



## August 2012 Quarterly Report

Presented by the 2012-2013 San Diego Section Officers

<p><b>Section Director</b>  <b>Section President</b>  <b>President Elect</b>  <b>VP Supervisory</b>  <b>VP Rank &amp; File</b>  <b>VP At Large</b>  <b>Secretary</b>  <b>Treasurer</b></p>	<p><b>Naser Ghaderi</b>  <b>Robert Lumahan</b>  <b>Mehrdad “Mo” Maher</b>  <b>Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri</b>  <b>Ben Guerrero Jr.</b>  <b>Lilia Bowman</b>  <b>Lawrence Emerson</b>  <b>Azar Habibafshar</b></p>	<p><b>(619) 623-9035</b>  <b>(619) 688-5124</b>  <b>(858) 674-5437</b>  <b>(619) 491-3077</b>  <b>(619) 688-3199</b>  <b>(619) 767-2280</b>  <b>(858) 467-3073</b>  <b>(619) 688-3192</b></p>	<p><b>Caltrans</b>  <b>Caltrans</b>  <b>Div of State Arch</b>  <b>Caltrans</b>  <b>Caltrans</b>  <b>Cal/OSHA</b>  <b>Caltrans</b>  <b>Caltrans</b></p>
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Volume II Number I

### Section Annual Meeting Reflects on Challenges Ahead



The Section Annual Meeting was held on August 13 to swear in the new Section Officers and to kick off the new Section Year.

Held at the picturesque Marina Village on Mission Bay

in the spacious Captain’s Room the Annual Meeting was well attended by over 200 San Diego Section members and guests.

Corporate Treasurer and Corporate President Elect Candidate **Roy Flores** opened the meeting by welcoming



everyone in attendance before speaking about long time PECG member **Jay Gittin**.

Jay was dedicated to helping develop the next generation of engineers and showed this dedication by working with local college engineering students to help them gain practical real world experience in the structural engineering field. Jay volunteered many long hours meeting with students and coordinating activities that ranged from planning, designing to constructing actual structures.

Jay also gave back to his community through his involvement in various humanitarian efforts and through a nonprofit organization that he founded.



Jay (pictured with his sons, Taylor and Jason) unexpectedly passed away on July 25 and is sorely missed by his family and many friends.

To honor Jay and his commitment to helping others, especially college students, the Section Officers have decided to name one of the Section’s Scholarship Awards after Jay. The Jay Gittin Memorial Scholarship Award will be awarded for the first time when the next Section Scholarship awards are given.



Roy, as the senior most PEGG Officer in the Section, also swore in the following incoming Section Officers:

Incoming Director: **Naser Ghaderi**  
 President: **Robert Lumahan**  
 President Elect: **Mo Maher**  
 VP Supervisory: **Abu-Bakr H Al-Jafri**  
 VP Rank & File: **Ben Guerrero Jr.**  
 VP At Large: **Lilia Bowman**  
 Secretary: **Lawrence Emerson**  
 Treasurer: **Azar Habibafshar**



Robert’s first official act as Section President, and the Section Scholarship Committee Chairman, was to present the Section Scholarship Awards to this year’s winners (pictured with Devangi Dave, accepting for her son – Achal Dave, Karla Medina, Jennifer Gutierrez and Montana Knapp).

Due to the exceptional quality of all of the applicants, the Section decided to increase the total number of scholarships awarded this year from two \$500 scholarships to three \$500 scholarships and five \$150 scholarships.

Congratulations to the following Scholarship Award Winners:

**Jennifer Gutierrez**  
**Montana Knapp**  
**Arthur Reyes**  
**Mohsen Baghchechi**  
**Achal Dave**  
**Karla Medina**  
**Aliyah C. Moradi-Bidhendi**  
**Omid Rhezaii**

The Section Officers and Scholarship Committee members wish all of the winners the best of luck !

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 PEGC San Diego Section members in good standing are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Please look for the 2013 Section Scholarship Program Description and Application materials again next year.



