

2012 PECG SECTION OF THE YEAR INVENTORY

(Information to be provided by each Section by June 25, 2012)

SECTION: San Diego

Please Complete Each Item:

1. **Does the Section have written bylaws under which it operates?** Yes ☒ No ☐

2. **Number of Section Members:** 647

Membership Percentage of Potential: 85

3. **Please describe the Section's membership recruitment program:**

Section officers attend all New Employee Orientations, provide snacks, discuss benefits of membership and invite participants to mingle afterwards. Officers are encouraged to talk to and form relationships with fee payers. They are sometimes invited to General Meetings. We discuss the two most common complaints – PECG gives money to Democrats and they protect slackers. New members are given a welcome letter from President and Director. Our program has led to the Section having one of the highest membership percentages in the organization .

4. **Number of Section membership meetings held during the past year:**

The Section has had 4 members Meetings with one more scheduled for August 2012. General Meeting, Supervisors & Managers Meeting and At Large and one Imperial County Meeting.

5. **Average number of members in attendance at meetings:**

40 Members for the specialized meetings and 150 (offsite) to 300 (Caltrans DO) members for our General Meetings.

6. **Describe the typical program and format for Section membership meetings:**

Food and drinks are always provided. A Corporate Officer or Staff person is introduced as the guest speaker. A Question & Answer period follows. Most officers stay afterwards to discuss any specific issues members may have.

Guest Speakers, Officers, Important Topics of members interest, Lunch and Social interaction

7. **Please name the current operating Section committees and accomplishments:**

Operations and Bylaws Committee: Met several times to revise the Section Bylaws, recommended revisions and soon members will vote on it. Set up to review Section's Mission, Goals and Objectives. Also working to modernize POM and to make any changes to Bylaws.

Outreach Committee: Encourages and ensures that PECG membership is involved in just about every non work related activity held at the Caltrans District Office. Also encourages and brings on board student volunteers.

Membership Committee: Attended New Employee Orientations, organize A New Member lunch for new recruits.

Political Action Liaison Committee (PAL): Attended several Rallies and Fund-raisers for Marty Block for Senate and other PECG endorsed candidates, organized the San Diego Democratic Convention participation by the officers and much more.

Retirement Committee: Identifies retiring members and provides a plaque or certificate at their retirement celebration.

General Liaison Committee: Responsible for meeting with SEIU and other Unions in issues that can benefit members.

Scholarship Committee: Presenting two \$500.00 scholarships for 2012 as a new benefit to the families of PECG San Diego Section members in the next few weeks and more to come next year.

Health and Wellness Committee: Creation of a new Gymnasium is in the works and the Committee sponsored the Basketball Tournament for the Caltrans Employees from Districts 7, 8, 11, and 12 who participated in a Basketball tournament partially sponsored by the San Diego Section PECG. and coordinating volunteer activities with SEIU Local 1000.

Diversity Committee: Sponsored the Diversity Day and similar activities by providing volunteers and donating items.

Finance Committee: Reviews Section Finances and revise budget to assure money is well spent.

Newsletter Committee: Prepare Section Newsletters and Quarterly Reports.

Nominations and Election Committee: Submitted Request for Officer Candidates and verified qualifications and soon will count votes.

8. Number of written quarterly reports provided for the agenda packet in advance of each Board of Directors meeting (possible - four per year): 4

9. Other than meetings and newsletters, how does the Section involve its members?

Officers and Committee Chairs are always recruiting members to volunteer in all PECG activities and functions where the State asks for volunteers.

10. What has been the Section's role in legislative contact during the past year? (Sacramento Legislative Contact Day, other legislative visits or contacts, attendance at legislative fundraisers, etc.)

The Annual Roosevelt Dinner in San Diego was held on Saturday April 12, 2012 at the Holiday Inn on the Bay. Hundreds of Democrats showed up for the event and honored volunteers, candidates, and elected leaders. 10 Section officers were present at this event.

The Section officers participated at Democratic Fundraiser event for Marty Block for Senate on numerous occasions this year. Six officers participated in Legislative Day as well.

11. **Does the Section sponsor special activities for members (i.e., exam preparation classes, sports teams, scholarships for members' children, participation in Engineers Week or Science and Engineering Fairs, work with charitable organizations, involvement in political party activities, etc)?** Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please describe the activity:

PECG is a major sponsor the Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair. We have a seat on their Board of Directors. Section recruited 14 members to serve as Science fair judges this year.

The Section plays a dominant role in the Caltrans District 11 Disability Advisory Committee (DAC).

The Committee Chair is a past PECG Director/President and the Committee Co-Chair is the current Section President (Naser Ghaderi). DAC has given two \$500 scholarships.

The Section and DAC worked together on a Fiosh B-B-Q Event where more than 100 employees were served meals and this raised funds for the DAC.

12. **Does the Section have a local newsletter?** Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, how many issues during the past year? 9

13. **Does the Section have a website?** Yes ☒ No ☐

14. **What special benefits for members does the Section provide (i.e., calendars, watches, etc.)**

New Members are invited to Lunch with Officers, The Section has presented three plaques and 6 certificates to retired and other members. We provide Calenders to all members intersted, Coffee Mugs, PECG Folders and PECG T-Shirts are distributed during meetings. We take out all new members to Lunch along with the member who signed them up. Science Fair provides us with many souveniros such as pens, card holders and much more, we in turn distribute those to members intersted. Every year we get free tickets from the Del Mar Fair for our participations to the event and helping out and we distribute those tickets free of charge to our members.

15. **Does the Section have a review and accounting system for Section funds?** Yes ☐ No ☐

16. **Does the Section maintain an updated PECG Operations Manual (POM) to assure revisions are included and passed to new officers?** Yes ☐ No ☐

17. **Does the Section maintain an internal distribution network for information distribution?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, how is information distributed (e-mail, desk-by-desk, etc.)?

We send our Newsletters once a month to all members, we have e-mail groups for information distribution purposed, we post all relveent inforamtion on our Bulleting Boards in different building specifcally assigned for Union Activities.

