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2023-2024

San Diego Section Officers

Section Director: Alex Balce
Section President: Ryan Fallica
President Elect: Abu-Bakr Al Jafri
VP Supervisory: Hanh-Dung Khuu
VP Rank & File: Derek Carpenter
VP At Large: Stewart Migdal
Secretary: Javad Rhezaii
Treasurer: Roy Flores

PECG Member Recruiting is Rewarding!

- Recruitment Tools:
<http://pecg.org/recruitment-tools/>
- To Join:
<http://pecg.org/join-pecg/>
- Rewards:
\$50 per rank-and-file employee
\$200 per supervisor/manager

SD PECG Annual Dinner

August 24, 2023



Swearing in the 2023-2024 SD PECG Section officers!

On Thursday, August 24th, the San Diego PECG section had their annual dinner for all the section members at Sufi Mediterranean Restaurant. The evening celebration included the 2023-2024 San Diego Section Officer Installation, a guest speech given by Corporate PECG Representative Jesse Rodriguez, and two \$1000 PECG scholarship awards. Representative Jesse Rodriguez gave an informative speech to the section members regarding current political and economic issues that affected members. This year, the PECG

PECG Weekly Updates

August 25, 2023

PECG's 2022-25 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreed to last year by PECG's Bargaining Team and the State, increased the safety footwear allowance for rank and file Unit 9 employees to \$150 every 12 months for those employed in field positions as outlined in MOU Article 7.3 (Safety Footwear). For the full details, read MOU Article 7.3 here. The website password is PECGdelivers! (case-sensitive).

In recent weeks, we have heard from several PECG supervisors and managers in departments that were not extending the increased Unit 9 safety footwear increase to them. Thanks to the PECG Meet and Confer Team, which represents supervisory and managerial members, the safety footwear allowance was extended last year to all eligible Unit 9 employees in senior positions. Should your department be unaware, please share this guidance from the CalHR webpage

August 18, 2023

The numbers are in, and PECG's May 25 to June 30 image-video campaign was a terrific success, with its positive message about PECG members and their important work reaching hundreds of thousands of viewers – many influential in state government.

Under the direction of President Mark Sheahan, PECG launched the ad campaign to remind Sacramento political leaders, policy advisors, and the public about the vital services PECG members contribute to California's economy and our quality of life. The ad targeted the greater

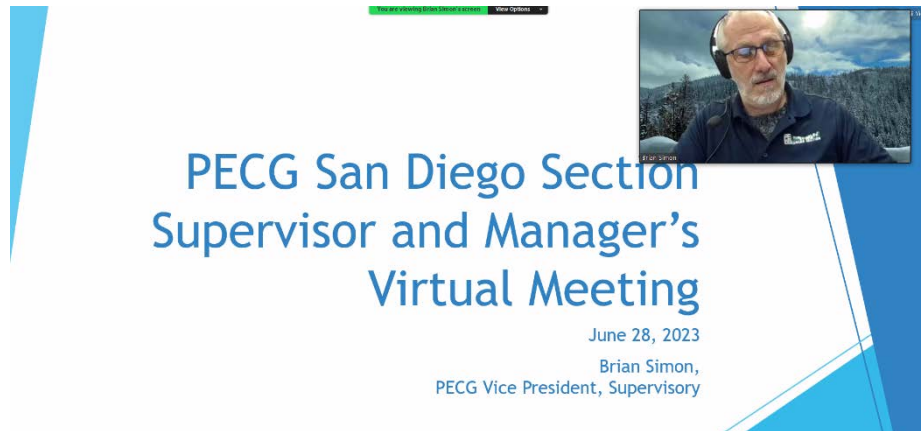
Corporate section awarded twenty \$1000 scholarships statewide. Two of those twenty recipients were current San Diego PECG section members: Donny Cross and Helena Mekonnen. PECG has consistently awarded scholarships over the past few years. These scholarship programs are just few of the many examples of PECG's commitment to supporting their members and their dependents – the current and next generation of state engineers and related professionals.

Your 2023-2024 PECG San Diego Section Officers!

- Director: Alex Balce (per Section Bylaws)**
- President: Ryan Fallica (per Section Bylaws)**
- President Elect: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri**
- Vice President Collective Bargaining: Derek Carpenter**
- Vice President Supervisory: Hanh-Dung Khuu**
- Vice President At Large: Stewart Migdal**
- Secretary: Javad Rhezaii**
- Treasurer: Roy Flores**

PECG Supervisory Meeting

June 28, 2023



On June 28th, PECG executives held a virtual meeting for supervisors and managers led by Brian Simon, PECG Vice President – Supervisory and facilitated by Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, SD PECG President Elect.

