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## 2022-2023

### San Diego Section Officers

Section Director: Frank Contreras  
Section President: Alex Balce  
President Elect: Ryan Fallica  
VP Supervisory: Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri  
VP Rank & File: Karen Islas  
VP At Large: Stewart Migdal  
Secretary: Sherry Tadros  
Treasurer: Roy Flores

## PECG Member Recruiting is Rewarding!

- Recruitment Tools:  
<http://pecg.org/recruitment-tools/>
- To Join:  
<http://pecg.org/join-pecg/>
- Rewards:  
\$50 per rank-and-file employee  
\$200 per supervisor/manager

# President Biden Visits San Diego!

November 3, 2022



*President Joe Biden at MiraCosta Community College, Oceanside Campus*

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, President Biden joined Congressman Mike Levin in MiraCosta Community College (Oceanside Campus) to encourage San Diego residents to “get out and vote!”. Mike Levin was in a close race with Brian Maryott in the 49<sup>th</sup> District. Levin was seeking his third term representing the district. During the rally, both President Biden and Congressman Levin pushed for higher voter turn out. President Biden wrapped up his visit to San Diego by speaking at a Carlsbad-based technology company, Viasat, which will benefit from the CHIPS and Science Act’s passage. Passed in August 2022, this bill focuses in increasing production of microchips in the U.S.

## PECG Weekly Updates

### General Salary Increases!

November 4, 2022

As reported previously, CalHR issued Pay Letter 22-30 on October 18, 2022, putting in place effective October 1, 2022, the following improved pay differentials for Unit 9 rank and file and supervisory and managerial employees:

- Expanded Longevity Pay Differential
- Geographic Pay Differential to provide \$250 per month to Unit 9 Employees in Contra Costa County
- Increase in Diving Pay Differential to \$25 from \$12 per hour
- Increase in the Long-Term Differential to \$3,000 from \$1,800 per month

However, it seems many of the differential increases did not make it into the October pay warrants Unit 9 employees received last week. PECG is working with state departments and the State Controller's Office (SCO) to get separate checks issued for these differentials in the days ahead and to incorporate them into the November warrants of those eligible to receive them.

And a reminder, the 2.5% general salary increase (GSI) that is retroactive to July 1, 2022, and the back pay that will come with it, will be part of another Pay Letter that will go out at some point in November – according to CalHR.

Regrettably, there are always problems and delays when CalHR, state departments, and the SCO work through the steps necessary to implement the pay and differential increases that are part of a

## PECG FED-PAC Event

September 24, 2022



*Pictured from left to right: Diane Vermeulen, Mike Levin, Josan Feathers, and Alex Balce.*

PECG members joined Congressman Mike Levin in Encinitas on September 24, 2022, for a fundraiser in support of Congressman Levin's campaign. This year's mid-term election was highly anticipated, with the Republican and Democratic parties competing for majority in the House and Senate.

## Coastal Clean Up Day

September 17, 2022

Caltrans District 11 employees came out on September 17, 2022, to clean up the coasts of San Diego County. Volunteers came out to four different locations: Cardiff, Mission Bay, Chula Vista, and Lakeside.

new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In the weeks ahead, PEGC will continue to update members on when they can expect to receive the GSI, improved pay differentials, related back pay, and the other pay and benefit improvements they are due.

*October 21, 2022*

PEGC is working with CalHR to finalize the formatted version of PEGC’s 2022-25 MOU and will post it on the website when it is complete. We will also provide a printed copy to members who request them when they are available.

Just a quick update on the status of some of the improved reimbursements in the new MOU:

- Safety Footwear. The increase in the safety footwear reimbursement – to \$150 every 12 months – is effective retroactively to July 1, 2022. Many departments are not fully aware of the July 1 implementation date, but hold onto your receipts until they make the required adjustments.
- Professional Society and Organizational Dues. The increase in the reimbursement for professional society and organization dues to \$250 per fiscal year is effective July 1, 2022. Again, please be patient while your department makes the changes necessary to provide the \$250 reimbursement.
- CPESC/QSD/QSP Certificates. The MOU’s provision that requires state reimbursement for the application, exam, and renewal fee costs associated with CPESC/QSD/QSP certifications is also effective July 1, 2022.