18. Is the Section involved in local activities with other organizations? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please describe:

Section Officers and members participated in Labor Day Event held in Downtown San Diego this year. We coordinate closely with District's Disability Advisory Committee of which Coproate officer Roy Flores is the Chair and Section President Naser Ghaderi is the Co-Chair. We work hand in hand with District's Employee Committee sponsoring and participating and helping in many different events designed to enhance the quality of the employees and members. The Section has a policy of always inviting representatives from SEIU Local 1000 to all of our General Meetings. In turn they invite the president and director to their meetings. The Section has worked hard to nurture and develop an amicable relationship with the SEIU local leadership. Four of the Seven officer positions in the Cal State Toastmasters Club are held by PECG members. The Toastmasters president is a current PECG officer.

19. Describe the Section's best or most successful activities during the past year:

Section has been aggressively improving the quality of its Website and we not only distribute via e-mail Section Newsletters & Quarterly Reports but we also post them on our website. These are the best improvements we have made this year. But if you measure success by the number of compliments received for an activity, three stand out with the most compliments:

As in years past, Bring Your Child To Work Day was one of the Section's most successful activities. PECG is the major sponsor and coordinated with Caltrans on hosting this yearly event. Over 110 children signed up for the daylong event on April 2012. The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair, with 14 judges selecting 6 winners with 4 Scholarships of \$500 each and a few other smaller rewards was very impressive as PECG was called on the stage with PECG President Elect Steve Lee handing out the checks to the winners. Section participated in Food Drive activities on many different fronts collecting and distributing food to needy.

20. Please describe other Section activities, involvements, or information to be considered by the Awards Committee:

Retired members who retired this past year were honored by the Section with a framed certificate or plaque. We stood high at the San Diego Greater Science Fair where the Section President Naser Ghaderi continues to serve as a permanent member of the Fair's Board of Directors. San Diego Union Tribune and Local TV channels all displayed PECG's banner displayed at the event for 3 days in a row and PECG was among the top sponsors of this event. A total of \$2,000 worth of scholarships was awarded by PECG officers to the projects selected by the Section judges. Section also sponsored a job shadowing event with the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement Program (MESA). Section Treasurer Azar Habibafshar and VP Supervisory Al-Jafri contributed greatly to the event. Section

cosponsored (with DAC) three separate events in honor of Diversity/ Disability month. The Fundraiser Fish B-BQ for DAC was another big event with Section President Naser Ghaderi helping Supervisors and managers serve food to about 120 participants as well as conducting team efforts along with Corporate officer Roy Flores involved in all aspects of the Fish prep, ticket sales, registration and set up and clean up. The Section cosponsored the Caltrans District 11 Mentoring Program.

COMPLETED BY: Naser_Ghaderi@dot.ca.gov

DATE: 06/22/2012

PHONE: (619) 623-9035

E-MAIL: naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov

Please see attached for more detailed information.



October 2011 Newsletter

Presented by the 2011-2012 San Diego Section Officers

Section Director	Pedro Aguilar	(858) 688-1372	Caltrans
Section President	Naser Ghaderi	(619) 623-9035	Caltrans
President Elect	Robert Lumahan	(619) 688-8190	Caltrans
VP Supervisory	Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri	(619) 491-3077	Caltrans
VP Rank & File	Tony Karam	(619) 688-6718	Caltrans
VP At Large	Mehrdad Maher	(858) 674-5437	Div of State Arch
Secretary	John Williamson	(619) 718-7822	Caltrans
Treasurer	Azar Habibafshar	(619) 688-3651	Caltrans

San Diego is Section of the Year 2011

On **October 8th**, the San Diego membership was selected as **Section of the Year** for 2011 at PECG's Annual Meeting. Some highlights throughout the year are our member's commitment to mentoring, involvement in politics, volunteer opportunities and the improved communication through newsletters and Section meetings. Congratulations to all San Diego members.



(Fred, Roy, Naser, Mehi & Pedro)

Pedro Aguilar was also sworn in as the Section's Director and will represent San Diego at the Corporate Board meetings.

San Diego Member Receives Professional Achievement Award

San Diego's District 11 Division Chief (CalTrans Land Surveys) **Bruce Urquhart**



(Pictured with **Corporate President Matt Hanson**) was presented with PECG's Professional Achievement Award.

His office is responsible for all the mapping, topographical data and



documentation done by Caltrans for San Diego and Imperial Counties. Bruce is also a Surveys instructor at San Diego State University and is consistently selected as a favorite lecturer

by his students. He also teaches the review class for the surveys portion of the Professional Engineer exam. Apart from having run dozens of marathons, Bruce has also competed in ultra marathons. He has run in five 50 mile runs and two 100 mile runs. Bruce considers his mentoring of college students and newer employees as one of his proudest achievements. He encourages everyone to do the same.

Congratulations Mr. Urquhart!

Employee Appreciation Day

The Section cosponsored Caltrans District



11's **Employee Appreciation Day** on **September 20th**. Our guest speaker was ex San Diego Padres right fielder **Tony Gwynn** who is considered one of Major League Baseball's greatest hitters. Tony discussed his life, career and his current position as Head Coach for the San Diego

State University Aztecs. He also answered some questions and signed autographs.



The event was attended by over 200 employees. The Section donated money to help buy supplies and prizes. PECG members and other employees helped set up for the event.

SD SECTION POLITICAL MEETING

On **August 10th**, the Section held a political meeting at the **Four Points Sheraton**.



(Naser, Marty Block, Robert, Fred & Pedro)

PECG Legislative Liaison, **Ted Toppin**, started the meeting and thanked **Assembly member (78th) Marty Block** for joining the San Diego Section at the event. Ted referred to PECG's San Diego Section that represents nearly 700 engineers and related professional working throughout San Diego and Imperial counties.



Marty Block talked about the recently reached budget agreement between the Legislature and the Governor and the elements of the 2011/12 state budget and what will be the short and long term impacts on Californians.



(PECG Corporate President Matt Hanson)

PECG's Corporate President **Matt Hanson** addressed members on the latest information related to MOU.



