



WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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PECG Updates

Pension Protection

As in previous years, the CalPERS system is under ongoing attacks to reduce benefits and increase funding to the retirement system. During the past couple of years there have been a variety of small cities and joint powers authorities that have had financial problems and said they are unable to meet their pension obligations. These arguments have been used by pension reform advocates to call for additional changes to the pension plan. We will work with the coalition Californians for Retirement Security to maintain the constitutionally protected benefits of PECG members.

PECG's Comprehensive Bargaining Survey

On Monday, January 13, the PECG's Comprehensive Bargaining Survey was emailed out to rank and file members to give PECG members the opportunity to express their priorities for improvements in Unit 9. The survey will help establish the priorities of the PECG Bargaining Team as it begins negotiations with CalHR (representing the governor) on the next PECG Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The term of PECG's collective bargaining agreement ends on June 30, 2020. In anticipation of a new MOU, PECG will work with legislative leaders and budget staff on a legislative vehicle to approve a new MOU.

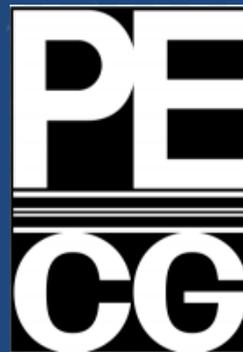
If you have not yet received your survey via email, please email pecg@pecg.org.

Inspection

For decades PECG has rightly fought alternative procurement bills that shift design and inspection work from the state to local government and the private sector. PECG has successfully maintained a strong inspection role for the state in design/build, CMGC, and countless other procurement bills. In 2019, we pre-empted advocates of legislation to authorize new P3s and no P3 legislation was introduced. Your legislative team will continue to oppose P3 legislation that does not include an appropriate inspection vote for Caltrans. We will work to maintain a strong inspection role on dams, schools, hospitals, highways, and other state infrastructure.

Upcoming PECG Dates

Feb 12	PECG Legislative Day
Feb 22	Introduce a girl to Engineering Day
March 6 - 7	First Quarterly Board Meeting
March 22	Earth Day
March 31	River City Section Kings Game Event

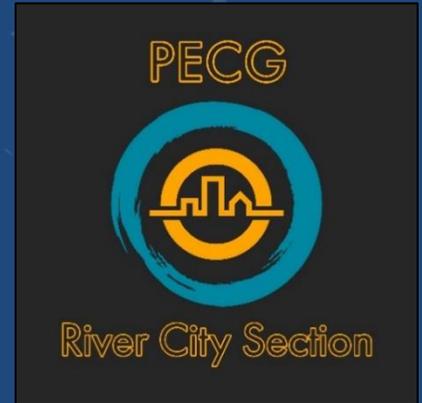


What's Been Happening

T-Shirt Design Winner

Congratulations to River City Member Brandon Roosenboom on being the winner of our very own PECG River City Section T-shirt! It was a challenging decision amongst the submissions. Ultimately, Roosenboom's design pays homage to the presence of water and buildings from our previous River City Logo while modernizing its appearance with a twist of serenity.

The T-shirt will be free for all River-City members! Please fill out this [order form](#) if you're interested in receiving a T-shirt. One of your River City Officers will contact you when you can pick them up. T-shirts will also be available for pick-up at future River City events, while supplies last!



Sacramento Academic Decathlon



From Left to Right: from left to right: Brandon Roosenboom (River City Section), Alex MacDonald (River City Section), and Lori Gilbert (Fort Sutter Section)

The 40th annual Sacramento County Academic Decathlon took place at Folsom High School on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Our very own River City Section's Brandon Roosenboom and Alex MacDonald accompanied by Lori Gilbert from the Fort Sutter Section volunteered to judge high school students' knowledge of math, science, history, writing, and professional communication skills. With this year's theme "In Sickness and in Health: An Exploration of Illness and Wellness", the Decathlon brought out hundreds of high school students and teachers who have spent months preparing for this academic competition. PECG River City Section is a proud and continued supporter of local educational and STEM-focused events.

Shout Outs for PE/PG

Know a River City Member that recently obtained their Professional Engineering or Professional Geologist License? Let them be recognized by our Section!

Send their name and a short bio of them to Timothy Chow at Timothy.chow@waterboards.ca.gov to have them featured in our next newsletter.

Member Spotlight

Liseth has a special story on how she ended up as an engineer for the State Water Board. She grew up as a *small town girl* in Valle de Guadalupe, Michoacán in Mexico. When Liseth was 11, she and her parents left behind her *familia* and *amigos* in Mexico and moved to the United States in search of a better future. Here, they had to swiftly adjust and adapt to a new culture, learn a second language, and overcome communication barriers.



Liseth was able to quickly adapt to her new life with the motivation of knowing that one day she could obtain a passionate career and accomplish things her parents never had the opportunity to achieve. Her parents fueled her motivation by affirming her that an understanding in math and science was valuable and to be fearless in the pursuit of what sets her soul on fire. This ignited the dream in Liseth to aspire for challenging careers that aligned with her fervor in sustainability, protection of the environment, and to helping others. Realizing her passion for math, science, and helping the less fortunate, Liseth had her sights on various career paths ranging from teaching, nursing, pharmacy, and engineering.

