



September 2011 Newsletter

Presented by the **2010-2011 San Diego Section Officers**

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Secretary	Heidi Martin	(619) 718-7822	Caltrans
Treasurer	Steven King	(619) 688-3651	Caltrans

LABOR DAY



Jösan Feathers PEGC Political Liaison Committee

About 150 people attended a Labor Day Rally at the Horton Plaza, between 3rd and 4th Streets in downtown San Diego on Monday, September 5th, 2011. **Senator Juan Vargas, Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Bob Filner, and former Assemblywoman Lori Saldana** were present.

This was a Rally for the Jobless and to help San Diego and the nation focus on jobs and the millions of unemployed.





U.S. Representative Bob Filner addresses the crowd at a Labor Day rally for the jobless, organized by Move On and Rebuild the American Dream. About 150 people gathered at Horton Plaza Park in Downtown San Diego. Earlier in the day, supermarket workers staged their own demonstration as the United Food and Commercial Workers union has yet to reach a deal with area supermarkets.



Mentoring

Caltrans Transportation Engineer and PECG member, **Mark Kaems**, is responsible for some of the most precise work in the Department. He calculates deck elevations for new structures. UCSD student intern, **Jessica Li**, was up to the challenge. Within two days, she was able to learn the concepts Mark had taught her and could operate CAiCE, Caltrans's design program, on her own.



L-R, Robert Lumahan (Section VP R&F), Jessica Li & Mark Kaems)

Mark is very supportive of his interns. He has found a place for Jessica in our Hydraulics Department so that she can gain more experience. A few months back he was able to find a full time paying job for his previous intern. **Keep up the Good Work, Mark!**

San Diego Section 2011-2012 Election Deadline is Sep 10, 2011

President Elect



Robert Lumahan



Heidi Martin

VP Supervisory



Abu Bakr Al-Jafri



VP At Large



Lilia G. Bowman for



Mehrdad (Mo) Maher

Treasurer



Ben Guerrero Jr.



Azar Habibafshar



Khaled Mohamed Nour

VP Rank & File



Jay Gittin



Tony Karam



Incoming Section Director and Section President



**Pedro Aguilar
Incoming Director**



**Naser Ghaderi
Incoming President**

San Diego Section officers have confirmed Section President Pedro Aguilar as the incoming Section Director effective at the annual meeting of the members in October 2011. Section President Pedro Aguilar appointed Nasser Grader as the current Section President elect effective immediately to fill a vacant position due to an officer's departure from PECG and Section majority officers approved. Per Section bylaws, Naser will be the Section President after the annual meeting in Oct 2011.

Roy Flores for Corporate PECG Treasurer

Let's all give support to San Diego Candidate Mr. Roy Flores running for the Corporate Treasury office by voting for him.



Roy Flores Nominee of choice for the Corporate Treasurer

CalPERS Rate of Return the Best in 14 Years

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) reports a 20.7 percent return on investments for the one-year period that ended June 30, 2011.

"This is our best annual performance in 14 years," said Rob Feckner, CalPERS Board President. "For the second

straight fiscal year, the Pension Fund exceeded its long-term annualized earnings target of 7.75 percent."The net-of-fees performance was the strongest since the 20.1 percent return of 1997 and the highest since the 2007-09. As of **August 17th, 2011**, the market value of CalPERS assets stood at approximately **\$228.6 billion**. Back in June 30th 2010, the fiscal year ended with \$200.5 billion. Investment returns are based on **Member is a 25 year Service Award Recipient**.

Oscar Vargas, a San Diego Bridge inspector, was recently honored by the department for his twenty five years of service to Caltrans. The San Diego Section thanks you for your years of service and dedication.

Ron Prado Retires

on **May 4th**, Caltrans engineer **Ron Prado** was



honored by PECG President **Pedro Aguilar** for his 20 years of state service.

Ron is from the small town of Siuna, located in Nicaragua's North Atlantic Region. He graduated from the prestigious **Universidad Autonoma de Nicaragua (UNAN)** back in 1969 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He has worked in Caltrans for 20 years – all that time in Construction. His favorite assignment was when he worked out in the desert of Imperial and Riverside Counties. The best part of working at Caltrans is making friends with people from all over the world including his home country of Nicaragua. He always looked forward to working with his peers and he claims to never have had a bad day at work. The San Diego Section wishes you a great and comfortable retirement.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been mailed

Memorandum of Understanding or MOU is now up on the PECG website at www.pecg.org, click on New Unit 9 MOU. Hard Copies of the new MOU have been mailed to all PECG members and fee payers. If you do not receive your copy, please

contact the PECG Sacramento Office to be sure that we have your current mailing address.

San Diego SEIU Activist Retires



Anita Wucinic-Turner from the Caltrans IT Department has retired. A Retirement Lunch was on 07/28/2011. Some PECG officers and members attended the lunch and Section Director Naser Ghaderi presented her with Plaque as a certificate of appreciation for her involvement in the SEIU.

Anita made comments on the New Frontier video that PECG has produced and she said:

"I learned quite a bit about new/different modes of energy, Wind power, and solar power
Tidal power, Geothermal power, Hydrogen fuel cells and Bacteria/Algae.



Anita's replacement at SEIU is:

Carol Jeffries - at (619) 688-2573

(Building 2/ Floor 5/ Cube 57) She has just come back from 1 year of union training.

Also: Rick Frey at x3238 - for IT issues, etc

The SEIU union Resource Center is at 1-866-471-7348