(Abu Bakr Al Jafri, Naser Ghaderi, Hon Marty Block, Matt Hanson-PECG President and Fred Abdipour)

San Diego Section Director **Naser Ghaderi** thanked all members and the guest speakers for their participation and encouraged San Diego's Section efforts on enhancing the members' well being and looked forward to the Section's progress toward becoming the Section of the year.



Open Enrollment for CalPERS Health and Dental Plans

Now through November 4th is open enrollment to change or make other modifications related to the CalPERS Health and Dental plans offered to state employees. For more information, please check out the following website:

<http://www.calpers.ca.gov/>

Changes will take effect on January 1st, 2012.

Professional Exams

This year's PE exams are on **October 27th** (Seismic & Surveying) and **October 28th** (PE). Please note that the days have been changed from previous years.

Article 3.3(a) (3) of our MOU says that both Thursday and Friday are to be counted as release time. - **"If an employee is scheduled to take an examination for one of the licenses . . . during his/her work day, the employee will be granted State release time to take the examination upon presentation of proof that the employee is scheduled for the examination."**

Special Meeting

On **October 4th**, the Section held a Special



Meeting called by a petition submitted by some of the members. The issue discussed was the process used by the Section officers to replace our President Elect who is no longer able to serve. Some members would like to see that the Bylaws be amended to allow special elections for immediate vacancies. A Committee will be set up by the Officers to explore this issue and, if feasible, to make the necessary changes to the Section bylaws.

Diversity Day

Caltrans District 11 held its Annual



Diversity and Disability Awareness Day on **October 13th**. The Section provided drinks and various officers/members worked on setting up for the event and also manned many of the booths showcasing food and cultural aspects from different countries. Many ethnic groups participated in an entertainment venue. A stage and sound system was set up for this portion of the event.



Upcoming Events

General Meeting -	Oct 24 th
DAC Lean Life Presentation -	Oct 27 th



January 2012 Newsletter

Presented by the 2011-2012 San Diego Section Officers

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Section President	Naser Ghaderi	(619) 623-9035	Caltrans
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Marty Block State Senate Campaign



San Diego PECG Section officers attended a fundraiser for Assembly Member (78th) **Marty Block**. He is running for State Senate this year. Assembly Member Block has been very supportive of PECG efforts to maintain our status as state engineers, landscapers, architects, surveyors and engineering geologist. He knows various Section officers on a first name basis and is considered a friend to all working persons.



Assembly member (79th) **Ben Hueso** was the guests of honor at the Fifty Seven Degrees Bar & Lounge in San Diego.



Assembly Speaker **John A. Pérez** was also present and met with the San Diego Section officers.

Member Retirement - Erlinda Quiambao



On **December 2nd, 2011**, PEGC member and 28 year state employee **Erlinda Quiambo** (*middle of picture above*) retired from State Service. She spent ten years in Structures Construction and fourteen in Advanced Planning. She mentored most of her coworkers on structural and design issues. She plans to spend her retirement taking care of grandchildren and visiting her extended family in and around Angeles City in the Philippines. We wish her a happy retirement.

Member Retirement - Rey Quiambo



Rey Quiambao also retired on **December 2nd, 2011**. He was a PEGC member and state employee for 27 years and has been married to Erlinda Quiambao (*both pictured above*) for 30 years. Rey has worked in every major engineering group in Caltrans and is considered one of the best state engineers ever. Anyone who has worked with him is

impressed with his speed and the quality of his ideas. Rey can answer just about any computer or highway engineering question. His expertise and positive spirit will be missed.

Member Retirement – Yusaf Rahman

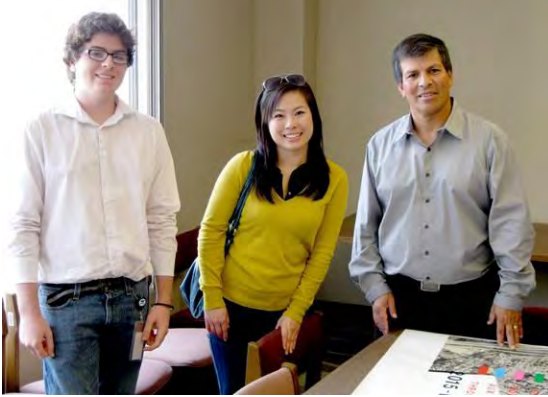
Yusaf Rahman retired on **December 27th, 2011**. He was a PEGC member and state employee for over 20 years. Yusaf's journey to California is as long as they come. Born in Assam India (on the Himalayan foothills) he was able to attend Cambridge University's High School program and eventually got his Masters in Transportation Engineering from Wayne State University (Detroit). He started his Caltrans career in San Luis Obispo and finished up in San Diego's Design division. Yusaf is a mild mannered, well spoken, intelligent individual who will be missed.

Mentoring Students



SDSU Civil Engineering student **Cesar Cazares** (*pictured, right, above*) is working as a volunteer in CT District 11's Advance Planning Section. Various PEGC officers have helped Cesar gain positive exposure and experience in Transportation Engineering.

The newest intern working in the Advance Planning Section is Thomas Chesny, 11th grade student from High Tech High International.



PECG member and Supervisor **Chi Vargas** provided information to Joanne Sith, Thomas's U.S History teacher who visited Caltrans and was toured on the types of experience that Thomas is receiving.

Health and Wellness Committee



Member Benjamin Guerrero has been selected as the District's Vice Chair of the newly formed Health and Wellness Committee, Ben will help the Committee chaired by Lou Melendez. Here's what Ben wrote:

The Health and Wellness committee, lead by Lou Melendez, was commissioned by Management to pursue the logistics of creating a gymnasium at our District. Currently, the committee is in the process of finding an appropriate location. We are also looking at some estimates from vendors. We will continue to inform you as things develop.

As an avid runner and weight lifter I strongly believe in an active life style and how it directly correlates to our physical and mental health. Giving our employees an opportunity to exercise at work in a convenient & central location will boost productivity and morale.

A regimen of daily exercise will ensure you live long and prosper, for you and your family.

As PECG's Vice Chair for Health and Wellness, I would like to share a few guidelines when faced with the ultimate food temptations.

