



## Presented by your 2017-2018 San Diego Section Officers

*Section Director: Oscar Cortes*

*Section President: Diane Vermeulen*

*President Elect: Cristina Nunez*

*VP Supervisory: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri*

*VP Rank & File: Frank Contreraz*

*VP At Large: Joseph Tang*

*Secretary: Paul G. Swearingen*

*Treasurer: William Vivar*

## Upcoming Events

- Section General Meeting (TBD)
- D11 Wellness Center 5k/10k (End of September)

## Upcoming Retirements

- Vafa Morgharabi

## Past Retirements

- George Schuh (Surveys)
- Mike Powers (Traffic)
- Carlana Darrieulat (Planning)

## PECG Section General Meeting

Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

PECG San Diego Section general meeting was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Guest speaker and Vice President of Collective Bargaining for PECG, Matt Hanson, covered a variety of topics, including the open senior exam issue, increasing shift differential for construction night work and bargaining. The main topic was the ongoing bargaining of the new PECG MOU and possible increases to pay. While he couldn't divulge any details about the negotiations or confirm pay increases he assured everyone that PECG is at the table advocating for its members to achieve the very best MOU it can.



Matt Hanson



From left, Paul Swearingen, Joseph Tang, Frank Contreraz, Abu-Bakr Al Jafri, Oscar Cortes, Matt Hanson, Diane Vermeulan, Roy Flores, Cristina Nunez, Mehrdad Maher, William Vivar.



## 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://pecg.org/members/join-pecg/> 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

## News from Sacramento

# Brown's Delta tunnels get \$650 million boost from Bay Area water agency

By Dale Kasler

[dkasler@sacbee.com](mailto:dkasler@sacbee.com)

May 08, 2018 03:07 PM

Updated May 08, 2018 03:14 PM

A Bay Area water agency agreed Tuesday to pump \$650 million into Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta tunnels project, providing a

## San Diego Engineers Week

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

This year's San Diego Engineers Week honored our very own Cory Binns, among others. Great job! Keynote Speaker, Timothy G. Wentz, motivated engineers to seize the opportunities they have in adopting new technologies to help transform the planet.



**RSVP Today**

**San Diego Engineers**  
San Diego County Engineering Council

**Celebrate Engineers Week - Feb 23, 2018**

**Banquet** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hotel Circle  
**Honor Award Winners** Engineer • Educator • Project • Service

 "Back to the Future: The Wonder of Engineering" Keynote: Timothy Wentz	 Irene Nava Solar Turbines	 Karen May-Newman SDSU	 Cory Binns Caltrans
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Emcee: Megan Parry @10News

[www.NEW-SanDiego.org](http://www.NEW-SanDiego.org)



From left, Joseph Tang, Azar Habibafshar, Diane Vermeulen, Cristina Nunez, Mehrdad Maher, Frank Contreras.

meaningful boost for the controversial \$16.7 billion plan.

The 4-3 vote by the Santa Clara Valley Water District brings the tunnels project, which would overhaul the troubled heart of California's aging water delivery network, a step closer to being fully funded.

Just a few months ago the project, officially known as California WaterFix, was sputtering for a lack of funds. Brown's administration was forced to consider a phased-in approach that called for building one tunnel first and constructing a second tunnel only if enough money became available. WaterFix is to be paid for by south-of-Delta local water agencies that get supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/latest-news/article210731179.html#storylink=cpy>

## Senators unveil bipartisan water infrastructure bill

By Mallory Shelbourne - 05/08/18

The HILL

A bipartisan group of senators unveiled a water resources and infrastructure bill on Tuesday that aims to localize the budget for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, introduced the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 along with Sen. Tom Carper (Del.), the panel's top Democrat.

"This bipartisan legislation answers the president's call. Projects included in the bill would make a positive impact in Wyoming

## Science Fair

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The science fair is a yearly event where students from all over the county showcase their talents by displaying different science projects. PECG is honored to support the event with two \$1000 awards and two \$500 awards, given to junior high and high schoolers. Our judges this year had a tough decision with all of the very talented students and highly competitive projects. What a great event!



