



SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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PECG Updates

2020 PECG Section of the Year

The River City Section was the winner of PECG's Section of the Year Award for 2020! Our Section offers five committees that run a wide variety of programs, from providing scholarships for members' dependents and upgrading its website, to providing materials, mentors – and soon, an online forum – to help section members prepare for FE or PE exams. When COVID-19 forced our section canceled a highly anticipated Kings game event, our section shifted gears and sent member appreciate packages to some 220 members that included a personalized note from its leaders. In addition, our section developed a simple flow chart to help expecting mothers navigate their pay, health insurance, and leave options after hearing that some members were confused about maternity leave. Looking ahead, our Section aims to continue to thrive onward and upward to providing more to our members!



2020- 2022 Memorandum of Understanding

PECG's website now features a page dedicated to the [2020-2022 Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) between PECG and the State of California. Please refer to past PECG weekly emails or email a River City Section Officer for the password to access the website. The new MOU page includes a summary of the agreement, answers to frequently asked questions, and infographics with details on PECG's longevity and geographic pay differentials, and the MOU's increase in the vacation and annual leave caps until July 1, 2025.

State Water Resources Control Board Project

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors held a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 5 to celebrate a project that promises to bring safe and affordable drinking water to Seville, a severely disadvantaged community that has long struggled with groundwater contamination issues. The project – including a \$4 million construction funding agreement from the State Water Resources Control Board – is emblematic of the potential of SB 200 (Monning), which created the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and was signed by Governor Newsom in 2019. The legislation provides the legal structure and process for funding safe drinking water solutions for disadvantaged communities in California that currently do not have that access.

PECG Corporate Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Tim Chow on being the only recipient from the River City Section to be awarded a 2020 PECG Scholarship. Tim works at the Division of Water Rights at the State Water Board and is currently pursuing his Masters in Civil Engineering at Sacramento State University. He started the program when dinosaurs still roamed the earth and is extremely excited to be completing the program in 2021!

What's Been Happening

Member Appreciation Package

PECG River City appreciates your memberships and the work that you do! Membership appreciation packages were sent out over summer to our PECG River City members that signed up. This included a STEM-themed cloth face mask, PECG branded hand sanitizer, a gift card, alcohol wipes, PECG pens, post-its and a fidget spinner, and a River City T-shirt that Jimmy Steele is styling to the right! Thank you for your membership!



Welcome Charlette to the PECG Family

PECG River City Section Rank and File Vice President John Isberner and his wife, Kaycee, welcomed Charlette AnnMarie Isberner into their lives on July 7, 2020. They both love hearing Charlette cooing and are ecstatic when she sleeps all night! Charlette is staying classy sporting the custom themed PECG River City Section onesies.

River City Scholarship Winners

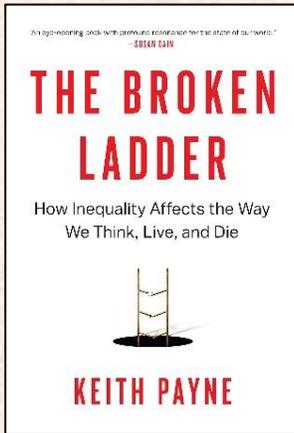
Congratulations to Calvin Wong and Sophie McFadin on being the recipients of the 2020 PECG River City Section Academic Scholarship! These annual scholarships were established to recognize members of our River City Section community pursuing an education in a PECG-related field of study while demonstrating active engagement in supporting their community.

Calvin Wong is pursuing a degree in computer science at UC Berkeley and is targeting to graduate in 2022. Congrats Calvin!

Sophie McFadin is pursuing a degree in both Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Davis and is targeting to graduate in 2021. Congrats Sophie!



Bunkering Down Book List

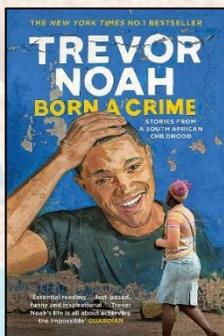
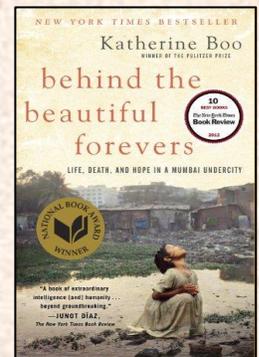


The Broken Ladder by Keith Payne

The Broken Ladder dives into how we came to live in a society filled with income and racial inequality. Viewing inequality as a societal and public health problem, this book explores issues such as how income inequality raises stress levels leading to poor decision-making, why younger women in poor societies often have more children, and how racial implicit bias may determine if you support certain government programs. Supported by scientific studies and behavioral science, this book sheds lights on how inequality contributes to negative societal behavior but also provides ways for individuals to recognize the epidemic that continues to envelope us.

Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo

“You didn’t keep track of a child’s years when you were fighting daily to keep him from starving”. That’s how people live in the undercity of Mumbai, India captured in Boo’s Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalism book. The book follows the lives of various residents living in the slums. Some being so poor but so young, they collected plastic bottles and scrap metal from the nearby luxury hotels to silence their rumbling bellies. Others understood learning English allowed for educational opportunities and was a potential ticket out of the slums. Saturated by political corruption, religious discrimination, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities, all of them still dreamed of greater and more beautiful possibilities.

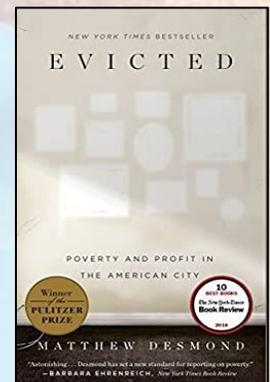


Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

The Immortality Act of 1927 in South African during the apartheid made Trevor Noah born a crime. Born to mixed parents, he wasn’t supposed to exist during South Africa’s system of segregation and discrimination. Noah’s inspiring autobiography shares his journey to find his identify in a black and white world while getting into mischievous adventures which will bring a smile to the reader’s face. Noah’s inspiring stories luminates the challenges he faced being different but ultimately overcoming the societal disadvantageous to do so much more than what was expected of him.

Evicted by Matthew Desmond

You get evicted. Your hours from work get cut as you spend your time to move. You fall behind in rent again. You’re get evicted again. It’s a perpetual cycle captured in Desmond’s Pulitzer Prize-winning book following the lives of renters and landowners in various neighborhoods in Milwaukee. As Desmond discusses, the color of your skin, how many children you have, and your gender likely determines if you will be evicted again. These eviction burden not only on the individuals or families being evicted, but also on the neighborhood since it takes individuals away from being able to call a street *their street* or a community *their community*.



Our River City Section

Pandemic Pastime

Lang Kang, from the State Water Board, has started a part time job being a zookeeper during the pandemic. Even though Lang will not be taking in any guest to see his animals any time soon, Lang has a tank of exotic fish from barramundis to a silver arowana. Along with that, Lang is raising a cute chow chow puppy called Chowder.



Do you have a craft or a project you are working on as we continue to telework? Contact Timothy Chow at Timothy.chow@waterboards.ca.gov and have it featured in our next newsletter!

Committee Development

We're always looking for likeminded individuals who are looking 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