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2024-2025

San Diego Section Officers

Section Director: Ryan Fallica

Section President: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri

President Elect: Derek Carpenter

VP Supervisory: Hanh-Dung Khuu

VP Rank & File: Roy Flores

VP At Large: -

Secretary: Deena Bali

Treasurer: April Lucchesi

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

September 12th, 2024



Swearing in the 2024-2025 SD PECG Section officers!

On Thursday, September 12, 2024, the San Diego PECG section hosted the Annual Dinner for all section members at Sufi Mediterranean Restaurant.

The evening celebration included installation of the 2024-2025 San Diego Section Officers, as well as guest speeches given by Everett Townsend (previous Acting Caltrans D11 Director), Colin Parent (Former Assembly District 79 Candidate and La Mesa City Councilmember, currently Executive Director of Circulate San Diego- a local non-profit group), D'Arcy McLeod (Corporate PECG Vice President Collective Bargaining), and Jesse Rodriguez (Corporate PECG Representative).

The speeches touched on pertinent local matters and the benefits of being a PECG member. Section members ended the night with raffle prizes and dessert.

PECG Weekly Updates

February 28, 2025

This is a friendly reminder to **PECG rank and file members** to please take the time to complete PECG's Bargaining Survey, which was emailed on January 22. So far, **only 32% of PECG's rank and file members** have participated. The survey results help establish the goals and objectives of the PECG Bargaining Team as they negotiate with CalHR on the next Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU sets your **pay, benefits, and working conditions**, and covers countless other items that beneficially impact your employment. The current MOU expires on June 30, 2025. All survey responses, including comments and suggestions, will be reviewed by the Bargaining Team. The January 22nd email came from the PECG Bargaining Team (pecg@pecg.org). If you have not seen this email in your inbox, **please check your junk or spam folder.**

We also encourage our PECG supervisory and managerial members to complete **PECG's Supervisors and Managers Pay and Benefits survey**, which was sent on February 5. To date, **only 28% of PECG's supervisory and managerial members** have responded. The **PECG Meet and Confer Team**, made up of your fellow supervisors from around the State, will use the **survey results to establish its own pay and benefit objectives** for Unit 9 supervisors and managers prior to meeting with the State. All survey responses, including comments and suggestions, will be reviewed by the Meet and Confer Team. The February 5th email came from the PECG Meet and Confer Team (pecg@pecg.org). If you have not seen this email in your inbox, **please check your junk or spam folder.**

Your 2024-2025 PECG San Diego Section Officers!

Director: Ryan Fallica (per Section Bylaws)
President: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri (per Section Bylaws)
President Elect: Derek Carpenter
Vice President Rank and File: Roy Flores
Vice President Supervisory: Hanh-Dung Khuu
Vice President At Large: -
Secretary: Deena Bali
Treasurer: April Lucchesi

PECG Supervisory Meeting

February 13, 2025



D11 supervisors gathered at Caltrans D11 and on Teams.

On February 13, 2025, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting was held for supervisors and managers. The meeting was led by Kristi Shelton, Corporate PECG Vice President – Supervisory, and facilitated by Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, SD PECG President, and Hanh-Dung Khuu, SD PECG Vice President- Supervisory.

If you cannot find the original email, please email pecg@pecg.org to receive another link to the survey.

CalPERS is holding an in-person **CalPERS Benefits Education Event (CBEE)** on **March 7 and 8 in Visalia** with five informative classes. The CBEE will be held at the **Visalia Convention Center (303 E. Acequia)**. For additional details, please visit the CalPERS website by clicking [here](#).

CalPERS also provides **free monthly education videos** that focus on specific topics of interest, no matter how far along you are in your career. Upcoming online sessions include **Your Retirement Calculation (March 20)**, **Service Credit Purchases (April 17)**, **Pre-Retirement Survivor Benefits (May 15)**, and **CalPERS Member Education Resources (June 19)**. The online sessions start at noon and generally run for 20 minutes.

CalPERS **invites all state employees to participate**. These education videos and CBEEs are free, but registration is required. Please see the [CalPERS Member Education](#) page for **more details about these and future sessions**.

