



**February 2012 Quarterly Report**

Presented by the **2011-2012 San Diego Section Officers**

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<b>Section President</b>	<b>Naser Ghaderi</b>	<b>(619) 623-9035</b>	<b>Caltrans</b>
<b>President Elect</b>	<b>Robert Lumahan</b>	<b>(619) 688-8190</b>	<b>Caltrans</b>
<b>VP Supervisory</b>	<b>Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri</b>	<b>(619) 491-3077</b>	<b>Caltrans</b>
<b>VP Rank &amp; File</b>	<b>Tony Karam</b>	<b>(619) 688-6718</b>	<b>Caltrans</b>
<b>VP At Large</b>	<b>Mehrdad Maher</b>	<b>(858) 674-5437</b>	<b>Div of State Arch</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>John Williamson</b>	<b>(619) 718-7822</b>	<b>Caltrans</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Azar Habibafshar</b>	<b>(619) 688-3192</b>	<b>Caltrans</b>

✓ **California Democratic Convention 2012 San Diego**



PECG 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 Section members attended:

- 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.



*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 Tetelman (right)*



## At Large Members Meeting



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



Building. San Diego, SD Section VP At Large **Mo Maher**, Corporate VP At Large **John H. Mulder** and PEGC 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. The Section would like to thank **John & Jesse** for their presence.

## 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 PEGC 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*



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

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

## Member Retirement - Erlinda Quiambao



On **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**, PEGG 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**. He was a PEGG 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

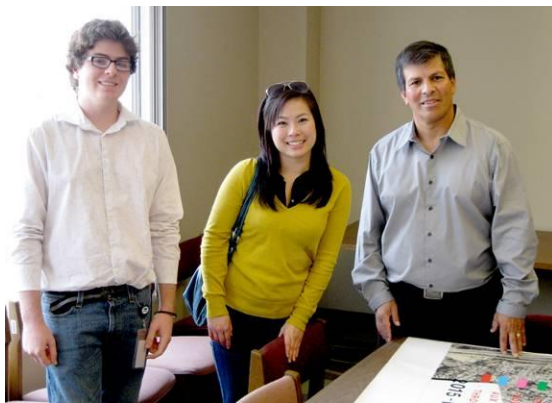
**Yusaf Rahman** retired on **December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. He was a PEGG member and state employee for over 20 years. Yusaf's journey to California is as long as they come. Born in Assam India (on the Himalayan foothills) he was able to attend Cambridge University's High School program and eventually 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 Chesy, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student from High Tech High International.



PEGC 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.

## 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](mailto:Dee.Hooker@dot.ca.gov)

### PEGC 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.pegc.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](http://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](http://www.sandiegofoodbank.org)

## Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair is coming up



**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 Pk 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 kids of all ages, professional speakers and visit with San Diego Zoo Animal Ambassadors, raffles, games and prizes.

**THE SCIENCE FAIR IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
For more information visit our website at [www.gdssef.org](http://www.gdssef.org)

SPONSORED BY

FRIEDMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION, GEN-PROSE, SDGE, QUALCOMM, CEN-PROSE, SDGE, COORDRICH, APCEA, SAN DIEGO ZOO, UTEC

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

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 Mehi Nabizade at : [Mehrdad Nabizadeh@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Mehrdad.Nabizadeh@dot.ca.gov)

## Marty Block State Senate Campaign



San Diego PEGC Section officers attended a fundraiser for Assembly Member (78<sup>th</sup>) **Marty Block**. He is running for State Senate this year. Assembly Member Block has been very supportive of PEGC 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 (79<sup>th</sup>) **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.

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## Mentoring Students

## and Wellness Committee

- 1.) 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!

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## 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](mailto:pedro_aguilar@dot.ca.gov)

Or

**Section President, Naser Ghaderi** at:

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

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

