Professional Engineering Licensure in California

Professional Engineers in California Government Golden Gate Section May 17, 2023

Presented by: Mike Donelson, PE (Electrical) Natalie King, PE (Civil)



Objectives for Today

- Who is the Board?
- Professional licensure in California
- Licensure timeline
- Qualifications for licensure as a Professional Engineer
 - National exams: FE, PE
 - Education and Experience
- BPELSG Connect



Who is the Board?

- The CA Board was created in 1929 by the CA Legislature following the failure of the Saint Francis Dam.
- 15 Board Members
 - 8 Public Members
 - 7 Practitioners: Civil Engineer, Structural Engineer, Traffic Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Land Surveyor, Geologist
- Board Staff Enforcement Unit, Exam Unit, Licensing Unit, Outreach
 - 4 Licensed Professionals:

Mike Donelson, PE (Electrical)Josh Goodwin, PG, CEGNatalie King, PE (Civil)Dallas Sweeney, PLS



Purpose of the Board: Protection of the Public

- License qualified individuals
- Enforce laws and regulations
- Establish regulations
- Promote professional conduct

- **Provide** information to the public and licensees
- Anticipate changes in the professions

Protection of the public shall be the <u>highest priority</u> for the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

(Business and Professions Code - § 6710.1, 7810.1 and 8710.1)



Types of Licenses in CA

- <u>Practice Act</u> Only a person appropriately licensed with the Board may practice, or offer to practice, these branches of engineering and use the title in any manner.
- <u>Title Authority</u> Additional authority subsequent to foundation license. Only a person licensed by the Board may use the title in any manner.
- <u>Title Act</u> Only a person licensed by the Board in that branch of engineering may use the title in any manner.

Discipline	Practice Act	Title Authority	Title Act
Engineering	Civil Electrical Mechanical	Geotechnical Structural	Agricultural Chemical Control System Fire Protection Industrial Metallurgical Nuclear Petroleum Traffic (CA only)

PE Act §6732: Titles restricted for use by licensed persons
 CALIFORNIA BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

Civil Engineering defined (§6731)

Civil engineering embraces the following studies or activities in connection with fixed works for irrigation, drainage, waterpower, water supply, flood control, inland waterways, harbors, municipal improvements, railroads, highways, tunnels, airports and airways, purification of water, sewerage, refuse disposal, foundations, grading, framed and homogeneous structures, buildings, or bridges:

(a) The economics of, the use and design of, materials of construction and the determination of their physical qualities.

- (b) The supervision of the construction of engineering structures.
- (c) The investigation of the laws, phenomena and forces of nature.
- (d) Appraisals or valuations.

(e) The preparation or submission of designs, plans and specifications and engineering reports.

(f) Coordination of the work of professional, technical, or special consultants.

(g) Creation, preparation, or modification of electronic or computerized data in the performance of the activities described in subdivisions (a) through (f).



Electrical Engineering defined (§6731.5)

Electrical engineering is that branch of professional engineering described in Section 6734.1 that embraces studies or activities relating to the generation, transmission, and utilization of electrical energy, including the design of electrical, electronic, and magnetic circuits, and the technical control of their operation and of the design of electrical gear. It is concerned with the research, organizational, and economic aspects of the above. (b) The design of electronic and magnetic circuits is not exclusive to the practice of electrical engineering, as defined in subdivision (a).



Mechanical Engineering defined (§6731.6)

Mechanical engineering is that branch of professional engineering described in Section 6734.2 that deals with engineering problems relating to generation, transmission, and utilization of energy in the thermal or mechanical form and also with engineering problems relating to the production of tools, machinery, and their products, and to heating, ventilation, refrigeration, and plumbing. It is concerned with the research, design, production, operational, organizational, and economic aspects of the above.



Chemical Engineering defined (§404(j))

Chemical engineering is that branch of professional engineering which embraces studies or activities relating to the development and application of processes in which chemical or physical changes of materials are involved. These processes are usually resolved into a coordinated series of unit physical operations and unit chemical processes. It is concerned with the research, design, production, operational, organizational, and economic aspects of the above. The above definition of chemical engineering shall not be construed to permit the practice of civil, electrical or mechanical engineering.



National Exams for engineering licensure

- Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam
- Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam



MyNCEES account required for national exam registration and exam results.



Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam

- First step in the process to becoming a professional licensed engineer
- Designed for recent graduates and students <u>close to finishing an</u> <u>undergraduate degree</u> from an EAC/ABET-accredited program
- Seven disciplines: You can take any of the seven disciplines regardless of your education and the license you wish to pursue in the future.
- Computer-based exam offered year-round
- 110 questions, 6 hours
- \$175 exam fee payable to NCEES
- https://ncees.org/engineering/fe/



FE: Seven disciplines

- Chemical
- Civil
- Computer and Electrical
- Environmental
- Industrial and Systems
- Mechanical
- Other Disciplines

You can take any of the seven disciplines regardless of your education and the license you wish to pursue in the future.



FE – Exam preparation materials

- NCEES *FE Reference Handbook* is the **only** reference material that can be used during the exam.
 - Available electronically during the exam
 - Available for free download through MyNCEES account
- Discipline-specific exam specifications available on NCEES website
- Discipline-specific practice exams available through MyNCEES account
 - 100 questions and solutions, including AITs
 - Register before or within 6 months after graduation and receive 50% discount on PDF version



PE exam – Alternative Item Types

- CBT exams include traditional multiple-choice questions as well as alternative item types (AITs).
- All questions, including AITs, are scored as either correct or incorrect. There is no partial credit. AITs include but are not limited to the following:
 - Multiple choice, single response
 - Multiple choice, multiple response
 - Point and click
 - Drag and drop
 - Fill in the blank
- https://youtu.be/sYfq8IY2X7Q

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FE – Pass Rates

- Pass rates represent FE examinees who:
 - Took the exam for first time
 - Attended EAC/ABET-accredited engineering programs
 - Took FE within 12 months of graduation.

Exam	Volume	Pass Rate
FE Chemical	304	69%
FE Civil	3,540	55%
FE Electrical and Computer	732	64%
FE Environmental	396	64%
FE Industrial and Systems	88	51%
FE Mechanical	2,029	65%
FE Other Disciplines	404	55%



Engineer-in-Training (EIT) certification

- Requirements:
 - Successfully pass the NCEES FE examination.
 - Demonstrate a minimum of 3 years of engineering education, 3 years of engineering experience, or a combination of engineering education and experience totaling a minimum of 3 years
- Important:
 - "Engineer-in-Training" is a title and does not give legal authority to practice, or offer to practice, civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering in CA.
 - FE waiver applicants do not qualify for EIT certificate.



Applying for EIT certificate

- Examinees who pass the FE may <u>then</u> apply to the Board for an EIT certificate within the online BPELSG Connect system.
 - \$75 Application fee
 - BPELSG Connect: <u>https://connect.bpelsg.ca.gov/#/</u>
 - Timeline (no deficiencies): 1-2 weeks for CA residents
 - More info: <u>https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/eit_lsitapp.shtml</u>



Questions about FE exam or EIT certificate?



National Exams for engineering licensure

- Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam
- Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam



MyNCEES account required for national exam registration and exam results.



Principles and Practice of Engineering Exam

- Reflects real-world practice
- Tests for minimal level of competency in a particular engineering discipline
- Developed by licensed engineers
- Exam fee payable to NCEES (\$375)
- Register using MyNCEES account after passing FE exam
- PE-Civil, PE-Chemical, PE-Electrical, and PE-Mechanical exams are computer-based exams
- Discipline-specific exam specifications available on NCEES website
- NCEES PE Exam Reference Handbooks available in MyNCEES account



PE Civil Exam

- Offered year-round at PearsonVUE testing centers
- 80 questions (alternative item types); 8 hours (exam time)
- Morning breadth section, afternoon depth section
 - Construction
 - Geotechnical
 - Structural
 - Transportation
 - Water Resources & Environmental
- Discipline-specific exam specifications available on NCEES website: <u>https://ncees.org/exams/pe-exam/civil/</u>



PE Civil – Pass Rates

Exam	First-time takers		Repeat takers	
	Volume	Pass Rate	Volume	Pass Rate
PE Civil: Construction	767	47%	219	33%
PE Civil: Geotechnical	413	46%	77	31%
PE Civil: Structural	1,318	57%	295	39%
PE Civil: Transportation	1,480	60%	276	41%
PE Civil: Water Resources & Environmental	1,524	63%	223	40%



PE-Electrical and Computer Exams

- Computer Engineering (offered once per year next opportunity October 23, 2023)
 - 85 questions; 8.5 hours (exam time)
- Electronics, Controls, and Communications (offered once per year next opportunity October 23, 2023)
 - 85 questions; 8.5 hours (exam time)
- Power (offered year-round)
 - 80 questions; 8 hours (exam time)
- Discipline-specific exam specifications available on NCEES website: <u>https://ncees.org/exams/pe-exam/electrical-and-computer/</u>



