



## 2022-2023 SAN DIEGO SECTION ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

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**NAME OF CANDIDATE:**

Karen Islas

**SECTION OFFICE:**

Vice President Rank and File

**TOTAL YEARS OF STATE SERVICE:**

4.5

**CURRENT CLASSIFICATION:**

Transportation Engineer (Civil)



**WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Transportation Engineer (Civil) with the California Department of Transportation in District 11 which oversees San Diego and Imperial Counties. Since joining in early 2018, I have been a TE with the North Coast Corridor Program, the SR-78 & SR-76 Corridors, minor maintenance projects and District Director's orders, and with the Director's Office of Sustainability Program in Sacramento, CA. Prior to my employment with Caltrans, I worked at the City of San Diego for general-fund and enterprise-fund departments. Presently, I am a TE with the South County & Trade Corridors.

**PECG EXPERIENCE:**

I have been a PECG member since the beginning of my Caltrans employment. I have participated in committees, including the "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)" Committee which our mission comprised of attending K-12 science fairs, outreach events for each year's "Engineer's Week", the Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair, "Bring your Child to Work Day" in District 11 Office, Annual PECG dinners, and overall mentorship efforts.

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

As the newer generation of striving professionals join our workforce, the needs and interests quickly change and update. I am a strong believer in bringing a variety of people into the room, to ensure voices are heard and concerns are acknowledged, to allow for a more equitable decision-making process that includes all individuals. Bringing my perspective as a public employee, in local and State government, and as a young professional who is still trying to find her way; I see myself and the future generation of professionals as essential to fulfill PECG's mission of engineering California's future.