

2023 January Quarterly Report – Q1

Section Officers

Steven Johnson
Director

Aman Bains
President

Jeff Kessler
President-Elect

Alexander "Lex" Mitchell
VP Supervisory

Stephen Chastain
VP Rank & File

Julie Cooper
Secretary

Kyle Bly
Treasurer

Aman Bains
Web-Cordinator

Your 2022-2023 PECG Fort Sutter Section Officers



Should you have any PECG related questions or suggestions, please contact any of your elected officers pictured above or reach out to us at fspecg@gmail.com.

Who We Represent

The Fort Sutter Section represents PECG members from 16 Boards, Offices, and Departments (BDO) and is comprised of engineers and related professionals responsible for improving air quality and water quality, developing clean energy and technology, and designing and inspecting California's infrastructure and improving State occupied buildings.

Fort Sutter section currently represents 874 members and 359 non-members. Our rank and file, supervisors, and managers are from the following BDO's:

- California Air Resources Board (581 members),
- California Highway Patrol (5 members),
- Department of Transportation (1 member),
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (38 members),
- Department of Consumer Affairs (18 members),
- Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (19 members),

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- Department of Developmental Services (2 members),
- Franchise Tax Board (1 member),
- Housing Finance Agency (3 members),
- Department of Industrial Relations (42 members),
- Department of Justice (1 member),
- Department of Motor Vehicles (5 members),
- California Environmental Protection Agency (4 members),
- Division of the State Architect (2 members),
- Healthcare Access and Information (44 members), and
- Department of Toxic Substance Control (108 members)

Fort Sutter membership remains about the same when compared to 2022 Winter Quarter. Thanks to a strong and committed PECG membership, our salaries have increased, pensions remain protected, fantastic health care benefits are available, and State work is overwhelming performed by State staff.

Membership Recruitment Incentive

The more members we have, the more bargaining power we have, and the better provisions we can win in our contracts. We are only as strong as our membership is large.

Do you know someone not currently a PECG member? PECG's membership recruitment campaign provides a \$50 reward to PECG rank and file members for each new member they recruit! Supervisory/manager PECG members receive \$200 referral bonus. Please get in touch with Fort Sutter PECG officers if you would like to learn more!

Recent Fort Sutter Highlights

Members Appreciation Event at CDCR Office

The Fort Sutter and River City sections joined forces to host a Membership Appreciation Day on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)



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office located in Rancho Cordova. The event was well attended and peaked at 28 (26 members). While the attendees were predominately CDCR staff there was a handful of attendees from other agencies such as the Department of Toxic Substance Control (several staff present), Department of Consumer Affairs (one staff present), and the Department of Water resources Control Board (one staff present). The event also attracted new employees and members. Thomas Hughes is new to CDCR and works as a Senior Mechanical Engineer. He is currently a long time River City Section member but will be soon transferring his membership to the Fort Sutter Section.

Attendance from the PEGC corporate office included Brandon Cheathon, Media and Outreach Coordinator, and Jon Ortiz, Director of Media and Research. Fort Sutter Director Steven Johnson and Treasurer Kyle Bly were also present to answer many of the attendees' questions and in some cases referred unanswered questions to PEGC staff for more detailed responses.

Fifteen Mountain Mike's pizzas of various kinds and toppings welcomed the attendees as well as PEGC swag in the form of pens, lanyards, notepads, and calendars. A new swag item was revealed for the first time: PEGC pop-socket cell phone accessory that proved to be popular.

Attendees appreciated seeing PEGC at the CDCR location. Said one member, "We have not seen PEGC here in Rancho Cordova in twenty years, since layoffs and furloughs!" Many wish to see another event in the not-too-distant future. The Fort Sutter officers and PEGC corporate staff thanked PEGC members for participating in the event and for their continued support.

Joint Non-Members Recruitment Event at Cal EPA building: The Fort Sutter section coordinated with Brandon Cheathon, PEGC Media and Outreach Coordinator, to lead a combined River City and Fort Sutter recruitment event at the Cal EPA building on February 23rd. Over 15 people signed in and the event saw at most 20 individuals seeking information about PEGC and to also collect snazzy PEGC swag. A successful turnout considering the dreary winter weather. Although this event was scheduled as a non-member recruitment event, the majority of attendees were current PEGC members.



Attendees at the Cal EPA event were from the California Air Resources Board, Department of Transportation, Department of Conservation, Department of General Services, and Department of

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Toxic Substance Control, for example. The event was a terrific opportunity to discuss in person the benefits of PECG membership. Topics of health care and deep class were discussed, and while listening, it became clear that PECG's stellar guidance removes the guess work when navigating through critical new hire documentation such as selecting a health care plan or determining your appropriate range class. PECG officers and staff answered many questions about MOU provisions, general salary increases and pension protection.