*Caltrans volunteers at the Chula Vista Location*

Caltrans and the California Coastal Commission partnered up for the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Coastal Cleanup Day, asking the public to participate in cleanup and litter prevention activities throughout the month. District 11 focused on these four locations with I Love A Clean San Diego for the largest single-day environmental cleanup in San Diego County.



*Caltrans volunteers at the Cardiff Location*

- Commute Program. The MOU increases the reimbursement rate for using mass transit and vanpools to the federal maximum of \$280 per month. Per the MOU, this reimbursement increase is effective October 1, 2022, but, again, it will take some time for departments to implement the new benefits.

*October 19, 2022*

CalHR (on behalf of the State) issued a pay letter yesterday that begins to put in place the provisions of PECG’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for all Unit 9 employees. Yesterday’s pay letter, unfortunately, only provides guidance to the State Controller’s Office (SCO) and state departments for implementing the new and improved “pay differentials” that are part of the MOU.

According to CalHR, the 2.5% general salary increase (GSI) that is retroactive to July 1, 2022, and the back pay that will come with it, will be included in another Unit 9 pay letter that will go out at some point in November.

Pay Letter 22-30, dated October 18, 2022, provides the following new and improved pay differentials effective October 1, 2022, for Unit 9 rank and file and supervisory and managerial employees:

- Improved Longevity Pay Differential
- Geographic Pay Differential to Provide \$250 per month to Unit 9 Employees in Contra Costa County
- Increase in Diving Pay Differential to \$25 from \$12 per hour

# District 11 Toot Our Horn!

September 13, 2022



*Caltrans District 11 welcomes new employees.*

District 11 celebrated their beloved Toot Our Horn Tuesday where the district showcased its numerous accomplishments in project delivery, new hire welcomes, and several other employee recognitions. District 11 recognized 47 new employees with many of them being Transportation Engineers.

- Increase in the Long-Term Differential to \$3,000 from \$1,800 a month

For a refresher about the details of each differential, please see PECG's 2022-25 MOU page here. The webpage password is PECGdelivers! (case sensitive).

Pay Letter 22-30 also implements the rank and file Transportation Surveyor (Caltrans) \$300 a month differential effective October 1, 2022, per the PECG MOU. PECG's Meet and Confer Team remains in discussions with CalHR to extend this \$300 a month differential to the party chief, senior, and supervising transportation surveyors that are part of this classification series.

With the issuance of this pay letter, CalHR believes the new and improved Unit 9 pay differentials will make it into Unit 9 employee October pay warrants that will be received at the end of this month. Given the difficulties state departments and the SCO have in implementing pay and benefit improvements, there will no doubt be problems. PECG will work with members to ensure they receive their pay differentials as soon as possible.

According to CalHR, the delay in implementing the Unit 9 GSI and back pay, and pay increases for other bargaining units, is due to staffing shortages in the State Controller's Office. SCO contends that they simply don't have enough staff with the skills to update their antiquated payroll system prior to November. PECG will continue to update members on the status of the implementation of the GSI, back pay, and the other improvements in the MOU in the weeks ahead.

## PECG Corporate Annual Meeting

September 10, 2022

San Diego Section officers joined their counterparts from other sections and members of PECG's Corporate Board for a swearing-in ceremony. Frank Contreras was sworn in by Cameron Knudson (Outgoing PECG Corporate President) as the new San Diego Section Director.



*Pictured from left to right: Ryan Fallica, Mehrdad Nabizadeh, Frank Contreras, Mark Sheahan (Incoming PECG Corporate President), Robert Lumahan, Cameron Knudson (Outgoing PECG Corp President), Roy Flores, Alex Balce, Cristina Nunez*

## IN THE NEWS

### Caltrans Unveils Julian International Dark Sky Community Signs

Source: Caltrans District 11  
November 4, 2022

October 14, 2022

Given that the fall professional exam season is under way, it is a good time to remind PEGG members about Article 3.3 of PEGG's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Unfortunately, all too often, state departments and agencies misinterpret or inaccurately convey the full extent of the professional exam and licensure benefits available to Unit 9 employees.

Article 3.3 covers all employees applying for and participating in exams for the following professional licenses and certificates – Engineer, Architect, Landscape Architect, Land Surveyor, Engineer-in-Training, LSIT, Geologist-in-Training, Engineering Geologist, Geologist, and Geophysicist.

