



April 2011 Newsletter

Presented by the **2010-2011 San Diego Section Officers**

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|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
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Volume I Number VII

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Ratification Meeting a Major Event

The San Diego Section held its MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) ratification meeting on **March 30th**.

In anticipation of a high turn out of Section members and the limited capacity of the Garcia Auditorium at the Caltrans District 11 Offices, the Section officers decided to schedule two separate but identical meetings to safely accommodate everyone. Both meetings were well attended.

Corporate President Elect **John Roberts**, past Corporate Secretary **Joya Gilster Nava**, and PECG Executive Director **Bruce Blanning** were on hand to provide background on how the MOU was crafted



and to answer the many questions from the concerned members in attendance.

UPDATE: On **April 8th**, PECG Corporate Offices finished counting all submitted votes. The Proposed MOU was ratified with more than 90% of members' votes in favor.

The next step in the process is for the Legislature to adopt the MOU.

The vehicle for doing so is **Senate Bill 151 (SB 151)**, which also includes the MOUs for the other five Bargaining Units which reached agreement with the Governor in the last month, plus a couple of minor revisions to MOUs for a few Units which reached agreement last year.

SB 151 was approved by the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee on **April 11th** and is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on **April 25th**.

The bill still has to pass several other committees and both the Senate and Assembly before it is signed by the Governor.

Thus far, the vote has been along party lines, with Democrats voting yes and Republicans voting no. As currently written, the Bill will require a two-thirds approval in each House of the Legislature, meaning support from some Republican legislators will be necessary.

It's Official - Doug Dunaway Memorial Bridge Dedication



The New River Bridge on the State Route 78/Brawley Bypass in Imperial County is now the **Douglas B. Dunaway Memorial Bridge**.

A dedication ceremony was held on **March 4th** to unveil the new signage for the bridge in honor of Doug.

Doug's family members, friends and coworkers (pictured below) attended the event.



The Section would especially like to thank members **Shawn Rizzutto** and **Carlos Lopez** for coordinating the tremendous campaign to make this event happen.

Section Members Concerns Presented to Legislators in Sacramento

On **March 1st**, San Diego Section officers took an active role in **PECG's Annual Legislator's Day** held at the State Capitol building in Sacramento.



Pictured from L-R: Section VP Rank & File **Robert Lumahan**, Past Director **Mehrdad Nabizadeh**, PECG Corporate Political Liaison Chair **Josan Feathers**, Assembly member (77th District) **Marty Block**, Past Director **Fred Abdipour**, Section President **Pedro Aguilar** and PECG Executive Director **Bruce Blanning**.

They met with various politicians from both political parties, as well as, their chiefs of staff to discuss the current issues facing PECG members.

Amongst the issues discussed were: the State Budget, Furloughs, Pension Reform, the PECG MOU, Supervisor Pay Disparity, a Deep Class for several Specialty Engineers, the fair treatment of PECG members and our willingness to help the State and sacrifice for its well being during these uncertain times.

State Controller John Chiang Speaks to PECG Leaders



Section President Pedro Aguilar and State Controller John Chiang

California State Controller, **John Chiang** was the guest speaker at PECG's Board of Director's meeting held on **March 4th**.

He expressed his opinion on using State employees as pawns in the yearly budget negotiations.

He also re-iterated that the State's paycheck program would have been unable to comply with the **Fair Labor & Standards Act** if then Governor Schwarzenegger had gotten his way in imposing minimum wage on state employees.

Section President, **Pedro Aguilar** and Section Director, **Naser Ghaderi** represented the Section.

The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair

The **57th Annual Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair (GSDSEF)** was held March 22 -27 at the Balboa Park Activity Center.

The PECG San Diego Section helped judge projects on **March 23rd** along with other professional organizations.