In high school, she was excited about declaring a major in STEM but was met with a roadblock. Based on the classes Liseth completed, the high school counselor didn't see a STEM degree as a viable option for her and recommended her to pursue other majors. Despite this discouragement, she was committed on pursuing a major that she would be passionate about.

After getting admitted into Sacramento State, she declared her major in civil engineering and was faced with new trials and tribulations. Individuals she met would challenge her presence in engineering informing her that engineering isn't for women. Others would suggest her to change majors since engineering would be too difficult.

She did wonder why they would suggest her to change majors. Why are there so few women in engineering? Why aren't there more? So why not her...

During these times, Liseth found strength in a quote by Amit Ray, "Life may try to knock you down but be persistent with your passions - cultivate grit, resilience, tenacity and endurance. Success will come." These words became her mantra as she weathered the storms of society.

In due time, Liseth completed the engineering program at Sacramento State but she didn't simply graduate with a bachelor's in civil engineering. Her endeavors also granted her a certification in determination, an associate's in fortitude, and a minor in perseverance. During these years in college, Liseth participated in internships with State and County Agencies and was able to balance school and work simultaneously. After graduation, Liseth worked as a water resource control engineer for the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights where she issued permits to authorize individuals to divert water for beneficial uses. Now, she continues to stand in our ranks in the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, Small Disadvantaged Community Water Section where she strengthens community drinking water and wastewater systems. In parallel, she is working on obtaining her PE license to further grow her career. The River City Section is proud to feature her story in our Member Spotlight Series and to have her as a member of the PECG *familia*.

Upcoming Events

River City Section Kings Game

Please join us for a fun night at the Golden 1 Arena on Tuesday, March 31, 2020! We are happy to announce that the PECG River City Section is able to lower the cost of lower bowl tickets from \$56 to \$25 for you and a friend. Additional tickets will cost \$56. Please also join us for a drink or quick bite to eat before the game at Downtown Commons (DOCO) from 5-7pm. Light Refreshments will be served. Tipoff for the basketball game is at 7pm! Don't forget to stick around after the game to put up some free throws on the actual basketball court!

These tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Please RSVP at [here](#) your earliest convenience. Ticket distribution details will be emailed to you.



Sacramento Regional Science Bowl

River City Section will be hosting a table at the Sacramento Regional Science Bowl on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Cordova High in Rancho Cordova. The Sacramento Regional Science Bowl brings together high school and middle school students from the area to participate in a science and math based competition. This tabling event is a splendid opportunity to share with students our experience as state employees and the rewarding careers we have in STEM. Send an email to our section treasurer, John Isberner, John.Isberner@Waterboards.ca.gov and join him at this event!

River City Scholarship

The River City Section is proud to offer one annual \$500 scholarship, as a member-only benefit for PECG River City members and their dependents who are currently a junior or senior in high school or enrolled in a college or university in a PECG-related field of study. Please [visit our section webpage](#) to download a copy of the application. **The due date to submit the application is April 30, 2020.** Please submit all completed application to Karmina Padgett at Karmina.padgett@waterboards.ca.gov.

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.

Introducing the River City Officers



Kevin Pfeiffer, (kevin.pfeiffer@parks.ca.gov/916-651-1363): Kevin is an Engineering Geologist with the California Department of Parks and Recreation in the Natural Resources Division. Kevin has been with the State for over 5 years. Prior to starting his career with the state, Kevin worked in hazardous waste management and mine remediation. Kevin holds a BS in Geology from the University of California at Davis and is a licensed professional geologist. He is currently serving as the Vice President Elect for PECG River City Section.

Stephen (stephen.burke@waterboards.ca.gov/ (916) 319-8535) is a graduate of the Cal Poly SLO engineering program in 2012 and began in 2015 working as a water resources engineer in the Division of Drinking Water, SWRCB. In his free time Stephen serves as a PECG Section officer, a leader with Sierra Club's youth program Inspiring Connections Outdoors, and currently working to bring a San Francisco based philanthropy to Sacramento, a chapter specifically for the greater Sacramento region. Stephen is especially active maintaining frequent yoga, regular one-wheeling, persistent connection to community, traveling the great outdoors, and of course family time. He is currently serving as the Vice President for Rank and File for PECG River City Section.



John Isberner, (John.Isberner@Waterboards.ca.gov / (916) 319-9393): John 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. John received a BS in Civil Engineering from California State University-Sacramento. He is currently serving as the Treasurer for PECG River City Section.

Bryan Neff is an Electric Generation System Program Specialist at the California Energy Commission in the Energy Assessments Division. He has worked at the Energy Commission for over 11 years, previously working in the Research and Development Division. Bryan has an MBA from UC Davis (2014) and a BS in Physics from California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo (2007). He is currently serving his second year as VP-Member-at-Large for the PECG River City Section.