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2025-2026

San Diego Section Officers

Section Director: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri
Section President: Derek Carpenter
President Elect: April Lucchesi
VP Supervisory: Levy Le
VP Rank & File: Frank Contreras
VP At Large: -
Secretary: Izzad "Izzy" Loh
Treasurer: Deena Bali

PEGC 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 PEGC General Meeting

June 10, 2025



*Jesse Rodriguez, Labor Relations Counsel for Corporate PEGC,
addressing SD PEGC members*

On Tuesday June 10th, 2025, SD PEGC held the second General Meeting of the 2025 calendar year. Jesse Rodriguez, Labor Relations Counsel for Corporate PEGC, provided information regarding bargaining and general member updates. More than 100 SD PEGC members were at the meeting, which was held at Caltrans D11. Lunch was provided and Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, SD PEGC President 2024-2025, facilitated the meeting.

September 5, 2025

As state-employed public servants, **health, dental, and vision benefits are an important part** of the total compensation package provided to PECG members. In preparation for the upcoming **Open Enrollment period** – September 15 through October 10 – CalPERS and the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) are offering opportunities for state employees to **learn more about their benefits and ask questions before making selections.**

CalPERS Open Enrollment Webinar

On **Wednesday, September 10**, CalPERS will host a one-hour **Open Enrollment Webinar** where they will share information about 2026 health benefit design and plan changes, guide members through the various Open Enrollment resources available, and answer members' questions. The **webinar begins at 11:00 a.m. and will be livestreamed** on the **CalPERS YouTube page**. The webinar is free, and registration is not required.

CalHR Virtual Benefits Fair

CalHR's **Virtual Benefits Fair** will be held on **September 10 and 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The agenda is identical on each day, so participants only need to go to one virtual fair. During the fair, you will have the opportunity to **ask questions and learn about the many health care options** available, including **voluntary benefits and additional year-round programs** to support the well-being of state employees. The webinar will include live **Q&A sessions with health, dental, and vision plan representatives.**

This **webinar is free**, but registration is required. For more information and to **register** for the virtual fair, [click here](#).

CalHR In-Person Benefits Fairs

Additionally, CalHR will host and collaborate with state departments to provide **In-Person Benefits Fairs** for state

Bring Your Child to Work Day

July 22, 2025



Bring Your Child to Work Day attendees



Maintenance Equipment Demonstration

On Tuesday July 22, 2025, Caltrans District 11 hosted the annual Bring Your Child to Work Day. SD PECG contributed to the event, in

employees throughout California. State employees will have the opportunity to speak with benefit program vendors and health carriers. **For the list of dates, times, and locations for the In-Person Benefits Fairs**, please visit the CalHR webpage [here](#).

Again, **2025 Open Enrollment runs from September 15 through October 10**. Changes made during 2025 Open Enrollment will take effect January 1, 2026. September's *Informer*, which will be out soon, includes all the **health plans and the employee out-of-pocket costs for each** to help members decide which option will best fit their circumstances.

Sunday, September 7, is **International Day of Clean Air**, a United Nations' initiative to strengthen international cooperation in **improving air quality and reducing air pollution** to protect human health and the environment! Thank you to the many **PECG members who have dedicated their careers** to making our planet safer by improving air quality.

August 29, 2025

A **ballot package will be sent via U.S. mail** today to all **CalPERS active and retired members** (as of July 1, 2025) who are eligible to vote in the **election for the CalPERS Member-at-Large A and B positions on the CalPERS Board of Administration**. The Member-at-Large positions **represent all CalPERS members** on the 13-member CalPERS Board, which oversees more than \$500 billion in assets and serves nearly 2 million members.

CalPERS members can **cast their ballots from August 29 through September 29**. Your vote must be received by mail, telephone, or online by 11:59 p.m. PST on September 29, or it won't be counted. **Detailed voting instructions and candidate statements will be included** in your ballot package. All three

which over 105 kids were able to experience activities from 8 divisions:

- Culvert inspection (Maintenance Engineering & Asset Management)
- Wildlife Crossings (Environmental)
- Building Bridges (Structure Construction)
- Build Your Dream City (Planning and Local Assistance)
- Mock Trial (Legal)
- Maintenance and CHP Vehicles (Maintenance & Safety)
- Activities with Safety Sam (External Affairs)
- Sign language (D11 DAC)

SD PECG Annual Dinner

September 5, 2025



Section members enjoying the Annual Dinner and San Diego Bay

On Friday September 5th, 2025, the San Diego PECG section hosted the Annual Dinner for all section members at Bali Hai Restaurant.

The evening celebration included installation of the 2025-2026 San Diego Section Officers, and guest speeches given by Everett Townsend (D11 Chief Deputy District Director, Maintenance & Operations) and D'Arcy McLeod (Corporate PECG Vice President Collective Bargaining).

voting options are convenient, secure, and easy to use.

As a reminder, **PECG has officially endorsed** – and urges members to vote for – **David Miller for Position A** and has made a dual endorsement of **Sam Akkad and Troy Johnson for Position B**. Please take the time to vote for the leaders on the ballot you can count on to protect your hard-earned CalPERS pension and health care.

