



## WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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**Karina Padgett**  
*Director*

**John Isberner**  
*VP Rank and File*

**Kevin Pfeiffer**  
*President*

**Emily Cushman**  
*VP at Large*

**Tim Chow**  
*President Elect*

**Lydia Montgomery**  
*Treasurer*

**Moises Lopez**  
*VP Supervisory*

**Khristina Leyba**  
*Secretary*

# PECG Updates

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## River City Section Virtual Luncheon

Mark your calendar for the annual River City Section Luncheon on **Thursday, March 18, 2021!** This year's meeting will be a virtual luncheon because of the pandemic, but PECG would still like to buy you lunch in the form of a gift card. During the meeting, we will discuss the new MOU and the forthcoming River City Section member survey. Also, all members in attendance will be entered to win one of several fabulous raffle prizes. Register [HERE](#) and click [HERE](#) to download a calendar invitation to add to your Outlook Calendar. We hope to see you on March 18th!



## River City Section Survey

The River City Section is conducting a survey to determine members' needs and how to better serve them during these unusual times! The anonymous online survey takes only three minutes to complete, and it allows the Section Officers to hear how you are doing during telework, gauge your interest in our initiatives, and provides an opportunity to share your thoughts. The survey will remain open until **February 26, 2021**. Section leaders will share the generalized results at the Virtual River City Section Luncheon on March 18, 2021!

Click [HERE](#) to take the River City Section Survey!

## PECG Face Mask

To help keep you healthy and safe during the pandemic, PECG is happy to report that we now have available a second edition PECG Delivers! face mask. These 2-ply antimicrobial masks are blue with black trim, union-printed, and made in the United States. They also have a nose bridge and adjustable ear loops. While supplies last, one mask is now available at no cost to all PECG members. To request your mask now, please [click here!](#)



## Professional Organization Reimbursement

We want to remind PECG members about Article 3.3 (b) – Professional Society and Organization Dues – of PECG's 2020-22 MOU. Article 3.3 (b) requires that every Unit 9 employee shall be reimbursed for dues paid to one or more job-related professional societies or organizations up to \$100 each fiscal year. Eligibility for this benefit begins at the start of each fiscal year (July 1) and ends on the last day of the fiscal year (June 30). Please ask your human resources department or personnel specialist about how you can apply for this benefit of the PECG MOU.

# What's Been Happening

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## River City Section Website

The River City Section Website is here! You can now stay up to date with our Section activities, utilize our member resources, and be informed of upcoming events. The website breaks down committee activities, offers flow charts for planning maternity leave, contains details on navigating the PE licensure process, and so much more! View the website [HERE](#) and take advantage of our Section's resources!



## Professional Licensure Virtual Brown Bag

The Learning Resources Committee is hosting a Professional Licensure Brown Bag to inform members of the licensure process and the resources available to them. Topics will include reviewing the costs covered under our MOU, the reimbursements process, and forming study groups with other test takers. The virtual brown bag will be on February 17, 2021, from noon to 1:00 p.m., so mark your calendar!

[Zoom Meeting Link:](#)

Meeting ID: 209 617 4455

Phone: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

## Lunch Meets

The River City Section is proud to launch our 'Lunch Meets' community networking initiative. Lunch Meets is NEW method for River City Section Members to network and meet other professionals in our Section. The program sets up virtual lunches for up to four River City Section members who sign up to participate. It's a chance to build friendships, share work experiences, and develop mentor/mentee relationships within our Section. A list of questions will be provided to participants to stimulate conversation. Post-COVID19, participants will be prioritized to participate in River City Section sponsored lunches during their Lunch Meets!

Sign up [HERE!](#)

## Celebrating Milestones

Planning to retire in the near future or recently retired? Let us celebrate with you and send you PECC swag! If you have served at least 25 years, please fill out this form: [25 years or more.](#)

Expecting a baby or your newborn is already here? We would love to celebrate with you by sending River City swag for your new addition. Sign up [HERE.](#)

We look forward to celebrating with you!

# Our River City Section

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## Member Spotlight

Elizabeth Peters is a geologist with the State Water Resources Control Board in the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund for a little over a year. Before joining the State, she worked in geotechnical and environmental consulting. Elizabeth enjoys working on leaking underground storage tanks because of how prevalent they are, and their potentially severe impacts on soil and groundwater.

