Inland Empire Section

Quarterly Section Report, June 2024
Upcoming Events

The Section 2023-2024 Officers:

Omar Perez
Director

Sylvia Rivas
President

Tim Curran
President-Elect

Almabeth Anderson
VP Supervisory

Aaron Brady
VP Rank & File

Amanda Chapman
VP at Large

Leo Ortega
Secretary

Asif Rahman
Treasurer

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Inland Empire PECG

Section Meeting
Tuesday,
June 4th, 2024

Section Officers and Joya Gilster presented the latest PECG news and issues and Jesse Rodriguez, from our LA Office was also available to answer any questions.

A choice of the following was provided for those in attendance:

1. Turkey and Provolone
2. Original Italian sandwich
3. Veggie (Swiss, Provolone & Bell Peppers)

When: June 4, 2024
Where: DO Basement and Online
Time: 11:30 AM

Section Activities- At Large Meeting

We held our At Large meeting on Thursday, April 25th at the Water Board office in Victorville.

It was well attended and included PECG leaders plus Amanda Chapman, our Section VP At Large.

Special thanks to our guest Speakers Karmina Pagdett-Gonzalez, Corporate VP At Large, and Jesse Rodriguez and Dawn Grosodonia from our Pasadena office. They talked about the latest issues and answered questions that the members had.

Above Left: Amanda Chapman, Sylvia Rivas, Karmina Padgett-Gonzalez, Dawn Grosodonia and Jesse Rodriguez.

Section Activities-
VP Supervisory Meeting

Supervisory Meeting

When: April 17, 2024
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: District 8 Basement
464 West 4th Street
San Bernardino, CA

Who: Supervising Seniors-
(Members and Non-Members)

PE CG INLAND EMPIRE SECTION
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

Brian Simon

Vice President Supervisory
Corporate Officer

Guest Speakers

Brian Simon will present the latest PECG news and discuss Supervisory topics.

Jesse A. Rodriquez will also be available to answer questions.

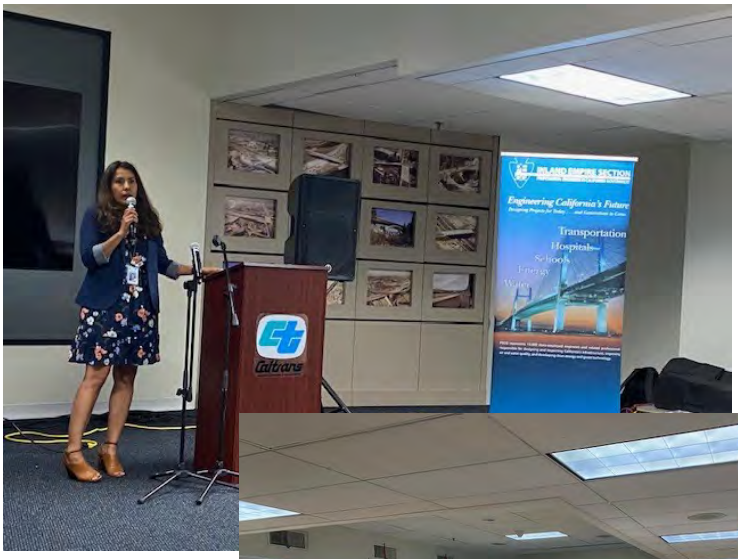
Lunch will be provided.

Please email Almabeth.Anderson@dot.ca.gov any questions or topics you would like to discuss by April 15th.

Jesse A. Rodriquez

Labor Relations Counsel
PECG Los Angeles Office

Section Activities
VP Supervisory Meeting



We held our Supervisory meeting on Wednesday, April 17th at the District Office in San Bernardino.

Many of our Seniors and Supervisors attended the meeting to hear the latest information from PECG leaders and to discuss supervisory related issues.