- 1.) According to the popular website BeBetter.com, portion control can be achieved through plate control. "The plate's messages are simple: when you eat a meal, try to make half your plate fruits and vegetables, eat more whole grains, and don't oversize your portions."
- 2.) Now a new study suggests that if the color of the food is similar to the color of the plate you are using - for example, cream colored pasta on a beige or white color plate - you may tend to serve yourself more than you might. So, be creative! Add a little contrast in your china! The only thing you will lose is weight!

Let us start 2012 with renewed vigor and strength! A healthy lifestyle is a wealthy one!

Disability Advisory Committee

Scholarship

San Diego Section is one of the participants and sponsor of the D-11 DAC Committee. the Committee is currently is chaired by Roy Flores, Corporate Treasurer and several officers are members of this Committee.

The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 11 San Diego, in conjunction with the California Transportation Foundation (CTF), is pleased to announce the availability of a \$500.00 scholarship.

This scholarship is intended to recognize, encourage, and assist students who have a disability and are pursuing a degree in a transportation related field.

Students graduating from a local high school in San Diego and Imperial counties are eligible and encouraged to apply. For complete details please see the attached application materials.

For additional information please contact DAC Scholarship Committee Chair, Dee Hooker , **(619) 688 6637** or **E-mail** Dee.Hooker@dot.ca.gov

PECG Benefits

San Diego Section would like to remind all members that a variety of discounts on services are available, for more information go to;

<http://www.pecg.org/Benefits/Discounts.htm>

This is a password protected site and password will be available upon member's request on individual basis, please call Evangelina Palm for the password

PECG Video

Members can view PECG's communications in a short video at:

<http://www.pecg.org/Media/Media.htm>

Food Bank

The Caltrans Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) has been very involved in the Food Drive last few years. Fred Abdipour and Naser Ghaderi were among some of the members helping Caltrans D11 food drive this year as well, here's the letter of appreciation received from the Food Bank:

Caltrans DAC

Thank you for participating in the 2011 Holiday Food Drive! Your support is greatly appreciated. It is through community effort like yours that the Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank is able to feed more than 350,000 individuals every month. Your contribution will assist children, senior citizens, disabled persons, men, women, and families throughout San Diego County. Your commitment to fighting hunger is evident: you donated 1,036 pounds of food through your food drive. This means 809 meals can be provided to people in need. Fighting hunger is an important battle, and your impact does not go unnoticed. Thank you for helping to make this year's Holiday Food Drive a success! We hope that you will continue to be an important contributor to our organization. Your participation is always appreciated. For volunteer opportunities, as well as information on our programs, please visit our website at www.sandiegofoodbank.org. Thank you again for your support! And remember - Hunger Knows No Season. Meagan McNeely Holiday Food Drive Coordinator

9850 Distribution Avenue
San Diego, California 92121 P+ 858
5271419
www.sandiegofoodbank.org

Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair is coming up



The 58th Annual Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair will be held March 20 - 25, 2012 at the Balboa Park Activity Center (2145 Park Blvd.) San Diego Section will be heavily involved at the Fair and members interested in helping as volunteer judges representing PECG please contact **Naser Ghaderi** at (619) 623-9035.

PECG Member Retirements

We would like to recognize our members for their years of service and their support of PECG.

If you are planning to retire soon or know of any member that is planning to retire, please let us know by contacting **Robert Lumahan (VP Rank & File – Retirement Honors Committee Chairman)** at robert_lumahan@dot.ca.gov.

Comments & Suggestions

If you have any comments/suggestions regarding this newsletter, please contact:

Section Director, Pedro Aguilar at:

Phone: (858) 688-1372

Email: pedro_aguilar@dot.ca.gov

Or

Section President, Naser Ghaderi at:

Phone: (619) 220-5468

Email: naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov



SAN DIEGO SECTION

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT



PE
CC

February 2012 Newsletter

Presented by the **2011-2012 Section of the Year, San Diego Section Officers**

Section Director	Pedro Aguilar	(858) 688-1372	Caltrans
Section President	Naser Ghaderi	(619) 623-9035	Caltrans
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✓ California Democratic Convention 2012 San Diego



PECC was one of the sponsors of this year's **California Democratic Party Convention** which was held in San Diego on February 10 - 12. All eight constitutionally elected statewide officers (including **Governor Brown**) were in

Attendance and gave speeches in support of worker's rights.



**Section President Naser Ghaderi at the Labor Caucus,
California Democratic Party Convention**

The Governor was also advocating the construction of High Speed Rail in California saying "...Spain can build it. China can build it. France can build it. Germany can build it. England can build it. Japan can build it. But oh, we can't build it..." Perhaps the most inspiring speech was by Attorney General **Kamala Harris** who talked about the

mortgage settlement she got for California and how public employees and working families



are the ones "too big to fail". Environmental activist **Van Jones** discussed how he has met a lot of teachers, policemen, and firefighters but never a public employee.



Senator **Al Franken** gave an entertaining speech of how his mother-in-law was able to successfully raise four kids when she became a widow at age 29. "This is what the safety net is for."



Various PEGG members/staff attended



PEGG Ted Toppin and Joya Gilster



VP At Large John H. Mulder & San Diego Section President Naser Ghaderi

San Diego Section attendees were:
 Naser Ghaderi (Section President)
 Robert Lumahan (Section President Elect)
 Mehrdad (Mo) Maher (VP At-Large)
 Fred Abdipour (Past Director)
 Javad Rhezaii (Member)
 Jay Gitten (Member)

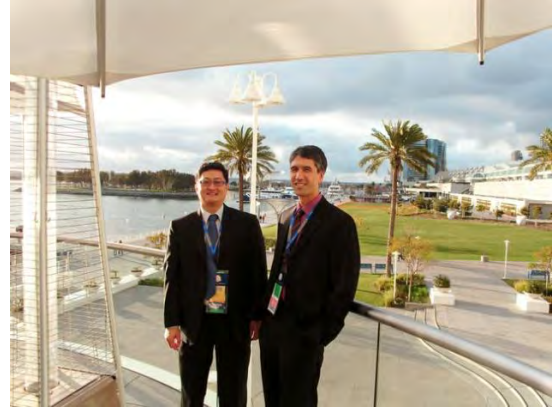


US Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis



US Senator Al Franken

Other speakers included Senator **Diane Feinstein**, Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**, and Congresswoman **Maxine Waters**, Speaker **John Perez** and other politicians and Party organizers.



