

SAN DIEGO SECTION

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT



Quarterly Report

February 2018

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 Contreras

VP At Large: Joseph Tang

Secretary: Paul G. Swearingen

Treasurer: William Vivar

Upcoming Events

03/22 (Tentative)- Section General Meeting at Caltrans

02/22 Gubernatorial Debate

02/23 Engineering Week Banquet

Upcoming Retirements

- TBD

Section General Meeting

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

PECG San Diego Section general meeting was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. Guest speaker and head PECG lobbyist Ted Toppin covered a variety of topics, one of them included the new SB1 bill recently passed, and now under the radar of none other than San Diego's own Carl DeMaio. Look for the opposition campaign to start this year as voters head back to the ballots in November, but don't get too worried there are plenty of stakeholders that are in favor of SB1 and eager to see California's aging transportation infrastructure be repaired. This bill also has a ripple effect on workload and staffing for the District. Suffice to say, Caltrans is hiring new Engineers to meet that demand. Kudos to the District for responding to those needs.



Joseph Tang, Cynthia Hoffman-Paz, Robert Lumahan, Cristina Nunez, Frank Contreras, Abu-Bakr Al Jafri, Oscar Cortes, Diane Vermeulan, Paul Swearingen, Ted Toppin, Roy Flores, 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://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

News from Sacramento

February 5, 2018

During the past year, President Trump had repeatedly discussed his plan for investing **\$1 trillion** over the next ten years to rebuild the nation's crumbling **infrastructure**. In more recent months, the proposal appeared to involve \$200 billion of federal money. The other 80% would be leveraged through state and local taxes, private investment, and other sources of funds.

A week before the President's State of the Union speech on January 30, the White House released more information on the plan. Half of the federal funds would be in the form of grants for projects, with a selection criteria heavily weighted toward funding from other sources. Specifically, the federal grants could not exceed 20% of the total project cost. It would allow tolling on Interstate highways and eliminate federal requirements (such as environmental and

PECG International

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

The Citizen Committee Forum of US International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and Mexico Comision Internacional de Limites y Aguas (CILA) purpose is to bring together community members enabling the early and



San Diego PECG Director Oscar Cortes serves as president of the Citizen Committee for CILA

continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the both countries and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, municipalities, and other interested parties which applies the boundary and water treaties of the United States and Mexico and settles differences that may arise in their application. Our mission is to provide binational solutions to issues that arise during the application of United States - Mexico treaties regarding boundary demarcation, national ownership of waters, sanitation, water quality, and flood control in the border region.

Corporate Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, December 2, 2017

The PECG Corporate Quarterly Meeting was held in Sacramento on Saturday, December 2, 2017. San Diego Officers were present to represent our section at the event.



other regulations) for projects with minimal federal funding.

In his State of the Union speech, the President emphasized the importance of rebuilding the nation's infrastructure and increased his ten-year proposal from \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion. The funding would cover primarily **transportation and water** infrastructure. When asked about the source of federal funds, a White House spokesperson said it would be paid back from cuts to existing federal programs, such as Amtrak and public transportation, which are not funded by the Highway Trust Fund.

Governor Brown followed up his optimistic State Budget proposal in early January with a positive outlook in his State of the State address on January 25. It began with "simply put, California is prospering." He said "clean air, clean water is a fundamental good that must be protected", and complimented the Legislature and the voters for approving a **water bond** that invests in safe drinking water, conservation, and storage.

He noted that Senate Bill 1 authorizes "absolutely necessary" funding for California's **roads and transit** systems. He committed that "I will do everything in my power to defeat any repeal effort that may make it to the ballot" regarding transportation funding for future years.

A **survey** of PECG members in Unit 9 to determine your contract **bargaining priorities** has been emailed. If you are a Unit 9 PECG member who has not yet received the survey, please respond to this email. The survey gives you an opportunity to express your priorities for contract negotiations this spring for a new Memorandum of Understanding to determine your salary, benefits, and working conditions. A similar survey for PECG-

Mentor Day

Friday, September 22, 2017



Students from mentor day displaying their unique business design model.

Mentor day was held on Friday, September 22, 2017. PECG attended the event and were able to talk with your students and listen to their ideas and provide some feedback for them. This event is a great opportunity for PECG members to give back to the community. Way to go.

Women's March

Tuesday, January 20, 2018

More than 30,000 people gathered downtown San Diego to march for women's rights. PECG's political liason, Josan Feathers with San



Diego Police Chief, Shelley Zimmerman, at the event.

represented supervisors and managers will be emailed in the coming weeks.

You may recall that PECG filed a grievance in 2016 based on a dispute regarding the calculation of the state's contribution to **health plan premiums** in 2017. A hearing was held before a mutually-selected neutral arbitrator in October. Last week, all parties submitted briefs (written arguments) supporting their positions.

The arbitrator is expected to issue a ruling at some point in the next few months. If PECG is successful, affected employees will receive reimbursement for that portion of their 2017 health plan premium contribution which exceeded the amount authorized in the MOU.

For more weekly updates, check out PECG's website at

[Http://pecg.org/communications/weekly-update/](http://pecg.org/communications/weekly-update/)

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) 688-6763

Email: dvermeulen@dot.ca.gov

Toot Our Horn

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Toot Our Horn Tuesday has become a trend setting idea to recognize our great employees and introduce some new faces to the District. Each event honors our employees for years of service, this event was no different. Cory announced the 25 year employees and 35 years, Rebecca Diaz!! Thank You!



