



# SAN DIEGO SECTION Quarterly Report September 2015

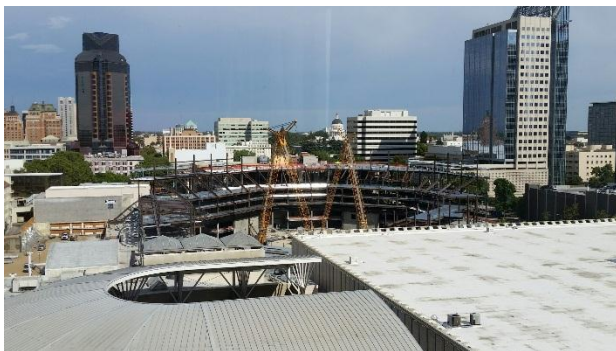


## Presented by San Diego Section Officers 2014-2015

Section Director	Mehrdad “Mo” Maher
Section President	John W. Williamson
President Elect	Azar Habibafshar
VP Supervisory	Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri
VP Rank & File	Manuel Rivas
VP At Large	Joseph Tang
Secretary	Cristina Nunez
Treasurer	Diane Vermeulen

## Corporate Quarterly Meeting

On June 5-6, 2015, San Diego Section Director Mo Maher, Fred Abdipour, Mehrdad Nabizadeh, Roy Flores, Section Secretary Cristina Nunez as well as retired member Josan Feathers attended the Corporate Quarterly Meeting in Sacramento.



Downtown Sacramento

The weekend was full of meetings, presentations and networking. Corporate President and San Diego Section Member **Roy Flores** conducted the two days of meetings. Updates from PECG staff and lawyers as well as Section PECG Presidents were delivered.

**Fred Abdipour**, on the Health and Safety Committee, spoke about Safety Investigations. **Mehi Nabizadeh** is on the Board of Registration Committee, and **Josan Feathers** is the Statewide Political Liaison Chair. **Josan** spoke about the work her committee is doing and how to get involved.

## SD County Democratic Party ~ A Jazzy Blue Night of Elegance

On Saturday, June 27, local PECG officers attended a fundraiser for the San Diego County Democratic East County Caucus. Headlining the event was California Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins and Congresswoman Susan Davis, who joined local politicians and supporters for “A Jazzy Blue Night of Elegance” at the La Mesa home of Stuart Strenger and Crit Stuart. **Josan Feathers** was on the organizing and host committee. Guests were entertained by Mariea Antoinette on

her harp, while enjoying refreshments, hors d’oeuvres and conversation.



Dave Ortman, Honorable Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins & Josan Feathers



Honorable Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins, Lemon Grove City Councilwoman Raquel Vasquez, Fred Abdipour & Congresswoman Susan Davis



John Williamson, Estela Williamson, Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri & daughter.

**Motion to donate \$200 to the Oscar Vargas CTF Fund**

On July 24, Section President John Williamson made the motion to donate \$200 on behalf of PEGG San Diego to the

Oscar Vargas – CTF Fund. The motion passed and our section immediately sent a check to CTF. Funds from the CTF will go to assist the Vargas family during this difficult time.



Oscar, 54, was a 29-year veteran of Caltrans, most recently in District 11, Structures Construction Division, as a Transportation Civil Engineer. During his career he worked on many bridges throughout San Diego and Imperial counties, including

the iconic San Diego-Coronado Bridge, and earlier this year, on the historic Cabrillo Bridge in Balboa Park. His extensive knowledge, and willingness to share that knowledge, is far reaching and his legacy will continue as he helped train many of our current bridge engineers.

**Disability Advisory Committee Annual Fish BBQ**

On August 12, 2015 PEGG members Fred Abdipour, Javad Rhezaii, Roy Flores, Chuck Anders (DAC Chair) and Cristina Nunez (DAC Secretary) assisted with the Caltrans San Diego Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Annual Fish BBQ. The fish bbq is the DAC's main fundraiser for their annual scholarship.



Fred Abdipour grilling fish





Javad Rhezaii setting up and coordinating on the KM construction yard end.



## Section Annual Meeting

It was a full house with over 200 people for our Section Annual Meeting that was held on **August 21, 2015**, at Sufi Mediterranean Restaurant. Members dined with friends and family as we conducted PEGC business.

**Ted Toppin**, PEGC Legislative Director, was on hand to discuss a variety of PEGC topics, as well as answer a few questions from members.



Next on the agenda was the announcement of the SD PEGC \$500 scholarship winner Dakota Dodge, son of

Transportation Engineer, Claire Dodge. Dakota was chosen out of five very strong applications to receive the 4<sup>th</sup> annual SD PEGC scholarship. Congratulations Dakota and good luck at The University of Oklahoma!!!



Dakota Dodge, son of Claire Dodge

The evening ended with Azar Habibafshar thanking the past officers then turning the floor over to **Corporate President Roy Flores** to conduct the installation of the incoming officers. The installation was followed by a generous raffle with fun prizes.



Joseph Tang, Manuel Rivas, Oscar Cortes, Diane Vermeulen, Azar Habibafshar, Cristina Nunez, John Williamson & Roy Flores

## New 2015-2016 Section Officers

Section Director	John W. Williamson
Section President	Azar Habibafshar
President Elect	Oscar Cortes
VP Supervisory	Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri
VP Rank & File	Manuel Rivas
VP At Large	Joseph Tang
Secretary	Cristina Nunez
Treasurer	Diane Vermeulen

## Democratic Party Political Events Around San Diego

Our section is lucky enough to have two very active members attending many San Diego Democratic Political events, **Josan Feathers** and **Fred Abdipour**. Both attend numerous political events around San Diego. The following are just a few events they attended over the past quarter.

### Fred Abdipour:

- Marched with Marty Block at San Diego Gay Pride Parade



### Josan Feathers:

- Registered new voters at the San Diego Naturalization ceremony for new citizens
- Stop ALEC rally in downtown San Diego
- Stop Fracking rally in Ocean Beach



- Marched with the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club at the San Diego Gay Pride Parade



## Robert Lumahan Corporate President Elect



A very big CONGRATULATIONS to our very own **Robert Lumahan** for his recent Corporate President Elect appointment! The San Diego Section wishes you the best!

Robert is the current Corporate Secretary and will be sworn in for his new position at the Corporate Annual Meeting on September 12, 2015. The meeting will be held in San Diego this year.



## Members Retiring

PECG member **Art Padilla** retired. A celebration was had on July 16, 2015. **Fred Abdipour** attended the retirement activities and presented Art with a PECG certificate of recognition.



Art Padilla & Fred Abdipour

## Upcoming Events

- 9/12 - Corporate Annual Meeting
- 10/13 - Diversity Disability Awareness Day
- Holiday Food Drive

## Recruiting a New Member

Do you know of someone who is not yet a PECG member? Would you like to receive \$50 from PECG? Well, all you have to do is sign up that person as a new PECG member and you'll receive \$50 from PECG! Membership applications can be downloaded from the PECG website at <http://www.pecg.org/Benefits/Application.pdf> and can be submitted to PECG either by faxing them to **(916) 446-0489** or mailing them to:

PECG  
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 501  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## Member Involvement

If you are interested in volunteering on the Political Committee, Science & Engineering Fair Committee, Scholarship Committee, Retirement Committee, Membership Committee, or Events Committee, please contact our President, **Azar Habibafshar** at:

**Phone:** (619) 688-3180

**Email:** [azar\\_habibafshar@dot.ca.gov](mailto:azar_habibafshar@dot.ca.gov)