Steve Lee and Matt Hanson attended



Corporate Officers (L-R) Joya Gilster Nava (VP Rank & File), Roy Flores (Treasurer), Matt Hanson (Past President), Steve Lee (President Elect)



PECG was one of the Convention Sponsors



Section Member Javad Rhezaii (center) with Congressional Candidate Jerry Tetalman (right)

At Large Members Meeting



A meeting for At Large members was held on February 22, 2012 at the DSA

The Section would like to thank John & Jesse for their presence.

San Diego Section **VP At Large Mo Maher**,
Corporate VP At Large John H. Mulder and

PECG Labor Relations Council Jesse Rodriguez discussed at large issues, pensions and the upcoming elections.



Questions were asked about the "Paycheck Deception" proposition, furloughs and Recruitment and Retention bonuses.

Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair Judgment Day is March 21, 2012

San Diego Section is looking for volunteer judges for the San Diego Science Fair this year to participate as

volunteer judges representing PECG for a couple of hours on March 21, 2012 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The event will be held at the Balboa Park Activity Center, 2145 Park Blvd. So far the following members have signed up;

- 1) Jay Gittin
- 2) Lou Melendez
- 3) Sridhar Kidambi
- 4) Benjamin Guerrero
- 5) Kevin Baluyut
- 6) Javad Rhezaii
- 7) Mehrdad Nabizadeh
- 8) Pedro Aguilar
- 9) Michael Martinka
- 10) Azar Habibafshar
- 11) Robert Lumahan
- 12) Sunil Repaka



**COME SEE SAN DIEGO STUDENTS
ENGINEERING A
BRIGHTER FUTURE**

See over 800 students in grades 7-12 from San Diego and Imperial counties demonstrate their expertise in the STEM subjects which are science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The 57th Annual Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair takes place at the Balboa Park Activity Center (corner of Park Blvd and Inspiration Pl. Way).

Thursday, March 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, March 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Family Day! Sunday, March 27
Bring the entire family to enjoy award-winning science fair exhibits! See science demonstrations and participate in fun science experiments for all ages, professional speakers and visit with San Diego Zoo Animal Ambassadors, jellies, guinea and prizes.

THE SCIENCE FAIR IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
For more information visit our website at www.gsdsef.org

SPONSORED BY

FRIEDMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION, QUALCOMM, GEN PROBE, SAGE, RealMed, APCOA, U-T

Also supported by industry, education, friends of science in San Diego and Imperial counties and cities

“Make Your Valentine's Day”

Members **Lou Melendez** and **Frank Contreras** helped the fundraiser event on Valentine Day by selling Candy to benefit CT Employee and Wellness Committees District 11 Courtyard.



San Diego Section PECG members will participate as judges on March 21, 2012.

To sign up, please contact Naser Ghaderi at (619) 623-9035 or email: naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov



May 2012 Newsletter

Presented by the 2011-2012 Section of the Year, San Diego Section Officers

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SAN DIEGO PECG SPONSORED BASKETBALL TOURNAMANET 2012



PECG members and Caltrans Employees from Districts 7, 8, 11, and 12 participated in a Basketball tournament partially sponsored by the San Diego Section PECG. The tournament was placed in the City of Irwindale on April 21st. Member, Frank Contreraz, played a key role in organizing this event with

representatives of the other districts. The districts are looking forward to organizing similar activities in the future for the members and employees. The San Diego Section was represented by Frank, Adrian



Cortez, Jose Delgado, Jimmy Nguyen, and Rafael Reyes. For additional info and future events, please contact Frank Contreras from District 11 Advanced Planning at (619) 688-0162. Future events will also be advertised in PECG newsletters.

2012 San Diego Section PECG Scholarship Program

The PECG San Diego Section Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the availability of two \$500.00 scholarships as a new benefit to the families of PECG San Diego Section members. These scholarships are intended to recognize, encourage and assist high school and college students in reaching their career goals and aspirations through the pursuit of a college degree. Children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of PECG San Diego Section members in good standing are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

Only children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of PECG San Diego Section members in good standing are eligible to apply for the scholarships.

Candidates must be a senior in high school or possess a GED certificate by the end of June 2012 and planning to enroll in a college or university in the fall 2012 semester or quarter as a full-time undergraduate student OR be currently enrolled in a college or university as a full-time undergraduate student. Candidates must also be a US citizen or legal resident of the State of California and must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. No one may receive a scholarship more than once. In future years, previous scholarship recipients will be ineligible.

Award Procedure

A Selection Committee will review all of the application packages submitted.

In addition to the candidate's Official Transcripts and Letters of Recommendation, a Personal Statement including the following will be considered:

1. An Inspirational Life Experience.
2. Career Goals and Aspirations.
3. Community/Volunteer and School Activities.
4. Work Experience.
5. Why you are a good candidate to receive this scholarship.

Award Date

The PECG San Diego Section Scholarship Committee will go through the selection process during the month of June.

Scholarship award winners will be announced in late June.

Winners will be formally presented with their awards shortly after at a luncheon hosted by the PECG San Diego Section.

Complete application packages must be received or be postmarked by Monday, June 4, 2012.

For More Information or Questions, please call or e-mail the PECG San Diego Scholarship Committee members:

Chair Robert Lumahan (619) 688 – 6425 Robert.Lumahan@dot.ca.gov

Member Azar Habibafshar (619) 688 – 3192 Azar.Habibafshar@dot.ca.gov

Member Cristina Nunez (619) 688 – 2583 Cristina.Nunez@dot.ca.gov

2012 San Diego Science Fair

San Diego Section volunteer members participated at the The 58th Annual Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair held on March 20 - 25, 2012 at the Balboa Park Activity Center (2145 Park Blvd.) PECG and San Diego Section awarded 4 Scholarships of \$500 each as well as 4 awards of \$50 each to the best projects selected by the San Diego Section PECG member judges, the award ceremony was held at the San Diego State University's Viejas Hall on 22 March. PECG Corporate President Elect Steve Lee was invited to the event and presented the checks to the students.