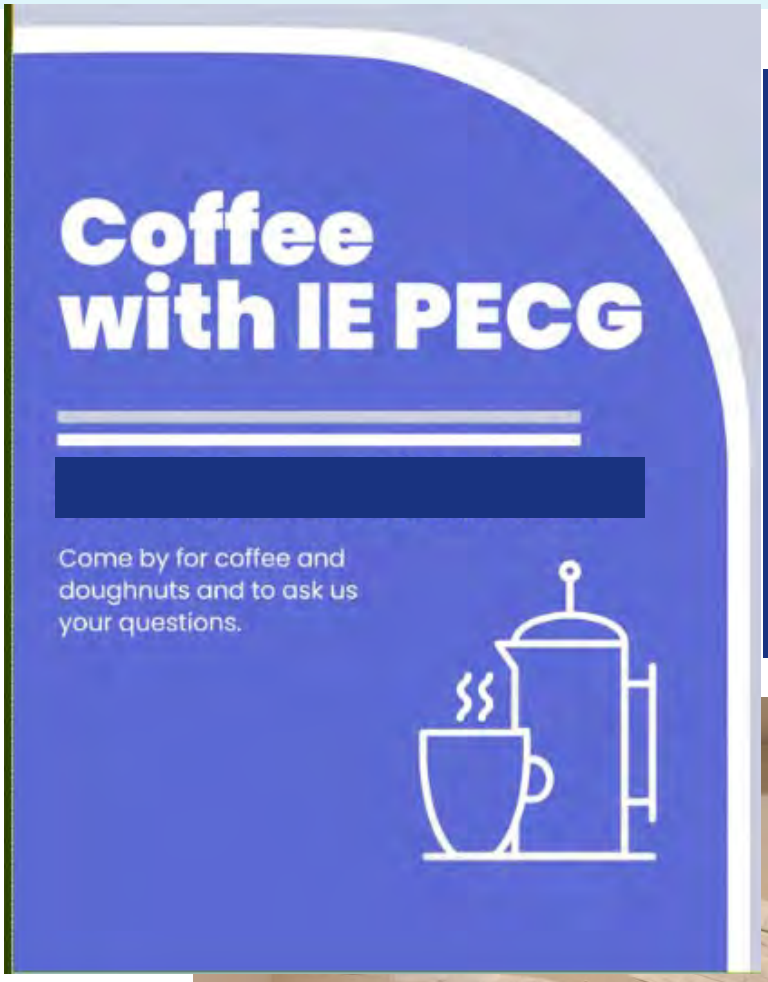
Above: Brian Simon with Section Officers Sylvia Rivas, Almabeth Anderson, Tim Curran, Asif Rahman and Jesse Rodriguez.

Left: Section VP Supervisory Almabeth Anderson addresses the members before she introduces Brian as our guest Speaker.

Special thanks to our guest Speakers Brian Simon, Corporate VP Supervisory, and Jesse Rodriguez from our Pasadena office. It was a very productive meeting with much information being shared.

