PECG Inland Empire Section March 2026 Newsletter

Professional Engineers in California Government – Inland Empire Section

President's Message

Leo Ortega III, IE Chapter President

As we move into 2026, the Inland Empire PECG Section would like to sincerely thank our members for your continued engagement, membership, and support. Your participation, whether through attending events, volunteering, mentoring, or simply staying connected, plays a vital role in the strength and success of our section.

Looking ahead, our section remains focused on expanding outreach, enhancing professional development opportunities, and strengthening our membership. In the coming year, we aim to increase visibility across Inland Empire agencies, offer more technical and career-focused development opportunities, and create meaningful ways for members to connect, share knowledge, and support one another.

We encourage all members to stay involved by attending section meetings and events, participating in outreach efforts, and sharing ideas on how we can better serve you. Your input helps shape our programming and ensures that our section continues to reflect the needs and interests of engineers in California government.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Inland Empire PECG community. We look forward to your continued involvement and to working together toward a productive, connected, and successful year ahead.

Respectfully,

Leo G. Ortega III, P.E.

Quarterly Section Meeting – January 13

The Inland Empire Section kicked off the year with a strong turnout at the January 13 Quarterly Meeting held at the Caltrans District 8 Office in San Bernardino. Members gathered to reconnect, discuss priorities, and set the tone for 2026.

Leo Ortega was formally introduced as the new Section President and shared his vision for increasing member engagement, expanding both personal and professional development offerings, and strengthening communication across membership agencies.

PECG Corporate President Ferdinand de la Cruz provided statewide updates and reinforced the

importance of participation at the Section level. Joya Gilster-Nava addressed members regarding the upcoming contract negotiations and emphasized the value of staying informed and unified.

Members attending the January Quarterly Meeting.

Coffee & Donuts Social – District 8

On Wednesday, February 18, IEPECG hosted a morning Coffee & Donuts Social at the Caltrans District 8 Office from 6–9 AM. Members were treated to hot coffee, specialty Vietnamese iced coffee, and fresh donuts.

The event created an informal space for members to connect, share stories, and ask questions. One member even proposed organizing a weekend fishing trip in Apple Valley — more details to come.

Members are networking before the workday begins.

Personal Development Series – Lunch & Learns

Our Lunch & Learn series continues to focus on topics that improve members' lives outside of work. These sessions are part of IEPECG's commitment to supporting professional and personal growth.

IEPECG's Lunch & Learn series continues to focus on practical topics that help members improve their lives outside of work.

Brian Harrington kicked off the series in December with a 55-minute presentation and Q&A session on Bitcoin and personal finance. Members appreciated his conversational, down-to-earth approach and the opportunity to ask candid questions in a no-pressure setting. You can find Brian's YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/@brainharrington

In January, Saul Nunez followed with a mortgage-focused session that provided practical guidance on home financing strategies, along with an extended Q&A discussion. You can follow and connect with Saul at https://www.facebook.com/Realestatenunez/

We look forward to welcoming Millie from MVP Financial Services on February 25, 2026, for a tax-focused session to help members prepare for the upcoming tax season. Milie can be reached at: https://www.mvpfinancialservices.net/

All speakers volunteer their time. No member dues are used for compensation. They participate in educating our members and building professional relationships within the community.

Brian presenting during the Bitcoin Lunch & Learn.

Member Swag – Polo Distribution Update

In December, Aung Naing and Tim began distributing IEPECG polos to members and continued distribution through January and February. The Board has invested considerable time and energy coordinating sizing, ordering, and delivery logistics to ensure members receive their swag.

The Board is also exploring print-on-demand services for customizable member merchandise, as well as custom IEPECG Stanley-style tumblers for purchase.

Official IEPECG embroidered polo shirt.

Supporting STEM – Science Fair Volunteers

IEPECG members are volunteering at the Riverside and San Bernardino County Science Fairs on February 26 and 27 to help promote a love of science and engineering for the next generation.

Section Membership Snapshot

- *Total Section Members: 829*
- *Total Section Non-Members: 249*
- *Overall Membership Rate: 77%*
- *2025 Hire Conversion Rate: 55% (44 of 80 new hires joined)*

These numbers reflect strong engagement — and continued opportunity. Outreach to new hires remains a priority for 2026.

We are currently just short of our Section's 80% overall membership goal. If you know a colleague who has not yet joined, encourage them to become a member today.

Join here:
https://pecg.org/join-pecg/

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Welcome New Members

We are excited to welcome our newest members to the Inland Empire Section. Your decision to join strengthens our collective voice and helps ensure that PECG continues to effectively represent engineers and related professionals throughout the region.

We welcome Justin Wu, Shams Khoram, Jonathan Johnson, Sarah Alfaro, and Daniel Gonzalez to IEPECG.

Whether you are newly hired or newly engaged, we encourage you to attend a meeting, participate in a social event, or simply introduce yourself to a section officer. We look forward to getting to know you and supporting your professional journey.

RETIREMENT SPOTLIGHTS

Rudy Godinez retired on December 19. Inland officers celebrated his years of service.

Rudy Godinez Retirement – December 19

Masud Zahedi retired on December 9. Colleagues gathered to recognize his dedication and contributions.

Masud Zahedi Retirement – December 9

UPCOMING EVENTS

Retirees Luncheon – March 26, 2026 | El Torito, San Bernardino

Disc Golf – Glen Helen Regional Parkway | 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Bowling Social – April 16, 2026 | Lucky Strike, Rancho Cucamonga

Retirees Luncheon & Disc Golf – RSVP by March 10

Members Bowling Social

The PECG Inland Empire Section is hosting a **Bowling Social**, and we'd love to see who's in! 🎳

Event Details (Tentative):
📍 **Lucky Strike** – Rancho Cucamonga, CA
🗓️ **Thursday, April 16, 2026**
⏰ **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** (the reservation covers 2 hours of bowling)

Address: 7930 Haven Ave, Rancho Cucamonga.

IEPECG will be covering **most of the event's costs**. To help secure the reservation, interested participants would contribute the following:

- $5 per PECG member
- $10 per PECG family member/guest (up to 3 guests max per member)

Payment will be collected via **Zelle to PECG (**pecg3@pecg.org**)**.

If you are interested in attending, please complete the interest survey, and please include the total number of guests you plan to bring. This information is essential so the PECG Inland Empire Section can make an accurate reservation.

👉 **Inland Empire Section Bowling Social Interest Survey**

This is a great opportunity to unwind, connect with fellow PECG members, and enjoy a fun evening together. We hope you can join us!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to pecg@pecg.org.

Get Involved

Most volunteer opportunities require only a few hours and can often be done remotely. Whether helping with events, outreach, or communications, your involvement directly strengthens our Section and develops future leadership.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact a Board Member:

- President – leo.ortega@dot.ca.gov
- Vice President – Vincent.curran@dot.ca.gov
- Treasurer – Michael.worland@dot.ca.gov
- Secretary – matt.malouf@dot.ca.gov
- Membership at Large – Daniel.hormozi@arb.ca.gov

We cannot be our best without member participation.

Please reach out to a board member today to volunteer, we can't be the best without your efforts.

Inland Empire Section continues to lead through engagement, service, and professional excellence.