PECG Corporate **President Elect Steve Lee**, Naser Ghaderi, Pedro Aguilar, Roy Flores, Lou Melendez and Mo Maher at the Award Ceremony



Lou Melendez, Pedro Aguilar, Mo Maher, Roy Flores and Steve Lee at the Award Ceremony



**San Diego Section Judges Naser Ghaderi, Lou Melendez, Mike Lubin, Pedro Aguilar, Azar Habibafshar, Kevin Baluyut, Julie Ann Jacinto, Robert Lumahan, Sunil Repaka and Sridhar Kidambi.
(Judges Mo Maher, Vasant Kale and Fred Abdipour are not in this picture)**



PECG Judges Mo Maher, Azar Habibafhsar and Vasant Kale Past District 11 Director Pedro Orso Del Gado



Judges Javad Rhezaii, Pedro Aguilar and Michael Lubin



Judges Sunil Repaka and Sridhar Kidambi



Lou Melendez and one of the students

San Diego Section would like to thank PECG President John Roberts, PECG President Elect Steve Lee and PECG Science and Engineering Fair Committee Chair Terry Escarda for making these scholarships possible;



John Roberts



Steve Lee



Terry Escarda

2012 Democratic Dinner April 12, 2012

The Annual Roosevelt Dinner in San Diego was held on Saturday April 12, 2012 at the Holiday Inn on the Bay. Hundreds of Democrats showed up for the event and honored volunteers, candidates, and elected leaders. The dinner was especially important as it was the largest annual fundraising event to support the County Party's growth. Featured speakers at the April 12 awards dinner included San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and California State Controller John Chiang. Author and activist Christine Pelosi were present as

well and provided entertainment and inspiration.



**Members/Officers /Activists Roy Flores, Robert Lumahan ,
Pedro Aguilar, Fred Abdipour, Josan Feathers, Abu Bakr Al-Jafri,
Mo Maher and Mehi Nabizadeh attended the Democratic event.**

FEATURED ELECTED DEMOCRAT



Jösan Feathers came to San Diego from New York in 1975 with a BA in Psychology. She was a California Department of Forestry firefighter for two seasons before joining Caltrans and earning a degree in civil engineering. Jösan retired from California State Parks in 2009 after over 30 years of service. She continues to serve as statewide Political Liaison Chair for Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG). An avid Aztecs basketball fan, she serves on the Valle De Oro Community Planning Board, on the La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club Board, and on the County Democratic Central Committee.

Questions/Comments; Please call;

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Secretary	John Williamson	(619) 718-7822	Caltrans
Treasurer	Azar Habibafshar	(619) 688-3192	Caltrans



June 2012 Newsletter

Presented by the **2011-2012 Section of the Year, San Diego Section Officers**

2012/2013 NOMINATIONS

Dear **Section of the Year San Diego PECG Members**,

If you are interested in serving as a Section Officer for the upcoming PECG 2012/2013 calendar year, please contact the Section's Nominating and Elections Committee:

Robert Lumahan, Chair	(619) 688-6425	Ext. 6718(voicemail) robert_lumahan@dot.ca.gov
Arturo Reyes	(619) 688-6741	arturo_reyes@dot.ca.gov
Eva Palma	619) 688-6007	evangelina_d_palma@dot.ca.gov
Shahin Adibi	(619) 688-6880	shahin_adibi@dot.ca.gov

The deadline to submit a nomination petition is **Friday, June 15, 2012 by 5:00PM.**

2012 San Diego Section PECG Scholarship Program

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Member Cristina Nunez (619) 688 – 2583 Cristina.Nunez@dot.ca.gov

Recent News from the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair



ISEF 2012 in Pittsburgh was a triumph for the GSDSEF! Our students took home a total of 11 awards! Each placed! In case you didn't know, only about 25% of ISEF finalists get any award (place or special). Below are the results. Melissa Rachel Fagan, 17, San Diego Jewish Academy, San Diego, California
MI041 Creation of Alginate Microparticles as a Novel Drug Delivery Vehicle.

- o Grand Awards - First Award of \$3,000 - Microbiology
- o Air Force Research Laboratory on behalf of the United States Air Force – First Award of \$3000
- o Established in 1947, the United States Air Force is one of the seven Uniformed Services of the United

States. The mission of the Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interest -- to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace. The USAF is the largest and most technologically advanced force in the world. Characterized by science and technology, the Air Force is totally committed to rewarding science projects that exhibit these high standards. Today we wish to take this opportunity to thank the parents, teachers, mentors as well as the Society for Science & the Public for providing support and inspiration to these students by giving them the opportunity to excel.

- o Office of Naval Research on behalf of the United States Navy and Marine Corps - Tuition Scholarship Award in the amount of \$8,000, Sara Kornfeld Simpson, 15, Patrick Henry High School, San Diego, California
PH051 Neuronal Nonlinear Dynamics: From an Optical Illusion to Parkinson's Disease

- Grand Awards - Second Award of \$1,500 - Physics and Astronomy
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration - Second Award of \$2,000

- o The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the United States government agency responsible for the nation's civilian space program and for aeronautics and aerospace research. Founded in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, NASA's mission is to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research, answering basic questions like: What's out there in space? How do we get there? What will we find? What can we learn there that will make life better here on Earth? NASA's notable achievements since its founding include developing leading edge flight technology, putting the first man on the moon, putting rovers on Mars, exploring deep space through the eyes of Hubble Space telescope, launching a fleet of weather and communications satellites, flying the first reusable Space Shuttle to provide regular access to space, providing vital scientific climate research, and assembling an orbiting laboratory of the International Space Station. NASA's vision is to continue to reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind, and they are excited to honor projects that have those same goals.

- United States Army - Award of \$1,500, a certificate of achievement, and a gold medallion.