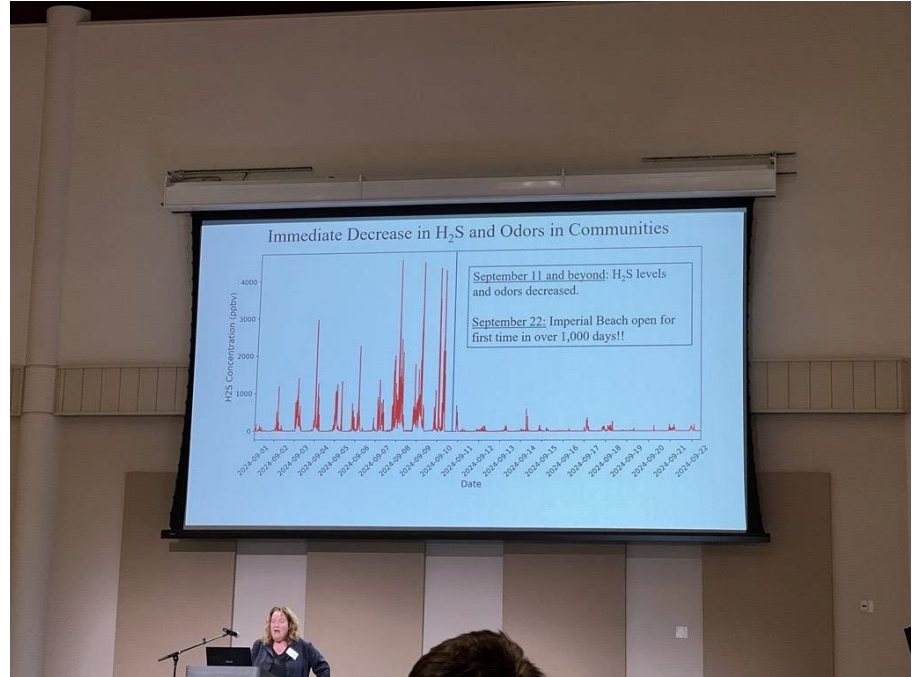
February 21, 2025

In recent weeks, the Administration in Washington has **proposed freezing federal funding** that supports the critical work of thousands of state and local public servants, including **PECG members**. For now, the funding freeze has been largely rescinded.

PECG has an active **federal representation program**, including a federal lobbyist, that is working with allies and other stakeholders to **protect the federal funding** that supports Unit 9 employees throughout state

SDCEC Engineer's Week Gala

February 18, 2025



Dr. Kimberly Prather, Ph.D., presents a graph that depicts H₂S (Hydrogen sulfide) and odor levels recorded in Imperial Beach during September 2024. The research of Dr. Prather and her team contributed to the drastic decrease in H₂S and odor levels recorded on and after September 11, 2024.

On February 18, 2025, SD PECG officers attended the 74th Annual San Diego Engineers Week Awards Banquet. SD PECG also contributes to the Awards Banquet, which is hosted by the San Diego County Engineering Council (SDCEC) in collaboration with local Engineering Society Chapters and Engineering Colleges.

Dr. Kathleen Kramer, Ph. D., USD, IEEE Global President, welcomed Engineer's Week with an inspirational keynote: "Design Your Future."

Dr. Kimberly Prather, Ph.D., UCSD Scripps Institute of Oceanography, presented her fascinating research, "Tijuana River Impact on Air Quality". The presentation addressed how aerosols from the Tijuana River impact regional air quality and human health.

Awards were presented to outstanding leaders, projects, and students.

government. As part of that effort, **PECG leaders were in Washington, D.C.**, in the first week of February and will be returning later this month. **PECG cannot guarantee any particular outcome** but will continue to **fight to protect our members** and the funding critical to the delivery of essential engineering and related services to Californians – just as we always have.

The **California Transportation Foundation (CTF) is accepting nominations** for its **36th Annual Transportation Awards**. The **nomination deadline is Sunday, March 16, at 11:59 p.m.**

PECG urges our Caltrans members to submit entries to **recognize your outstanding work and the good work of the department** – particularly in the **Project/Program** categories.

For **additional details** and to **submit your application**, please visit the CTF website by clicking [here](#). Award winners will be **revealed at the CTF Transportation Awards Gala** held on **June 25**.

Of course, if you are aware of a nominating process for **awards that acknowledges the good work of other Unit 9 employees**, we will be happy to share the information with PECG members.

PECG is proud to dedicate time and resources to **support STEM education programs to encourage the next generation of state engineers and related professionals**. This includes sponsoring many regional **Science and Engineering Fairs** – in which high school and middle school students prepare projects and compete for awards – that occur throughout

SD PECG General Meeting

February 28, 2025



D’Arcy McLeod, Corporate PECG Vice President Collective Bargaining, addressing SD PECG members.