Sacramento market to reach the Governor, the Legislature, department leaders, and other funding and policy influencers during the final weeks of negotiations on the state budget, which set spending for fiscal year 2023-24 state programs, including those that employ PEGC members.

The 30-second video, "Engineering California's Future," ran 543 times over 27 days on broadcast and cable television in more than a half-million households and businesses in the Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto region, mostly on news programs popular with State Capitol elected officials, political staff, and other state-government stakeholders.

The web component of the campaign targeted internet users based on many factors, including their proximity to the State Capitol. The spot played 645,000 times on mobile devices, computers, and televisions connected to the internet. Most significantly, more than 80% of the time, the entire ad ran. By comparison, the online advertising industry's standard for so-called "audience engagement," which measures interest in the message, is about 55%.

With the successful Sacramento campaign completed, PEGC leaders are considering broadcasting the ad in other California television markets. Meanwhile, if you have not seen "Engineering California's Future," you can view the ad, and learn more about the PEGC leaders it features, at pegc.org/media/engineering-californias-future. The website password is PEGCdelivers! (case-sensitive).

August 11, 2023

PEGC's Corporate Officer ballots were counted this morning and the results have

IN THE NEWS

Caltrans Host 19th Annual Procurement and Resource Fair.

*Source: Caltrans District 11
August 28th, 2023*

SAN DIEGO — Once again, Caltrans District 11 is hosting a free, in-person procurement and resource fair at its headquarters office in Old Town at 4050 Taylor Street on Wednesday, August 30, from 9 a.m. to Noon.

The 19th Annual Procurement and Resource Fair is being held in partnership with the San Diego Public Agency Consortium. It is intended for small businesses to engage with and connect with over 70 exhibitors and primes from the construction, architectural, and engineering fields. During this event, small businesses will be able to network with local agencies, primes, and Caltrans purchasers and meet with many resource partners to assist them in growing their small business.

After our Procurement and Resource Fair in 2022, we provided over \$300,000 in contracts to Small Businesses who attended the event, and we look forward to providing the same contracting opportunities to small businesses for this year's event.

Public agency partners for the event include the Port of San Diego, SANDAG, MTS, the San Diego County Water Authority, the San Diego International Airport, the County of San Diego, UC San Diego, the San Diego Unified School District, and the Small Business Administration. Contractor partners include AECOM, Kleinfelder Construction Services, Skanska, and many more.

In addition, Caltrans will have information available about our \$250-a-month stipend for businesses who want to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

been certified by the PEGC Elections Committee. The newly elected Officers will be installed on September 23 and will serve for one year.

Steve Lee has been elected as PEGC Corporate President Elect for the next year. Lee is a Senior Transportation Engineer with Caltrans in the Sacramento Section. The current President Elect, Brad Shelton, a Senior Engineering Geologist with the Water Resources Control Board in the River City Section, will become President. Mark Sheahan, PEGC's current President, a Caltrans Senior Transportation Surveyor in the Sacramento Section, becomes Past President.

Here are the winners of the other PEGC Corporate Offices:

- D'Arcy McLeod - Vice President Collective Bargaining and Chair of the Bargaining Team. McLeod is a Caltrans Transportation Engineer in the Marysville Section.
- Brian Simon - Vice President Supervisory and Chair of the Meet and Confer Team. Simon is a Supervising Senior Transportation Engineer at Caltrans in the Eureka Section.
- Karmina Padgett-Gonzalez - Vice President At Large. Padgett-Gonzalez is a Water Resource Control Engineer with the Water Resources Control Board in the River City Section.
- Ferdinand de la Cruz - Corporate Secretary. De la Cruz is a Caltrans Senior Transportation Electrical Engineer in the Inland Empire Section.
- Jane Pham - Corporate Treasurer. Pham is a Caltrans Transportation Engineer in the Inland Empire Section.

California Invests Over \$3.1 Billion in Projects to Rebuild and Upgrade State's Transportation Infrastructure.

*Source: Caltrans District 11
August 18, 2023*

SACRAMENTO —This week, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated more than \$3.1 billion for projects to improve the state's transportation infrastructure, making it safer, more sustainable, and more reliable.

The allocation includes nearly \$1.8 billion in funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) and almost \$200 million in funding from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

“These state and federal investments will continue to allow Caltrans to rebuild our transportation system so that it is more climate-change resilient, reduces pollution and travel times, and improves goods movement,” said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. “These projects will have a direct, positive impact on every Californian. Commuters, truckers, and visitors will all benefit from more reliable roadways and a safer transportation network.”

