



## San Diego Quarterly Report - May 2011

Presented by the 2010-2011 San Diego Section Officers

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Volume I Number IX

### Senate Bill 851 – Short on Solutions and Substance

On **February 18th**, **State Senator Joel Anderson** of the **36<sup>th</sup> District** (R–El Cajon) introduced **Senate Bill (SB) 851**. The current wording of the bill lacks details and simply states that it would enact "the need for highway construction" as part of a long term budget solution.

Since then, the Senator (through a press conference and an Op-Ed piece) has provided more information. He has criticized Caltrans for its "wasteful practices" and "excessive" salaries.

His remedy is to eliminate Caltrans by using local agencies to administer the work which would be done by consultants that will somehow have less than "excessive" salaries. It should be pointed out that the average pay for a Caltrans Transportation Civil Engineer is \$113,000 compared to an

average of \$226,000 for a comparable private sector engineer. So, this proposal would actually cost the State more than having Caltrans perform the work in question.

The Senator went on to specifically criticize Caltrans's participation at the 2009 Annual **AASHTO** (The American Association of **State** Highway and Transportation Officials) meeting in **Palm Desert**. These annual meetings are attended by representatives from most, if not all, of the other states as well as the federal government and it would have been highly suspect if Caltrans had not participated as this particular meeting was being held in our home state.

Considering the 2010 AASHTO Annual Meeting was held in Mississippi and the 2011 meeting will be held in Detroit, Michigan, the Senator surprisingly chose to criticize Caltrans participation in the one AASHTO annual meeting that actually brought tens of thousands of dollars of

much needed revenue into the State of California.

The Senator also went on to criticize the construction of the new Caltrans District Office in Old Town San Diego.

It should be noted that the State Department of General Services, and not Caltrans, deemed that the new complex was necessary in light of the fact that the old Caltrans District Office building on Juan Street was and still is not compliant with the latest Building Codes and contains a significant amount of asbestos. The construction of the new District Office building also created thousands of jobs and pumped millions of dollars into the local economy from 2004 through 2006.

Caltrans officially responded to Senator Anderson through Media Relations Manager Matt Rocco with the following statement:

*"Caltrans agrees with Senator Anderson that state government must be as efficient as possible and shares the same goal of looking for ways to save taxpayer dollars. Caltrans is currently administering one of the largest construction programs in history with more than \$10 billion in projects underway. This is during a time when our staffing levels are the lowest they've been since 2004. In the past five years, Caltrans has delivered 1,388 of 1,391 highway improvement projects worth \$14.3 billion on schedule.*

*Working in partnership with local agencies, we are continually looking at ways to improve how we do business. In fact, over the last few years, we have significantly reduced our fleet, travel and vehicle-related spending, mobile phones, and level of management positions, saving taxpayers millions of dollars, all while maintaining more than 50,000 highway*

*lane-miles across the state. It should also be noted that Caltrans received national recognition for its emergency response to rebuild the MacArthur Maze interchange in 26 days following a catastrophic tanker explosion.*

*We extend an invitation to educate and clarify key points to Senator Anderson on the complexity of maintaining and operating one of the largest transportation networks in the world, as well as efficiency steps we have already taken over the last several years to ensure Caltrans is effectively using taxpayer dollars."*

PECG Corporate also responded to Senator Anderson by issuing the following statement:

*"Caltrans is and will continue to be responsible for ensuring the safety and integrity of the state highway system," said PECG President and State Engineer Matt Hanson. "Caltrans delivered 304 of 306 projects scheduled for bid during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. And over the past five year, Caltrans has delivered 99.8 percent of projects on or ahead of schedule."*

*By contrast, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) reported last year that, local agencies obligated only 72 percent of their federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds while Caltrans obligated 100% of its funds.*

*"According to the Department of Finance, it costs twice as much to outsource engineering work at Caltrans. Specifically, in the most recent budget, the Department of Finance concludes that a state engineer (including salary, benefits, overhead and equipment) costs the taxpayer \$113,000 a year while an outsourced private engineer costs an average of \$226,000 annually," said Hanson. "Local agencies outsource*

*almost all of their engineering services through no-bid contracts.”*

## Section's General Meeting

On **February 17<sup>th</sup>**, the Section held its first



General Meeting of the year. Our guest speaker was Corporate President **Matt Hanson** who discussed the

latest bargaining issues. He said that we need to be open-minded about our expectations. The Governor and Legislature are under tremendous pressure to reduce the budget deficit. The recent survey showed that the majority of members prefer furlough days over additional pension contributions. It also showed that pay parity should be maintained. Over 100 members were in attendance.