Manita Singh, 17, Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego, California

EN028 Effects of Polycaprolactone and UV Treated Poly (Methyl Methacrylate)

Electrospun Fibers on Osteogenic Differentiation of Dental Pulp Stem Cells

- Grand Awards – Second Award of \$1,500 - ENG: Materials and Bioengineering
- Agilent Technologies - \$25,000 award to the student whose research exemplifies the work that Agilent does in close collaboration with engineers, scientists, and researchers around the globe to meet the communications, electronics, life sciences, and chemical analysis challenges of today and tomorrow.
- o Agilent's worldwide community involvement programs, known collectively as Agilent Action, tangibly demonstrates the company's values and commitment to corporate citizenship. Agilent supports programs that are designed to increase students' interest and achievement in science education, with an emphasis on women, and populations under-represented in the technology industry. Agilent Action inspires minds and enriches lives in the communities where Agilent people live and work.

- Ashtavadhani Vidwan Ambati Subbaraya Chetty Foundation - Second Award of \$500 U.S. savings bond.

- o An educational and medical service foundation dedicated to recognizing academic talent and providing services to the needy. AVASC will award projects that display outstanding creativity, ingenuity and have the potential to alleviate the human condition or mark a substantive advancement in the scientific field.

Apoorva Mylavarapu, 15, Torrey Pines High School, Encinitas, California

BE036 Role of the Basal Forebrain in Mediating Selective Attention

- o Grand Awards - Fourth Award of \$500 - Behavioral and Social Sciences

Other Awards

- The Agilent Teacher Award will be presented to the teacher of an Intel ISEF finalist. This award will be presented to the teacher who has best proposed how they would use the funds to support their professional development in the sciences and further their support of students in independent research.

- o Wendy Slijk, Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego, California

MARTY BLOCK FOR SENATE



Thanks Corporate officer Roy Flores, Section VP at Large Mo Maher and Corporate Committee member Fred Abdipour for attending the the support for Marty Block for Senate in May of 2012

Dennis Alexander Retires



Dennis Alexander is retiring after years of excellent service to PECG. San Diego Section would like to wish Dennis the best and he will be missed. Dennis is with Blanning & Baker and has worked as a labor relations consultant since 1976. Alexander provides representation to members of the Professional Engineers in California Government, assisting with contract negotiations, legislative advocacy and representation at disciplinary hearings. He has also represented engineering supervisors and managers, as well as state scientists and state attorneys. Prior to joining Blanning & Baker, Alexander worked in both staff level and management positions with the California State Employees Association (CSEA). Before joining CSEA, Alexander worked for the California State Senate. Alexander graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in business administration and has completed a certificate program in labor relations from the University of California, Davis, as well as several other labor

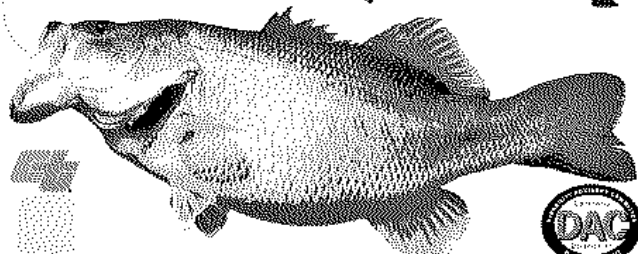
relations programs. He is also a member of the Industrial Relations Association of Northern California.

SAN DIEGO SECTION SPONSORS DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) AND THE FISH BBQ EVENT



DAC Committee members in their monthly meeting

**the annual DAC
Fish BBQ**



**Wednesday, 11:30am,
June 20, 2012 at**
Kearny Mesa Operations Center
7181 Opportunity Road
Ticket cost is \$7.00

*To raise funds to provide a scholarship
to a disabled student seeking studies
in a transportation related field.*

Menu:
BBQ fish, Rice, Salad, Cake and Drink

Purchase Tickets From:
Elsa Hanly: 619-688-2596 - Bldg. 3, FL3
Dee Hooker: 619-688-6637 - Bldg. 2, FL5
Lydia Martinez: 858-467-3043 - TMC
Javad Rhozaifi: 619-481-8178 - Kearny Mesa

Prize Drawing!!

Questions/Comments; Please call;

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June 2012 Quarterly Report

Presented by the 2011-2012 Section of the Year, San Diego Section Officers

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San Diego Member Roy Flores runs for Corporate President Elect



A healthy, productive civilization is based on a good, sound government. It is the primary factor in ensuring domestic tranquility, promoting well being and developing economic success. Our professions are meant to sustain and improve the quality of life for the California public. Most of us work on projects that affect thousands, even millions of lives. Whether you work on the State's infrastructure, ensure the safety of our hospitals, schools & workers or protect the quality of the air we breathe, your job is to improve the standard of living. This setup is so important that it was decided years ago to give this responsibility to the people because it could not be trusted in the hands of private industry. The public is responsible and they hold their representatives accountable for the good stewardship of public resources. We are the experts and we have the knowledge base.

But we are under attack. Various organizations want to take our jobs and propagate misinformation. They are trying to convince the public that our salaries and pensions are bankrupting the state. The 2010 election showed that one person can outspend thousands. Now we have the "Paycheck Deception" proposition that wants to limit our voice, a 5% reduction in employee's compensation and upcoming changes to our retirement system. We need to show that our work brings value to California. I will support our staff of professionals who know how to handle legal and political issues but I would also like for you to be more involved. Talk to your Section Officers about issues that affect

us. This will improve communication within each Section. Give them your input and try to get involved. I encourage you to become a mentor, work with students, participate in workplace activities, take part in your local elections and have discussions with your friends and neighbors about what you do. I will not ask you to do anything that I myself have not done or will continue to do. Be proud of your work and always try to do a good job. Show the public that we are a vital force in state government.

Thank you for reading my statement and I would appreciate your vote for President Elect.

Roy Flores

2012/2013 Nominees for the San Diego Section Office

Mehrdad (Mo) Maher for President Elect

District Structural Engineer, Division of the State Architect

PECG Member since 1996

PECG Experience: Current Section Vice President At Large; Committees: Political Action Liaison; Bring Your Child To Work Day (Chair)

Professional Committees: Emergency Preparedness, Seismic Safety, Structural Code, Masonry Special Inspection Exam, Structural Steel and Welding Inspection, Reinforce Concrete Exam

Professional Organizations: SEAC, ICC, CABO, EERI and ASCE.



