



### In This Issue

- Design Day with SDSU p 1
- SD PEGG Section Mtg p 2
- SD PEGG Outreach Event p 2
- SDCEC Eng. Dinner p 4
- In The News p 5
- PEGG Laughs p 7

### 2022-2023

### San Diego Section Officers

Section Director: Frank Contreras  
Section President: Alex Balce  
President Elect: Ryan Fallica  
VP Supervisory: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri  
VP Rank & File: Karen Islas  
VP At Large: Stewart Migdal  
Secretary: Sherry Tadros  
Treasurer: Roy Flores

### PEGG 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

## Design Day with SDSU!

December 9, 2022



*Students from San Diego State University showcasing their projects at Caltrans District Office.*

On December 9, 2022, students from San Diego State University arrived at Caltrans' District Office in Old Town to showcase their senior design projects. Design Day is an annual event co-hosted by Caltrans in which students and engineering professionals can share engaging conversations about the projects and network! The projects for this Design Day included: SDSU Bike Bath, Holland Street Bike Path Bridge, San Elijo WWTP Aeration Basin Conversion, Encina Centrate and Scrubber Pump Station, SDSU Alvarado Housing Development, and The Seaport San Diego Shoreline Stabilization. The San Diego Section sponsored refreshments for the event.

## PECG Weekly Updates

February 2, 2023

As reported in previous Weekly Updates, the State has issued multiple pay letters to provide the 2.5% General Salary Increase (GSI) to all Unit 9 members – rank and file employees and supervisors and managers – effective July 1, 2022, and to implement the many new and improved pay differentials that are part of PECG’s 2022-25 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The vast majority of PECG members report having received the GSI and the related back pay. Unfortunately, we continue to hear from members that have yet to receive the differential increases and the associated back pay.

If you have yet to receive your GSI, a differential increase, or the back pay associated with them – please notify your Personnel Specialist immediately. Please also share your circumstance with PECG by emailing us at [pecg@pecg.org](mailto:pecg@pecg.org). We continue to follow up with departments to urge that they take the necessary steps to ensure that Unit 9 employees receive the pay increases they are due as soon as is possible.

January 27, 2023

If your retirement plan is set, or you are contemplating retiring in the near future, please remember that you can continue to be part of PECG by becoming a PECG retired member. PECG makes it easy to sign up for retiree membership with the online application on the PECG webpage

## SD PECG Section Meeting

January 18, 2023



*PECG Corporate President, Mark Sheahan, guest speaking at the PECG San Diego Section Virtual Meeting.*

On January 18, 2023, the San Diego PECG Section hosted a virtual meeting for section members with PECG Corporate President Mark Sheahan, as the guest speaker. Mark provided a fiscal outlook for the year ahead. This meeting also provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and inquire important information regarding benefits, general salaries, and much more. A \$15 gift card was provided to members that in attended in lieu of lunch.

## SD PECG Outreach Event!

February 7, 2023

San Diego PECG Section officers hosted an in-person outreach event for all Caltrans District 11 employees. PECG sponsored the event with pizza and refreshments and the event allowed for both current members and non-members to meet and mingle with the Section’s officers. Attendees not only got to meet their Section Officers, but also learned about the benefits of PECG membership, join PECG, learn about state benefits, and even enjoy free PECG memorabilia! A big thank you to PECG staff, Brandon Cheathon, and Marysville President, Raj Chadha, for supporting this outreach event.

here. The password is PECGdelivers! (case-sensitive).

For just \$8 per month, PECG retired members under age 70 are automatically enrolled in a \$1,500 Basic Life Insurance plan and also receive \$1,500 of accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage. At age 70, your dues will drop to \$4 a month because the basic life and AD&D insurance coverage is no longer provided by PECG's insurer.

But retired members regardless of age continue to receive PECG Weekly Updates and the Informer newsletter to keep you up-to-date on important news, including PECG's work to protect your pension, health care, and other retiree benefits. And, as a retired member, if you have any trouble with your retirement benefits, a PECG staff member is just an email or phone call away.

You will also continue to receive PECG's annual pocket and wall calendars and enjoy PECG's low-cost group auto and homeowner insurance, as well as substantial savings on consumer goods and vacation discounts.