The Section would like to thank the following members who helped judge this year:

Mehrdad Nabizadeh, Pedro Aguilar, Scott Ketcham, Jeff Baluyut, Steven W Threlkeld, Kevin Baluyut, Julie Ann Jacinto, Javad Rhezaii, Chris Semaan, Abu-Bakr H Al-Jafri, Robert Lumahan, Fred Abdipour, Sridhar Kidambi, Sunil Repaka, Azar Habibafshar, Lou Melendez, Benjamin Guerrero and Thomas Larson (pictured below).



Our Section Director, **Naser Ghaderi** is the Chairperson of the Section's Science Fair Committee. He is also on the GSDSEF Corporate Board of Directors.

Please refer to our “Special Edition” Science Fair newsletter that came out earlier this month for extended coverage of this year’s event.

PECG Members Volunteer to Help MESA Students



College students from the **Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement Program (MESA)** participated in a job shadowing event at the Caltrans District 11 Offices.

The event was coordinated by **Section VP Supervisory Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, Section Member Chris Thomas, Section Member Dimitar Peev** and several other Section members.



Students were shown how roadway projects evolve from the planning stage up through construction and maintenance.

This event is sponsored yearly by the Section with lunch and refreshments provided to all of the participants.

MESA is nationally recognized for its innovative and effective academic development program.

The program helps thousands of educationally disadvantaged students to excel in math and science and graduate with math-based degrees.

MESA partners with all segments of California higher education as well as K-12 institutions.

For more info, please visit their website at <http://mesa.ucop.edu/>

SR 52 Grand Opening a Boon to San Diego’s East County



A celebration for the opening of the SR-52 connector to SR-67 was held in Santee on Saturday, **March 19, 2011**.

To highlight the great economic benefit of this project there were vendors from all over San Diego County at the celebration offering a diverse pool of business services and products to all in attendance.

There was entertainment for kids, free food, music, and a large crowd of happy residents who walked and/or biked the newly finished stretch of freeway.

A great time was had by all.

The San Diego Section proudly represented PECG and generously gave out free water while performing educational outreach to attendees about PECG.



Pictured L-R: Section Member Chi Vargas w/ son Jack & wife Amy, Section President Pedro Aguilar and Section Member Mehrdad Pakandam

Many new acquaintances were made and officers in attendance fielded questions from non-member engineers not familiar with PECG.

The festivities started at 9:00 AM and lasted through 2:00 PM.

From the PECG San Diego Section to all of the PECG members involved in bringing this much needed facility to fruition we offer a big thank you and congratulations on a job well done!



805 Southbound Auxiliary Lane Project in Bonita Opens to the South County Traveling Public's Delight



Jason Alsheikh hard at work delivering projects as a Resident Engineer for Caltrans District 11

This much awaited project was opened to traffic in March and immediately provided congestion relief to drivers along the stretch of I-805 between SR-54 and Telegraph Canyon Road / L Street in the Chula Vista area.

Congratulations to Jason and all of the other dedicated PECG members who helped make this project a reality!

Jason's contributions and accomplishments are further detailed in the newly re-launched Caltrans District 11 employee newsletter "Freeways and Faces".

To read more just click on the following link:

<http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/dist11/pubafir/newsletter/April11/thecloser.htm>

Efforts to Establish Caltrans District 11 Co-Ed Fitness and Wellness Center are Off and Running

The Section congratulates all involved in the District Wellness Committee and wishes them success in establishing a co-ed Fitness and Wellness Center for Caltrans District 11.

The PEGC San Diego Section stands in full support of these efforts and looks forward to helping the Committee in any which way it can.

For more information on this effort please see the *Freeways and Faces* write up at:

<http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/dist11/pubafir/newletter/April11/fitness.htm>

The PEGC San Diego Section Continues Sponsorship of Bring Your Child to Work Day

The PEGC San Diego Section continues to be the main sponsor of the annual BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY (BYCTWD).

This year's event is set for **April 28th, 2011**.

If you have any questions about BYCTWD please call **Section Director Naser Ghaderi** at (619) 623-9035 or email him at naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov

For questions regarding chaperones for the event, please contact **Evangeline D Palma** at (619) 688-6007.

