



SYNERGY

OUR 48TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

"Update"

... on Building Inspection

One of the long-standing Committees our Chapter has supported over the years is our local Electrical Code Interpretations Committee. Really nothing more than the local inspectors and our contractors reviewing issues that arise in the field, the Committee has been a valuable resource for alerting our contractors to code compliance issues that they should be aware of prior to bid time. With the level of competition today, any rework at all will remove any chance of profitability on a job. At the same time, being an early-adopter of a recent labor-saving device or installation method could give you a competitive advantage on your next project.

From time to time, we contact all of the municipalities (Authorities Having Jurisdiction or AHJ) in Contra Costa County to update our [Directory of Building Inspectors](#). There has been a wholesale change (down-sizing) at virtually every location. Most notably, Kevin Dumford, the Supervisor of Inspection Services from the County Building Inspection Department elected to retire earlier this year. Marie Taylor is assuming his duties under a revised structure that is not something you see in a typical organizational chart. Apparently the municipalities are not anticipating a quick rebound in construction activity. What's more, you will probably see permit fees continue to rise, as the pressure on all public entities is such that they will try to make their inspection departments entirely self-supportive with fees.

Another major change in the inspection community over the past several years has been the elimination of any sort of electrical specialist within the various AHJ's. Until the early 1990's, most cities over 100,000 in population had someone in their department that was called upon for electrical inspections. We now believe only the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles have an individual with that designation in their inspection forces. Combination inspectors are the norm, and like all changes there are some positive and some negative aspects to this. For one, most of the combination people have a carpentry/structural background so its likely that you will be challenged less on NEC issues going forward. Although your non-union competitors will have the same advantage, you won't have to worry about inspectors like one particular inspector I knew from Concord who once told me that he was always tougher on our electricians because "He's union, he should know better!"

SYNERGY

eLinks

[Directory of Building Inspectors
for Contra Costa County](#)

[Registration for Webinar](#)

[Economic Earthquake: California
Should Apply Recover Lessons](#)

[Personal Best](#)

[Politico](#)

Ray Robertson of Contra Costa Electric is the new Chairman of the Code Committee and has changed the format for our meetings by having speakers on emerging issues. The next meeting in December will feature a program on issues related to the inspection of Electric Vehicle Power Stations.



"Electric Vehicle Solar
Charging Station."

We encourage you to attend the meetings and continue to make full use of this resource, as well as the [Request for Interpretation Form](#), in the event you find your self at logger-heads with an inspector.

Electrical Industry Trust

Our Annual Meeting of the Electrical Industry Trust will be held at Vic Stewart's, in Walnut Creek, Thursday, September 22, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. Our September NECA Chapter Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Electrical Industry Trust and is open to all signatory contractors.

Each year the Board of Trustees report on the progress of the Electrical Industry Trust and the other Trust funds that are included in the \$.85/ hour contribution. Keep in mind the Electrical Industry Trust also funds our Apprenticeship program, and our LMCC, in addition to our Legislative Advocacy and Contractor Education Programs.

The Electrical Industry Trust will also be holding an election during this meeting to fill two Trustee positions. Candidates should be a representative of a Contra Costa-based firm that makes contributions on a regular basis to the various Trust funds under the Inside Wireman's Agreement. If interested, please contact the NECA office to get the proper nomination form and procedures.



Annual
Meeting

Sept.
22



NECA 2011 San Diego

October 22—25, 2011



Download your copy of the show brochure [here](#).



Webinar Webinar

Public & Fleet Charging Stations an Introduction for Site Planners

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM PDT

This webinar is designed for potential charging station owners, municipalities, building owners, business managers, government administrators and anyone interested in installing charging for fleets or the public.

