

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE FLEXIBLE TELEWORK FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

Save Money, Cut Emissions, Reduce Congestion

PECG (and other state employee groups) are **sponsoring legislation** this year that will **continue flexible telework schedules** for state employees. Right now, most teleworking state employees work two days a week in the office and three at home.

State employees have teleworked successfully since the start of the pandemic. According to all reports, **state departments have performed their work productively** at rates equal to or exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

Telework has **reduced traffic and carbon emissions**, helped to **recruit and retain staff**, and **saved millions of dollars** by reducing state office space. In fact, according to the State Auditor, the current hybrid telework schedule could generate **\$225 million in cost savings every year**. Telework will also **eliminate the need to spend hundreds of millions of dollars** this year, and in the years to come, to lease and equip new office space to accommodate employees working productively from home.

For employees, teleworking has **improved work-life balance**, saving them **time and money**, enhancing their productivity, and **improving morale during a time of ongoing wage freezes**.

Continuing flexible telework “could generate cost savings of as much as \$225 million annually.”
– State Auditor

SPEND STATE INFRASTRUCTURE DOLLARS EFFICIENTLY

Hire Engineers and Stop Outsourcing

PECG strongly believes that state infrastructure (transportation, water, energy, health care, and education facilities) **funding must be spent efficiently and cost effectively**.

To cost-effectively deliver the infrastructure projects taxpayers expect, state departments and agencies **should hire state engineers and related professionals** instead of wasting money on outsourcing. Just as one example, Caltrans currently **wastes over \$115 million each year** by awarding no-bid contracts to outsource **nearly 1,200 engineering positions to consultants at a rate that is over \$100,000 per year more than hiring a state engineer** to perform the same work, according to a 2023-24 budget change proposal.

Unfortunately, other state departments collectively **outsource hundreds of engineering positions** each year at costs that are often **two or three times greater** than hiring state staff to perform the same functions.

Despite these benefits, a **Newsom Administration executive order** remains in place requiring state employees to report to their offices a **minimum of four days per week**, effective **July 1, 2026**.

PECG urges legislators to **support legislation this year to maintain flexible telework** schedules for state employees to save tax dollars, cut emissions, reduce congestion, and recruit and retain state personnel.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (P3s)

In the Public Interest

PECG opposes P3s because they have proven to **waste critical tax revenue**, allow **contractors to inspect** their own work, and often **leave taxpayers on the hook** to cover cost overruns or buy out failed projects. California's P3 legislative authority expired in 2017, yet **multi-national corporations and privatization profiteers continue to advocate for their return**. That would be a mistake, but if the state should reconsider P3s, **common sense public interest protections must be built into the legislation**:

- Construction inspection and other key functions** must be performed by the responsible public agency.
- A **cost-benefit analysis** should be performed prior to awarding a P3 contract.
- Non-compete provisions** that prevent safety and other improvements to adjacent state highways must be prohibited.
- Existing **transportation revenues must not be used** to make availability or other payments to private concessionaires.

These measures will **help to protect the interests** of Californians and ensure that state and federal tax revenues are not wasted.

California's most recent P3, San Francisco's Presidio Parkway, was “more than two years late and \$208 million over budget.”
– Sacramento Bee



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PECG

Effective Representation Since 1962

The Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) provides representation on employment and professional issues for over 15,000 state-employed engineers, engineering geologists, land surveyors, architects, landscape architects, air pollution specialists, and related professionals in state service and has been doing so since 1962.

PECG MEMBERS

**Cost-Effective, Timely, Quality Engineering
and Related Services**

PECG members design and inspect California's infrastructure, improve air and water quality, and develop clean energy and green technology – for today and generations to come.

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