Projects the CTC approved include:

- \$11.4 million in IIJA federal funding on State Route 78 (SR-78) in Brawley from 8th Street to Ben Hulse Highway and from Jasper Road to Niland Creek Bridge to install rumble strips, upgrade guardrail, and upgrade facilities to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. This project will improve safety—a total cost of \$12.67 million. \$35.8 million in IIJA federal funding to Caltrans and SANDAG for the Interstate 5 (I-5) Build North Coast Corridor HOV Extension Phase 1 in Carlsbad from Palomar Airport Road to SR-78. The total project cost is \$39 million.
- \$24.4 million in IIJA federal funding to Caltrans on Interstate 805 between State Route 52 and Nobel Drive to extend existing auxiliary lanes, widen the bridge, reconstruct on-

Congratulations to the new Corporate Officers! And special thanks to the PEGC Elections Committee (Kim Smith - Chair, Aman Bains, Mahin Khakizadeh, Hamid Khorram, and Ed Yarbrough) for their time and good work in overseeing the ballot count.

August 04, 2023

As you are aware, PEGC's 3% General Salary Increase (GSI) was to be provided to all Unit 9 members – rank and file employees and supervisors and managers – effective July 1, 2023, and included in the pay warrant employees received on August 1, 2023.

Unfortunately, a number of PEGC members have reported that their July pay warrant (received this week) did not include the 3% GSI as expected. If you notice that your July pay warrant did not include the 3% GSI, please contact your personnel specialist immediately and ask that your department correct the error. Please also email pecg@pecg.org and staff will work with your department and the State Controller's Office (SCO) to ensure you receive the GSI as quickly as possible.

As previously reported, the 3.55% special salary adjustment (SSA) for Unit 9 members in 13 Range C classifications within deep classes, effective July 1, 2023, was not included in the July pay warrants. PEGC is working with the State to make sure the SSA is provided in the months ahead. However, the funding for this increase will require a separate legislative appropriation so it will take some time – please be patient.

July 28, 2023

- and off-ramps, rehabilitate pavement, and upgrade guardrail—total project cost of \$26.7 million.
- \$40.7 million in IIJA federal funding to Caltrans for I-5 in Encinitas and Carlsbad between Leucadia Boulevard and Palomar Airport Road to construct a southbound auxiliary lane to facilitate merging movements, realign ramp at Palomar Airport Road, add complete street enhancements, and upgrade facilities to ADA standards. This is a Construction Manager/General Contractor project—total project cost of \$44.5 million.
 - \$10.49 million to Caltrans for State Route 163 between Friars Road and Kearny Villa Road to upgrade Transportation Management System (TMS) elements, upgrade Weigh-In-Motion (WIM) scale, enhance highway worker safety, replace overhead signs, and make pedestrian safety improvements. This project will improve travel data accuracy.
 - \$24.4 million in IIJA federal funding to Caltrans for Interstate 805 between State Route 52 and Nobel Drive to extend existing auxiliary lanes, widen bridge, reconstruct onramps and off-ramps, rehabilitate pavement, and upgrade guardrail. The total project cost is \$26.7 million.
 - \$938,000 to Caltrans for State Route 56 from I-5 to Carmel Valley Road to rehabilitate pavement, install Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, and upgrade facilities to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
 - \$16.1 million to Caltrans for Interstate 805 in the cities of Chula Vista and Nation City from I-5 to State Route 15 to rehabilitate roadway, rehabilitate culverts, construct auxiliary lanes, add bike trail and pedestrian bridge as complete street elements, upgrade safety devices, enhance highway worker safety, upgrade lighting, and make bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
 - \$1.15 million to Caltrans for Interstate 805 in the cities of Chula Vista and Nation City from Palm Avenue to Federal Boulevard and on I-5 at Palomar Street to rehabilitate five bridges.
 - \$1.67 million to SANDAG for Planning, Programming and Monitoring.
 - \$3.4 million to Caltrans for State Route 125 in La Mesa at Panorama Drive under-crossing and on State Route 52 at the San Diego River – Hollins Lake Bridge to apply a polyester concrete overlay to bridge decks, apply methacrylate to approach slabs and repair spalls.
 - \$9.5 million to Caltrans for State Route 78 in Oceanside between El Camino Real and College Boulevard to replace

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) Board of Administration met last week and reported good news and bad. On the positive side, the preliminary net return (earnings) on investments for the 12-month fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023, was 5.8%. A positive net return helps to quiet those who oppose public employee defined-benefit pensions and constantly attack CalPERS and other public pension systems. You will remember that last year CalPERS' negative 6.1% rate of return generated a lot of criticism. For additional details about the 2022-23 returns, please see CalPERS' press release.