From left, Diane Vermeulen (Section President), Ken Lew, Raj Pabari, Aaron McKeemon, Oscar Cortes (Section

Exhibit #	Name	Grade	Project title	Award Amount
135	Adithya Rao	10	Smart Glove - American sign Language (ASL) Fingerspelling to Speech Translator	\$1,000
154	Ken Lew	10	Graphene Oxide Advancement in Technology: Nanoparticle application in Carbon Fiber Aircraft Design	\$500
684	Raj Pabari	8	Smart box - System to Provide Wireless Access to Online Educational Resources Without Internet	\$1,000
743	Aaron McKeemon	8	Swell Spark Turns Ocean Swells into Electric Energy	\$500



by increasing water storage; protecting communities from dangerous ice jam floods; and by upgrading old water systems,” Barrasso said in a statement. “Let’s use this opportunity to pass major water infrastructure legislation that will help keep our nation prosperous.”

Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the panel's Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, and subcommittee ranking member Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) also signed on to the legislation, which works to ensure clean drinking water across the country.

Read more here:  
<http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/infrastructure/386742-senators-unveil-bipartisan-water-infrastructure-bill>

## In his bid to be California's next governor, John Chiang touts his battles with a previous one

By Melanie Mason  
May 07, 2018 | 12:05 AM  
| Sacramento

**Los Angeles Times**

As political matchups go, it was an incongruous one: the bodybuilder-turned-Terminator-turned-governor against the bespectacled numbers geek. One of the most famous men in the world versus — um, what's that guy's name again?

## Caltrans Career Day

Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Caltrans Career day was held on Thursday, March 15, 2018. With all of the different Caltrans divisions present and displaying their projects, it was a great event to let the public know what we do and how to get involved. PEGC also attended the event and was available to answer and direct questions. The event was a huge success and we can't wait until next year. Thanks!



From left, Paul Swearingen, Oscar Cortes, Diane Vermeulen.



## New Employees

March 2018

PEGC would like to welcome four new engineers to the Caltrans family. Negar Karbalaee, Matthew (Tully) McCarthy, Patrick Lee and Annabelle Valencia, with PEGC President Diane Vermeulen (Middle). PEGC is very excited to see new engineers join the team and can't wait to see their growth and achievements. Welcome!



From left, Negar Karbalaee, Matthew (Tully) McCarthy, Patrick Lee and Annabelle Valencia, with PEGC President Diane Vermeulen (Middle)

The 2008 showdown pitted then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger against John Chiang, California's Democratic state controller at the time. The governor, facing a budget logjam, ordered a hefty cut in state worker pay to the federal minimum wage — then \$6.55 an hour — but Chiang refused to comply.

That touched off a signature moment in Chiang's two decades of elected office in California. His defiance set off a protracted legal battle, irked the Republican Schwarzenegger administration and won Chiang fans among powerful public sector unions.

It was a defining episode in Chiang's political career, and one that suggested bigger political ambitions for the son of Taiwanese immigrants who once worked as an IRS tax lawyer.

Read more here:  
<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-john-chiang-schwarzenegger-20180507-story.html>

## California's most powerful voice on Wall Street? Its pensions

By [David Webber](#)  
May 06, 2018 | 4:10 AM

Los Angeles Times

The fight over public pensions in California is almost exclusively described as a dispute between people worried about tax hikes and public servants wanting to get paid what they were promised. But this is only part of the

## Roosevelt Dinner

Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

San Diego County Democrats and friends gather at the Roosevelt Dinner each spring to celebrate the Party's elected leaders, candidates, and volunteers. PEGC officers gathered at the dinner to show support and discuss upcoming political issues that involve California.



PEGC Officers with Assemblywoman Dr. Shirley Weber. (79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District)

Jennifer Mulhern Granholm



PEGC Officers with former Governor of Michigan, Jennifer Mulhern Granholm.

US Representative Susan Davis



PEGC Officers with United States Representative Susan Carol Alpert Davis (53<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District)

pension story — one focused on the "liability" side of the balance sheet.

What's missing is the "asset" side of that balance sheet. California's worker-centered pensions have played an extraordinarily important role as investors over the last 20 years. Moves to dismantle these pension systems could surrender the state's market power at exactly the wrong time, when it needs it most.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System, or CalPERS, has led the way to many significant improvements in how companies and markets are run. It led the campaign to unseat the head of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Grasso, over his runaway compensation, and one against Disney Chairman Michael Eisner amid a host of governance problems at that company in 2004. More recently, after the "London Whale" \$6.2-billion trading loss in 2013 revealed governance failures at JPMorgan Chase & Co., CalPERS backed an effort to unseat three of the company's board members. CalPERS similarly fought a successful three-year battle to get Apple to give shareholders meaningful input in board elections. And in 2014, CalPERS shocked markets when it announced that it was divesting from hedge funds, a move that helped drive down the fees those funds charge.

