



October 2011 Newsletter

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

Section Director	Pedro Aguilar	(858) 688-1372	Caltrans
Section President	Naser Ghaderi	(619) 623-9035	Caltrans
President Elect	Robert Lumahan	(619) 688-8190	Caltrans
VP Supervisory	Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri	(619) 491-3077	Caltrans
VP Rank & File	Tony Karam	(619) 688-6718	Caltrans
VP At Large	Mehrdad Maher	(858) 674-5437	Div of State Arch
Secretary	John Williamson	(619) 718-7822	Caltrans
Treasurer	Azar Habibafshar	(619) 688-3651	Caltrans

San Diego is Section of the Year 2011

On **October 8th**, the San Diego membership was selected as **Section of the Year** for 2011 at PECG’s Annual Meeting. Some highlights throughout the year are our member’s commitment to mentoring, involvement in politics, volunteer opportunities and the improved communication through newsletters and Section meetings. Congratulations to all San Diego members.



(Fred, Roy, Naser, Mehi & Pedro)

Pedro Aguilar was also sworn in as the Section’s Director and will represent San Diego at the Corporate Board meetings.

San Diego Member Receives Professional Achievement Award

San Diego’s District 11 Division Chief (CalTrans Land Surveys) **Bruce Urquhart**



(Pictured with **Corporate President Matt Hanson**) was presented with PECG’s Professional Achievement Award. His 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. He encourages everyone to do the same.

Congratulations Mr. Urquhart!

Employee Appreciation Day

The Section cosponsored Caltrans District



11's **Employee Appreciation Day** on **September 20th**. Our guest speaker was ex San Diego Padres right fielder **Tony Gwynn** who is considered one of Major League Baseball's greatest hitters. Tony discussed his life, career and his current position as Head Coach for the San Diego

State University Aztecs. He also answered some questions and signed autographs.



The event was attended by over 200 employees. The Section donated money to help buy supplies and prizes. PECG members and other employees helped set up for the event.

SD SECTION POLITICAL MEETING

On **August 10th**, the Section held a political meeting at the **Four Points Sheraton**.



(Naser, Marty Block, Robert, Fred & Pedro)

PECG Legislative Liaison, **Ted Toppin**, started the meeting and thanked **Assembly member (78th) Marty Block** for joining the San Diego Section at the event. Ted referred to PECG's San Diego Section that represents nearly 700 engineers and related professional working throughout San Diego and Imperial counties.



Marty Block talked about the recently reached budget agreement between the Legislature and the Governor and the elements of the 2011/12 state budget and what will be the short and long term impacts on Californians.



(PECG Corporate President Matt Hanson)

PECG's Corporate President **Matt Hanson** addressed members on the latest information related to MOU.



(Abu Bakr Al Jafri, Naser Ghaderi, Hon Marty Block, Matt Hanson-PECG President and Fred Abdipour)

San Diego Section Director **Naser Ghaderi** thanked all members and the guest speakers for their participation and encouraged San Diego's Section efforts on enhancing the members' well being and looked forward to the Section's progress toward becoming the Section of the year.



Open Enrollment for CalPERS Health and Dental Plans

Now through November 4th is open enrollment to change or make other modifications related to the CalPERS Health and Dental plans offered to state employees. For more information, please check out the following website:

<http://www.calpers.ca.gov/>

Changes will take effect on January 1st, 2012.

Professional Exams

This year's PE exams are on **October 27th** (Seismic & Surveying) and **October 28th** (PE). Please note that the days have been changed from previous years.

Article 3.3(a) (3) of our MOU says that both Thursday and Friday are to be counted as release time. - **"If an employee is scheduled to take an examination for one of the licenses . . . during his/her work day, the employee will be granted State release time to take the examination upon presentation of proof that the employee is scheduled for the examination."**

Special Meeting

On **October 4th**, the Section held a Special



Meeting called by a petition submitted by some of the members. The issue discussed was the process used by the Section officers to replace our President Elect who is no longer able to serve. Some members would like to see that the Bylaws be amended to allow special elections for immediate vacancies. A Committee will be set up by the Officers to explore this issue and, if feasible, to make the necessary changes to the Section bylaws.

Diversity Day

Caltrans District 11 held its Annual



Diversity and Disability Awareness Day on **October 13th**. The Section provided drinks and various officers/members worked on setting up for the event and also manned many of the booths showcasing food and cultural aspects from different countries. Many ethnic groups participated in an entertainment venue. A stage and sound system was set up for this portion of the event.



Upcoming Events

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| General Meeting - | Oct 24 th |
| DAC Lean Life Presentation - | Oct 27 th |