



INTRODUCING the
FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Hello there and thank you for checking out our River City Section Newsletter! We are committed to getting information to you, our member, and to help bridge the gap in communication.

This newsletter will be available on our website ([Newsletters – PECG River City Section](#)) and you can find previous ones posted there as well.

Our River City Section is made up of engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California's infrastructure, improving air and water quality, and developing clean energy and green technology. The River City Section is comprised primarily of State and Regional Water Board members with other members from our At-Large agencies such as the Office of Emergency Services, Department of General Services, and the California Energy Commission. Offices in our section are spread out throughout the greater Sacramento region and beyond from Rancho Cordova, South Lake Tahoe, and Santa Rosa. Together, we have close to 700 members!

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Corporate Updates

2025 PECG Calendars

PECG is now taking orders for our 2025 full-color wall calendar and the 2025 pocket calendar. Please [click here](#) and complete the form indicating if you would like the full calendar, the pocket calendar, or both. If you have already submitted your request, there is no need to do so again.

Informers

PECG sends out monthly Informers to you. In the [October Informer](#), PECG announces the 2024-2025 Corporate officers and board of directors. We are proud to announce that FOUR River City members are serving on as a Corporate Officer: Brad Shelton as Immediate Past President, Kristi Shelton as Vice President Supervisory, Karmina Padgett-Gonzalez as Vice President At Large, and Timothy Chow as Secretary.

PECG 2024 Awards Winner of the Outreach Award

Lang Khang is a River City Section member and current President Elect, and he is this year's recipient of the Outreach Award. Congrats Lang!

The Corporate Outreach Committee established the **Outreach Award** to recognize those who have shown their dedication to PECG through their activities in the Outreach Program. **The Outreach Award is given to the member (or members) who have contributed to the success of the Outreach Program by dedicating their time and effort toward advancing PECG's goals through activities with external educational, community, or professional organizations.**



New Section Officer Bios



John Murphy
Director

John is a Supervising Engineering Geologist and Land Disposal Program Manager with the Central Valley Water Board and a licensed Professional Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist. He holds a B.S. in Geology from St. Lawrence University (Canton, NY) and an M.S. in Geology from Binghamton University (Binghamton, NY). Before employment at the Water Board, John started his career in the petroleum industry as a Borehole Geologist with Schlumberger in Bakersfield, CA. John joined the Central Valley Water Board in 2016 as an Engineering Geologist and was later promoted to Senior Engineering Geologist with the Site Cleanup Program in 2020. Prior to his current role, John spent some time with the Division of Water Rights Enforcement Section as a Senior Engineering Geologist. John is also the current President of the Sacramento Chapter of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG).

Brandon Roosenboom

President

Brandon is a Water Resource Control Engineer and lead permit writer for the California State Water Resources Control Board's Construction Stormwater Program. Before joining public service in 2018, Brandon was an environmental consultant in the Bay Area within the biomedical, healthcare, and technology sectors. He earned his B.S. in Biological Systems Engineering at the University of California, Davis in 2016. In his spare time, Brandon enjoys playing softball, hunting, fishing, and cooking for family and friends at get-togethers.





Lang Khang

President Elect

Lang has been working as an engineer in California government since his first position as a Water Resource Control Engineer (WRCE) in April 2016. Currently, Lang is a Senior WRCE within the Enforcement Section of the Division of Water Rights within the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Lang holds a Civil Engineering B.S. and Water Resources Engineering M.S. degrees from CSU Sacramento. In addition to his role as the President-Elect, Lang also chairs the Learning Resources Committee (LRC). He enjoys discussions and activities related to SWRCB work, GIS, PECG, benefits, wildlife, games, food, travel, science, and technology. Lang encourages anyone to reach out to him if there are questions, comments, suggestions regarding PECG, State work, or the professional licensing process.

Alex Gama

Secretary

Alex Gama is an Engineering Geologist in the Department of Financial Assistance at the State Water Resources Control Board. She holds a B.S. in Geology from CSU Sacramento. Alex previously worked as a Scientific Aid in the Department of Financial Assistance and as the Department Coordinator for the Geology Department at CSU Sacramento. In her free time, she loves exploring local restaurants, hiking, camping, and spending time with her pets, husband and friends.