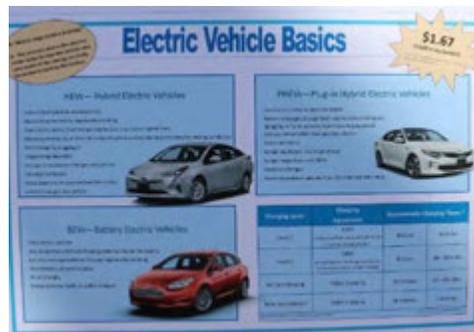
Read more here:

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-webber-pensions-california-20180506-story.html>

## Innovation Fair

Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

This year's innovation fair was a huge success, featuring everything from electric vehicles to flying drones and solar paneled construction offices and new LiDAR technology. With many more innovative ideas on display from the various functional units. As we move into the technology age, innovation is the key to Caltrans success. Keep the ideas coming!



# Senator Dianne Feinstein to Secretary Chao: Release Funding for California Infrastructure Projects-Sierra Sun Times

May 1, 2018 - Washington—Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) [on Monday called on Transportation Secretary Elaine Chaoday](#) [called on Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao](#) to release funding for infrastructure projects in California and end delays implementing the Capital Investment Grants program.

“These thirteen projects have been made possible by decades of hard work from communities throughout California, with bipartisan support in Congress,” Senator Feinstein wrote. “The federal commitment of funding for these projects averages only 45 percent of the total costs, far less than the federal share of up to 80 percent on comparable highway projects. These projects deserve the fair and timely administration they are owed by a program that has been duly authorized and appropriated.”

Full text of the [letter](#) follows:

April 30, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

## Highway Workers Memorial Day

Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

This year’s Highway Worker’s Memorial was a very heart felt event. Acting District Director, Tim Gubbins, delivered an exceptional speech honoring those who lost their lives serving the great State of California and reminding us that we work in a dangerous environment. Safety is always our number one priority. Our hearts go out to those families who lost the lives of loved ones.



Dear Secretary Chao:

Given passage of the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act and Congress's clear direction to continue the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant program, I write to ask for your leadership to fully implement the program, end recent administrative delays, and resume recommending new projects for funding.

As the only opportunity for the federal government to partner in the construction of major transit improvements, the Capital Investment Grant program is critical for reducing congestion on our roads, making transportation more affordable, reducing pollution, and reinvesting in our future.

Congress has now twice rejected proposals from the Trump Administration to terminate the Capital Investment Grant program and instead has strongly reaffirmed its bipartisan commitment to not only continuing, but actually expanding, the program. For Fiscal Year 2018, the law provides \$2.645 billion, a 10 percent increase over the 2017 level, and a 22 percent increase over the 2016 level.

To ensure there is no confusion about the intent of Congress, the 2018 appropriations law imposed a new requirement that 85 percent of funding be spent within twenty-one months, and included new written direction "to administer the capital investment grants program in accordance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5309," to "move projects through the program from initial application to construction," and "to provide updated project ratings expeditiously at the request of the project sponsor."

I would like to be clear about what this means for my home state of California. Included in the 2018 appropriations law is full funding for all multi-year capital investment grants that are already underway, including:

1. \$23 million for the ninth and final year of funding for Phase 2 of the Third Street

## WTS Hyperloop Presentation

Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018



WTS SAN DIEGO PRESENTS  
**THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION**  
Virgin Hyperloop One

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

 **AIDA HAN**     **DR. ANITA SENGUPTA**     **SANDHYA JETTI**     **CATHERINE PLIAN**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH**  
11:30AM-1:00PM

The University Club atop  
Symphony Towers  
750 B Street, 34th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101  
*lunch will be served*

**REGISTRATION FEE:**

Public Sector	\$30
Private Sector	\$45
Private Non-Member	\$65
Student	\$20

Register **HERE**\*  
\*Limited Registration

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**  
Contact our Membership Chairs for more info at  
Anita.Sengupta@hyperloop.com &  
C.Taylor@hyperloop.com

**STAY CONNECTED:**



PECG members attended the WTS event, "The Future of Transportation." Dr. Anita Sengupta, Senior Vice President of Virgin Hyperloop One, presented on bringing space age technology and design methodology to transform our transportation systems, through the development of Hyperloop technology. Hyperloop is the first new major mode of transportation in 100 years. It's designed to be safe, energy efficient, and reliable. It will take you directly to your destination at speeds of up to 700 mph, above land or underground.