On February 28, 2025, SD PECG held the first General Meeting of the 2025 calendar year. D’Arcy McLeod, Corporate PECG VP Collective Bargaining, provided information regarding bargaining and general member updates. The meeting was held at Caltrans D11, provided lunch, and was facilitated by Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, SD PECG President.

PECG Scholarships

In 2024, the PECG Corporate Section awarded twenty scholarships statewide. Congratulations to Matthew Robert Cordero, SD PECG Section member and 2024 PECG Scholarship recipient!

PECG offers up to 20 scholarships annually, for \$1,000 each, as a member-only benefit for PECG members and their dependents who are currently enrolled in a college or university in a PECG-related field of study. These scholarship programs are just a few of the many examples of PECG’s commitment to supporting members and

California each spring. **PECG members are encouraged to volunteer as judges and serve in other roles to help make every fair a big success.** Volunteering at your local Science and Engineering Fair is one of the activities for which **PECG members are eligible to receive up to forty (40) hours of mentoring leave** each calendar year.

Mentoring Leave is available under [Article 5.11](#) of the PECG Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) subject to supervisory and departmental approval. **After using personal time** (paid leave or CTO during work hours) or personal non-work time, **employees are eligible to request a matching number** of mentoring leave hours. For example, after volunteering for eight (8) hours on a Saturday, you could then request eight (8) hours to mentor during the workweek, again, subject to supervisory approval. **To read MOU Article 5.11**, please [click here](#). The password to view this page is **PECGdelivers!** (case-sensitive). If you are **interested in volunteering at a fair** in your area, please [click here](#) to learn more. You may also **contact your PECG Section leaders** – they will be happy to help.

February 14, 2025

Engineers Week kicks off on Sunday! To celebrate, **PECG is sponsoring** Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 29, **which recognizes February 16 to February 22, 2025, as Engineers Week, and ACR 19, which declares February 20, 2025, as Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.** ACR 29 is authored by **Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin** (Thousand Oaks), who worked previously as an engineer at Teledyne Systems and at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab. **Assembly Member Alexandra Macedo** (Visalia), the author of ACR 19, is the owner of an engineering consulting company in the Central

their dependents – the current and next generation of state engineers and related professionals.

Past Events

Thank you to our SD PECG section members who participated in these events:

- Bring Your Child to Work Day, 8/8/2024, Caltrans D11
- 20th Annual Procurement Fair, 8/14/2024, Caltrans D11
- Innovation Fair, 8/20/2024, Caltrans D11
- Enrollment Health Fair, 9/17/2024, Caltrans D11
- DAC Fish BBQ Scholarship Fundraiser, 10/9/2024, Caltrans D11
- Dragon Boat Festival, 10/19-20/2024, Mission Bay
- WTS Annual Awards and Scholarship Gala, 10/23/2024, Coasterra
- Diversity Day, 10/29/2024, Caltrans D11
- Women's Collective Events, Caltrans D11

.....and many more!

IN THE NEWS

California Invests \$830 Million to Improve Highway Safety, Bridges, and Pedestrian Mobility

*Source: Caltrans District 11
December 12, 2024*

San Diego — The California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$830 million at its December meeting to fund a broad range of investments to improve access and safety, provide sustainable projects, and help support the infrastructural backbone of the globe's fifth-largest economy. Guided by Governor Gavin

Valley. You can read each measure by clicking on the links above.

Speaking of celebrating engineers, PEGC’s public-image advertisement, “Engineering California’s Future,” will begin airing in the **San Diego** television viewing market on **February 28 and conclude on March 17**. The 30-second spot will reach an audience of roughly 1 million households on local station KNSD’s morning and evening news broadcasts and cable outlets CNN and MSNBC.

The PEGC Board launched the video project in 2023 to **promote the vital work of PEGC members**. The ad features **five PEGC leaders discussing – in studio and outdoors – the critical role state engineers and related professionals play** in designing and inspecting state highways and bridges, making schools and hospitals safe during earthquakes, and protecting our air, water, and beaches from pollution.

The San Diego ad run marks the commercial’s return to Southern California television after it ran in **Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Inyo counties, and the Inland Empire** last year. Since its first airing nearly two years ago, the spot has also aired in the **Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto, Fresno-Visalia, Eureka-Del Norte, and Chico-Redding media markets**.

