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2024-2025

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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

The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair

March 12, 2025



PECG San Diego Section's Science Fair Judges

On Wednesday March 12, 2025, the 71st Greater San Diego Science Fair was held at the Balboa Park Activity Center. The Science Fair provided an inspiring experience for 800 top middle and high school students from San Diego and Imperial Counties, motivating them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The students presented their results to 400+ judges and over 60 professional societies and organizations. PECG San Diego Section provided 12 judges to evaluate engineering-related projects and determine recipients of the PECG-sponsored scholarships.

The Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday March 13, 2025, and PECG awarded four students a total of \$3,750 in scholarships.

PECG Weekly Updates

May 16, 2025

The Newsom Administration released its **May Budget Revision** on Wednesday, projecting an **entirely new \$12 billion budget deficit** in the 2025-26 fiscal year. In the January budget proposal, the State reported that the 2025-26 budget was largely balanced thanks to \$28 billion in preemptive cuts that were made last summer.

The latest shortfall is the result of the federal government's tariff policies which will lead to a **projected \$16 billion drop in tax revenue** next year, according to the Administration.

The Governor is using the deficit this year, and projected future deficits, as an excuse to **cut funding – \$766 million – that had been budgeted for already agreed upon pay raises with other state employee bargaining units** that were to take effect on July 1. The elimination or deferral of those raises, the Governor says, will be **achieved through collective bargaining** with the impacted units. If the elimination of the raises cannot be reached at the bargaining table, the Administration says it **will simply impose the cuts**.

As you know, the current PECG MOU (2022-25), **does not include a raise** scheduled to take effect this July 1.

With the release of the May Revise, the Administration shared their position that the **projected deficits will also prevent the State from providing a pay raise for PECG-represented Unit 9 employees**, or any other bargaining unit that is currently at the table, in the fiscal year that starts July 1.

In negotiations yesterday, the PECG Bargaining Team, after carefully reviewing the Administration's budget calculations, **cast serious doubt on their revenue projections**. The Team also made clear that **projecting a small deficit** that the

Congratulations to the winning projects:

- Senior 1st Place, 11th grade student, \$1,500 scholarship: Immobilization of Cyanobacteria within Hydrogels Aiding in Purified Drug Delivery
- Senior 2nd Place, 9th grade student, \$1,000 scholarship: Advancing Cost-Effective Space Exploration Using LESAR (Low Cost Extraterrestrial Surface Analysis Rover)
- Junior 1st Place, 6th grade student, \$625 scholarship: Improving Solar Panel Efficiency
- Junior 2nd Place, 7th grade student, \$625 scholarship: DIY Beach Cleaning Robot



Recipients of PECG-sponsored Scholarships

45th Annual Roosevelt Dinner

April 19, 2025

On April 19, 2025, PECG San Diego Section Officers and members attended the San Diego County Democratic Party's largest annual fundraiser, the 45th Annual Roosevelt Dinner. The event was held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront, and the theme was "We Rise: Uniting for Justice, Democracy, and Victory".

Highlights of the event included the powerful keynote address delivered by Jean Guerrero, Emmy Award-winning journalist, New York Times contributing writer, and author. Jean's keynote address urged

Administration proposes to close with \$12 billion in cuts, deferrals, and revenue shifts in other parts of the budget, simply **does not warrant taking pay raises off the table** for Unit 9 employees in the 2025-26 fiscal year. PEGC's Team will **continue to bargain in good faith** with the Administration in the days ahead for the best possible agreement. Given the Administration's current position, the results of those negotiations are uncertain. PEGC will share additional updates as they develop.

May 9, 2025

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, it is a good time to **remind PEGC members about the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** that is provided as part of PEGC's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The EAP is **offered at no charge** to Unit 9 employees – and eligible dependents – and provides **consultation on day-to-day concerns**. In difficult times, it is intended to be a **resource of support and information** for you and your family.

The EAP recognizes **stress and mental health problems, and alcohol and drug abuse, as treatable conditions**. Addressing them will help employees **improve their health** and the health of their loved ones. To **learn more about EAP**, please read Article 4.6 of the PEGC MOU. The password is **PEGCdelivers!** (case-sensitive).

Of course, PEGC members are also encouraged to **consult with their health care provider** about resources available through CalPERS health plans.