Danielle Zhang, Fariba Zohoury, Eleanor Gonzalez, Diane Vermeulen, Lima Saft and Seana Urquhart. ( from left, back row)

Central Subway in San Francisco;

2. \$97.4 million for the seventh and final year of funding for Phase 1 of the Silicon Valley BART Extension in San Jose;

3. \$100 million for the fifth of seven years of funding for the Regional Connector in Los Angeles;

4. \$100 million for the fifth of thirteen years of funding for Section 1 of the Westside Purple Line Extension in Los Angeles;

5. \$100 million for the third of twelve years of funding for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension in Los Angeles;

6. \$100 million for the third of eleven years of funding for the Mid-Coast Corridor in San Diego; and

7. \$100 million for the second of six years of funding for Caltrain Electrification in the Bay Area.

Also included in the 2018 appropriations law is full funding for all capital investment grants that are expected to begin this year, including:

8. \$50 million for the second and final year of funding for the Downtown Riverfront Streetcar in Sacramento, which is still awaiting a grant agreement from the Department despite receiving appropriations from Congress last year; and

9. \$99 million for the second and final year of funding for the Santa Ana Garden Grove Streetcar in Orange County, which is also still awaiting a grant agreement from the Department despite receiving appropriations from Congress last year

Finally, the law directs the Department to provide projects with impartial technical ratings and fair recommendations for future funding, which should be made with an understanding of the unwavering long-term Congressional support for the program. The

## RE Meeting

Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018



From left, William Vivar, Ron Carat (District Division Chief Construction), Rachel Falsetti (HQ Construction Division Chief), Amer Bata (Deputy District Director Construction and Land Surveys), Oscar Cortes, Cristina Nunez, Paul Swearingen.

San Diego PECG Section contributed to the Annual RE Meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>. RE Meetings provide a good opportunity to reach out to our construction PECG members that usually can't attend our regular meetings.

## PECG International

Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

The San Diego World Affairs Council (SDWAC) was founded in 1954. SDWAC is part of the World Affairs Councils of America, the largest international affairs non-profit organization in the United States. Our Council serves the entire county of San Diego.



Oscar Cortes, San Diego Section Director attended SDWAC on April 3<sup>rd</sup> event featuring Alan Bersin, former Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Commissioner of Customs and Border Security, U.S. Attorney, and "Border Czar." Mr. Bersin was a knowledgeable, dynamic, and engaging speaker who was able to place current migration and border issues including infrastructure within historical and economic contexts.

projects currently preparing for funding or advancement in FY 2019 include:

Read more here:

<http://goldrushcam.com/sierrasuntimes/index.php/news/local-news/13733-senator-dianne-feinstein-to-secretary-chao-release-funding-for-california-infrastructure-projects>

## Member Involvement

If you are interested in volunteering on one of the San Diego Section Committees, please contact our Section President, Diane Vermeulen at:

Phone: (619) 688-0282

Email: [diane.vermeulen@dot.ca.gov](mailto:diane.vermeulen@dot.ca.gov)

## Section Committees

- Events Committee
- Health & Safety Comment
- Membership Committee
- Nominations & Election Committee
- Policy & Bylaws Committee
- Political Involvement Committee
- Retirement Committee
- Scholarship & Student Monitoring Committee
- Public Outreach Committee
- Science Fair Committee Events Committee
- CHEERS Committee
- Grievance Committee

## QUICK LINKS

## Bring Your Child to Work Day

Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018



This year's Bring Your Child to Work Day was a memorable event. With hands on activities like, an archaeological dig, the kids really enjoyed themselves and learned about Caltrans. Great job!



From left, Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri, Anne Fox (Deputy District Director Planning & Local Assistance), Oscar Cortes, Diane Vermeulen, Caridad Sanchez.