Guest Speaker **Jesse Rodriguez**, PEGC Labor Relations Counsel, spoke about issues facing PEGC members and gave advice on what members should be on the lookout for in the upcoming elections later this year.



Incoming Corporate President, **Steve Lee**, spoke next about PEGC's continued commitment to and successes in fighting for the membership. Steve also spoke about the need for PEGC to remain a

strong, united organization ever vigilant and engaged on the many different fronts where challenges have arisen to the membership in the current economic conditions.



Section President, **Robert Lumahan**, followed by stressing that in the face of all of the current challenges, PEGC members must continue to be the best in our respective fields and the best option available for the State in delivering the work that we are involved in. Robert mentioned that if PEGC members are not the best option for the State, there are many others out there who are willing to step in and take that work.



Section VP Supervisory, **Abu-Bakr H Al-Jafri** and Section



President Elect, **Mo Maher** also addressed the members regarding the on-going Senior Pay Parity issue and challenges facing PEGC members in the Division of the State Architect.



The Section Annual Meeting wrapped up with a generous raffle conducted by Incoming Section Director, **Naser Ghaderi**, and Past Section Officer, **Vito Tarantino**.

At the risk of missing someone, the Section would like to give special thanks and recognize the following members who were instrumental in making the Section Annual Meeting a great success:

**Naser Ghaderi**  
**Pedro Aguilar**  
**Roy Flores**  
**Azar Habibafshar**  
**Mo Maher**  
**Ben Guerrero Jr.**  
**Lawrence Emerson**  
**Vito Tarantino**  
**Shahin Adibi**  
**Fred Abdipour**  
**Josan Feathers**



Special thanks, as well, to our guest speakers, Incoming Corporate President, **Steve Lee** and PECG Labor Relations Counsel, Jesse **Rodriguez** for taking the time to travel to San Diego and spend the afternoon with the Section!

## **New Transportation Bill – Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21) Signed into Law**

MAP-21 will provide \$106 billion in funding for surface transportation programs for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014.

MAP-21 extends the current SAFETEA-LU programs and all related provisions through the end of FY 2012 which includes the 100% federal share for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, which was scheduled to expire at the end of FY 2012.

To read up more on MAP-21 visit the FHWA website at:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/factsheets.cfm>

## **Caltrans District 11 Health and Wellness Board Officially Formed for Final Push to Open On Campus Gym in November**

PECG continues to be heavily involved in helping to establish a gym on the campus of the Caltrans District Office in San Diego.

The Caltrans Health and Wellness Committee recently named Board members who will oversee the creation of the gym and its eventual management. Section VP Rank & File, **Ben Guerrero Jr.** and Corporate Treasurer, **Roy Flores** have volunteered to serve on the Board to see this effort become a reality.

A location on the first floor of Building 2 has been identified and a layout has been drawn up for the gym. In addition, vendors have submitted cost estimates for the equipment and schedules are being proposed for the work involved with physically setting up the gym with the Grand Opening currently scheduled for November this year.

The Board has discussed donating a full one year membership to be given away as a prize for the upcoming Diversity Disability Day and/or Employee Appreciation Day. Stay tuned and be on the lookout for an official announcement.

They have also decided to give discounts to those who sign up for memberships early.

For more information or to sign up for membership please contact Ben at (619) 688-3199.

## **Highest Ranking PECG Member in Caltrans District 11 Moves on to the City of Chula Vista**



Bill Valle, the highest ranking PECG member in Caltrans District 11, has moved on to the City of Chula Vista.

Bill served 29 plus years with the State all of which were with Caltrans.

Bill maintained his PEEG membership through his promotions into upper management and was a member in good standing until deciding to leave State Service.

On Bill's final day with Caltrans he shared the following message:

"Looking back there are so many accomplishments we achieved together. I am not going to attempt to mention (all of) them. Instead I want to tip my hat to each and every one of you for your contribution in making Caltrans one of the greatest organizations ever."

Happy Trails Bill and Good Luck in Chula Vista!