Section Activities
VP Supervisory Meeting

Section Activities-
"Coffee with IE PECG" Meeting

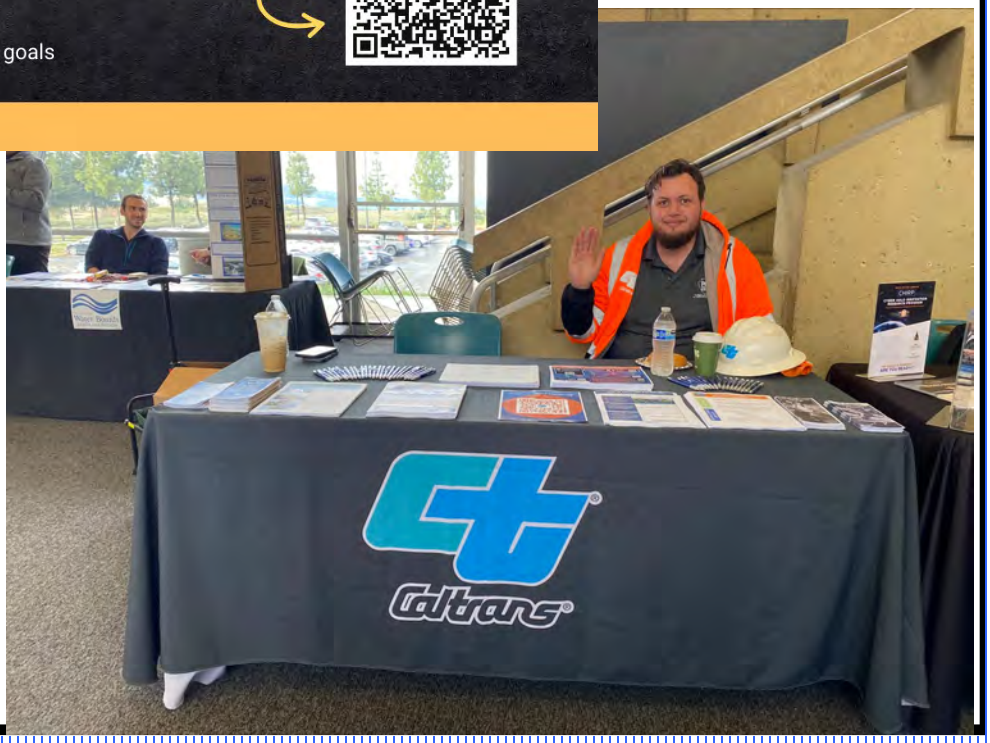


Section Officers Omar Perez, Sylvia Rivas, Asif Rahman and Leo Ortega held another "Coffee with IE PECG" meeting in February with members at the Corona Construction Office.
Members in Corona and other outlying areas receive regular contact by Section officers to stay informed about the latest issues that concern PECG and to get answers to their questions.

Below: Director Omar Perez discusses issues with our members.

Section Activities- STEM Career Fair

Below: Section President –Elect Tim Curran represented Caltrans and our Section at the Crafton Hills STEM Career Fair and handed out PECG swag. This event is known for encouraging students to talk to STEM professionals to learn about careers in the field. It is a good source for exposure for PECG and for networking.



Section Activities- CSUSB Career Fair

Section VP At Large Amanda Chapman staffed a booth at the Cal State University, San Bernardino Career Fair. They met with students majoring in Environmental Studies, IT, Anthropologists, etc.

Amanda and other Water Board employees enjoyed their time at the Fair while also being able to give out information.

Section Activities- Binder Donations

Our Section started an Outreach to local schools to donate excess binders from our offices that would normally be dispensed of. This gave new life to the binders, which would now be used by students for their school activities. To date, we have donated over 500 binders to local schools including Our Lady of the Assumption Schools, the Packinghouse Academy and various Riverside County schools.

Special thanks to Tim Sharp who spearheaded this campaign under our previous Director Mike Beauchamp.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

Section Activities-
Science and Engineering Fairs

2024 Riverside County Science and Engineering Fair

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2024 Riverside County Science and Engineering Fair

RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

2024 Riverside County Science and Engineering Fair

Awards Ceremony

March 2, 2024
12:00 p.m.

PECG Scholarship Winners

Elementary Division
Tyson Dylan Real

Junior Division
Naylene Arevalo
Aileah Jacobs
Lauren Tate

Senior Division
Jazmine Polio
Kassandra Valle
Destiny Vieyra

Section Activities-
Science and Engineering Fairs

2024 San Bernardino, Inyo, Mono Science and Engineering Fair

Above left: Scott with two students after judging their project.
Above right: Ferdinand de la Cruz, Vince Curran and Scott Hongkham help with the judging.

We appreciate our partners and sponsors!

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
Transforming lives through education

SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE

Section Activities-
Science and Engineering Fairs

2024 San Bernardino, Inyo, Mono Science and Engineering Fair

SIMSEF Competition
Date: March 1-8, 2024 (7-days of judging)
Time: 8:000 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SIMSEF Awards Ceremony
Date: March 14, 2024
DoubleTree Hotel, Ontario, CA.

PECG Scholarship Winners

Elementary Division
Karla Parada

Junior Division
Ruiee Shih

Senior Division
Leila Maleki

Section Activities-
Section Leaders Out & About

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

PECG LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2024

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 cost-effective 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 more per year than hiring a state engineer** to perform the same work.

