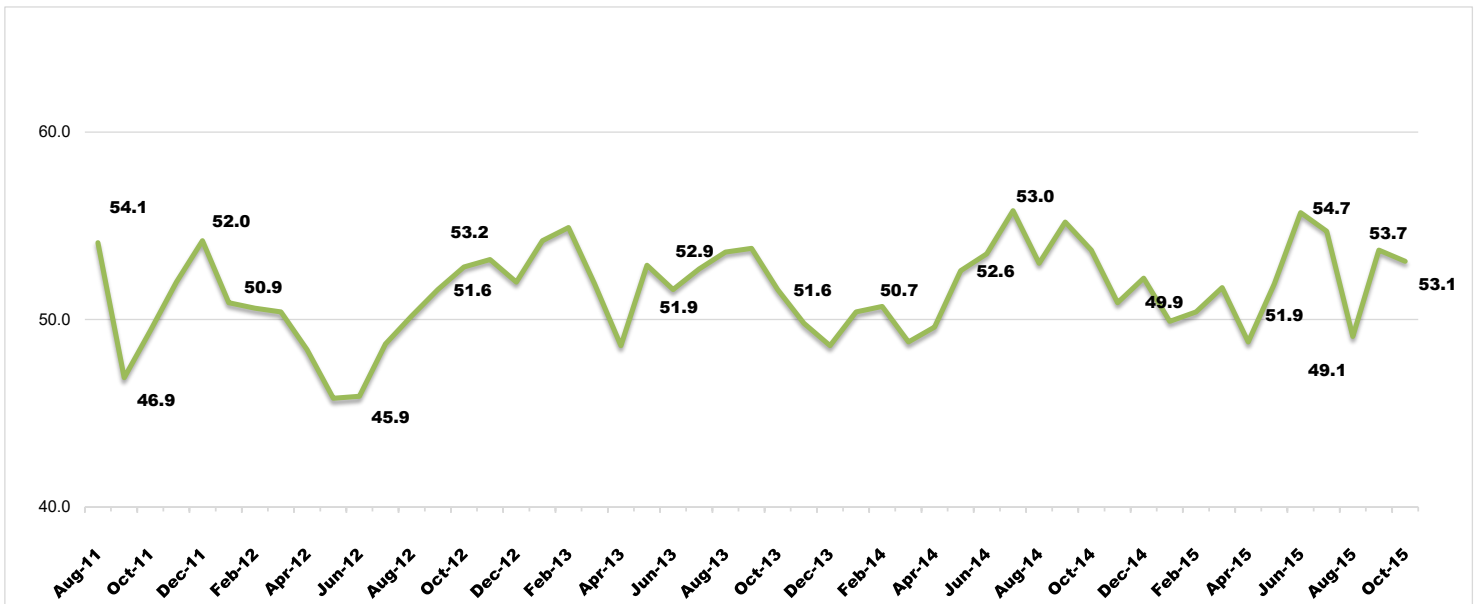
If you want to subscribe yourself, see the link below.

Architect Firm Billings Index

On Solid Footing in October ... [read more](#)

October ABI 53.1

Any score above 50 indicates an increase and score below indicates a decline.



SYNERGY eLinks

[NOTICE OF SUMMARY PLAN INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL BENEFIT FUND \(NEBF\)](#)

[NOTICE REGARDING GENERAL PREVAILING WAGE DETERMINATIONS](#)

[2016 HOLIDAYS FOR LOCAL 302](#)

[CALIFORNIA CONTRACTORS LICENSE LAW & REFERENCE BOOK](#)

[SUMMARY OF CONTRACTORS LICENSE LAW & REFERENCE BOOK](#)

[ACA REPORTING](#)

[SMALL BUSINESS TAX DEDUCTION STRATEGIES](#)

[ELECTRICAL PARTNERS AGAINST HUNGER](#)

[SOUND & COMMUNICATION WAGE RATES](#)

[SOUND & COMMUNICATION COST/HOUR](#)



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 <u>Retirement Trust</u> 9 a.m. Training Center Martinez	3	4	5
6	7	8 <u>Health & Welfare Trust</u> 1:00 p.m. Training Center Martinez	9	10	11	12
13	14 <u>LMCC</u> 5:30 p.m. Training Center Martinez	15	16 <u>Electrical Industry Trust</u> 11:45 a.m. Scotts Walnut Creek	17 <u>JATC</u> 3:00 p. m. Training Center Martinez	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

