

LOS ANGELES SECTION

PE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
CG IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

December 2021

Section Officers

Shabbir Ahmed, CT
Senior TE Specialist
President

Refugio Dominguez, CT
Senior TE Supervisory
Director

Edward Jackson, DGS
Fire and Life Safety
Officer II
President-Elect

Mercedes Merino, CT
Engineering Geologist
Range D
VP Rank & File

Henry Jones, CT
Senior Engineering
Geologist Supervisory
VP Supervisory

Samuel Luk, DGS
Senior Architect
VP At-Large

Fouad Dagher, CT
Senior TE Specialist
Treasurer

Varoujan Jinbanchian,
CPUC Senior Utilities
Engineer
Secretary

Section Events Overview

Los Angeles (LA) Section Officers, delegates and members would like to welcome all Corporate, Section leaders, Committee Chairs, and members to the December 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

We wish you all a very memorable, happy, and safe holiday season!!

As we tread into a new year, and as the largest Section of this great organization, we are constantly challenging and striving to better ourselves to be more effective, conducting our affairs and serving the vast and diverse Caltrans and At-large PECG membership. LA Section officers and delegates constitute the Los Angeles Section Executive Committee (EC), which is 50 members representing 1750 members strong. Among numerous awards over the years, LA Section was recognized at the past Annual Board of Directors meeting (October 2021) and awarded for having the highest percentage of Rank and File members among PECG's 17 Sections. Over the years, the LA Section has been actively involved in recruiting and retaining its members, political outreach and fund-raising, and various outreach events with multiple State Departments and external entities, Science and Engineering Fairs, Goodwill efforts, etc. To serve our membership holistically, the officers and delegates must hold to higher ethical standards and as a team continue to be more accountable and transparent about how our Section functions and conducts its business. We are also recruiting new EC members to represent a diverse cross section of our membership. And Section leaders encourage a new generation of members to bring forth issues that are important to them as we move into the future – since they are the next generation of Section and Corporate leaders.

PECG 2021 Special Corporate Award – Highest percentage of Rank and File Membership:

We thank the PECG Corporate Board for recognizing the extraordinary efforts by this Section for continuing to maintain the highest percentage of Rank and File membership among all seventeen (17) Sections!!!

2021 SPECIAL AWARDS

PECG recognized four deserving, hardworking sections who received **Special Awards during the Annual Meeting** for their outstanding efforts in recruiting new members and maintaining existing membership despite the challenges from COVID-19.

			
13%	65%	90%	91%
Bishop Section Largest Percentage Increase in Rank and File Membership	Stockton Section Largest Percentage Increase in Supervisory and Managerial Membership	Los Angeles Section Highest Percentage of Rank and File Membership	Bishop Section Highest Percentage of Supervisory and Managerial Membership

Fun Fact: Did you know LA Section FED-PAC (Federal Political Action Committee) membership accounts for about 50% of State-wide membership. Please join and show your support for FED-PAC initiatives!

Installation of LA Section Executive Committee Members & Officers:

The newly elected Section Officers and Delegates were administered the Oath of Office virtually via Zoom by the Corporate Past-President William (Keith) Mack at our monthly Executive meeting held on November 18, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Past-President Mack, for honoring our Section with this momentous milestone. This year like all other years, the Los Angeles Section is recruiting new employees for PECG Membership. Eight (8) elected Section Officers that include President, President-Elect, 3 VPs, Director, Treasurer, Secretary, and 42 Section Delegates make up the Executive Committee that oversees and votes on all section matters.

Upcoming Section Meetings (Annual, Monthly EC, At-Large, Supervisory & Fed-PAC):


The LA Section Officers hold monthly EC meetings with all its delegates. The Section also plans to have an Annual Meeting this month, followed by three (3) quarterly Section meetings with all its members. As the PECG Section with the most FED-PAC members by far the Section officers also plan to hold a special luncheon for all our FED-PAC members sometime early in the new year. The LA Section is very large and professionally diverse. Many members work in at-large departments. The leadership is very mindful of all our members, and we plan to hold department-specific meetings in addition to meetings for all members. We also plan to hold Supervisory specific meetings over the year. Stay tuned to all the exciting Section activities planned this year!

Approval of Annual Budget:


Section officers are taking a closer look at the surplus in our budget due to restricted activities during the ongoing pandemic. The Annual Budget will be presented by the officers to the EC at the December 2021 monthly meeting. The Section officers have already conferred a few times during the past month or so to dissect Section activities and budget matters. The officers recognize that the Section budget spending must benefit members and support various activities that provide well-deserved positive public exposure of our organization. We are committed to reinforcing Section activities that effectively highlight PECG's mission and vision. The officers may also consider giving back to the membership to encourage their participation in the form of gift-cards and/or Section merchandise to display their PECG pride.

LA County 2022 Science & Engineering Fair (72nd Annual LACSF Planning Ahead!!):

*** 71st Annual LA County Science and Engineering Fair Medals & Trophies ***



Glass trophy stands awarded to James Roberts and Marilyn Reece Winners



The Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award (\$1,000 cash) and the James E Roberts Award (\$1,000 cash) are presented to the top male and female engineering students, either in the senior or junior divisions. Following the judging and scoring of all student entries, the students receive their awards' notices first and are then invited to the Caltrans District 7 Office Building in Downtown Los Angeles to the official awards ceremony where the winners receive their Awards. Each year all award-recipients' names are engraved and installed on the perpetual plaques that show all the PECG Awards winners since 2009 when the two awards were established by the Los Angeles Section of PECG. The name tags are installed on the two perpetual plaques right next to the memorial plaques of James Roberts and Marilyn Reece.