## **Congratulations to the New Corporate Officers**

The Section would like to congratulate the following new incoming Corporate Officers:

President:	<b>Steven Lee</b>
President Elect:	<b>Cathrina Barros</b>
Past President:	<b>John Roberts</b>
VP Collective Bargaining:	<b>Matt Hanson</b>
VP Supervisory:	<b>Alan Escarda</b>
VP At Large:	<b>Terry Escarda</b>
Secretary:	<b>Cameron Knudson</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Mark Sheahan</b>

The Section also congratulates Current Corporate Treasurer and President Elect Candidate, **Roy Flores**, for his willingness to run and volunteer his time to

serve the membership and represent the San Diego Section as a Corporate Officer!

## **PEEG Celebrates its Golden Anniversary – 50 Years and Still Going Strong**



Born in 1962 to represent the best interests of its members, PEEG continues today to be the strongest advocate for State Bargaining Unit 9 and its affiliated members.

PEEG serves and fights for all of its members and there are no other groups championing our issues in Sacramento or Washington D.C.

At such a critical time as the one we now find ourselves in, we as members need to continue to support PEEG!



✓ **The 2012 Section Scholarships Award Program reached \$2,250**

San Diego Section for the first time formed its Scholarship Committee in 2012 and 8 applications were received.

Originally, Section had allocated 2 scholarships of \$500 for the top 2 projects. The top 3 applications came very close on the judges' score cards so the Section officers decided to award all 3 top projects with a \$500 Scholarship after Committee's recommendations.

It was also decided by the Section officers to award the remaining 5 applicants a \$150 scholarship each.

This brings the Section's total Scholarship award to a high of **\$2,250** which is the highest of all other Sections and this with using only Section funds.

The awards were presented at the August 13 Section Annual Meeting.

**A message from Bruce Urquhart on the P.E. Review Course at Caltrans San Diego**



The next session of the PE Review class sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of ASCE-YMF, is scheduled to start on Saturday, July 28, and meet on consecutive Saturdays until

September 29 (there will be no class on Saturday, September 1, due to Labor Day

weekend). As in previous years, District 11 will be hosting the classes (in the Garcia Room) and due to this arrangement, any engineer wanting to take these review classes will be able to attend at a reduced rate of 50% off the regular tuition price. This is an excellent way to assist in the preparation of taking the upcoming PE Exam and I want to encourage all prospective engineers to examine the attachments explaining the details of this review class. This price reduction is only offered to Caltrans employees, so please give this review class serious consideration as part of your preparation to take the October 2012, PE Exam.

Attached is the schedule of classes and a registration form to fill out if interested.

Please note that the schedule of classes is correct and the dates on the registration form have been modified due to late schedule changes from instructors.

This partnership with the San Diego Chapter of ASCE-YMF and District 11 has been a successful one for several years, and many CE's in our District have benefited from these classes as part of their preparation and successful passing of the PE exam. If you are considering taking this year's exam please review the attachments and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me or the ASCE-YMF coordinators on the registration form.

Thanks and best of luck,

Bruce Urquhart  
Division Chief, Division of Land Surveys  
(619) 688-3668 office  
(619) 247-3446 Cell

## NEW P.E. FEES

As many of you may have noticed, the PE Exam fees have gone up significantly. The old fee used to be \$275 for the entire exam whether you were taking one or more exams. Based on the new fees, depending on how many exams you are taking, you may end up paying twice or even more to take the exam/s and the fees are according to the test you are taking. There is also a processing fee. The testing date for the 8-hr exam will be Friday October 26. However, for the surveying and seismic exams, there is a window to take the exams at the computerized testing centers. Please note that the actual application process has changed as well. Here is a link to the CA exam info on NCEES:

<http://www.ncees.org/Exams/States/CA.php>

## Soccer



**Vito Tarantino**

Some PECG members have started Soccer Practice and all members are welcome to join. Soccer practice every Thursday after work from 4:30 to 6:30 at East Mission Bay Park next to Hilton, come join us. Second game this Thursday July 12t. Location Map attached. Any questions, please call Naser Ghaderi at (619) 623-9035 or Vito Tarantino at (619) 220-5316.

