



January 2011 Newsletter

Presented by the 2010-2011 San Diego Section Officers

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Volume I Number IV

Contract Bargaining Heating Up

The **Unit 9 PECG Bargaining Team** met with **DPA Director Ron Yank** and his staff on **February 1** to attempt to negotiate a new MOU or labor contract for Unit 9 with Governor Brown's Administration. Follow up meetings with DPA are scheduled for February 14th followed by a meeting between DPA and the PECG Supervisory Meet and Confer Team on **February 16** to discuss the continuing salary inequity for supervisors who did not receive the 10% raise paid to the Bargaining Unit in 2008.

Thank you to all who provided input in the San Diego Section sponsored contract negotiation survey back in November of last year. Your input is invaluable and was presented to the PECG Bargaining Team by **VP Rank and File (Collective Bargaining) Robert Lumahan** in Sacramento for their consideration.

With the Governor asking that a State Budget be in place by **March 1st**. We should know fairly soon where we stand through the end of this fiscal year; as well as, going into the upcoming one.

What happens beyond that will be determined by the results of our PECG Bargaining Team's collective bargaining efforts.

Douglas B. Dunaway Memorial Bridge



The **New River Bridge** on the State Route 78 Bypass in Imperial County has been renamed in honor of Former PECG member and Caltrans Structures

Representative **Douglas B. Dunaway**. Doug's dedication to Caltrans was exemplary and set standards for others to

follow for years to come. To honor Doug, PEGC will be donating **\$500** toward the estimated \$4,100 required to make and install the memorial signs.

Mentor Program Provides Opportunities



On **January 26, 2011** the **Caltrans District 11 Mentor Program** kicked off its current mentoring session. Over 30 employees attended including many PEGC members.

Kudos to the following PEGC members who have graciously volunteered their time as mentors: **Azar Habibafshar, Bruce Lambert, Bruce Urquhart, Chi Vargas, Erwin Gojuangco, Fred Abdipour, Heidi Martin, Kazim Mamdani, Kurt Scherer, Lima Kopitch, Lou Melendez, Mark Kaems, Michael Lubin, Ramon Martinez** and **Sam Amen**.

This program is offered free of charge to Caltrans employees by the Caltrans District 11 Administration Training Office and is administered by **Aaron Ochoco, Bea Bastien** and **Carmen Irene**.

The main goal of the program is to “help employees achieve their full potential – whether at their current level or for advancement”.

For more information please call **Aaron Ochoco** at **(619) 220-7352** or log on to the Caltrans Intranet Training Website and click on the “Mentoring” tag on the left hand side of the page.

PEGC Members Share Knowledge with Student Interns



L-R, **Nicole Pack** HTHI Math Teacher, **Roy Flores**, **Søren Schmidt** (intern) and **Frank Contreras**

Caltrans District 11 continues to participate in the **High Tech High** intern program. All 11th grade students are encouraged to participate. This semester, two students from High Tech High International worked alongside engineers from January 5th through January 28th six hours each day. The Section continues to support the student intern programs at Caltrans.

State Facilities Management Team Saves the Day for PEGC Members at Caltrans District Office

On Sunday, **January 2nd**, the Caltrans District Office (DO) suffered a water main break. Building Security notified Department of General Services (DGS) and Caltrans Facilities. The problem was fixed that evening but the contractor suggested waiting 24 hours for the pipe

adhesives to dry before allowing water to flow back into the building.



To avoid closing the DO, Facilities opened up the rest-rooms for the CT museum, ordered

portable toilets with washing stations and placed bottled water on each floor.

The Section officers would like to thank **Facilities Supervisor Mary Alim**, her staff and all the DGS personnel for doing everything they possibly could so we could continue to do our job.

Latest PEGG Documentary Screened for Members and Guests



The Section presented PEGG's latest documentary "**The Next Frontier: Engineering the Golden Age of Green**" at the Caltrans District Office on **January 27th**.

The film was introduced by **Section VP At-Large Jared Ataiyan**, an architect with the **Division of the State Architect**.

Over forty people were in attendance.

The Section is planning on hosting future screenings at different locations to accommodate At-Large members and others who could not attend this event. Further information will be available once plans for these screenings are confirmed.

Section Officers Prepared to Welcome New Members

On **January 20th**, **Section VP Rank and File Robert Lumahan** and **Section Advisor Roy Flores** attended the Caltrans New Employee Orientation held at the Caltrans District Office. This is part of the Section's ongoing effort to reach out to potential members.

If you are a new PEGG member and have questions about PEGG please contact any of the Section Officers listed on the first page of this newsletter.

CalPERS Facts at a Glance

CalPERS is a "defined benefit" retirement plan for state, school, and many local agency employees. It provides benefits based on a member's years of service, age, and highest average compensation.

Benefits are also provided for disability and death (survivors/beneficiaries).

The total membership consists of **1.6 million** members with **31%** of those being **state employees**. The remaining members consist of School and Local Agency employees.

As of **February 14th, 2011** the CalPERS Fund had a market value of **\$ 229.5 billion**. The total rate of return for 2010 was **12.5%**.

There are currently just over **500,000** retirees, beneficiaries and survivors receiving an average monthly allowance of **\$2,220** each. Retirees' average years of service are **20.2 years** with an average retirement age of **60 years**.

It also manages the health benefits for nearly **1.3 million** members.

Benefits paid out in 2010 were approx **\$13 billion**. (from: <http://www.calpers.ca.gov/>)

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT **OPPORTUNITIES**

Section Needs Judges for The Greater San Diego Science Fair

The PEGC San Diego Section is a major sponsor of **The Greater San Diego Science Fair**.

Project competitions for this year's fair will be held from **March 22nd** to the **27th**.

The Section is currently looking for volunteers to help judge the projects.

Winning projects will receive cash prizes and a scholarship will also be awarded for the top project.

If you are interested in helping judge at this year's fair please call **Section Director Naser Ghaderi** at (619) 623-9035 for more information.

Section Wants to Hear from At Large PEGC Members

The Section is calling for members in the At Large (non-Caltrans) State Departments

to report on the current events and issues where they work.

The Section needs your help with gathering this information to expand the coverage of this newsletter and to plan events to better benefit At Large members.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact **Section Advisor Roy Flores** at (619) 688-2543 or **VP Rank and File Robert Lumahan** for more information.

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

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

The PECG **Fed PAC** (Federal Political Action Committee) was created two 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.pdf>

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: 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:**

Phone: (619) 220-5468
Email: naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov

Don't Forget!

All San Diego Section members are invited to the **San Diego Section's General Meeting** to be held on:

DATE: Thursday, February 17, 2011

**PLACE: Giovanni's Italian Restaurant
9353 Clairemont Mesa Blvd
San Diego CA 92111**

TIME: 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

This will be an informative session covering issues such as Bargaining, Furloughs, State Budget, etc with Guest Speaker **PECG President Matt Hanson.**

Members can bring one guest and dinner will be served.

See you there!