We have one of the lowest ratios of state employees per capita in the nation yet we have produced the best & safest infrastructure amongst all of the states.

Officers can best represent us if they're free from personal disputes with the State.

We'll unite all political parties to achieve results and secure our fair pay and pensions. We should support all parties supportive of our needs

and not just throw our support blindly.

I won't rest until supervisor pay parity is restored and the Rank & File get normal pay with raises per our MOU!

Thanks for your support!

Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri for Vice President Supervisory

Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans Design

PECG Member since 1993



PECG Experience: Current Section Vice President Supervisory; Committees: Political Action Liaison; MESA (Chair); Legislative Day; Statewide Meet and

Confer

State workers, responsible for maintaining and improving the public quality of life, are now being demonized by politicians and the media.

The State's budget deficit is being balanced on our backs.

We are forced to take another 5% cut raising the pay parity to 15%. The meet and confer political process has not gotten us the results we deserve. The need for an independent commission that sets adequate compensation is here and now.

I will work hard with the other PEGC officers to correct this using your suggestions and solutions.

I need and appreciate your vote to get this done.

Lilia G. Bowman for Vice President At Large

Associate Safety Engineer, Department of Industrial Relations
Occupational

Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA)

PEGC Member since 2005

PEGC Experience: Committees: By-Laws Review and Revision

Professional Organizations: Past President, Legislative Liaison and Newsletter Editor for the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE); Newsletter Editor for the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (SD ATAP).

My pledge to you is to be the best VP At Large representative.

We thought we had gotten rid of the Furlough Program, but it looks like we are being forced into this again. As VP At Large I will do whatever it takes so that our membership does not go through this once more.

I've been involved with the Committee to review and make changes to our By-Laws and know there is still a lot of work to be done in this area.

A vote for me as your VP At Large is NOT a wasted vote.

Thank you.



Azar Habibafshar for Treasurer

Transportation Engineer (Civil), Caltrans Environmental Engineering Branch

PEGC Member since 1991

PEGC Experience: Current Section Treasurer; Past 3 term Section Treasurer (2002, 2003 and 2004);
Committees: Science Fair (Judge); Scholarship

Caltrans District 11: Diversity and Mentoring Programs

I have been working at Caltrans 21 years ago and have been a PEGC member for 21 years.



I currently serve the Section as Treasurer and have served as Section Treasurer in the past for three straight years from 2002-2004.

I am fully committed to take control of our finances. I believe the Section is in need of financial transparency, so the members are fully informed of the Section finances.

I will manage our financial books, come up with ideas promoting PEGC and collectively be proactive in having our voices heard by the Legislature.

Lawrence Emerson for Secretary



Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans Ramp Metering/TMS Operations and Traffic Systems Support
PEGC Member since 1992

PEGC Experience: Past PEGC San Diego Section Vice President Supervisory;
Committees: Science Fair

As a former PEGC officer I know the value of having good leadership in place to serve the membership.
I'd like to help unite the Section so that we can face the challenges ahead together.

There are bound to be differences in regards to which priorities should be addressed first but by working together I know we can accomplish a lot.

We are at a cross roads at this time at which decisions made in the next year will shape our future as State employees.

I hope to help so that those decisions turn out for the best for us.

Benjamin Guerrero Jr. for VP Rank & File (Coll. Bargaining)

Transportation Engineer (Civil), Caltrans Advanced Planning
PEGC Member since 2005

PEGC Experience: Committees: Health and Wellness (Chair); Science Fair (Judge); PEGC Liaison with SEIU

Education: M.S. in Transportation Engineering & B.S in Civil Engineering – San Diego State University



I will work hard with local and corporate PEGG officers to bring unity & prosperity to our chapter.

I will diligently address Rank and File work issues and concerns.

I will serve you by providing support, clarity, and fairness in every situation.

I will update PEGG members on current issues and challenges that PEGG faces.

Unions are being unfairly attacked all over the country, it's time to stand united and be heard.

A vote for me is a vote for equality and progress.

State employees' pay and benefits are under attack once again; let's tell Sacramento we're fed up!

Frank Contreras for VP Rank & File (Coll. Bargaining)



Transportation Engineer (Civil), Caltrans Advanced Planning

PEGG Member since 2008

PEGG Experience: Committees: At Work Goodwill; PEGG San Diego Section Caltrans Employees Committee Representative

Caltrans District 11: Current Employee Committee Chairman

I've been a PEGG member since beginning my professional career at Caltrans in 2008.

The past two years I've been active in PEGG serving as the PEGG Representative on the Caltrans Employees Committee, helping start the Inaugural PEGG SoCal Inter-District Basketball Tournament, volunteering to distribute PEGG Calendars to members and lending a hand during the Holiday Canned Food Drive.

My goals are to elevate the reputation of our profession and help out members anyway I can through strong communication and teamwork.

I look forward to addressing member issues and improving our Section.

Vote for me and you won't be disappointed!

MARTY BLOCK FOR SENATE



Section officers and members in support of Marty Block May 2012



Thanks corporate officer Roy Flores, Section VP at Large Mo Maher and Corporate Committee member Fred Abdipour for attending the support for Marty Block for Senate in May of 2012

SAN DIEGO SECTION SPONSORS DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) AND THE FISH BBQ EVENT



DAC coordinate the Fish B-B-Q



Corporate Treasurer Roy Flores was a big help at this event



Bruce Urquhart and Bruce April helped serve the food, more than 100 employees showed up for lunch at this DAC sponsored and PECG co-sponsored Fish B-BQ.



Section President Naser Ghaderi helped at the event by serving food as well as other coordination efforts



DAC also awarded a \$500 Scholarship to students

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The PECG San Diego Section Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the availability of two \$500.00 scholarships as a new benefit to the families of PECG San Diego Section members. Seven applications have been received and are being reviewed by the Scholarship Committee and the top 2 will be awarded soon.