PE Electrical and Computer – Pass Rates

Exam	First-time takers		Repeat takers	
	Volume	Pass Rate	Volume	Pass Rate
PE Electrical and Computer: Computer Engineering	32	38%	3	67%
PE Electrical and Computer: Electronics, Controls, and Communications	149	72%	21	57%
PE Electrical and Computer: Power	923	59%	373	41%



PE-Mechanical Exams

- Offered year-round
- 80 questions, 8 hours (exam time)
- HVAC and Refrigeration
- Machine Design and Materials
- Thermal and Fluid Systems
- Discipline-specific exam specifications available on NCEES website: <u>https://ncees.org/engineering/pe/mechanical/</u>



PE Mechanical – Pass Rates

Exam	First-Time Takers		Repeat Takers	
	Volume	Pass Rate	Volume	Pass Rate
PE Mechanical: HVAC and Refrigeration	643	72%	169	53%
PE Mechanical: Machine Design and Materials	301	63%	73	40%
PE Mechanical: Thermal and Fluid Systems	303	71%	96	47%



PE-Chemical Exam

- Offered year-round
- 80 questions, 8 hours (exam time)
- Pass rates:
 - 1st time volume: 169; 1st time pass rate: 58%
 - Repeat volume: 42; Repeat pass rate: 38%
- Exam specifications available on NCEES website: <u>https://ncees.org/exams/pe-exam/chemical/</u>



PE Exam references

- NCEES PE Reference Handbooks
 - Available electronically during the exam
 - Available for free download through MyNCEES account
- Design codes and standards will be supplied to examinees on exam day as a searchable, electronic pdf file with linked chapters for easy navigation
- NCEES practice exams (digital or printed version) available through MyNCEES account
 - 100 questions and solutions, including AITs
 - Register for PE and order practice exam at the same time, receive 10% discount on PDF version



NCEES Design Standards and Codes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oa-GthVuIx0



NCEES computer-based exam resources

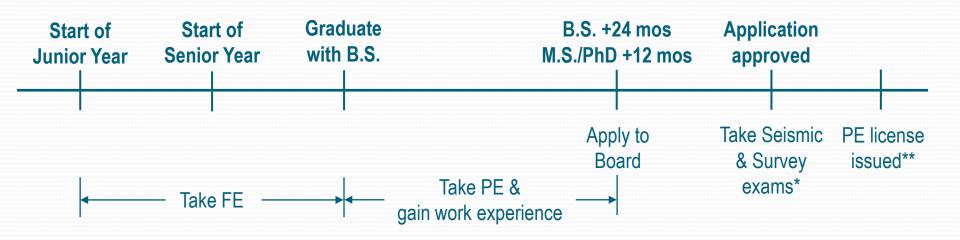
- NCEES Reference Handbooks: download through MyNCEES account
- Onscreen line tool to help with reading charts and graphs: <u>https://youtu.be/yv0wECVrm7k</u>
- Alternative item types: <u>https://youtu.be/sYfq8IY2X7Q</u>
- PearsonVUE computer-based testing demo: <u>http://www.pearsonvue.com/demo/</u>
- NCEES Examinee Guide: <u>https://ncees.org/exams/examinee-guide/</u>
- Video series about exam-day experience: <u>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiZ0hjHNi9jzR8RW69ndkjIgH8</u> <u>bzj0ew-</u>



Questions about PE exams?



Professional Engineering Licensure Timeline



*Civil applicants only - Seismic principles and engineering surveying are offered on a continuous quarterly basis. You will be eligible to schedule the exams after your application is approved by the Board. You may sit for each exam once per quarter.