Officers have received complaints about holding a General Meeting off site and after hours. Please keep in mind that this is done to accommodate our field staff and to allow more time for the presenters and for members to ask questions.

## Caltrans Icon Retires with 52 Years of State Service

**Don Day** was one of the longest serving employees in the state. On **February 24<sup>th</sup>** he held his retirement party. Don is originally from Los Angeles. His family moved to Orange



County for a while before heading down to San Diego in the late '40s. He started his career with Caltrans in 1955. He has worked in Reprographics, Surveys, Construction, and Design. Traffic Operations was his last stop with most of that time spent at the Traffic Management Center (TMC). Don has a daughter and a son. She is currently in Chile doing her work as a missionary. In retirement, Don plans to take it easy, visit some desert and state parks, and stop by the TMC to visit his friends.

PECG Past Director, **Fred Abdipour**, presented Don with a certificate of appreciation from PECG. He was a PECG member to the very end of his career.

When Don reached the 50 year mark of service, Caltrans Director **Will Kempton** attended his celebration to personally thank him for his dedication. We wish Don the best

## PECG Members Attend Rally in Support of Wisconsin State Employees.

On **February 26<sup>th</sup>**, various PECG



members attended the “**We Are One**” Rally held by the **San Diego Labor Council**. The main purpose was to show solidarity with **Wisconsin** state employees that are in danger of losing their collective bargaining rights. Over a thousand union members and supporters were in attendance during a rainy afternoon in front

of the San Diego County Administration Building in downtown. This was just one of hundreds of rallies held throughout the country. State Senator **Juan Vargas** and Assembly member **Toni Atkins** were just some of the politicians that attended. Union representatives were allowed to speak for about 5 minutes each. One of the most memorable was a representative of the San Diego Fire Department who spoke passionately to the crowd and made the point that "public safety" unions will stand strong with the rest of the government workers even though their unions have been largely shielded from the latest austerity measures.

PECG member **John Williamson** and his



son were in attendance. He said it was "good to see workers coming together and supporting each other. My son is 7 and he really loved it and got into it."

**Edmund Kennedy** also attended - "Senator **Juan Vargas** gave a pretty good rabble rousing speech as did the County teacher of the year from last year."

Wisconsin state unions (safety exempted) had previously reached a tentative agreement to lower their salaries by 7%. Unions and Democrats were surprised when the Governor and Republican caucus tried to sneak in a provision within the budget bill that would eliminate most of

collective bargaining. **Indiana** and **Ohio** are also in the process of trying to eliminate most of collective bargaining.

### **Latest Update:**

On **March 11th**, Wisconsin's Governor, Scott Walker, signed into law the bill that eliminates collective bargaining for public employees' health and benefits. The bill also limits the amount of pay raises public employees may receive and removes the automatic collection of union dues.

### **Doug Dunaway Bridge Dedication**

PECG has donated \$500 towards the naming of the New River Bridge on the State Route 78/Brawley Bypass in Imperial County. The Bridge will now be called the "**Douglas B. Dunaway Memorial Bridge.**" A dedication ceremony will be held on **March 4<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Twitter Account is Set Up**

The Section is embracing the use of



Twitter by creating an account for our members to follow. Sign up is easy. Just go to [twitter.com](http://twitter.com) and click the

sign up button. The two accounts you should be "following" are:

<http://twitter.com/PECG>

[http://twitter.com/PECG\\_SanDiego](http://twitter.com/PECG_SanDiego)

Corporate is allocating more time and resources to keep us informed through Twitter. The Section encourages all members to sign up.

You will **not** receive text notices on your phone unless you select that option. You must select a private email account but you will only get messages when someone “follows” you. You can adjust various privacy settings depending on the level of anonymity you want.

**Sunil Repaka** is the Section’s **Social Networking Coordinator**. He is also on the Caltrans District Social Media Committee. Please contact him at (619) 688-6684 if you have any questions about signing up. Sunil and **Roy Flores** will be “tweeting” on the Section’s account.

## The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair

Coinciding with the recent focus by



President Obama on education, particularly math and science, the San Diego Section continues to be a major sponsor of **The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair**.

Project competitions for this year’s fair will be held from **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** to the **27<sup>th</sup>** at Balboa Park Activity Center (2145 Park Blvd). There is a Junior Division (Middle School) and a Senior Division (High School).

