



**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**  
**IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT**  
**RIVER CITY SECTION**



## WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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# PECG Updates

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## CalEPA – Return to Office

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), the Department of Conservation, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife in recent weeks have shared their plans to require all employees to return to the office at least two days a week this spring.

PECG will point out (again) that mandating a certain number of days in the office is inconsistent with the Statewide Telework Policy, and is simply unnecessary to deliver for California taxpayers, as has been proven since March 2020.



Mandates also undermine the well-established benefits of teleworking – reduced carbon emissions and congestion, downsized office space to cut costs, and improved work/life balance for all employees. We will also remind the state that return to office orders will lead to the departure of large numbers of highly trained, experienced, and often licensed engineers and related professionals to other employers who prioritize getting the work done – not putting butts in seats without any identified operational need.

The results of the Meet and Confer meetings on return to office orders are uncertain. PECG cannot unilaterally stop return to office orders or alter the telework policies of state agencies as it has long been considered an employer right to establish workplace locations for employees. PECG will continue to fight for the right to telework “to the fullest extent possible” and for telework stipends for Unit 9 employees. Please look for future updates with the latest information in the weeks ahead.

## Complimentary Member Benefit

To all active PECG members as part of your membership. Effective January 1, 2024, PECG members are automatically provided \$10,000 in life insurance (increased from \$5,000) and \$5,000 in AD&D coverage (up from \$1,500). There is nothing you need to do – the coverage is included at no cost as part of your PECG membership! PECG’s leadership hopes the increased coverage will provide additional peace of mind to members and their families.

## PECG Informer

PECG publishes a newsletter – the *Informer* – to keep members up-to-date on the latest developments of interest to state engineers and related professionals. Read the December 2023 Informer here: [2023-Informer-December.pdf \(pecg.org\)](#).

# What's Been Happening

## Member Appreciation

On Wednesday, February 7, 2024, about 40 people attended the member appreciation at the CalEPA. The River City Section and the Fort Sutter Section provided donuts and coffee to members and non-members and discussed the benefits of being a part of a labor union. One lucky winner got free Sacramento Kings tickets that the Sections are hosting on March 25, 2024. More info about the Sacramento Kings event is below. PECG Leaders also spoke to members about PECG's effort to advocate for a flexible telework schedule.



## River City with the Sacramento Kings

The River Section City reserved a block of tickets for the Sacramento Kings vs. Philadelphia 76ers on March 25, 2024, at the Golden 1 Center. Event tickets are subsidized by the Section, and we expect approximately 150 members and their guests at the event. Additional tickets are still available in the Upper Bowl section by submitting a request [HERE](#). We expect to start distributing tickets soon and be on the lookout for additional opportunities such as pre-game fan experiences, private lounge access, and post-game access to the court for a group photo. We also hope to host an informal happy hour meetup at a to-be-determined location before the game. Thank you to all who have purchased tickets so far and event organizers. Light the Beam!



**PECG River City**  
WITH THE SACRAMENTO KINGS

## Member Spotlight

Paul Nelson is a graduate of UCSC (go Slugs!) and spent 15 years as a consultant working in Northern California on cleanups and groundwater-related projects. In 2017, Paul became a member of PECG when he accepted an Engineering Geologist position in the Cleanups Unit at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. After a brief stint at the State Board from 2021 to 2023, Paul accepted a position in the Southern 401 Water Quality Certification Unit, where he is protecting the waters of the state in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties and specifically working on utility corridor permitting and other SB901-related projects. One of his first tasks at the North Coast was inspecting some of the more remote areas of the region from the air. "It's astounding what folks do out in the woods when they think nobody's looking!"

In his free time, Paul enjoys surfing, mountain biking, and hiking along the north coast. When he is not out in the woods or in the water, Paul enjoys working on home projects and just finished converting his house from gas to all electricity.



Lang Khang has been an engineer working for the State of California since joining the State Water Resources Control Board in April 2016. He is currently a Senior Water Resource Control Engineer within the Division of Water Rights Enforcement Section. For work, Lang is often typing away on responses to emails and messages but has interest and skills in data visualization, GIS, Excel, Office365 Apps, and modernization of the ways California manages and analyzes their data. When Lang is not busy pursuing water rights violations, he enjoys spending time on some of his many hobbies. Those hobbies include art, basketball, board games, cooking (especially grilling and smoking), DIY, fishing, hiking, movies, traveling, and spending time with his wife. Lang recently got married this

past December and is slowly learning the ways of married life. Lang also enjoys meeting new people and would like to encourage PECG members to reach out to him for advice or assistance with PE/PG licensing. As the PECG River City Officer for the VP Supervisory, Lang hopes to bring up issues that seniors and supervisors encounter that may differ from rank-and-file employees. If anyone is interested in discussing anything PECG-related or just wants to say hi, you can contact Lang at [Lang.Khang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lang.Khang@waterboards.ca.gov).