The Fort Sutter Section thanks Brandon for spending part of his day with us to deliver an engaging presentation and discussion about the benefits of being a PECG member.

PECG will continue holding similar events throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information.

Other Useful Information

Mass Transit and Vanpool Commute Subsidy: This subsidy increased from \$280 to \$300 per month for all Unit 9 employees. The \$300 subsidy may be used for public transit passes sold by state agencies or purchased directly by Unit 9 employees. The subsidy is also available to vanpool drivers and riders. Check to MOU for more details.

PECG 2022-25 MOU: As of early February, printed copies of PECG's new 2022-2025 MOU are available for delivery. Unit 9 employees who requested a printed copy in early February should have received it by now. If you have not received your requested copy or would still like a printed copy of the MOU, please complete the MOU [request form on the PECG website](#). The new MOU is also available [online](#) the PECG website.

Adopted MOU Retroactive Pay: The MOU that was signed by the governor in September resulted in a 2.5% general salary increase (GSI) that is retroactive to July 1, 2022.

Updated Parental Leave Provisions: The recently adopted MOU has substantially expanded parental leave benefits for represented employees. This has increased leave benefits by approximately 6 weeks at 50% pay for rank-and-file employees through NDI-FCL provisions. For the first time, rank and file employees who have not given birth are now eligible for paid parental leave benefits!

Fort Sutter Section Website: We recently updated the Fort Sutter section website, <http://fortsutterpecg.org>. On the website, members will find: Overview of services & programs, PECG history, Fort Sutter officers and their duties, FAQs & reports, information for supervisors and managers, committees, a link to PECG member discounts, and a link to the PECG Corporate website.

Members Benefits: PECG provides a variety of discount services to its members. Benefits are available online after logging in on the password-protected members only section of this website: <http://pecg.org/benefits/consumer-discounts/>. Please call the PECG Sacramento office at (916) 446-0400 to acquire a member password if you do not have one.

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What's Coming Up Next Quarter

Upcoming Fort Sutter Members Meeting in March: On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, the Fort Sutter Section will host a virtual meeting for PECG members. In addition to hearing from Fort Sutter officers, the March meeting will feature a guest speaker from the PECG corporate office. Jon Ortiz is PECG's Director of Media and Research, and Jon will provide updates on the various and important tasks your PECG leaders carry out on a daily basis. Also, for this meeting, Jon Ortiz and your Fort Sutter officers will ask members to submit questions prior to the meeting, which will allow PECG leaders additional time to research questions prior to responding at the meeting. Additionally, we will hear updates about the PECG budget and learn how a looming recession may impact the health of California's economy. This event is for PECG members only. Contact PECG at (916) 446-0400 or click [here](#) to become a member.

Joint Section Member Appreciation Event – Kings vs Jazz Basketball Game: The Fort Sutter section is dazzling its members with an offer to purchase a pair of subsidized tickets to see the Sacramento Kings play the Utah Jazz on March 25, 2023. The Fort Sutter Section will subsidize game tickets and what would cost a member \$60 is now down to \$30 for the pair of tickets. This is a joint event with River City, and we are happy to report that demand for tickets has exceeded availability. Members that RSVP'd early, were able to successfully secure a pair of desirable tickets for purchase in the lower-level section. If you were not lucky enough to snag lower-level seats, just remember, there's no bad seat in the Kingdom, especially when the Kings are on a winning streak. We look forward to seeing you at the game. And keep an eye out for a PECG group photo option. Go Kings!

Fort Sutter Office Hours: The Fort Sutter office hours program was created in 2022 to give members a chance to talk with a PECG officer each week to ensure that concerns about union-relevant issues can be documented and better addressed by the union. This has been a highly successful endeavor, particularly in bringing forth issues/concerns from members related to telework policy and return-to-work requirements by departments. These concerns/issues have been shared with PECG Corporate and the Bargaining Team. Fort Sutter plans to continue this program throughout 2023 and will continue to share information with PECG Corporate as issues/concerns arise. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for how we can improve our office hours program to make it more effective.

Want to get more involved? Please contact Fort Sutter President Aman Bains at fspecg@gmail.com or any member of the Fort Sutter Board if you are interested in being more involved. If you have any thoughts about what you would like to see from our section in 2023, contact fspecg@gmail.com.

For More Information, Visit Us

<http://fortsutterpecg.org>