The Section has recruited **24 members** to participate as judges on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 11AM to 1 PM at Balboa Park. Winning projects will receive cash prizes and a \$1,000 scholarship will also be awarded for the top project. For more information call Naser Ghaderi at (619) 623-9035 or you

can view the Science Fair’s website at <http://www.gsdsef.org/>

## Take Your Child to Work Day

The San Diego Section is the main sponsor of the TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY. This event is set for **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Registration deadline is **March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Please call **Naser Ghaderi** at (619) 623-9035 to sign up or you can send your registrations forms to [naser\\_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov](mailto:naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov) by the due date. Chaperones are also needed for the event. Please contact Evangeline D Palma @ (619) 688-6007 to sign up as a Chaperone. Lunch will be provided by the San Diego Section PEGG for all the kids.

## Exam Dates – Spring 2011

PE	<b>April 8</b>
Seismic/Surveying	<b>April 9</b>
EIT/FE	<b>April 9</b>

## Structural Engineering Exam

The **National Structural Engineering Exam** will be held on **April 8-9**. This will be a different exam from the ones previously given. The Section would appreciate any input (without disclosing specific exam questions) as to your thoughts on the new exam. Please contact **Section Director Naser Ghaderi** at (619) 623-9035 to provide your comments.

## Miscellaneous Quotes

### Regarding Wisconsin's State Workers

*"I don't think it does anybody any good when public employees are denigrated or vilified, or their rights are infringed upon."*

President Barack Obama

### State Employees & Their "High" Salaries

*"I'm all for state employees getting the same compensation as private employees. It's called PAY PARITY!"*

Anonymous Section Member

### Solution for "Out of Control" Pensions

*At \$230 Billion with 1.6 million members, why don't they just cash it (CalPERS) out and give me my \$150,000 (avg. liquidation) and the State keeps giving me their contribution (for 401K) until I retire."*

Anonymous Section Member

## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Ratification Meeting a Major Event

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



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 PEGG 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 8<sup>th</sup>**, PEGG Corporate Offices finished counting all submitted votes. The Proposed MOU was ratified with more than 90% of members' votes in favor.

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 11<sup>th</sup>** and is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on **April 25<sup>th</sup>**.

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.

**UPDATE** - Governor Brown signed SB 151 on **May 16<sup>th</sup>**

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup>**, San Diego Section officers took an active role in **PECG's Annual Legislator's Day** held at the State Capitol building in Sacramento.

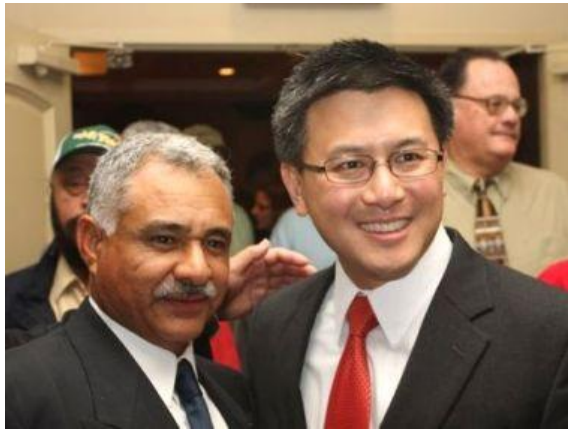


Pictured from L-R: Section VP Rank & File Robert Lumahan, Past Director Mehrdad Nabizadeh, PECG Corporate Political Liaison Chair Josan Feathers, Assembly member (77<sup>th</sup> District) Marty Block, Past Director Fred Abdipour, Section President Pedro Aguilar and PECG Executive Director Bruce Blanning.

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 4<sup>th</sup>**.

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 at this meeting.

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup>** 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 Rhezai, 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!

## **I-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>

## Governor Signs SB 151 – PEGC Members Have New Contract

With full Democratic support and the help of the minimum number of Republican votes needed, **Senate Bill 151** (SB 151) passed in both the Assembly and Senate and was signed by **Governor Brown** on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

The signing of SB 151 implements labor contracts for about 60,000 California state workers including PEGC members in Bargaining Unit 9.

Key provisions of the new two year contract are:

1. Increases employee CalPERS contributions by 3% for a new total contribution of 8%.

2. In two years at the end of the contract, employees at the top of their pay range will receive 3% raises.
3. Eliminates Lincoln's Birthday and Columbus Day holidays and replaces them with two days of Professional Leave which must be taken before June 30 each year.
4. Ends 3 day per month furloughs and institutes a one day a month unpaid Personal Leave Program (PLP) for one year. Effectively shorting pay checks by one day's worth of pay. This provision was placed into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Includes a continuous appropriations provision which ensures that PEGC members will receive their full salaries even if the state budget is not signed by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

PEGC and DPA are still resolving the details of implementing the new MOU provisions.