PECG's public image advertisement, "Engineering California's Future," will begin airing in the San Luis Obispo-Santa Barbara-Santa Maria television market on September 2 and run through September 29. The 30-second spot will air during local newscasts and at various times on cable outlets CNN and MSNBC to approximately 700,000 viewers. PECG's Corporate Board launched the advertising campaign in 2023 to promote the vital public services performed by Unit 9 members. It features five PECG leaders discussing the critical roles state engineers and related professionals play in designing and inspecting state highways and bridges, ensuring schools and hospitals are safe during earthquakes, and protecting California's air, water, and beaches. The San Luis Obispo airing follows a successful June 3 to July 1 broadcast to 7 million viewers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since its initial broadcast in the Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto region in the summer of 2023, "Engineering California's Future" has also run in the Fresno-Visalia, Greater Los Angeles, Eureka-Del Norte, Chico-Redding, and San Diego media markets. With the September broadcasts, the video will have reached nearly 26 million viewers in television markets covering the service areas of all of PECG's 17 sections throughout the state. You can view the ad and learn more about the PECG leaders it features [here](#). The

The event was highlighted by the spectacular views of the San Diego Bay, a live band, and our very own section members.



Swearing in the 2025-2026 SD PECG Section officers!

Your 2025-2026 PECG San Diego Section Officers!

- Director: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri (per Section Bylaws)**
- President: Derek Carpenter (per Section Bylaws)**
- President Elect: April Lucchesi**
- Vice President Rank and File: Frank Contreras**
- Vice President Supervisory: Levy Le**
- Vice President At Large: -**
- Secretary: Izzad "Izzy" Loh**
- Treasurer: Deena Bali**

website password is **PECGdelivers!** (case-sensitive).

PECG's Board, Section Leaders, and staff hope you **enjoy the three-day Labor Day weekend**. Please take the time to **give thanks for the many benefits** PECG, and other labor unions, provide to members. **Through the united strength of 11,000 PECG members working together to achieve our shared goals – PECG Delivers!**

PECG Member Involvement

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the San Diego Section Committees, please email our Section President, Derek Carpenter at: derek.carpenter@dot.ca.gov

QUICK LINKS

- Visit San Diego Section sandiegopecg.org
- Follow us on Twitter [Twitter.com/pecg_sandiego](https://twitter.com/pecg_sandiego)
- Current MOU: 2025-2028 <https://pecg.org/2025-28-mou-and-side-letter/>
- PECG Informer pecg.org/communications/informer

IN THE NEWS

Clean California Soars Past Major Milestone to Beautify Roadways and Rejuvenate Local Public Spaces

Source: *Caltrans District 11*
September 8th, 2025

Since launching the Clean California effort in July 2021, Caltrans and its partners throughout the Golden State have removed 3.4 million cubic yards of litter and debris from highways and public spaces—the equivalent of filling more than 136,000 garbage trucks worth of litter. The trash collected includes 15,500 mattresses and 57,000 tires. The initiative has enlisted 72,000-plus community clean-up volunteers and created thousands of jobs.

Sacramento – More than 136,000 garbage trucks' worth of litter has been cleared from state highways and communities in the four years of Governor Gavin Newsom's Clean California effort.

Emerging as one of the most successful environmental initiatives brought forward by Governor Newsom, the \$1.2 billion Clean California effort has provided a visible and lasting impact on communities throughout the state, while also supporting long-term goals aimed at climate resiliency, economic equity, and public safety. Program highlights include:

Maintenance crews dedicated to cleaning state highways and public rights of way

650 free dump days hosted in urban and rural communities

639 pieces of transportation art installed on the highways

72,000 community clean-up volunteers (according to a survey from Keep America Beautiful)

314 beautification projects, including the development of new parks, public art, and improvements at several transit stations. Of these, 191 projects have been completed.

18,000 job opportunities created

So far, 110 communities have pledged to become a designated Clean California Community by agreeing to complete specific criteria that demonstrate long-term commitments to zero litter, community beautification, and environmental enhancement. Thirty communities have already achieved full designation status.

San Diego – Locally, Clean California projects have transformed communities and improved the quality of life.

Two Clean California projects completed this year include infrastructure improvements and beautification efforts in Chula Vista and National City.

In Chula Vista, Caltrans awarded the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) a \$1 million grant to beautify its E Street Transit Center. The artwork not only added beauty to the Trolley Station but also tells the cultural history of Chula Vista.

A mural along the trolley tracks was created by Mr. B Baby and is titled "Tracks of time." It features Mexican rag doll characters set against picturesque landscapes, telling a story of Chula Vista's history and heritage.

Glass mosaics in the transit center called "Treasures of the Bay" were created by the Rainforest Art Project. The mosaics show the incredible sea life that inhabits the beautiful bays, lagoons, and marshes in our region.

National City used a \$5 million grant from Caltrans to tell the story of its history and heritage. The Filipino Plaza at the corner of E. Plaza Boulevard and Euclid Avenue highlights the city's Filipino culture.

The city also made significant infrastructure improvements along the east side of Interstate 805 from Plaza Boulevard to Division Street. The improvements include new bike and pedestrian paths, landscaping, and lighting.

"Clean California has helped communities beautify space, improve infrastructure, increase access to transit, and more," said Ann Fox,

Caltrans District 11 Director. "Communities across California take pride in where they live and want to make it a better place. The Clean California initiative helps make that possible."

"Under Governor Newsom's leadership, Clean California is revitalizing communities across the state," said Toks Omishakin, California Transportation Secretary. "From Siskiyou County in the north to Imperial County in the south, and Kern County in the Central Valley — Clean California is restoring pride and creating spaces where communities thrive."

To learn more about how California is creating a brighter future by building more, faster – for all, visit build.ca.gov.