- 2018 Health Plan Premiums
  - <http://pecg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-premiums.pdf>
- 2015-2018 PECG MOU
  - <http://pecg.org/mou-2/mou/>
- PECG Objectives
  - <http://pecg.org/wp-content/uploads/PECG-Objectives-2017-1.pdf>
- PECG Informer
  - <http://pecg.org/communications/informer/>
- Weekly Update
  - <http://pecg.org/communications/weekly-update/>

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Documentaries
  - We've Got the Power
    - <http://wevegotthepower.com/>
  - The Next Frontier – Engineering the Golden Age of Green
    - <http://thenextfrontiermovie.com/>
  - The Bridge So Far – a Suspense Story
    - <http://thebridgesofar.com/>
  - Amazing: the Rebuilding of the MacArthur Maze
    - <http://amazingmaze.org/>
  - A Span in Time

## Toot Our Horn

Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Toot Our Horn Tuesday was an action packed event with Acting District Director (DD) Tim Gubbins honoring multiple groups including: 25 and 40 year employees, Maintenance Engineering, Design and Maintenance crews for exemplary work and new to the docket employees of the quarter. He also welcomed new employees to the District. This really has turned into a special event. Great job!



Acting DD Tim Gubbins honoring 40 year employees, Frank Santbanez and Victor Nava.



Acting DD Tim Gubbins honoring 25 year employees.

From left, Acting DD Tim Gubbins, Jason Wilson, Diana Espina, Mike Vasquez, Jason Webb, Lima Saft, Jose Estrada.



Maintenance Engineering and Design honored for outstanding work.



Employees of the Quarter, Joe Loper, Troy Buckko, honored by Acting DD Tim Gubbins.



Acting DD Tim Gubbins and District Division Chief of Maintenance, Evertt Townsend, honoring Maintenance crew for outstanding work



Acting DD Tim Gubbins welcoming new hires; Ed Joyce, Annabelle Valencia, Negar Karbalace, Patrick Lee, Javier Mendivil, and Shukurat Sanni.

- <http://aspanintime.com/>

## PECG MEMBER BENEFITS

- Theme Parks
- Other Attractions
- Goods & Services
- Travel/Rental Cars
- PECG Sponsored Insurance

## Weekly Update

**May 11, 2018**

PECG has endorsed both **Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom** and **Treasurer John Chiang** for Governor, based on their longtime relationships with PECG and support for the interests of PECG members.

PECG also has endorsed many other constitutional-office and legislative candidates. For a full list of PECG candidate endorsements, please [click here](#). Election Day on Tuesday, June 5.

PECG supports two statewide measures on the June ballot.

**Proposition 68** authorizes \$4 billion in bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection and restoration projects, water infrastructure projects, and flood protection projects.

**Proposition 69** guarantees present and future revenues from SB 1 will only be used for transportation infrastructure and cannot be diverted to fill budget shortfalls.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual D11 Wellness Center Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

D11 Wellness Center had its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at Riverwalk Golf Course on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2018. It was a gorgeous day to play golf and support the Wellness Center. Thanks to all of those who attended the event. See you next year!



D11 Wellness Center Golf Tournament Winners, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Bruce April's team was best dressed as well (Hawaiian Theme).

Governor Jerry Brown on Friday issued a revised version of his 2018-19 state budget that spends \$199.3 billion, including \$137.6 billion in general fund expenditures and puts most of an anticipated \$8.8 billion surplus into reserves.

Friday's presentation was the termed-out Governor's 16th and final "May Revise." During the press conference, the governor again displayed his fiscally-conservative leanings, saying that he wanted to avoid committing to long-term spending increases that the state could not afford if a recession hits.

"This is a time to save for our future, not to make pricey promises we can't keep. Let's not blow it now." he said.

The January budget proposal anticipated \$6 billion in surplus revenue next year, but a surging economy is expected to pour nearly \$3 billion more than that next year.

The revised budget also slightly lowers the state contributions to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) to \$5.5 billion, an indication that state pension reforms are working.

"We've made some significant pension reform," the Governor said. "Some people said it wasn't that big, but it was very big."

Budget negotiations will now heat up. The Governor will urge moderation. Legislators will push for billions of dollars in additional spending. In the end, the Legislature will pass a budget by the June 15 constitutional deadline and the Governor will sign it by June 30.

## Padres Game

Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

PECG sponsored the Padres game on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Featuring the SD Padres vs. STL Cardinals and Trevor Hoffman bobble head. After a long heated battle the Padres beat the Cardinals 2 to 1, with Hosmer's Double in the 13<sup>th</sup> inning. FUN!