PECG thanks you for your public service and hopes you enjoy your well-deserved retirement. If you have any questions about your PECG membership or retirement, please email [pecg@pecg.org](mailto:pecg@pecg.org) or contact PECG's headquarters office in Sacramento at 916-446-0400 (or at 1-800-338-1480 if you are outside of California).

*January 20, 2023*

This is a good time for a friendly reminder about the Dependent Re-verification Program (DRV), under which all state



*SD PECG Section Officers at the Outreach Event.*



*Caltrans employees meet in the Caltrans' District Office Courtyard for Outreach Event*

employees and retirees with spouses, domestic partners, children, and other dependents enrolled in a state health care plan must provide documentation that those family members are eligible to continue receiving medical and dental benefits. The DRV process runs on a three-year cycle with set deadlines for state employees and retirees to submit eligibility documentation based on your birth month.

According to the State, failure to complete the DRV process will result in the cancellation of health and dental insurance for unverified dependents.

For complete DRV details, including a list of acceptable documents to verify dependency status, please see CalHR's website by [clicking here](#). You can also view more information about the program on the CalPERS website [here](#).

### January 13, 2023

On Tuesday, Governor Newsom kicked off the budget debate at the State Capitol with the release of his proposed 2023-24 State Budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2023.

According to the Administration, after years of surpluses, the budget next year will slip into deficit. Specifically, the proposed budget projects a \$22.5 billion deficit in 2023-24 due to a \$29.5 billion decline in tax revenue projections during the current and next fiscal years. Tax revenues are down due to an economy weakened by inflation, federal interest rate hikes, and stock market declines.

The result is a 2023-24 proposed budget that totals \$297 billion, which represents a 3.5% reduction from the current \$308

# SDCEC Engineering Awards and Dinner!

February 19, 2023



*Pictured: SDCEC President, Debra Kimberling (left) and SD PECG Section President, Alex Balce (right).*

The San Diego Section is a proud sponsor of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual San Diego Engineers Week Awards Ceremony and Reception hosted by the San Diego County Engineering Council (SDCEC). The outdoor reception included raffles and display tables featuring over 20 engineering societies including the PECG San Diego Section. The event was a great opportunity to gather, network, and meet other members. The awards ceremony also recognized the amazing achievements of the local engineering professionals! Collegiate members and high school students were also invited to attend!

billion budget. To close the deficit, the Administration proposes to delay or pull back nearly \$20 billion in spending authorized in the last two state budgets, which were marked by historic surpluses. For now, the Administration is not proposing to use the State's \$36 billion in available reserves, including the \$22 billion in the Rainy Day Fund, as part of their deficit reduction plan.

Importantly, the proposed budget provides funding for the Unit 9 general salary increase, and other pay and benefit improvements, due July 1, 2023 – per PECG's 2022-25 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). That funding is included within the \$487.5 million the budget provides to pay increased compensation and health care costs required by MOUs that are currently in place. The proposed budget notes that the Administration will soon begin negotiations with 14 other state bargaining units that have MOUs that expire this summer. No money is included at this time for pay or benefit increases for those units.

In addition to the statutorily required \$8.5 billion payment to CalPERS, the proposed budget includes a \$1.2 billion supplemental payment to bolster the fund next year. The proposed budget also includes the state's required contributions to fund health care for active employees and retirees, and to meet the state's share of prefunding future retiree health care costs.

Of course, this is just the start of the budget process. The budget will go through review and ultimately be approved by the State Legislature over the next 6 months. PECG will be there to protect the interests of Unit 9 employees and will keep members up to date in the weeks ahead on any important developments. To read the summary and the details of the Administration's 2023-



*Pictured: SDCEC VP and SD PECG At-Large Delegate Jeanne Sabin (left) and SD PECG Section President, Alex Balce (right).*

## IN THE NEWS

# California Invests Nearly \$1 Billion for Transportation Improvements

*Source: Caltrans District 11  
January 27, 2023*

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated over \$988 million today to repair and improve transportation infrastructure throughout the state. This funding includes more than \$450 million from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) and more than \$250 million from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

2024 State Budget proposal, please click [here](#).

## 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](mailto: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](http://sandiegopecg.org)
- Follow us on Twitter  
[Twitter.com/pecg\\_sandiego](https://twitter.com/pecg_sandiego)
- Health Plan Premiums 2023  
<https://pecg.org/members/resources/health-plan-premiums/>
- New MOU: 2022-2025

“The CTC’s investments will help rebuild California’s transportation infrastructure while increasing transit and active transportation options. These projects reflect the CTC and Caltrans’ commitment to safety and meeting future challenges,” said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares.