**License issued after application approval or successfully passing CA-specific exams (civil).

Professional Engineering Licensure in CA

An applicant for licensure as a professional engineer shall:

- Be certified as an engineer-in-training (FE EXAM)
- Successfully pass the second division of the exam (PE EXAM)
- Demonstrate six years or more of qualifying engineering experience (EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE)
- Successfully pass the CA-specific exams (Civil Engineers only)



Experience Credit for Engineering Education

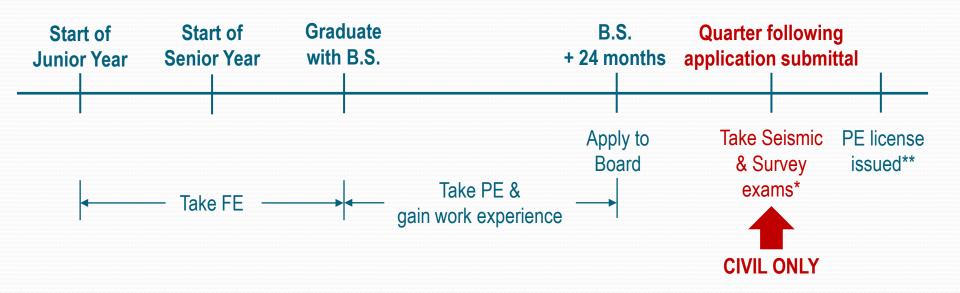
- Must demonstrate six years or more of qualifying engineering experience
- Credit as qualifying experience for graduation with an engineering degree (*Professional Engineers Act* §6753):
 - B.S. (non-ABET accredited engineering program) = two years
 - B.S. (ABET-accredited engineering program) = four years
 - M.S./PhD (Board-approved program) = five years (Board Rule § 404(h)*)

* "Approved Post-Graduate Engineering Curriculum" refers to any curriculum under an ABET accredited engineering program leading to a master's degree in engineering or to a postgraduate degree earned from an engineering program where the baccalaureate degree program is accredited by ABET.

Qualifying Experience & References

- Work experience must be gained after B.S. graduation
- Work experience must meet appropriate definition of engineering
- Work experience does not need to be in CA
- References must be appropriately licensed engineers or legally authorized to engineering
- References may be licensed outside of CA
- Must answer YES to the question "Do you consider the Applicant technically qualified to be licensed as a Professional Engineer?" to be an acceptable reference.
- https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/pe_errf_instructions_2010.pdf

Professional Engineering Licensure Timeline



*Seismic principles and engineering surveying are offered on a continuous quarterly basis. You will be authorized to sit for the exams in the quarter following the quarter in which your application is approved by the Board. You may sit for each exam once per quarter.

**License issued after application approval (mechanical) or successfully passing CA-specific exams (civil).



Applying for Licensure - BPELSG Connect

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- Integrated application and licensing system
 - Phase 1 (Sept 2020) EIT/LSIT applications and online complaint submittal
 - Phase 2 (Jan 2021) License renewals for all licensees
 - Phase 3 (Jun 2021) PE (non-state exams) applications
 - Phase 4 (tentatively Nov 2021) Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor applications and complaint investigation monitoring
 - Future Remaining PE-related applications requiring state exam(s); Geologist/Geophysicist applications; investigation outcome management; license renewal assessment



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Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists

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Board for Professional Engineers. X connect-test.bpelsg.ca.gov/#/User/onlineNewApplication Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists Back To Dashboard Application For MECHANICAL ENGINEER Application Instructions Instructions General Information If applicable, please ensure you have all the required documents ready to include with your Professional Engineer application. For example: · If the applicant has not provided fingerprints to the Board within the last two years, a full set of fingerprints are required to be submitted prior to licensure. Qualifications Fingerprints (California Residents) - Use the electronic Live Scan fingerprinting process. · Fingerprints (Non-California Residents) - Submit completed traditional fingerprint cards approved for use in California by mailing to the Board. (Applicants are able to request and pay for fingerprint cards during the application submittal process). Education · Ensure that education transcripts are made available directly to the Board from your educational institution. Request NCEES transmit your NCEES Record to the Board - COMITY APPLICANTS ONLY. Experience 8 Applicants who are applying for a waiver of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam [also known as an Engineering-in-Training (EIT) waiver] are required to submit a complete Professional Engineer (PE) application. Review the application filing process for requesting a waiver of the FE exam, Special Considerations 企 Work Experience Engagements/References - Please note that for each experience engagement submitted by the applicant, contact information for the reference will be required. Each reference will be emailed a copy of the applicable experience engagement and asked to confirm relationship with applicant, professional supervision, and confirmation as to the claimed experience within each engagement. Fingerprint ⋒ All applicants are required to submit a full set of fingerprints prior to certification/licensure. Applicants residing in California must use the electronic Live Scan fingerprinting process. Out-of-state applicants may either submit the traditional fingerprint cards approved for use in California or travel to California to use Live Scan Process. For more information regarding Action By Another State Ø fingerprinting please visit the Board's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS). There is a separate fee for submitting fingerprint cards. The application fee is required and is non-refundable. The application cannot be processed without this fee. Affidavit A fingerprint hard card fee will be charged if applicable Exam NOTICE: Under the laws of the State of California, the State Board of Equalization and the Franchise Tax Board are allowed to share taxpayer information with the Board for ₼ Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. The laws require a licensee to pay his or her state tax obligation, and his or her license may be suspended if the state tax obligation is not paid. Fee and Payment A Next