## Mentoring Students



Left to right: Dist 11 Employee Committee Chair **Frank Contreras**, PECG Treasurer **Roy Flores**, Intern **Leonora Pizarro** and Section President Elect **Robert Lumahan**

Section continues to mentor students at Caltrans. The newest student intern working at District Advance Planning group is Leonora Pizarro, a graduating senior at SDSU majoring in Civil Engineering. Leonora is a Geotech Engineering researcher at SDSU as well as in the Earthquake Engineering research Institute Chapter. She will graduate in December 2012 and plans to continue her studies at SDSU for master's degree and she also works as an intern with the City of San Diego's Field Engineering.

## Bylaws Proposed Revisions

The 2011/2012 San Diego Section Bylaws Committee and the Section Officers have been working closely with the PECG Corporate staff to best address the needs of the Section and its members and have worked hard to propose revisions to the San Diego Section Bylaws. The current version of the Bylaws as well as the proposed revised version are posted on the San Diego Section website. Please visit <http://www.sandiegopecg.org/>.



Ballots will soon be mailed out to members' address on file for vote. Please note that this ballot will be printed on the back of the same sheet as the election ballot and will be returned in the same envelope as the election ballot.

San Diego Section would like to thank the Committee for their hard work on the proposed revisions.

**Update:** In the past Section elections the proposed revisions were accepted and the Section Bylaws have been revised accordingly.

## Heart Walk

The American Heart Association has thanked the San Diego Section for its donation of \$100 to the 21st San Diego Heart Walk to be held on Saturday, September 15, 2012 in Balboa Park San Diego. About 10,000 walkers are expected to join in Balboa Park to save lives. The Heart Walk would not be possible without the support of our community donors and supporters.

## Proposed Gymnasium at Caltrans is near



District 11 Health and Wellness Committee Vice Chair **Ben Guerrero**

San Diego Section PECG is one of the sponsors of the plan to establish a new gymnasium at the Dist Office and the efforts to open the very first Gymnasium have been successful. The location has been selected and we are currently polishing up some details such as the type of equipment we will be providing and logistics. We anticipate a grand opening within the next few months. Your health is important and it is with this thought I extend an open invitation to all who want to stay healthier, get healthier, stay focused, lose weight, gain energy, maintain balance and thrive! Stay in motion! More details to come regarding membership and sign-ups”

## At Large Picnic

Department of State Architectural Services (DSA) will have its summer picnic on September 11 at the 4S Ranch Park. Please contact VP at Large Mo Maher (858) 663-7400 with any questions. San Diego Section will be sponsoring this event.

## Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Fish Barbeque



Cyndee McGowan, Naser Ghaderi, Sandra Hernandez and La Sonja Boulware actively

helped make the Fish BBQ event a success.



Roy Flores, DAC Committee Chair helped in many of the efforts making this lunch fundraiser a success.



Special thanks to Bruce Urquhart, Bruce April and Lorna Rice helped serve the food to over 100 participants.



DAC Committee coordinated this event better than ever!



Proceeds are used by DAC to award \$500 Scholarship to students in need.

## MARTY BLOCK FOR SENATE



Thanks Corporate officer Roy Flores, Section VP at Large Mo Maher and Corporate Committee member Fred Abdipour for attending and supporting the Marty Block for Senate local event.

## Wise Words from Our Own Roy Flores



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

Well said Roy, well said.

## **PECG Fed PAC Helping PECG Have a Voice in Washington, D.C.**

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

By joining the PECG Fed PAC you will be helping PECG 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 PECG Fed PAC application at:

<http://www.pecg.org/Benefits/FED-PAC.htm>

Join today!

## **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:

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

or the Section's website at:

<http://www.sandiegopecg.org/>

## **Comments and Suggestions**

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

**Section President, Robert Lumahan** at:

**Phone:** (619) 688-5124

**Email:** [robert\\_lumahan@dot.ca.gov](mailto:robert_lumahan@dot.ca.gov)

or **Incoming Section Director, Naser Ghaderi** at:

**Phone:** (619) 220-5468

**Email:** [naser\\_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov](mailto:naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov)