The State of California should continue to hire cost-effective state engineers and stop wasteful outsourcing.

In the 2023-24 state budget, a fully loaded **Caltrans project delivery position costs $185,000** per year, while a consultant performing the same work is **budgeted at $287,000 annually. Other state departments and agencies also continue the wasteful practice of outsourcing** state engineering work at costs that are often two or three times more than hiring state staff.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (P3s)

In the Public Interest

PECG has long opposed 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. Due to the many failures, California's P3 legislative authority was allowed to expire in 2017. However, that has **not stopped multi-national corporations and privatization profiters** from continuing to advocate for the return of P3s. If the state considers reauthorizing 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 to protect public safety.
- 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 forbidden.
- 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 save tax dollars.

In 2019, the Sacramento Bee reported that California's most recent P3, San Francisco's Presidio Parkway, "is more than two years late and $208 million over budget."

INVESTING IN CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

Climate Resilience and School Facility Bonds

On the job, PECG members play **a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and in adapting state infrastructure to the damaging effects of climate change. That is why PECG **supports a climate resilience bond** that will fund critical improvements to **provide safe drinking water, coastal and flood protection, groundwater sustainability, drought mitigation,** and countless other improvements made necessary by a warming climate.

While California faces a budget deficit this year, we **cannot wait to approve a bond that will support investments** to reduce the threats of climate change.

PECG **also supports a school facilities** bond to help build and retrofit **K-12 and community college projects** throughout our state. The **last school bond was passed in 2016** and those dollars are spent or will soon be allocated to projects. California cannot wait to provide safe and modern school facilities for students.

PECG urges legislative support for climate resilience and school facility bonds in 2024.

Section Activities-
Section Leaders Out & About

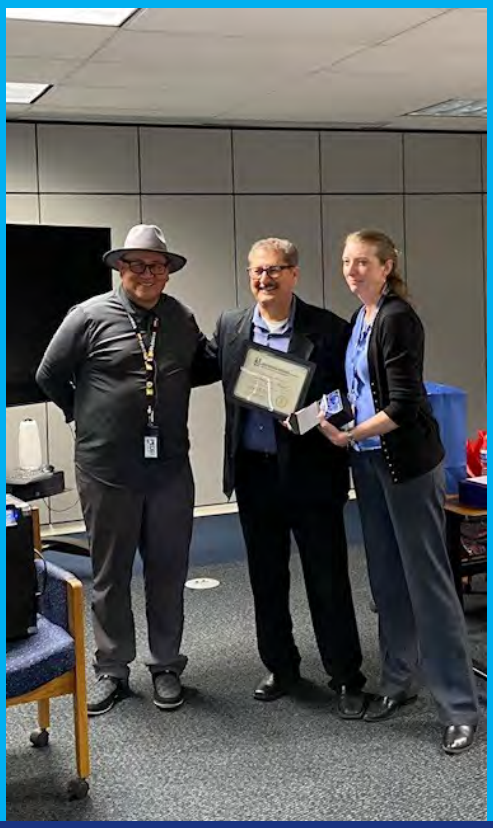
Section Leaders attended Legislative Day this year and met with Legislators and their Staff to discuss important PECG issues and ensure we have a high quality dialog with them.

Among some of the Legislators/Staff that we met with were Asm. Eloise Reyes, Eduardo Garcia, Steve Padilla, Scott Wilk, Mike Fong and Robert Rivas.

Section Activities-
Section Leaders Out & About

Some of the Section Leaders who attended Legislative Day were Tim Sharp, Sylvia Rivas, Omar Perez, Scott Hongkham and Ferdinand de la Cruz.

Section Meeting-Retirements



Above left: Former Section Director & President Elaheh Hadipour recently retired with over 25 years of State Service, most recently in Project Management.

Above right: Ben Amiri also retired with close to 40 years of State Service, with most of his time being in the Design branch.

We wish both of these longtime PECG members a happy and very enjoyable retirement!

Please let PECG know if you will be retiring soon