



## Spring 2023 NEWSLETTER

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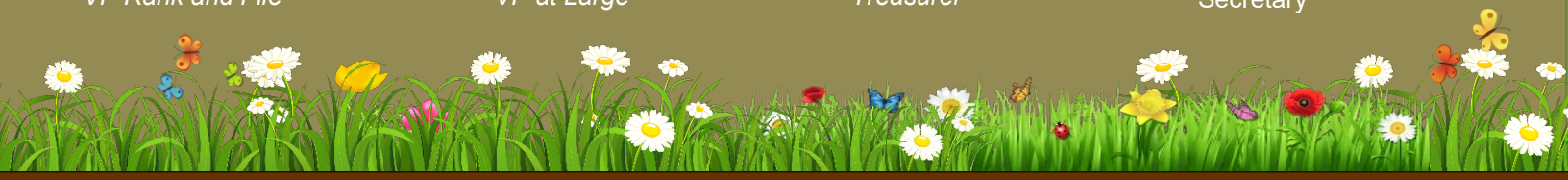
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# PECG Updates

## Leave Buy-Back Program for 2023

Many Unit 9 agencies and departments have announced that they will have a leave buy-back program this year. PECG's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Article 5.19 authorizes Unit 9 employees to cash out up to 80 hours of accumulated Vacation or Annual Leave each year if their department determines it has funds available to make the payments. On or before May 1 each year, under the terms of the MOU, each department is supposed to notify employees if the Vacation/Annual Leave cash out will be available. If so, the departments must also let employees know how many hours they can cash out, not to exceed the 80-hour maximum. The State has released guidance extending the same leave buy-back terms to Unit 9 supervisors and managers.

Just as a reminder, Personal Leave Program (PLP) 2020 hours are not eligible to be cashed out under the leave buy-back program.

Under the leave buy-back program, Unit 9 employees who wish to take advantage of the opportunity must submit a request form during the month of May to cash out a portion of their Vacation or Annual Leave. Payments are to be issued by departments in June. Please keep in mind that the cashed-out leave is taxable.



## PECG River City 2023 Scholarships

The PECG River City Section is proud to offer \$500 Scholarships for PECG River City members and their dependents who are currently enrolled as a junior or senior in high school or in a college or university in a PECG-related field of study. Find out more about eligibility criteria and a link to the application [HERE](#).

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m on June 16, 2023!

A graphic with a blue background and a black graduation cap with a red tassel on the right side. The text 'PECG River City 2023 Scholarships' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side.

**PECG River City  
2023 Scholarships**

# What's Been Happening

## River City Section Kings Event

On March 25, 2023, about 220 members and their guests enjoyed an evening watching a Kings basketball game at the Golden 1 Center. The Kings played against the Utah Jazz. River City offered subsidized tickets and food vouchers. Attendees also enjoyed multiple fan experiences (courtside access to view pre-game warmups and anthem flag participation), a private lounge area to watch the game from, and lower bowl seating. The evening ended with access to the basketball court for a group photo. The Fort Sutter section joined River City bringing the total group attendance just close to 500! Thank you to all who attended and organized this event. Light the Beam!



# What's Been Happening

## Member Spotlight



**Amber Ginorio** is an Engineering Geologist in the Site Cleanup Program with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she has worked since 2021. Amber manages a diverse portfolio of Site Cleanup projects, including former military, private, and enforcement sites. Geology is Amber's second career choice. She spent 16 years in the jewelry industry while raising her daughter on her own. Upon her daughter's high school graduation, Amber decided to go back to school and get a degree in geology. She graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Sacramento State University. Amber is enthusiastic about her job, geology, the environment, and protecting public health. She enjoys hiking, biking, and mentoring. She hosts a mentoring group in the Site Cleanup Program that includes Scientific Aids and newly hired employees in the Site Cleanup Program.

**Devon Jorgenson** is an Engineering Geologist in the Nonpoint Source and Forestry Program at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in Santa Rosa, where she has worked since 2014. Her technical work is focused on water quality issues and permitting on federal lands throughout the North Coast Region. She cares deeply about the equitable protection of beneficial uses of water and leads the North Coast Region's Racial Equity Workgroup and was a member of the Water Boards' Racial Equity Team. She has been a member of the PEGC River City Philanthropy Committee since 2020, where she has facilitated a partnership between PEGC and the Sonoma County Career Technical Education's Community WISE (Women Investing in STEM Equity) program. Through this partnership, PEGC annually sponsors the Girls Tinker Academy, which is a two-week program that engages and inspires middle school girls to pursue STEM careers through hands-on activities designed to explore scientific principles and develop technical, mathematical, and artistic abilities. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and exploring outdoors with her two dogs and husband, rock climbing, cooking, trying delicious food throughout Sonoma County, and reading. However, she will soon have very limited time for these activities as she and her husband are expecting twin girls in April. She appreciates PEGC's hard work obtaining additional parental leave benefits for PEGC members!



# River City Section

## River City Sponsored PE and PG Stamps

The path towards professional licensing requires several years of qualifying experience and critical steps involving multiple agencies. The process is regularly updated which compounds the level of complexity. The Learning Resources Committee aims to help by providing simplified charts, connecting members together, and offering incentives for obtaining your License. Visit our [Learning Resources Committee](#) page to find resources on how to apply, network with fellow test-takers via our Google Sheet, and take advantage of our Stamp Reimbursement Program.



The River City Section is now covering the cost of your professional stamp. You can find more information on our website or by contacting Lang Khang at [Lang.Khang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lang.Khang@waterboards.ca.gov)

## Committee Development

We're always looking for like-minded individuals who are looking to be a part of something more. Below is a list of the committees that we want YOU to be a part of.

- Communications – *newsletters, social media, outreach*
- Members Support – *new employee orientation, membership benefits*
- Learning Resources – *reference material, prep courses, study groups, tutors*
- Learning and Cultural Enrichment – *museum tours, panels, trainings*
- Philanthropy – *scholarships, sponsorships, relief programs, volunteering opportunities*
- Social Events – *luncheons, sporting events, networking events*

If you are interested in joining a committee or simply learning more, please contact Kristina Leyba at [kristinarae.leyba@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kristinarae.leyba@waterboards.ca.gov)