Here are the available benefits:

- Unit 9 employees scheduled to take any of the license exams listed above during the work day will be granted State release time to take the examination upon presentation of proof that the employee is scheduled for the examination. Such release time is limited to the time required for the exam and includes reasonable travel time to and from the nearest examination site, not to exceed the normal work shift on the exam day. To be very clear, Unit 9 employees do not need to use their annual leave or vacation time to participate in an exam.
- Upon successful completion of any portion of one of the licensing exams, the State shall reimburse Unit 9 employees for all fees and charges required to apply for and participate in the examination. The amount to be reimbursed is the full fee and charges

**SAN DIEGO** — An official unveiling ceremony was held this afternoon to reveal new “Entering Julian” and “International Dark Sky Community” signs that will be installed along State Route 78 (SR-78) and State Route 79 (SR-79), to help encourage more stargazers, visitors, and shoppers to restaurants and businesses located in Julian.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors recently led an initiative to adopt a lighting ordinance that made the designation of Julian as an International Dark Sky Community possible.

An International Dark Sky Community has taken steps to preserve the darkness of the night sky and the view of the stars and planets by limiting light pollution at night. Julian is only the second community in the state with this designation.

Signs are used to distinguish important environmental, historical, and commercial districts. San Diego highways are used by millions of visitors and residents each year, and signage creates meaningful visibility and awareness of community places.



Community leaders, donors, and representatives from local organizations and offices of elected officials were invited to attend today's ceremony. Speakers at the ceremony include Robin Boland, Executive Director of Julian Chamber of Commerce; Paige Bounds, Communications Coordinator for Supervisor Joel Anderson; Doug Sollosy, Founder of Julian Dark Sky Network; Gustavo Dallarda, Caltrans District 11 Director, Eric Jones, President of Volcan Mountain Foundation, Member of Julian Community Planning Group, and Julie Zerbe, Board member of Julian Architectural Review Board.

“Thanks to the Julian Dark Sky Network, our children and grandchildren will experience the beauty of the natural night and enjoy skies full of stars protected from urban light,” said Supervisor Joel Anderson. “East County is grateful to the dedicated community

employees are required to pay a particular licensing board. Employees will not be reimbursed for exam fees for any exam they fail.

- The State shall also reimburse Unit 9 employees for their license renewal fees.
- Unit 9 employees shall accrue eight (8) hours of compensating time off upon successful completion of a licensing exam.

To read Article 3.3, please click [here](#). The password to view this page is **PECGdelivers!** (case-sensitive). And as always if your department tells you something that contradicts the information above, or you are having difficulty in receiving your appropriate licensure reimbursement or leave time, please email [pecg@pecg.org](mailto:pecg@pecg.org) or call your nearest PEGC office.

The open enrollment period for CalPERS health care plans closes today – October 14, 2022. If you are interested in making a change in your health plan provider in 2023, and have yet to do so, please see PEGC’s September Informer to help you make your decision. Again, the password is **PECGdelivers!** (case-sensitive). If you are happy with your health plan, no action is necessary.

CalHR reports that, if all goes well, the Unit 9 pay letter will be out next week. The pay letter instructs state departments and the State Controller’s Office (SCO) to implement the many pay and benefit improvements in PEGC’s 2022-25 Memorandum of Understanding. It is expected that the pay letter will provide instructions for updating the pay and benefits for both Unit 9 rank and file and

members who helped Julian earn their accreditation as an International Dark Sky Community. I applaud their efforts to preserve Julian’s dark skies for future generations.”

“Highway signs may seem commonplace or ordinary. We know they have special meaning because they guide you to places with rich interest and history,” said Caltrans District 11 Director Gustavo Dallarda; “They take you to special places where people explore, shop, find entertainment, and thrive, like the Julian Dark Sky Community.”

Motorists are reminded to be Work Zone Alert if traveling in the area and to watch for highway workers and moving construction equipment.

The construction schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions, traffic incidents, or other construction-related reasons.