More information will be provided shortly.

For other recent news affecting you and all PEGC members, please check out:

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

## Section Officers Make Sure Imperial Valley Members Included in Recent Ratification Meetings

The Section Officers worked with PECG Corporate to ensure that an MOU Ratification meeting was held on **April 14<sup>th</sup>** for our Section members in Imperial County.



**D'Arcy McLeod**, PECG Vice President Collective Bargaining, conducted the meeting via teleconference with about twenty members who gathered in the Imperial Valley Construction Office.

Dennis answered questions regarding the furloughs, personal leave program and salaries.

Most of the members present expressed their satisfaction with the new MOU.

This meeting would not have taken place without the diligent help of **San Diego Section Imperial Valley delegate, Vicente Garcia-Torres** and the gracious permission of **Senior Resident Engineer Shawn Rizzutto**.

The Section Officers would like to give a big thank you to both Vicente and Shawn!

## At Large Members Voice Concerns at Section At Large Meeting

The Section currently has just over 100 members (out of a total of about 670) that work in state agencies other than Caltrans. They are known as our At Large members.

While many of their issues are shared with Caltrans members, some are different.

On **April 20<sup>th</sup>**, the Section held an At Large meeting at the Division of State Architect's offices (DSA) in Rancho Bernardo.

**Ed Vergaray**, a Fire & Life Safety officer with DSA in Los Angeles and the Chair of the **Corporate Specialty Eng/Classifications Committee** and **PECG Attorney Jesse Rodriguez**, were on hand to discuss At Large issues.

The major topic of discussion revolved around PECG's push to have legislation enacted that would place the responsibility of the inspection of the construction of school and university buildings directly with DSA.



Long Beach, California, Earthquake March 10, 1933.  
Compton Junior High School, Compton, Ca. View showing extensive damage to the rear of the main school building.  
Photo from H.M. Engle

This push was spurred on by recent media criticism of the current practice of allowing school districts to hire independent inspectors for projects such as these.

For more information please see PEGC's Press Release on this issue at the following link:

[http://www.pecg.org/Media/Legislation\\_Neeted.pdf](http://www.pecg.org/Media/Legislation_Neeted.pdf)

Other topics discussed at the meeting included the lack of a deep class (Range C) for Sanitary Engineers and the creation of a Section At Large Committee to help improve communication and networking with the Section At Large membership.

VP At Large, **Jared Ataiyan** was introduced as the Committee Chairman.

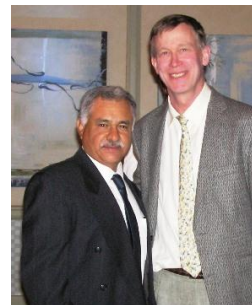
## Roosevelt Dinner Offers Opportunity to Show Support for Local State Politicians



Section President Pedro Aguilar, Section Vice President Rank & File Robert Lumahan, Section Vice President Supervisory Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, David, husband of Corporate Political Liaison Chair Josan Feathers, Section Advisor Roy Flores, Section Treasurer Steven King and Section Secretary Heidi Martin (pictured left to right) represented the PEGC San Diego Section at the San Diego Democratic Party's **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt Dinner** on **April 16<sup>th</sup>**.

This year's dinner was held at the **Holiday Inn on the Bay** with the theme "Building a Bridge to the Future". The event was well attended with over 500 guests in attendance.

The featured guest speaker was **Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper** (pictured below with Section President Pedro Aguilar). Governor Hickenlooper gave an inspiring speech urging the disuse of negativity in the upcoming political season. Governor Hickenlooper encouraged the use of highlighting the positive aspects that each politician who is running for office has to offer to the electorate.



Various volunteers and community leaders were honored including Assembly member **Marty Block** (78<sup>th</sup> District) who was awarded Legislator of the Year (pictured below with Section President Pedro Aguilar). Assemblyman Block also announced that he would be seeking a position in the State Senate in the near future.



Section Officers in attendance used this opportunity to discuss member concerns and network with the event attendees including State Senator **Christine Kehoe** (39<sup>th</sup> District), former Assembly member **Lori Saldaña** (76<sup>th</sup> District), and Assembly member **Toni Atkins** (76<sup>th</sup> District).

Section participation at events like these is encouraged by PEGC Corporate to help foster dialogues and understanding of PEGC member issues with local state politicians.