The LA Section is continuing its decade-long tradition of involvement with the annual planning of the LA County Science and Engineering Fair (LACSF). We have a seat on the executive board and provide volunteers who judge projects and select winners for the PECG (James Roberts & Marilyn Reece) Annual Special Awards. The next (72nd) Annual LACSF will be held in March 2022. The PECG Award winners will be invited to the Caltrans D7 Office Building to receive their (\$1000 each) awards, glass trophies, medals and certificates. At the end of the ceremony the students will be photographed, and their name tags will be posted on the two perpetual plaques next to James Roberts and Marilyn Reece Memorial plaques. Due to Covid-19 CDC guidelines and for the safety of the students and the public at large, the 2022 fair will be conducted online but nevertheless it is expected to be well attended.

Above: Pictures from the LA County 2021 Science & Engineering Fair. Trophies, Medals, and winners!

Caltrans Career Fair November 3, 2021 (District 07 – Los Angeles):

The LA Section provided support and volunteered its officers and members at last month's successful Caltrans Career Fair. During the day-long Career Fair, District 7 Executive Staff and Caltrans Human Resources (HR) staff stopped by at our booth, which PEGG Corporate sponsored. The visitors included District Director Tony Tavares, Deputy Director External Affairs Blanca Rodriguez (not pictured), D07 Deputy Director Planning Paul Marquez (not pictured), and Ashley McGuckin, Caltrans HR Staff. We appreciate PEGG Corporate for sponsoring giveaway swag, snacks, water and providing posters for the event.

Special thanks to the Section officers/delegates for volunteering— Mercedes Merino, Henry Jones, Refugio Dominguez, Fouad Dagher, John Vassiliades, Shahriar Yadegari, and Bashar Nasser!! Thank you all for your time, effort, and your stellar representation of our organization and the professions it embodies.



PECG Sponsored booth



D07 District Director and PEGG Member, Mr. Tony Tavares (3rd from left) with Section Officers



Caltrans HR Staff in Orange with Section Officers



Caltrans HR Staff in Orange with Section Officers



Caltrans Career Fair attendees

WOMEN's empowerment Group (Caltrans D07 Founding Members and current Statewide effort):



Caltrans D07 Founding Members

PECG LA Section has supported the Caltrans Women Empowerment (CT Women) Group since its inception in 2019. The vision of this group is to improve gender diversity in the workplace by empowering women through training, mentoring, and providing leadership opportunities. The group held its most recent quarterly meeting on Nov. 2, 2021, themed on Equity, with CT Director Toks Omishakin and CTC Chairwoman Hilary Norton as keynote speakers. PECG supported this event by providing Zoom access and support. Michelle Manawis, PECG Staff was instrumental in assisting us with the coordination, scheduling and providing support to this group in using the Zoom platform. This event was a great success with over 500 participants attending statewide. There was active participation by the attendees and lot of questions, ideas and experiences were shared at the meeting. PECG Corporate was also acknowledged and thanked the meeting by Chair and LA Section PECG member, Sujaya Kalainesan.



Caltrans Director, Mr. Toks Omishakin

CTC Chairwoman, Ms. Hilary Norton



WOMEN's Chair & LA Section PECG Member,
Ms. Sujaya Kalainesan

YouTube link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLjTuwldwVY> to access the recording of this meeting (total time approx. 1:30:00).

Thank you once again for PECG Corporate support and look forward to future collaboration of this forum and PECG on this statewide effort!

New Employee Orientation (NEO) and Save Opportunity:

Section officers participate in Caltrans' scheduled New Employee Orientation (NEO) meetings and Save Opportunities, which reach out to members who may be inclined to drop their PEGC membership. Since the LA Section is one of the largest Sections in the State, it's been an incredible effort by our officers to cater to members' needs. Kudos to all the volunteering officers (Henry, Refugio, Ed, Sam & Varoujan) who have stepped up to this challenging task!

Section By-Laws and Policy File Updates:

Very often, Sections need to periodically update their By-Laws and Policy files. Over time, how we conduct Section business needs to be questioned, improved, and updated. This year, Section Secretary Varoujan Jinbachian, who chairs the Policy and Bylaws Committee, Section President Shabbir Ahmed, and PEGC Staff and Legal Counsel are updating the Section By-Laws and Policy Files with incremental approvals from the EC. The changes have been categorized in three (3) tiers – non-controversial, requiring discussion, and controversial.

Section Committee Appointments and Active Delegate Participation:

Being a Section Officer or a Delegate without active participation does not serve our membership adequately. A namesake title may sound impressive but does not hold any value unless it's put into action. This year we will continue to make strides in getting the EC more actively involved in Section committees and activities. As the year progresses, we may add on more adhoc committees as needed. Here are some of the committees being proposed this year, and the Chairs assigned to them.

- Policy and Bylaws – Varoujan Jinbachian
- Outreach, Awards, Events coordinator – Vacant
- Information Technology (website, quarterly reports, etc.) coordinator – Vacant
- Nominating and Elections – Edward Jackson
- Membership Committee –
 - i. Rank & File (Caltrans) – MD R Bhuiyan
 - ii. Rank & File (At-Large) – Samuel Luk
 - iii. Supervisors (Caltrans) – Refugio Dominguez
 - iv. Supervisors (At-Large) – Henry Jones
- Corporate PEGC PAC Trustee/ Science and Engineering Fair – John Vassiliades

Informational Technology:

With most of us teleworking and meeting online we have come to depend more on the technology to keep us connected, share ideas, and collaborate with each other in conducting business. The Section will consider how some of the new technological tools can assist effectively connecting with members. With the help of PEGC Staff, we plan to update the Section website with a more modern look and develop a new logo for the great LA Section.

From our families to yours – LA Section wishes you all a very safe and Happy Holidays!!

