



November 2011 Quarterly Report

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

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Secretary	John Williamson	(619) 718-7822	Caltrans
Treasurer	Azar Habibafshar	(619) 688-3192	Caltrans

General Meeting Oct 24th, 2011



District 11 Director **Laurie Berman** was the guest speaker at the San Diego Section PEEG meeting held on Oct 24, 2011. Laurie recognized the **San Diego Section Officers** and all their hard work that led them to win the **2011 Section of the year** award.



Laurie also recognized Bruce Urquhart for winning the 2011 PEEG Professional Achievement Award. **Bruce's** office is responsible for all the mapping, topographical data and documentation done by Caltrans for San Diego and Imperial Counties. Bruce is also a Surveys instructor at San Diego State University and is consistently selected as a favorite lecturer by his students. He also teaches the review class for the surveys portion of the Professional Engineer exam. Apart from having run dozens of marathons, Bruce has also competed in ultra marathons. He has run in five 50 mile runs and two 100 mile runs. Bruce considers his mentoring of college students and newer employees as one of his proudest achievements.



Section Director Pedro Aguilar introduced the new officers to the members.

Center for Policy Initiatives CPI in San Diego, GALA 2011

The Center on Policy Initiatives is a nonprofit research and advocacy center dedicated to the interests of working people in the San Diego region. Through research, community organizing and public education, CPI is involved in policy changes that strengthen communities through responsible development, affordable housing, child care, reliable public transportation, parks and other shared benefits.



John Williamson, Naser Ghaderi, Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, and Mo Maher attended the GALA 2011.



State Senator Jon Erpenbach from Wisconsin Met with officers Mo Maher and Abu Bakr Al Jafri at Gala 2011 Event.

There were several presentations honoring: Visionary Leadership, Carlos and Linda LeGerrette, Cesar Chavez Service Clubs, Community Advocacy, Sierra Club San Diego Chapter, Federal Transportation Security Officers of San Diego, Hotel Workers at Westin San Diego, Gaslamp, Taxi Drivers with United Taxi Workers of San Diego, Social Electric & IBEW Local 569 Workers Quality Iron & Ironworkers Local 229. All the speeches were inspiring especially Wisconsin Senator Jon Erpenbach, where he emphasized the need to go to the basics. By investing in education, transportation, health care, and the environment will be helping everyone, including corporation. This will help individuals and corporations are competitive world wide.

CT Celebrates Project Completions

On **October 27th**, Project Manager **Lou Melendez** honored the hard work and

Dedication of Caltrans staff involved in the completion of two significant projects in the region.

The **Buckman Springs Rest Area** (50 miles east of San Diego) was closed to upgrade the facilities with the current standards mandated by Cal OSHA and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The \$3 million project opened this summer to the relief of hundreds of daily users and includes a solar operated irrigation

system. The **2nd St to Greenfield Dr** project on I-8 was a \$20 million job that relieves congestion with the addition of a third eastbound lane. It opened to traffic in June 2011. Sound walls were also constructed to mitigate noise generated by the additional traffic. The underutilized Grape St Pedestrian Overcrossing was also removed with Community support. The Section would like to thank the dozens of PECG members and employees that were involved in the design and construction of both projects.



L to R - Eric Drayner, Takehiro Ogiso, Rahim Akhondzadeh, Vera Dolanski, Kris Buenger, Cathy Flores

DAC Hosts ADA & Lean Life Presentations

In recognition of October being Disability Awareness month, D11 DAC hosted Cappie



Geis, YMCA's Certified Nutritionist and Personal Trainer, to introduce the Lean Life Program to Caltrans employees to advise us how to live a more healthy life and prioritize our goals. The DAC provided the thirty guests with healthy snacks (almonds, apples, cheese, and multi-grain crackers) and water. Positive feedback was received from those who attended this presentation. The DAC is awaiting Administration's approval to conduct more Lean Life meetings at the District Office.

General Meeting Nov 17, 2011



Jesse Rodriguez PECG's Labor Relation Counsel was the guest speaker at the general Meeting where he covered many topics of interest to the members on MOU and other related issues.



Corporate Officer **Cathrina Barros** Addressed supervisors concerns and Salary Pay Parity.

Shadow Day Nov 17, 2011

San Diego Section PE CG participated and sponsored the Shadow Day as a part of the Section's mentorship program. Through the San Diego MESA Alliance, college students get a unique experience to witness the "real world" of work in an engineering or scientific environment. This is a part of the MESA Engineering Program and SDSU College of Engineering. Section Officer Azar Habibafshar volunteered in mentoring the following students: SDSU, Noel Briseno, and Civil Engr major sophomore, SDSU, Omar Jalili, Civil Engr major Senior, SDSU, Giorgi Naom, Civil Engr major Senior, SDSU, Marissa Thomas, and Civil Engr major Junior



Health and Wellness Committee

Naser ghaderi and Benjamin Gurrero attended District's Health and Wellness Committee meeting chaired by **Lou Melendez** in an effort to provide feedback to the Committee and express any members needs in the establishment of the future District Gymnasium.

R.E. Meeting Nov 18th, 2011

San Diego Section PEGC participated in sponsoring the annual R. E. meeting as usual.



The meeting included a District Overview with Director Laurie Berman, Networking, Continental Breakfast, & Raffle, Safety with Ignacio Vazquez, and Steffan Bennett, Storm Water Update with Chuck Deyoe, and Con Kontaxis, Statewide Construction Update with Mark Leja, PEGC Speaker, Roy Flores, RE of the Year, Inspector of the Year, Outstanding Achievement Awards, Structure Rep of the Year, Partnering Awards and Gag Awards – RE Committee.



PEGC Corporate officer **Roy Flores** covered many topics of interest at the R.E. meeting and answered member questions.



Section officers and activist attended the R.E. meeting.



2011/2012 Committees Forming

San Diego Section is in need of voluntary members to join the following Committees, if you are interested, please contact any of the Section officers:

Membership Committee: Recruits new members.

Outreach Committee: Assist the Section and provide assistance to corporate efforts in membership & recruitment.

Grievance Review: To assist Rank & File or Supervisory PEGG members in grievance proceedings.

Benefits Committee: Assists members on benefits and discount programs available to members through PEGG.

Events Planning Committee: To organize activities relating to the Section's events.

Health & Wellness Committee: To concentrate on issues relating to health and wellness as it relates to members.

PE License Review Committee: To help members attain their PE license and to educate them on PE License requirements and occasional policy changes.

Retirement Committee: To set up an appreciation event for the members retiring and help members on retirement procedure, retirement benefits, and to update our members with CalPERS issues.

Student Mentoring Committee:

Science Fair Committee:

Professional Development Committee:

Additional and future Committees will be announced soon.

Suggestion or comments:

Please feel free to contact Section officers.



2011/2012 Scholarship Committee

San Diego Section is proud to announce that it has just formed its newest Committee to provide scholarships to local students. Though in its infancy, this Committee will try hard to provide the San Diego Section members and their families and to help recognize, encourage and assist high school and college students who are pursuing a degree in the professions represented by PEGG (Architecture, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Geological Sciences, Landscape Architecture and Land Surveying) with scholarships. For further information contact the Committee.

Robert Lumahan, (619) 688-6425
Cristina Nunez, (619) 688-2583
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Marty Block for the Senate

San Diego Section PEGG will attend the Marty Block for State Senate event with Special Guest Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez on Wednesday, November 30th, 2011.