## Tradition of Sponsoring Bring Your Child to Work Day Continues

The PEGC San Diego Section continues to be the main sponsor of the annual **BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY**. Through the Section's sponsorship lunch was again provided for all children in attendance.



Vice President Rank & File Robert Lumahan and Director Naser Ghaderi proudly represent the PEGC San Diego Section at this year's event.  
Photo by Roy Abboud

This year's event took place on **April 28th, 2011**.

The theme this year was "Invent the Future". Over 100 children participated in the daylong event that included

presentations and activities involving creating their own bound reports; participating in a mock legal trial; learning about the studies conducted by our Caltrans environmental staff; receiving a native plant and learning about the Caltrans District Office landscaping; visiting the Caltrans motor pool offices and learning about the green vehicles in Caltrans vehicle fleet, seeing the new computer technology being utilized by Caltrans Traffic Operations and actually laying out cones and learning the procedures followed to close a traffic lane.

Congratulations to the many PEGC members and their children who participated in making this year's event a huge success.

The Section would like to especially thank Section Director **Naser Ghaderi**, Section VP Rank & File **Robert Lumahan**, Section Past Secretary **Evangelina D. Palma** and Section Past Director **Fred Abdipour** for serving on the event's committee and helping plan, set up and volunteer the day of the event.

**Great job to all!**

## New Employee's Welcomed to State Service at April 21 Orientation

Section officers sponsored the Caltrans New Employee Orientation at the Caltrans District Office on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Section provided pastries, fruit, juice and coffee to the recently hired employees.

Officers were on hand to answer questions and to discuss various issues with the event attendees.

## Brawley Bypass Celebration

On **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** the second portion of the new State Route 86, also known as the “Brawley Bypass” was completed and work on the third and final segment has begun.



Section Secretary Heidi Martin and Caltrans Transportation Planner Roy Abboud at the Grand Opening celebration.

The \$240 million project is expected to be completed by 2013 and will relieve traffic congestion within the City of Brawley in Imperial County.

Congratulations to all of the PECCG members involved in delivering this much needed project!

## End of an Era as Joel Haven Calls it a Day



**Joel Haven**, Caltrans Corridor Director for I-805/SR 52 and longtime PECCG member

was honored by the Section Officers at his retirement celebration on **April 25<sup>th</sup>**.

The overwhelming attendance and heartfelt speeches at this event were a testament to Joel's far reaching influence throughout Caltrans District 11.

The Section was more than happy to honor Joel for his 32 years of dedication and exemplary service to the people of the Great State of California.

Joel will be missed.

One last tribute to you Joel –

**Go University of Michigan Wolverines!**

## The Section also Bids a Fond Farewell to Kathy Buell

The Section lost another longtime PECCG member when **Kathy Buell** retired in April.



Section President Elect **Bill Yeung** (pictured above with Kathy) presented Kathy with a certificate of appreciation from PECCG at her retirement party on **April 29<sup>th</sup>**.

The Local Assistance branch of Caltrans was Kathy's last stop of her career.

The Section would like to wish her a long and happy retirement!

## Section General Liaison Committee in Good Hands

The Officers have selected member, **Ben Guerrero**, to be the Chairman of the Section's **General Liaison Committee**.

The committee's duties include researching other state bargaining unit MOUs, sharing information with the other bargaining units, cooperating with other bargaining units pertaining to Bargaining Unit 9 common issues, and to coordinate with the other bargaining units on political campaigns.

## Nominations for Section Elections

Nominations are being taken through July 8<sup>th</sup> for the following officer positions:

President - Elect  
VP Rank & File  
VP Supervisory  
VP At Large  
Secretary  
Treasurer

For more information, download the Nominations Request form at:

<http://www.sandiegopecg.org/Nomination-Petition.pdf>

For any specific questions, please contact the Nominations Chair **Cristina Nuñez** at (858) 688-1978

## Upcoming Events

- Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Section Officer Nominations Begin for PECG Year 2011/2012 Elections
- Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:30 AM  
DAC Fish BBQ @ Kearny Mesa Caltrans Yard.
- Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Bike to Work Day

## Comments and Suggestions

This Quarterly Report is a compilation of three separate newsletters produced by the Section. If you have any comments or questions regarding this Quarterly Report, please contact:

**Section President, Pedro Aguilar** at:

**Phone:** (858) 688-1372

**Email:** [pedro\\_aguilar@dot.ca.gov](mailto:pedro_aguilar@dot.ca.gov)

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