Rinnie Kaur

VP At Large

Rinnie is a dedicated Electrical Engineer at the California Natural Resources Agency, Efficiency Division. Prior to her public service role, she gained experience as an Electrical Engineering Associate in power infrastructure. In her spare time, she enjoys connecting with loved ones and attending basketball events. Rinnie is looking forward to learning from her teammates and fellow section officers how to better support her colleagues.



Kevin DeLano

VP Rank and File

Kevin is an Engineering Geologist at the California Energy Commission and a licensed Professional Geologist. He is enthusiastically pro-union and is thankful for the opportunity to serve a second year as the River City Section's Vice President of Collective Bargaining for Rank and File staff. Kevin's PECG goals are to meet all River City Section employees, understand their concerns, and support them in achieving their professional goals. To help PECG fight for our collective bargaining priorities, he is working to grow the Section's membership. He encourages River City Section members to contact him with questions or for support.

Kevin joined state service and PECG in 2015. For nine years, he worked at the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights on watershed modeling, outreach, and instream flow policy. He holds a M.S. in Geology from Central Washington University and a B.S. in Geology from the University of California, Davis.

Dan Gamon

VP Supervisory

Dan Gamon is a California Certified Hydrogeologist and Professional Geologist with over 24 years of professional experience. Currently, he is a Senior Engineering Geologist with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and works in the role of Unit Chief for the Confined Animals Facility Regulatory Program. Prior to that he worked as an Engineering Geologist with Department of Water Resources (DWR) Financial Assistance Branch in the Division of Integrated Regional Water Management as an implementation project grant manager. While at DWR he was also active in emergency response work and acted as an Operations Chief for an incident command team. Dan has also worked as a technical contractor for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation Superfund Site cleanup project in the State of Washington and spent several years doing water resources related consulting in Australia. He also served in the United States Marine Corps for 9-years as a Signals Intelligence Analyst. Currently he lives in Sacramento, with his family and pets, and loves to travel, hike in the mountains, comb the beaches, and attend sporting events.



Sahand Rastegarpour

Treasurer

Sahand is a Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Specialist) in the Division of Financial Assistance within the State Water Resources Control Board. He started with the State Water Board as a student assistant in 2015 and holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Sacramento State University. He is passionate about assisting fellow engineers looking to obtain their Professional Engineering (P.E.) license and encourages anyone to reach out to him with questions. He is a diehard Kings fan and looks forward to the PECG-Kings game event every year. Sahand enjoys spending quality time with his family, playing board games, traveling, and cooking delicious foods.

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What's Been Happening



Virtual River City Annual Meeting

On Monday, November 4th we had our Virtual Meeting. Our guest speaker was PECG Corporate President **Steve Lee**. Our new Section Officers were sworn into office as well. See pages 3 -5 for their Bios. Thank you to everyone who helped organized and participated in the event. We look forward to the upcoming year!

If you were not able to join the meeting, keep an eye out for future engagement opportunities in your email inbox. Our webpage (<https://pecgrivercity.org/>) will have the most up to date schedule of events.

Recruitment

If you know someone who is not yet a member, encourage them to attend a non-member office hour, **we host one at least once a month**. Invitations to the meetings are sent out to them as they are scheduled. Email us if you need the meeting invite so you can share the opportunity them.

Helpful recruiting resources for you can be found here: <https://pecg.org/join-pecg/> and here <https://pecg.org/about-pecg/>. Union strength comes from your membership. Thank you.

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What's Been Happening

PE/PG Informational Sessions

The Learning Resources Committee has been holding in-person and virtual meetings. During the sessions, we will walk through the PE/PG licensure process, the benefits provided by our union for these endeavors, and other processes that we have within the Water Boards. Personnel from our State Board's Training Services will also be present to answer questions about the Training Request Form and timelines. If you have any questions, please reach out to the committee chair Lang Khang at Lang.khang@waterboards.ca.gov.