Nobody likes it when **negotiations threaten access to your doctor** and other health care providers, but that is exactly **what is happening in the ongoing dispute** between Blue Shield of California and the University of California (UC) Health System. With negotiations still underway, Blue Shield of California has begun informing members

attendees to unite for justice and democracy. Numerous awards were presented to dedicated members of the community, including:

- 2025 Making a Difference Award- dedicated in memory of Becca Taylor
- 2025 Chair's Award- presented to California Attorney General Rob Bonta
- 2025 Leadership Award- presented to CA Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
- 2025 Volunteer of the Year- presented to Sabrina Bishop

Overall, the 45th Annual Roosevelt Dinner was an excellent event which celebrated the success of the community.



2025 Caltrans Highway Workers Memorial Ceremony

April 22, 2025

On Tuesday April 22, 2025, the 2025 Caltrans Highway Workers Memorial was held at the Caltrans D11 District Office. Since 1921, over 190 Caltrans employees have lost their lives while on the job. Inattentive and distracted motorists are one of the biggest hazards faced by highway workers. Each year, Caltrans honors its fallen employees at the statewide Workers Memorial.

that the **contract between Blue Shield of California and UC Health System has a potential termination date of June 30, 2025.** If an agreement cannot be reached, the contract termination would impact **Blue Shield of California members enrolled in PERS Gold PPO, PERS Platinum PPO, Blue Shield Access+ HMO and EPO, and Blue Shield Trio HMO.** There would be **no impact** on CalPERS members enrolled in the **PERS Gold and PERS Platinum Medicare Supplement** plans. In the event that the contract is terminated, Blue Shield will match members with new primary care physicians to ensure access to care. **PECG has encouraged CalPERS to do all it can to avoid that outcome.**

For more information, please see the [FAQs](#) on the CalPERS PERSpective news site.

May 2, 2025

In case you missed it – **PECG President Steve Lee’s recent opinion column** outlining **PECG’s “fight against Gov. Gavin Newsom’s ill-advised mandate** that state employees must work in-office four days per week starting July 1” was published on **Wednesday, April 23,** and gained wide regional and national attention. The piece appeared in *The Sacramento Bee*, *The Modesto Bee*, *The Fresno Bee*, *The Merced Sun-Star*, *The San Luis Obispo Tribune*, and 26 additional McClatchy-owned publications across the country.

Read the full op-ed in *The Sacramento Bee* here. You can also find it on the **“News of Note”** section of the **PECG website here.** The **PECG webpage password is [PECGdelivers!](#)** (case-sensitive).

Today is the last day to apply for a PECG scholarship this year. Please visit the **PECG webpage** for more information about the scholarship program and application

Speakers included District 11 Director Ann Fox, District Division Chief of Maintenance Shawn Rizzutto, California Highway Patrol Chief Tony Coronado, and Circulate San Diego CEO Colin Parent.

On Tuesday April 29, 2025, the Caltrans Workers Memorial was held at the El Centro Maintenance Yard. Speakers included D11 Director Ann Fox, District Division Chief of Maintenance Shawn Rizzutto, CHP Captain Ernesto Ruedas, and Imperial County Transportation Commission Executive Director David Aguirre.



Shawn Rizzutto, DDC of Maintenance, speaking at the Memorial



Honor Guard

requirements. Again, the PECG webpage password is **PECGdelivers!** (case-sensitive).

PECG 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/>
- PECG Informer
pecg.org/communications/informer

IN THE NEWS

California Invests \$1 Billion for Technology Upgrades, Storm Resiliency and Safety Improvements Across the State

*Source: Caltrans District 11
March 21st, 2025*

Long Beach – The California Transportation Commission (CTC) today allocated \$1 billion for projects across the state that will improve safety and enhance the state’s vast network of streets and highways, including bicycle lanes, sidewalks and transit facilities. Guided by Governor Gavin Newsom’s Build More, Faster – For All infrastructure agenda, these improvements will make California communities safer, cleaner and healthier.

Approximately one-third of the investment, nearly \$311 million, comes from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) and another \$301 million is from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. Among the investments are more than \$138 million to address safety upgrades and repairs to drainage infrastructure designed to increase resiliency and protect the state’s roads during storms.

“As California continues adapting to evolving transportation realities, it is important that we invest in emergent technologies to enhance system-wide safety. Today’s action dedicates vital funding for upgrades that will increase asset longevity and protect our infrastructure now and well into the future.”

Tony Tavares, Caltrans Director

Included in the approved projects are:

- \$40.9 million for State Route 99 in Tehama County, near the Los Molinos Creek Bridge, to improve drainage systems and upgrade transportation management safety technology.
- \$27.8 million to build an integrated system that will include real-time traveler information along the Interstate 710 corridor in Los Angeles County between State Routes 91 and 60.
- \$19.8 million to improve drainage systems and add transportation management safety technology along 80-plus miles of U.S. Highway 101 in Humboldt County.