## California and Mexico Sign Historic Toll Revenue Sharing Agreement for Otay Mesa East Port of Entry

*Source: Caltrans District 11  
October 24, 2022*

SANDAG and Caltrans District 11 joined U.S. Ambassador Ken Salazar, Lieutenant Governor of California Eleni Kounalakis, U.S. and Mexican dignitaries, and business leaders today to celebrate a “California Day” reception in Mexico City where SANDAG, along with the state of California, signed a binational Toll Revenue Sharing Agreement with Mexico. The agreement is a legally binding document that will establish the revenue split between the U.S. and Mexico for the toll affiliated with the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry.

“This new agreement, which I signed as a witness today, will bring economic prosperity to our cross-border region,” said Lt. Governor Kounalakis. “The Otay Mesa East Port of Entry is vital in our nation’s supply chain and creating thousands of jobs. This historic revenue

supervisory and managerial employees. Given that the pay and benefit increases require departments and the SCO to make specific programming updates, it is uncertain whether the improvements will show up in the October or November pay warrants. Again, given the history, patience will be required in the weeks ahead as the State works to update its antiquated payroll system.

*October 7, 2022*

PECG continues to work with CalHR and the State Controller's Office (SCO) to deliver the many benefits of PECG's new 2022-25 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as soon as possible. As reported previously, the 2.5% general salary increase (GSI) that is part of the agreement is retroactive to July 1, 2022, and many of the other pay and benefit improvements will be in effect for the October pay period.

But for back pay checks to go out and for the other MOU improvements to show up in pay warrants, CalHR must issue an official pay letter instructing the SCO and departments to update Unit 9 salary ranges and implement the provisions of the MOU. As of today, unfortunately, CalHR has not issued a pay letter.

PECG's Meet and Confer Team met with CalHR in early September to press for the extension of the MOU's benefits to all Unit 9 supervisors and managers. The Team has also provided additional background information at CalHR's request. CalHR has already agreed in writing to extend the 2.5% GSI to Unit 9 supervisors and managers retroactive to July 1, 2022. PECG continues to work with the State to ensure that the MOU's other pay and

sharing agreement solidifies the joint commitment of California and the Government of Mexico to boosting trade and creating jobs.”



The signing strengthens the state's bilateral partnership with Mexico, helps advance key border projects and initiatives, and brings the San Diego-Baja California region one step closer to an innovative new border crossing. The future facility will reduce wait times, curb emissions, power economic growth, and bolster binational trade along the busiest border region in the Western Hemisphere.

“The signing of the revenue-sharing agreement for the operation of the new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry is another major step toward realizing a vision for border security and efficiency that's been 20 years in the making,” said SANDAG Vice Chair and San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria. “The reduction in border wait times will have a substantial positive economic impact and improve quality of life for the people in our binational mega-region.”

By signing the Toll Revenue Sharing Agreement, the U.S. and Mexico agreed to various revenue-sharing strategies, including a single toll collection point on the U.S.'s side of State Route 11, a set toll rate by SANDAG Board of Directors, and finalizing North American Development Bank as custodian and distributor of the toll funds. The signing of the Toll Revenue Sharing Agreement comes off the heels of the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry receiving a \$150 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), which will go towards financing the construction of the new border crossing facility and related transportation infrastructure.

“The economic, social, and cultural power of our binational region depends greatly on the strong relationships and collaboration between



benefit improvements are provided to Unit 9 supervisors and managers.

PECG will continue to press for the release of the pay letter and the timely payment of Unit 9 pay and benefit increases for rank and file employees and supervisors and managers. But as in previous years, these things will take some time. Thank you for your patience

## PECG Member Involvement

If you are interested in volunteering on any one of these San Diego Section Committees, please email our Section President, Alex Balce at: [alex.balce@dot.ca.gov](mailto:alex.balce@dot.ca.gov)

- Events Planning 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
- Grievance Committee
- STEM Committee

## QUICK LINKS

- Visit San Diego Section  
[sandiegopecg.org](http://sandiegopecg.org)
- Follow us on Twitter  
[Twitter.com/pecg\\_sandiego](https://twitter.com/pecg_sandiego)

the U.S. and Mexico,” said SANDAG Transportation Committee Chair and San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Nora Vargas. “As Chair of the Transportation Committee for SANDAG, I am proud to have signed this historic revenue-sharing agreement to help advance the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry. This project will increase cross-border mobility, create jobs, strengthen our supply chain, and help us reach our climate goals.”