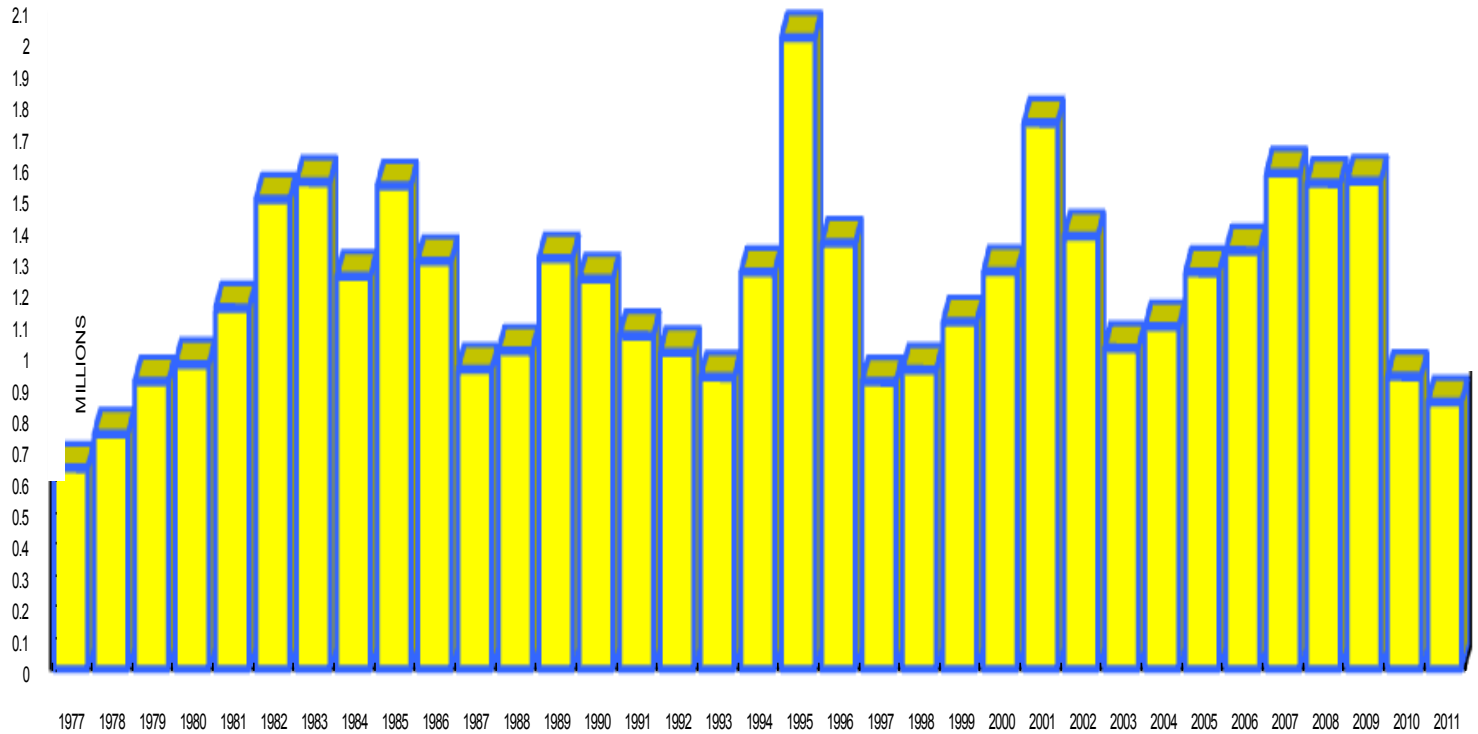
Topics of discussion will include:

- Definition of three types of charging: Level 1, Level 2 and DC Fast charging
- Charging capacity levels
- Recommended configuration/location of public charging station installations including examples of good installations and mistakes to avoid
- Challenges and strategies for monetization of commercial charging stations

Click [here](#) for advance registration.

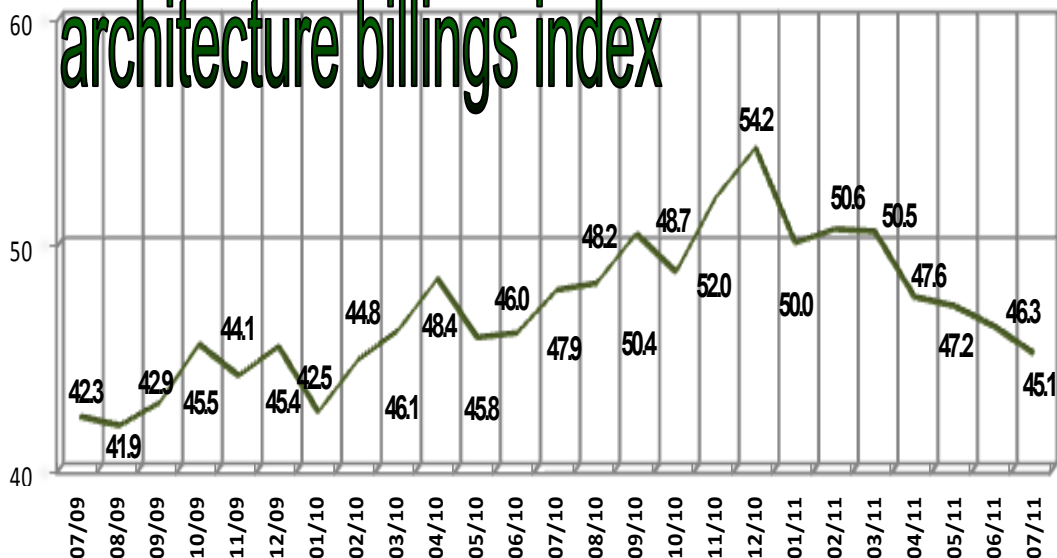


Construction Manhours for IBEW Local 302 Electricians



* 2011 Projected on Hours thru July.

architecture billings index



The American Institute of Architects (AIA) reported that the July ABI Score was 45.1, the fifth successive monthly decline in a row. Any score above 50 indicates an increase in billings.

Darwin Award Winner
September 2011



*“ Most Innovative New Use for
a Traditional Electrical Product ”*



September 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

1 2 3

Carpenter
Off Day

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*Labor
Day*

**Health &
Welfare
Trust**

**Training Center
Martinez**

9:00 a.m.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

JATC

**Training
Center
Martinez**

12:00 p.m.

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

**Annual
Electrical
Industry Trust
/NECA**

**Board: 4:30 p.m.
Chapter 6:00 p.m.**

Vic Stewarts

25 26 27 28 29 30

**Retirement
Trust**

**Training
Center
Martinez**

10:00 a.m.



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