



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

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Court Ruling Protects Public Safety and Taxpayers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG), Caltrans, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) joined forces in Superior Court today to oppose a “power grab” by private engineering firms which would increase the taxpayers’ cost for transportation projects and potentially endanger public safety. At issue was a lawsuit filed by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), challenging a 2013 law which authorized regional transportation agencies to use the design-build process on state highway construction projects, with Caltrans performing the construction inspection.

Design-build is a process utilized by public agencies to expedite projects and reduce costs. The Legislature assigned construction inspection to Caltrans because the State is responsible for maintenance and liability of state highways once the projects are completed. ACEC filed suit, challenging the law.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny agreed with PECG and the public agencies, ruling that the Legislature has the “authority to delegate the decision as to whom should perform construction inspection services on design-build projects.” This clears the way for these important transportation projects to proceed without further interruption, unless ACEC challenges the ruling in the Court of Appeal.

“This is a great day for the taxpayers, commuters caught in congestion, and public agencies at all levels” said Bruce Blanning, Executive Director of PECG. “The greedy, profit-hungry attempt by private corporations to delay needed transportation projects and increase their cost to the taxpayers has been thwarted. Now the projects can proceed efficiently and on schedule, protecting public safety and the taxpayer.”

PECG represents 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California's infrastructure, improving air and water quality, and developing clean energy and green technology.

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