The California Day reception encapsulated the long-standing relationship that California and Mexico have as well as their joint commitment to invest in border initiatives that foster bilateral trade growth, enhance mobility, and reduce emissions for the Baja California-California mega region, an economic engine for the State of California, United States, and Mexico.

# U.S., Mexico Break Ground on New Otay Mesa East Port of Entry

*Source: Caltrans District 11  
August 22, 2022*

The State of California and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) today broke ground on a new port of entry for the California-Baja California region, Otay Mesa East. The Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, a priority project for the United States and Mexico, aims to reduce wait times, increase economic efficiencies, cut emissions and ensure the San Diego-Baja region has the infrastructure it needs to continue its dynamic growth.

Congestion at the border has limited travel and economic growth, negatively impacted public health and contributed to the effects of climate change.

The California State Transportation Agency, Caltrans, SANDAG, and the United States and Mexican federal governments have partnered to address these challenges by designing an innovative border crossing facility that aims to achieve an average wait time of 20 minutes and improve the safety, security and efficiency of trade and travel between the two countries. With state-of-the-art facilities and a new wait-time detection system, the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry will improve travel reliability and support the unique binational communities on both sides of the busiest border region in the Western Hemisphere.

- Health Plan Premiums 2023

<https://pecg.org/members/resources/health-plan-premiums/>

- New MOU: 2022-2025

<https://pecg.org/2022-2025-mou/>

- PECG Informer

[pecg.org/communications/informer/](https://pecg.org/communications/informer/)

## PECG Laughs

An engineer, a statistician, and a physicist are out hunting.

They spot a deer, and each take a turn to try and bag it.

The physicist goes first. He pulls out his lab book and quickly calculates the trajectory of the bullet, assuming it is a perfect sphere in a vacuum. The bullet falls 20m short of the deer.

The engineer goes second. He pulls out his engineer's pad and book of projectile assumptions. After a few minutes he's ready, he takes aim, and he fires. The bullet lands 20m passed the deer.

The statistician leaps in the air shouting, "We got it!"

-From  
EnTech



**Improve your public speaking and enhance your leadership skills!**

**Membership fees are reimbursable per MOU Section 3.3b.**

Join our Webex meeting every Tuesday at 12:00-1:00PM

Please contact:

Abu- Bakr Al-Jafri, VP Membership at [abu-bakr.h.al-jafri@dot.ca.gov](mailto:abu-bakr.h.al-jafri@dot.ca.gov) or  
Kimberly Dodson, VP Education at [kimberly.dodson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kimberly.dodson@dot.ca.gov)

“Otay Mesa East will be a vital link in strengthening the nation’s supply chain and in creating thousands of jobs, not just in the local region, but across the U.S.,” stated California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis. “Estimates show that this project will support more than \$1.8 billion in trade volume and 16,000 jobs that would otherwise be lost.”

This project is 20 years in the making and a key priority of the Baja California-California Border Master Plan, led by the California State Transportation Agency, Caltrans, SANDAG and their Mexican counterparts.

“Today we mark a historic milestone for our binational region with the groundbreaking of the new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry,” said SANDAG Chair and Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear. “The collaboration it took for SANDAG and Caltrans to reach this point is truly remarkable and a symbol of the type of partnership, innovation and forward-looking mobility solutions we are working toward through the 2021 Regional Plan.”

Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, California State Transportation Agency Secretary Toks Omishakin, Mayor Blakespear, City of San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, County of San Diego Supervisor Nora Vargas, City of San Diego Councilmember Vivian Moreno, and Consul General of Mexico to San Diego Carlos Gonzalez Gutiérrez, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S General Services Administration and the Federal Highway Administration were among those in attendance at the groundbreaking event.

In addition to breaking ground on the new port of entry, earlier this summer SANDAG and Caltrans announced the completion of the new southbound State Route 125 (SR 125) to westbound State Route 905 (SR 905) freeway connector in Otay Mesa as part of the project’s efforts to support regional mobility. The completion of the new connector marks a critical milestone for the development of the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry by ensuring all access points have been completed on the United States side of the border.

“We break ground today, but what will be truly groundbreaking are the immense mobility, environmental and economic benefits for the entire region when this transformational project is complete,” said Secretary Omishakin.