Over the past 30 years, CalPERS has averaged an annual return rate of 7.5%. At the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year, the CalPERS system was estimated to be 72% funded with a total fund value of \$462.8 billion.

On the not good news front, the CalPERS Board also approved the results of final rate negotiations with their health plan providers to establish monthly premiums for 2024. The overall weighted average increase for CalPERS health plans will be 10.77% next year. Last year, the average rate increase was 6.75%.

Rate changes in 2024 vary widely from plan to plan. All HMO and PPO Basic plans see an increase over 2023 rates, and only two Medicare plans will see a decrease. The largest HMO Basic plan increase is for Kaiser Permanente Out of State at 13.59%, followed by Kaiser Permanente California at 13.07%. Medicare Advantage plans will see an average increase of 13.17%.

For Basic PPOs, PERS Platinum and PERS Gold premiums will increase by 12.18% and 12.17%, respectively. Medicare PPO

damaged culverts, modify inlets and junctions, replace damaged pavement, replace damaged guardrail and concrete barrier, reconstruct embankment, and place erosion control.

- \$1.3 million to Caltrans for I-805 at San Ysidro Boulevard to install shoring and backfill with rapid-strength concrete, clean out and inspect the drainage system, replace the culvert, and repair damaged pavement.
- \$1.3 million to Caltrans for I-805 in Chula Vista from East H Street to Bonita Road to rebuild the compromised slope, repair the damaged irrigation system, replace the guardrail, and reconstruct the damaged road components.
- \$1 million to Caltrans for I-805 in San Diego at El Cajon Boulevard to replace the damaged culvert and install an inlet, backfill with rapid strength concrete, rebuild the embankment, and install erosion control.
- \$12.7 million to Caltrans for I-805 in San Diego at Carroll Canyon Road to excavate the roadway, perform injection grouting, install ground anchors, apply shotcrete to the retaining wall, replace the culvert, and repair pavement and concrete damage.
- \$9.1 million to Caltrans for I-5, I-8, I-15, SR-54, SR-67, SR-78, SR-79, SR-94, SR-125, and I-805 at various locations to grind and replace damaged pavement portions with Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) to repair damaged pavement.
- \$150,000 to the city of Imperial Beach on Palm Avenue between 13th Street and Rainbow Drive for active transportation improvements, including Class IV bike lanes, crosswalks, curb extensions, street trees, lighting, transit islands, and ADA curb ramps and sidewalks.
- \$1.1 million to the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) for the city of El Centro East Mail Street/Even Hewes Highway Rehabilitation Project from Dogwood Road to Eastern City Limits.
- \$1 million to ICTC for the city of El Centro for the Evan Hewes Highway Rehabilitation Project from eastern El Centro to State Route. The project improvements include the grinding of an existing deteriorated pavement layer, crack sealing, pre-leveling course of asphalt concrete, and asphalt concrete overlay with a geosynthetic interlayer fabric.
- \$258,000 to ICTC for Planning, Programming and Monitoring.

“Thanks to these funds from the CTC, our crews are paving the way for a safer and smoother tomorrow,” said Caltrans District 11 Director Gustavo Dallarda. “By fixing and replacing our concrete,

plans will see an average increase of 6.62%.

PECG Member Involvement

If you are interested in volunteering on any one of these San Diego Section Committees, please email our Section President, Alex Balce at:

alex.balce@dot.ca.gov

- Events Planning Committee
- Health & Safety Comment
- Membership Committee
- Nominations & Election Committee
- Policy & Bylaws Committee
- Political Involvement Committee
- Retirement Committee
- Scholarship & Student Monitoring Committee
- Public Outreach Committee
- Science Fair Committee Events Committee
- Grievance Committee
- STEM Committee

QUICK LINKS

- Visit San Diego Section
sandiegopecg.org
- Follow us on Twitter/X
twitter.com/pecg_sandiego
- Health Plan Premiums 2023
<https://pecg.org/members/resources/health-plan-premiums/>
- New MOU: 2022-2025
<https://pecg.org/2022-2025-mou/>
- PECG Informer
pecg.org/communications/informer

asphalt, and culverts, we assure our users of a reliable transportation network.”

The IIJA, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” is a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation’s infrastructure to improve the sustainability and resiliency of our energy, water, broadband, and transportation systems. California has received over \$22 billion since the IIJA’s passage in November 2021.

SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding that is shared equally between the state and local agencies annually. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1.

For more information about California transportation projects funded by the IIJA and SB 1, visit RebuildingCA.ca.gov.



PECG Laughs

What do you call the child of a civil engineer?

A truss fund baby!

-From UpJoke