Cory Binns (Interim District Director) honoring Rebecca Diaz, 35 yr!



Cory Binns welcoming our new hires: Francisco Martinez, Bhanu Sharma, Tiffany Schock, Van Nguyen, Anthony Leimeister, Alexander Wood, Phat Nguyen, Karen Islas, Eric Carael, Todd Lindsay, Ryan Fallica, Pedro Aguilar and Christian Ramirez (NP).

Special recognition was given to the Land Survey crew for the extraordinary level of service they provide and the high quality product they deliver, how special was it to see them honored. Keep up the good work!

The District has some new faces and Cory took this time to introduce them. Let's give them a warm welcome to District 11 and show them what it means to part of a great team. Welcome!



Cory Binns, Amer Bata and Mark Phelan honoring Land Surveys: (No Order) Ned Salman, Sergio Vazquez, Steve Chaffin, Jason Webb, Dave Olander, Bob Robinson, Daniel Kim, David Grinager, Anthony Leimeister, John Merigan, Kevin Maxwell, John Reisig, Alfonso Medellin, Todd Lindsay, Paul Jennings, John Arangure, Brian Pearson, Diego Alvarado, Anthony Leimeister.



Cory Binns honoring 25 year employees: Beraki Woldeabzghi, Scott Alvarez, Andrew Rice, Al Brisendine, (NP): Kari Livingstone, Anush Badii, Duane Paquin, John Capunay and Rene Figueroa.

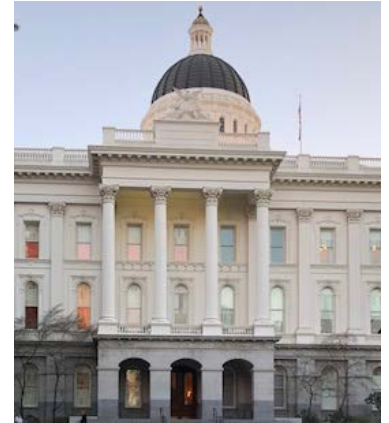
Section Committees

- 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

Legislative Day

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

PECG met up in Sacramento for Legislative day on Tuesday, February, 13 2018 where they were able to listen to legislature speak and discuss key topics. The main topics addressed were SB1, Pensions, SB623 and the Governor's proposal to upgrade aging water infrastructure in the state. PECG officers were able to meet and confer with the following representatives: Betty Yee (State Controller), Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (CA State Assembly 80th District), Brian Maienchein (CA State Assembly 80th District), Dr. Shirley Weber (CA State Assembly 80th District), Jim Frazier (CA State Assembly 11th District), Anthony Cannella (CA State Senate 12th District).



Cristina Nunez, Diane Vermeulen., Azar Habibafshar, Betty Yee (State Controller), Sutida Berquist (Corp. Pres.), Mahin Khakizadeh (Director), Jane Pham (Secretary), Grace Pina-Garrett (Director)

PECG Officers and committee members with Assemblywoman Dr. Shirley Weber (fifth from left)



PECG Officers and committee members with Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (fourth)

PECG Officers and committee members with Assemblyman Brian Maienschein (third from left)



QUICK LINKS

- 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/>

John Tonarely's Retirement

Thursday, December 31, 2017

John's retirement party was on December 31, 2017 at Sufi Mediterranean Restaurant. He spent his final years in Construction where he helped prepare the Construction Master Work Agreement. He will be missed. Thanks John!



Oscar Cortes and Rudy John Tonarely

Rudy Gabriel's Retirement

Thursday, September 2, 2017

Rudy had a small retirement party here at the District with close friends and colleagues. Rudy helped deliver many projects in Design and for the District. Enjoy your retirement! Thanks Rudy.



Oscar Cortes and Rudy Gabriel

Lu Qingqing's Retirement

December 20, 2017

After 23 years of service to the California public Qingqing has retired. She was a great engineer and well respected. The District will definitely miss your knowledge and wisdom. Thank you for your service!



Fred Abdipour , Lu Qingqing

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
 - <http://aspanintime.com/>

Ken Brownwell and John Hurtzig's Retirement

Friday, November 17, 2017

Ken and John had a joint retirement party on Friday, November 17, 2017 at the KMSA Construction Patio. The turnout was great and these two will be sorely missed in Construction.

Thanks for all your work over the years. Enjoy the time.



Chuck Deyoe, Oscar Cortes and Ken Brownwell



Chuck Deyoe, Oscar Cortes and John Hurtzig

Sandro Bermudez's Retirement

December 2017

Sandro's retirement was in December of last year. It was held at the KM office and was a huge success. He was very popular around the District and a great asset. He will be missed. Thank you for your dedication and service!



Fred Abdipour, Sandro Bermudez

PECG MEMBER BENEFITS

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

At Large PECG Members

Friday, February 2, 2018

At Large PECG Members at Division of State Architect (DSA) San Diego gathered at Phil's BBQ for lunch on February 2nd, 2018 to celebrate our dear colleague and new PECG Member Steven Lyle's 60th Birthday.

Congratulations! Steven, you still are looking young and handsome!



(Steven Lyle is the one who is wearing a salmon colored shirt, Joseph Tang, VP At Large is on the right)