She has recently received her professional geologist license. With that out of the way, Elizabeth has been attempting to learn how to garden by growing Anaheim, jalapeño, and Carolina Reaper pepper plants in her spare time.



## Committee Development

We're always looking for like-minded individuals who want to be a part of something more. Below is a list of the committees that we want YOU to be a part of.

- Communications – newsletters, social media, outreach
- Members Support – new employee orientation, membership benefits
- Learning Resources – reference material, prep courses, study groups, tutors
- Learning and Cultural Enrichment – museum tours, panels, trainings
- Philanthropy – scholarships, sponsorships, relief programs, volunteering opportunities
- Social Events – luncheons, sporting events, networking events

If you are interested in joining a committee or simply learning more, please contact Karmina Padgett at [Karmina.padgett@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Karmina.padgett@waterboards.ca.gov)

# New River City Section Officers

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## **Director**

Karmina Padgett is a Water Resource Control Engineer at the California State Water Resources Control Board in the Division of Financial Assistance, Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Section. She has previously served as the Section's President and Secretary. She also is PECG's Outreach Committee Chair. Karmina received a BS in Environmental Engineering from Columbia University in 2016.

## **President**

Kevin Pfeiffer is an Engineering Geologist at the California Department of Parks and Recreation in the Natural Resources Division. He holds a B.S. from UC Davis in Geology, and is a licensed PG. Kevin has been a PECG member for six years and has served on the River City Executive Board as a Treasurer, and as Chair of the River City Political Liaison Committee. He also serves on the PECG Corporate Political Liaison Committee. Kevin is passionate about protecting and expanding member benefits, particularly in pensions and paid leave. Some of Kevin's other interests include world history, foreign languages, travel, food, cleaning, and things that grow.



## **President Elect**

Tim Chow is a Water Resource Control Engineer at the State Water Resources Control Board in the Division of Water Rights, Permitting Section. Before starting his state service, Tim worked as an Environmental Specialist in the Biotech industry and as an Engineer in consulting. He received his B.S. in Environmental Engineering from UC Riverside and is currently pursuing his M.S. in Civil Engineering at CSU Sacramento. He previously served as the Secretary for the PECG River City Section. When not at work, he can be found hiking, traveling, and talking to the monsters under his bed.



## **VP Supervisory**

Moises Lopez has over 25 years of experience working in the telecommunications field with State agencies, the private sector, and the Navy. He is currently the Microwave Engineering Division Chief, Public Safety Communications Branch in the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Moises also serves as Vice President of the Professional Engineers Union River City Section of Supervisors. After 20 years of active and reserve duty in the Navy, Moises is a retired Lieutenant Commander. Moises received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Sacramento State University and a Master's Degree in Organizational Development from the University of San Francisco.





**VP Rank and File**

John Isberner is a Water Resource Control Engineer at the California State Water Resources Control Board in the Division of Water rights Cannabis Regional Instream Policies Unit. Before he worked for Water Rights, he started his career with Atkins working on floodplain management projects. He has previously served as Treasurer and is part of the philanthropy committee. John received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento.

**VP at Large**

Emily Cushman is an Engineering Geologist working for the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Department of Defense Regulatory Unit. She received a B.S. in Soil and Water Science and B.A. in Geology, both from the University of California, Davis. When not protecting water quality, Emily skis, mountain bikes, and hosts dance parties in stunningly beautiful outdoor locales.



**Secretary**

Khristina Rae Leyba is a Water Resource Control Engineer working for the Cleanup Fund at the State Water Resource Control Board. She received a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of California, San Diego. She began her career in the private sector as an engineer in San Diego prior to starting her state service in Sacramento. A few of her hobbies include mentoring, crabbing, camping, and having random dance-offs with her spouse and kids.



**Treasurer**

Lydia Montgomery is a Water Resource Control Engineer at the California State Water Resources Control Board in the Division of Financial Assistance, Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Section. She began in 2019 working as a contract Junior Environmental Assistant for the State in the Division of Financial Assistance in the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. Lydia received a B.S. in environmental resources engineering from Humboldt State University.