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Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists							
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CALIFORNIA BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

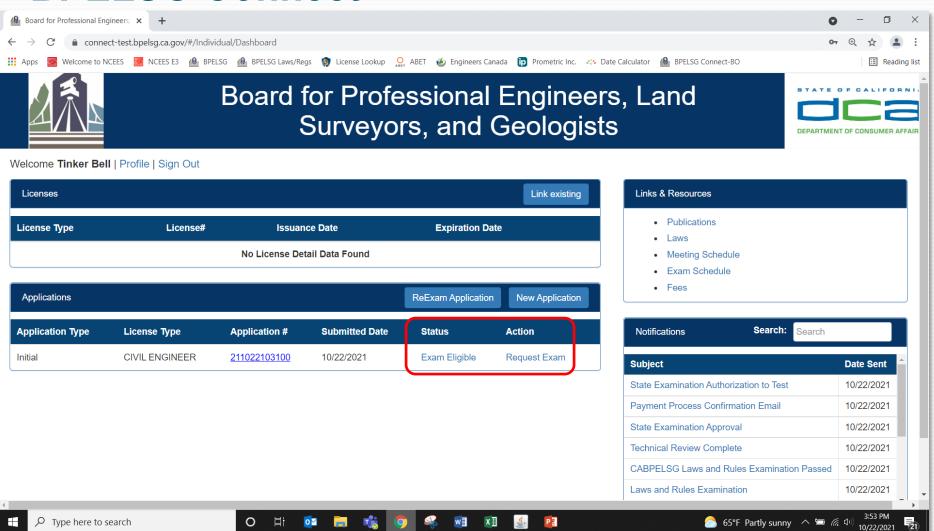
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Common Application Deficiencies

- Transcripts not provided
 - If claiming education, transcripts must be mailed, emailed, or uploaded to the Applicant's MyNCEES account
- Description of engineering tasks, duties and decisions is vague, general in nature, and does not sufficiently explain the Applicant's role in performing civil engineering work
- Work experience includes non-engineering work (e.g., project management, construction project management, project coordination, environmental work)
- Work experience includes engineering work in another discipline
- The work experience overlaps with post-graduate education or is research and not associated with a specific project
- References are not in responsible charge



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← Back To Dashboard	Application For CIVIL ENGINEER						
	Exam						
State Examination Information	1						
Laws and Rules Examination							
	Upon submittal of a complete application, a link to the Laws and Rules Examination will appear on your dashboard in the Applications table. The examination must be completed and passed before the Board will issue a license. All questions have equal weight. You must achieve a minimum of 70% to pass this examination.						
The Board must ensure that California licensed Professional Engineers are familiar with the provisions of the Professional Engineers Act (Business and Professions Code sections 6700-6799) and the Board Rules (Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 400- 476). The Professional Engineers Act and the Board Rules contain the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the practice of professional engineering. The Professional Engineers Act and the Board Rules are available on the Board's website as a reference or as a link in the applicant's dashboard.							
California State Civil Engineer	Examinations - Seismic Principles and Engineering Surveying						
continuous basis at Prometric te	ion 6755.1(b) requires that civil engineering applicants, including comity applicants, successfully pass the Seismic Principles and Engineering Surveyi sting centers throughout North America. Information about payment and scheduling for these examinations will be provided following the approval of y are available on the Board's website.						
Select	Examination	Exam Window Fe	e				
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	California Engineering Surveying Exam	-Select Window-	75.00				
		-Select Window- Q1					
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How to Be Involved with BPELSG

- Examination Development
 - Expert consultants involved in development of CA-specific exams.
 - Workshops are 2 days and held every 2-3 months
 - bpelsg.ca.gov/licensees/smeswanted.shtml
- Enforcement Cases
 - Review enforcement complaint investigation cases for compliance with laws and regulations and standards of care and practice
 - bpelsg.ca.gov/licensees/expertswanted.shtml
- Technical Advisory Committees
 - Advise/assist the Board and its staff on technical matters
 - bpelsg.ca.gov/pubs/forms/tac_application.pdf

