



2021-2022 EUREKA SECTION ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

NAME OF CANDIDATE: Matthew Socha
SECTION OFFICE: Vice President Rank and File
TOTAL YEARS OF STATE SERVICE: 25
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION:
Civil Engineer Range-D



WORK EXPERIENCE

In my 25 years working for Caltrans, I've had the privilege of working in a wide variety of offices in multiple districts. I started my career in District 8 in a design group. I then explored Construction, Lab, Project Studies and was VE Coordinator for the district. After the Loma Prieta Earthquake I moved to District 4 Structures Construction, then DES in Sacramento. After taking a decade off in the private sector I returned to Caltrans here in District 1 where I've worked in Traffic Safety for the past 3 years.

PECG EXPERIENCE:

I've been a member of PECG since Caltrans changes from Assistant & Associate engineers to the current Range A-D configuration. I actually remember back in 1983 when PECG was campaigning to be the official union of Civil Engineers in State service. I have just completed my 3 year term as the current Eureka Section Director. I am proud of the new faces trying out the leadership at PECG and look forward to contributing my experience and support for both Officers and members of our accomplished Section.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

My wife and I arrived 3 years ago, arriving from Colorado. We both love wilderness and nature. After enjoying the Appalachian Trail, Smokey Mountains and the Rockies, we felt immediately at home in our new location. In fact, it was a huge draw for us. We look forward to staying here and settling in permanently. People here have been great, the summer art and music festivals are amazing, and getting fresh wriggling crabs off the fishing boats is a special treat. The Caltrans people I work with are impressive. Everyone's professionalism as a workforce is clear evidence in the quality and conscientiousness of our work. I am proud to be part of this family.