



WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER

(Combined with Fall 2025 Highlights)

Hello there and thank you for checking out our River City Section Newsletter! This newsletter and previous ones are available on our website (<https://pecgrivercity.org/newsletters/>).

Our River City Section is made up of engineers, geologists, and related professionals responsible for designing, regulating, 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 Water Board members with other members from our At-Large agencies (Office of Emergency Services, California Energy Commission, and Regional Water Board Offices in Rancho Cordova, Santa Rosa, and South Lake Tahoe.) Together, we have close to 700 members!

Catching up
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Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 Newsletter

Catching you up

July 24, 2025

Membership Appreciation Event

On July 24, 2025, the PEGC River City Section showed their gratitude to members with a relaxed and fun-filled happy hour at *The Hangar* in South Lake Tahoe, a local favorite known for its craft brews and outdoor atmosphere. Section Officers John Murphy, Brandon Roosenboom, Rinnie Kaur, and Alex Gama made the scenic trip from Sacramento to connect with members and express their appreciation in person.

The event drew a great turnout, with 10 to 15 members from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board enjoying the opportunity to mingle with their officers, feast on gourmet pizza from *Blue Dog Pizza*, and take home a variety of PEGC swag. It was a fantastic evening of camaraderie, conversation, and community in the beautiful South Shore setting.

A big shoutout to Kristi Shelton, PEGC Corporate VP Supervisory and South Lake Tahoe local, for helping to coordinate with the venue!

If you would like us to visit your office please let us know and we can try to coordinate. We hope to visit members at the California Energy Commission in the near future.



Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 Newsletter

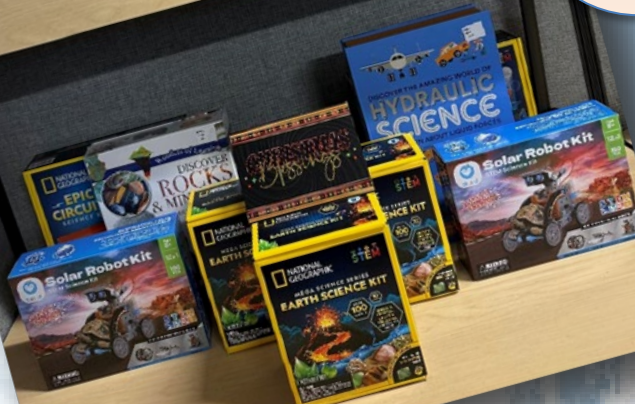
Catching you up



December 16, 2025

2nd Annual STEM Toy Drive

The Philanthropy Committee hosted its 2nd Annual STEM Toy Drive throughout November and December! Members Jarma Bennett, Khristina Leyba, Lang Kang, and Brandon Roosenboom donated a variety of STEM-based kits for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Sacramento! With continued success, the Philanthropy Committee is excited to continue this tradition of giving during the Holiday season to continue supporting our local communities for years to come!



Catching you up

December 17, 2025

Santa Rosa Luncheon with Brian Simon

PECG President Elect Brian Simon paid a visit to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board office in Santa Rosa. As River City members that are not located in the greater-Sacramento area, they enjoyed the rare opportunity to talk in person with PECG Corporate leadership about members' concerns and suggestions. One such suggestion is to collaborate more closely with other PECG Sections, such as the Eureka Section, that are closer to more remote members' homes. Members appreciated Brian's hand-delivered lunch from Schat's bakery in Ukiah! Shout out to Izaac Russo, River City Section VP Rank and File, for coordinating the meeting!



Catching you up

December 20, 2025

December Movie Night

PECG River City Section hosted a private movie night event for its members at the Palladio Luxe Theater in Folsom, CA. Section Officers set up a PECG table at the event where members could get free PECG swag and talk with Officers. Food and drinks were also provided to members that attended the event. Attendees opted to watch a classic holiday movie "It's a Wonderful Life." This event provided members with the opportunity to meet Section Officers, discuss union issues, food, drink, and socialize. River City Section hopes to provide more social opportunities and benefits for members based on their interests.



Catching you up

January 23, 2026

Greater Sacramento Area Gala Night

On Friday, January 23, 2026, over 200 PECG members from the Marysville, River City, Sacramento, and Tower Bridge Sections and their guests gathered for a memorable evening within the halls of the Sacramento Public Library. This stunning venue set the perfect backdrop for an elegant celebration filled with laughter and union camaraderie. Guests enjoyed a delicious catered dinner by Crest Café, followed by a prize raffle and lively dancing. It was truly a night to remember, and we look forward to planning a similar event in the future!



Catching you up

January 24, 2026

46th Sacramento County Academic Decathlon

On January 24, PECG River City Members Brandon Roosenboom, Amanda Magee, and Payman Alemi volunteered their time to serve as Interview Judges for the Sacramento Academic Decathlon. This year it was hosted at Christian Brother High School in South Sacramento. As always, they were impressed by the professional level of skill these young students compete with. Some students almost walked away with job offers on the spot!



Catching you up

January 30, 2026

PECG Supervisor and Manager Zoom Q&A

PECG Corporate Staff and VP Supervisory, Kristi Shelton (River City Member), hosted a Supervisor and Manager-only Zoom and Q&A session to share more about what PECG does for exempt employees. Kristi shared the history of PECG, and how it was founded by supervisors and managers, some who continue to volunteer in leadership roles today. They were also joined by a panel of supervisors and managers from across the River City Section to answer questions within a safe space without rank-and-file staff present.



Member Spotlight



In each of our newsletters, we enjoy spotlighting our members. We all work hard, bring unique experiences to our roles, and deserve to be celebrated! In this edition, we are proud to introduce our Member Spotlight: **Shahab Araghinejad**, Water Resources Control Engineer (Instream Flow Unit I, Water Boards).

Shahab is a Water Resources Control Engineer (WRCE) with the California State Water Resources Control Board and has been with the Water Boards for approximately “ $\sqrt{2\pi}$ years” — about 4.4 years. During that time, he has contributed strong technical expertise and thoughtful problem-solving to his team.

In his current role, Shahab focuses extensively on hydrologic modeling, tactical planning through both internal and external coordination, and public outreach efforts to help ensure projects meet state and federal water quality standards.

Outside of work, Shahab values hobbies that foster balance and creativity beyond the technical demands of engineering. He also speaks highly of his union, **PECG**, recognizing its advocacy for professional standards, workplace protections, networking opportunities, and competitive salaries and benefits.

Member Spotlight



This month, we also feature **Harihar Nepal**, a Water Resources Control Engineer (WRCE) with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Harihar earned his undergraduate degree and first master's degree from California State University, Chico, and later completed a second master's degree at California State University, Fullerton. He has more than seven years of service with the Water Boards, including six years at the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 5) in Redding and just over a year at the State Water Resources Control Board at CalEPA in Sacramento. He currently works in the Cannabis Unit within the Groundwater Section.

As a Contract Manager, Harihar oversees three active contracts. He is also developing a Survey123 field application to support staff during inspections. His daily responsibilities include coordinating with stakeholders and dischargers and maintaining strong internal and external communication.

Outside of work, Harihar enjoys travelling, mountain biking, hiking, swimming, and playing soccer. During football season, he closely follows the San Francisco 49ers. Harihar continues to be a **PECG** member because he values strong professional representation and believes in protecting engineers' rights through collective advocacy. For him, union membership provides confidence that engineers' voices are heard and valued.