Lunch will be provided by the PEGC San Diego Section for all participants.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, April 25th @ 11:30AM - Joel Haven's Retirement Celebration
- Thursday, April 28th @ 7:00AM – Bring Your Child To Work Day
- Wednesday, May 4th @TBD – Ron Prado's Retirement Celebration
- Thursday, May 5th @10:00AM – Annual San Diego Section Imperial Valley General Meeting

Membership Numbers

As of **April 14th, 2011** the PEGC San Diego Section has **677** members out of **785** represented employees.

This gives us a membership rate of 86% and puts our Section in third place (in terms of membership percentage) out of the 17 PEGC Sections.

Only the Orange County (1st) and Inland Empire (2nd) Sections have greater membership rates than us.

This includes all state employees working as Engineer, Surveyors, Architects, Engineering Geologist, Landscape Architects and other related categories.



MEMBER INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Section Wants to Hear from At Large PEGC Members

If you are interested in helping out to provide better representation of issues and events at your work place in the Section newsletter, please contact **Section Advisor Roy Flores** at (619) 688-2543 roy_flores@ca.dot.gov or **VP Rank and File Robert Lumahan** at (619) 688-6718 or robert_lumahan@ca.dot.gov

At Large Committee Looking for Members

Section VP At Large, and **Chairman of the newly formed At Large Committee, Jared Ataiyan**, is looking for At Large members interested in joining the newly formed At Large Committee.

For more information, please contact Jared at (858) 674-5437 or jared.ataiyan@dgs.ca.gov

PEGC Member Retirements

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

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.

Recruiting a New Member

Do you know of someone who is not yet a PEGC member? Would you like to receive \$25 from PEGC?

Well, all you have to do is sign up that person as a new PEGC member and you'll receive \$25 from PEGC!

Membership applications can be downloaded from the PEGC website at <http://www.pecg.org/Benefits/Application.pdf> and can be submitted to PEGC either by faxing them to **(916) 446-0489** or mailing them to:

PEGC
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 501
Sacramento, CA 95814

PEGC Fed PAC Helping PEGC Have a Voice in Washington, D.C.

The PEGC **Fed PAC** (Federal Political Action Committee) was created two years ago to help PEGC protect your interests in Washington, D.C.

By joining the PEGC Fed PAC you will be helping PEGC have a voice in securing federal funding for state transportation, water, energy, school, environmental and hospital programs; protecting your job from wasteful, overpriced outsourcing and providing competitive wages and benefits for public employees.

You can download the PEGC Fed PAC application at:
<http://www.pecg.org/Benefits/FED-PAC.pdf>

Join today!

Miscellaneous Current Event Quotes

- Regarding Federal Budget Stalemate

"More than citizens of any other country, we are rugged individualists, a self-reliant people with a healthy skepticism of too much government. . .but there has always been another thread running throughout our history — a belief that we are all connected; and that there are some things we can only do together, as a nation."

President Barack Obama

- Regarding State Budget Stalemate

"Let's Get Moving!"

Gov. Brown to Republicans

"The state budget is like going to a restaurant with a bunch of friends and pigging out. When the bill comes no one believes they should pay."

Anonymous Member

Twitter Account

Follow us on **Twitter** -

<http://twitter.com/PECG>

http://twitter.com/PECG_SanDiego

Please contact **Sunil Repaka**, the Section's **Social Networking Coordinator** at (619) 688-6684 if you have any questions about **Twitter**.

PECG ISSUES

If you have any questions or comments about bargaining, job related issues, benefits, etc please contact one of the officers listed on the first page or you can also browse through the PECG website at: pecg.org or the Section's website at: sandiegopecg.org

Comments and Suggestions

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

Section President, Pedro Aguilar at:

Phone: (858) 688-1372

Email: pedro_aguilar@dot.ca.gov

Or **Section Director, Naser Ghaderi** at:

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