The new four-week run in San Diego will bring **the total number of viewers to nearly 18 million in 40 counties**. This year, PEGC plans to continue to air the message in additional **markets where PEGC members serve** California taxpayers.

You can view **the ad** and learn more about the **PEGC leaders it features** [here](#). The

Newsom’s Build More, Faster–For–All infrastructure agenda, these transformative projects are making communities safer, cleaner, and healthier.

The approved allocations include \$249 million from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) and another \$306 million via Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

“These investments will help provide the next generation of transportation projects in California, strengthening efforts for bridge maintenance and renovation, increasing safety for people who walk and bike, expanding equitable access, and continuing support for the movement of goods and services that fuel the state’s economic engine,” said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares.

In addition to major undertakings, such as the rehabilitation of the Vincent Thomas Bridge in Los Angeles and the Silicon Valley rail extension in San Jose, the allocation contains funds for local projects, including:

- The Orange Family Street Project in San Diego’s City Heights community will install traffic circles, buffered bike lanes, and raised crosswalks to reduce traffic and improve pedestrian safety. (More details below)
- Nearly 10 miles of new bike lanes in the Wilmington neighborhood near the Port of Los Angeles will also include pedestrian and ADA upgrades, new sidewalks, shade trees, and lighting.
- The L.A. River Greenway project will connect East San Fernando Valley with L.A. Metro’s North Hollywood rail station through a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- The purchase of zero-emission, high-capacity buses to serve residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

San Diego County and Imperial County projects include:

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

PEG Member Involvement

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the San Diego Section Committees, please email our Section President, Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri at: abu-bakr.h.al-jafri@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: 2022-2025
<https://pecg.org/2022-2025-mou/>
- PEGC Informer
pecg.org/communications/informer

- **\$7,200,000 in Imperial County on State Routes 78, 86, 98, and 111** to remove debris from the roadway and repair drainage systems, pavement, slopes, and embankments damaged by an August 2023 storm resulting in flash flooding.
- **\$2,400,000 in San Diego on Interstate 5 at the State Route 75 pump plant** to replace damaged pumps and the pump control system and repair the discharge box damaged by an August 2023 storm that flooded the pump plant, causing water to spill into the pump house dry-pit, submerging pumps and motors and causing leakage from the discharge box.
- **\$375,000 in Oceanside on Interstate 5** to remove debris, backfill the eroded area, replace the culvert, replace a damaged dike, and pour a concrete ditch damaged by a January 2024 storm that caused an 18" culvert to fail, and eroded a slope. This supplemental is needed to include additional work recommendations based on a final investigation report that recommends constructing multiple new drainage inlets, replacing additional damaged dike, repairing damaged guardrail, and adding more than originally anticipated backfill to the eroded area.
- **\$3,000,000 in San Diego on Interstate 5, State Routes 56, 78, and 905** to repair damaged pavement, drainage systems, and slope embankment damaged by a January 2024 storm that caused multiple sinkholes and washouts, as well as damage to drainage systems.
- **\$4,317,000 to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)** to construct 2.1 miles of buffered bike lanes, three diverters, high visibility crosswalks (2 raised), neighborhood traffic circle, and additional traffic calming and pedestrian access features that will improve safety and comfort for people walking and biking for the Orange Family Friendly Street Project that will run along Orange Avenue, between 32nd Street and Estrella Avenue, in the City Heights community of San Diego.
- **\$8,064,000 to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System and SANDAG** to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure for the Zero-Emission Transit Enhancement Project (Electrification of the Imperial Avenue Division (IAD)) in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by implementing the supporting infrastructure for the future zero-emission fleet, including supporting the electric charging capacity and access of surrounding regional transit in San Diego County.

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 country's energy, water, broadband, and transportation systems. California has received nearly \$62 billion in federal infrastructure funding since its passage. It includes investments to upgrade the State's roads, bridges, rail, public transit, airports, ports, waterways, and the electric vehicle charging network. The funding alone has already created more than 170,000 jobs in California.

SB 1 has invested approximately \$5 billion annually toward transportation projects since 2017. It provides funding split between the state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1.

For more information, visit: Build.ca.gov.



PECG Laughs

An optimist says the glass is half full.

A pessimist says the glass is half-empty.

An engineer says the glass has a safety factor of 2.