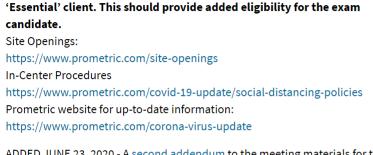


Receive updates from the Board



Department of Consumer Affairs Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists

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- ADDED JUNE 23, 2020 A second addendum to the meeting materials for the June 25, 2020, Board meeting regarding Consideration of Rulemaking Proposals has been posted.
- ADDED JUNE 22, 2020 An addendum to the meeting materials for the June 25, 2020, Board meeting regarding Senate Bill 878 has been posted.
- ADDED JUNE 19, 2020 The materials for the June 25, 2020, meeting of the Board are now available.
- UPDATED WITH NEW INFORMATION JUNE 12, 2020 While California continues to navigate the uncertainty of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and limit

i Quick Hits

- Board Meetings
- Applicants Fee Schedule
- Licensees Fee Schedule
- Rulemaking Notices
- Forms
- Information for Military Personnel and Their Spouses/Domestic Partners
- Subscribe to the Board's Email List

https://www.dca.ca.gov/webapps/bpelsg/subscribe.php



How to Contact the Board

- Board Phone: (916) 999-3600 Toll free: (866) 780-5370
- Mike Donelson, PE: mike.donelson@dca.ca.gov (916)999-3636
- Natalie King, PE: natalie.king@dca.ca.gov
- Website: http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov
- Board for Professional Engineers
- 🕥 @CA_Engineers
 - 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833



CALIFORNIA BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

(916) 999-3637





BPELSG Connect – ERRF Part A

Engagement Dates :			
From :*	MM/DD/YYYY	To :*	MM/DD/YYYY
Total Time Worked (Months) :		Qualifying Experience	
		(Months): *	
Employer Information	n :		
Job Title :*		Employer :*	
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Employer Address :			
Street 1:*		Street 2:	-Select Country-
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City :		Country :	-Select Country-
State :	-Select State-	Zip :	
Phone Number :*	(XXX)XXX-XXXX	2ιμ.	
Phone Number : *	handhandand		
Email Address :*	joe@email.com		

BPELSG Connect – ERRF Part A

All of the following items must be completed :							
Description of Engineering Tasks & Duties :*							
Level of Responsibility :*							
Description of Engineering Decisions Made :*							
Projects (include project name, location [city/state/country], & type):*							
							Save Cancel
Engagement Number	Dates	Job Title	Employer	Claimed Qualifying Months	Reference Status	Reference Name	Action
				No Record Found			
							Save & Next

Definition of civil engineering: PE Act §6731

BPELSG Connect – ERRF Part B

		B - For Reference	
Reference Information :			
First Name :*		Last Name :*	
Title :		Company Name :	
	I am legally exempt from licensure or not required to be licensed.		
License Type :*	~	License # :*	
License Expiration Date :*	MM/DD/YYYY	State licensed? (should match project	
		location):*	
Address :			
Street :*		Street 2:	
City:*		Country:*	
State:	~	Zip:*	
Phone :*	(XXXX)XXX-XXXX	Phone Ext:	



BPELSG Connect – ERRF Part B

Relationship to Applicant and Verification of Work Experience :							
My relation with the Applicant has been/is (Choose all that apply) : *	None 🔻						
Are you related to this Applicant by blood, marriage, or adoption? (If Yes, further explanation is required below) : *	○ Yes ○ No						
Do you verify the Applicant's experience on Part A, including position title and employment dates? (If No, further explanation is requi	red below) * O Yes O No						
Have you personally seen and reviewed the Applicant's engineering work? (If No, further explanation is required below) *	○ Yes ○ No						
I have personal knowledge of the Applicant's work experience for the following dates: *							
From: * MM/DD/YYYY	To: * MM/DD/YYYY						
Do you consider the Applicant technically qualified to be licensed as a Professional Engineer? *	○ Yes ○ No ○ DO NOT KNOW						
Add any additional information you wish to provide regarding the qualifications for this applicant. If licensed in other states for the p	ojects listed by the applicant please provide additional state license information.						
	A.						
From personal knowledge, I verify that the applicant has the appropriate experience in the following areas (Choose all that apply): * None	Ţ						
I certify under penalty of perjury that these statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have personally reviewed and examined the applicant's engineering work.							
Signature of Reference :*	Date :* 10/22/2021						
	Submit Verification Form						