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Announcements

Thanksgiving Run and Toy Drive

For the first time, PECG River City has created a Run to Feed the Hungry Team. Thank you for those who signed up to run on the team! Run to Feed the Hungry, the country's largest Thanksgiving Day fun run, is an annual 5K/10K event on Thanksgiving morning in East Sacramento to fundraise for Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) and their network of 125 partner agencies for food assistance every month. Last year's attendance was over 31,000 participants who provided 5 million meals for families in need in our communities.

Cheer the team on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024. Event information is here: [Race Day Info – Run to Feed the Hungry](#). The deadline for registration is Friday, November 22.

The Philanthropy Committee is also coordinating a Toy Drive until December 13, 2024. View the [flyer and donation catalog](#) for more information!

2025 Kings Event

Our Section Officers are organizing a River City Section Sacramento Kings Event on **March 27, 2025**. Stay tuned for more information! Mark your calendars for now!

Celebrating Milestones

Planning to retire soon or recently retired? Let us celebrate with you and send you PECG 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](#).

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Member Spotlight



In each of our newsletters we love to spotlight our members, we all work hard and have unique experiences, and we want to celebrate that! So here is **Nathalie Niepagen**.

“I’ve been an Engineering Geologist at the State Water Resources Control Board for just over 15 months. I work in the Division of Water Rights and Bay-Delta Section’s Public Trust Unit. I am part of the current efforts to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Duties and tasks include, but are not limited to, scientific communication to the public, updating and creating informative maps in ArcGIS pro, assist in archiving daily reports on delta water quality conditions and distributing daily reports to State Water Board staff.

I grew fond of geology after growing up in our Eastern Sierra Nevada. When taking community college courses, I also became fascinated with chemical reactions that occur in nature. Fast forward many years later, I received my master’s degree last year from UC Davis, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, and my bachelor’s in chemistry from Louisiana State University in 2019. My research at UC Davis focused on gaining deeper insights into Earth’s mantle volatile evolution using noble gas isotopes from volcanic glass samples.

My hobbies include taking care of two pets (my cocker spaniel and husband) and cooking time-intensive meals on the weekend. I also like to hike, travel, draw, paint, and practice textile arts (sewing, crocheting, and knitting).

I continue to be in PECG because I appreciate the community it brings and assistance it offers in many aspects of the job or daily life.”

Member Spotlight

Our next member spotlight is John Hingtgen.

Did you know that River City Section members are not only employed at the Water Board, but also in the California Energy Commission (CEC)? Well, here is John and that's where he currently works!

Q: What is your job classification? Electric Generation System Specialist I

Q: Where did you go to school? I earned a B.S. from the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, and an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. I have always had a strong interest in natural sciences. For my B.S., I was drawn toward the physical sciences and found that majoring in geology gave me a chance to study many different topics. I have also always been intrigued by energy sources and alternatives to conventional sources. Following my B.S., I worked for 15 years. Then I returned to school and completed an M.S. in Energy Analysis & Policy, to dive into the technical and non-technical dimensions of energy sources and uses.

Q: How long have you worked for the CEC? I have been with the CEC for 19 years. Before that, I worked in the public and private sectors and for large and small companies in three states.

Q: What section do you work in? I work in the Energy Assessments Division at the CEC, which collects data, and assesses and forecasts energy supplies and demand.

Q: What does a typical day in your role look like? Is there a project you are working on you'd like to share about? A typical day includes working with unit staff and interns on collecting, checking, and organizing generation data. Based on this work, we prepare reports and web products. I am responsible for collecting data from the commercial wind power plants in the state. I also work with interns and our IT staff to maintain and improve an online data collection system. I led a team that built the online system in-house and improved it to save time for reporting parties and staff.

Q: What is a hobby of yours that few may not know about you? I am an avid folk dancer and have participated in many types of folk dance. I traveled to Sweden this summer to study folk dance.

Q: Share a thought you may have about why you continue to be a PECG member. As I learn more in my career, I increasingly appreciate the importance of unions in state service. PECG allows us the strength of collective bargaining, and it builds the public reputations of our professions.