Projects the CTC approved include:

\$14,000,000 to design a suicide deterrent system for the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge and I-5 connector over-crossings to reduce the number of suicide attempts on the bridge. At the January meeting, The California Transportation Commission adopted this project into the State Highway Operation and Preservation Program (SHOPP).

“This funding allocation by the CTC is an important milestone in the Coronado Bay Bridge Suicide Deterrent Project. Last year, the project completed the environmental review process,” said Caltrans District 11 Director Gustavo Dallarda. “This new funding is an important next step to allow Caltrans to move into the final design phase of the project. An untraditional project for Caltrans, but an important one that will have a big impact on the lives of many Californians.”

A link to the San Diego – Coronado Bay Bridge Suicide Deterrent Final Environmental Document can be found here: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-11/current-projects/coronadobridge>.

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 transportation projects funded by SB 1, visit [RebuildingCA.ca.gov](http://RebuildingCA.ca.gov).

# Caltrans to Host Free Debris Disposal & Holiday Food Drive Event in San Diego

*Source: Caltrans District 11  
December 13, 2022*

<https://pecg.org/2022-2025-mou/>

- PEGC Informer  
[pecg.org/communications/informer/](https://pecg.org/communications/informer/)

## PEGC Laughs

What's a civil engineer's favorite type of tea?

Structural integri-tea!

-From UpJoke



**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE

**Improve your public speaking and  
enhance your leadership skills!**  
**Membership fees are reimbursable per  
MOU Section 3.3b.**

Join our Webex meeting every Tuesday at  
12:00-1:00 PM

Please contact:

Abu- Bakr Al-Jafri, VP Membership at  
[abu-bakr.h.al-jafri@dot.ca.gov](mailto:abu-bakr.h.al-jafri@dot.ca.gov) or  
Kimberly Dodson, VP Education at  
[kimberly.dodson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kimberly.dodson@dot.ca.gov)

The dump day event is part of Governor Gavin Newsom's Clean California initiative, a sweeping \$1.2 billion, multiyear clean-up effort led by Caltrans to keep roads and waterways free of litter, create thousands of jobs, and transform state and local public spaces through beautification efforts. As part of the litter collection component, Caltrans is hosting free dump day events where the public can dispose of household waste safely and properly for free to decrease highway debris and illegal dumping. Caltrans District 11 has held more than 25 such events in San Diego and Imperial Counties since launching Clean California in Summer 2021. Prohibited items that will not be accepted include hazardous waste (batteries, paint, oils, flammables, etc.), construction debris (concrete, dirt, asphalt, asbestos), compressed gas, aerosols, treated wood waste, refrigerators, and freezers. Four mattresses and four tires separated from the rims will be accepted per household.

Scheduled events and prohibited items are subject to change. For more information and prohibited items please visit <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-11/popular-links/freedumpster> or contact [D11.CleanCA@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D11.CleanCA@dot.ca.gov).

The San Diego Food Bank's Holiday Food Drive is in need of canned items like meats, soup, vegetables, and fruit, dry or canned beans, cereals, rice, peanut butter, powdered milk, pasta, and infant formula. Healthier alternatives are encouraged, and glass containers and home-made items cannot be accepted. For more information, please visit <https://sandiegofoodbank.org/event/holiday-food-drive-2/>.

Caltrans reminds motorists to properly secure and tarp all cargo loads prior to driving. Transporting unsecured loads is unsafe, illegal, and pollutes California's roads and waterways. Loads that are not tied down, enclosed, or secured by tarps or other means, will not be accepted.

