

LOS ANGELES SECTION

PE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
CG IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

June 2022

Section Officers

Shabbir Ahmed, CT
Senior TE Specialist
President

Refugio Dominguez, CT
Senior TE Supervisor
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 Supervisor
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/members, and Staff to the June 2022 Board of Directors Meeting.

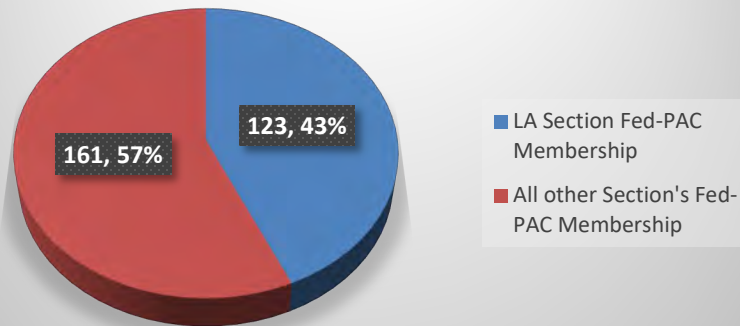
As we approach the better part of this year, and as the largest Section of this great organization as planned, we have been constantly challenging and striving to better ourselves in how we can be more effective in conducting our affairs and serve the vast and diverse Caltrans and At-large PECG membership. LA Section officers along with delegates constitute the Los Angeles Section Executive Committee (EC) which constitutes the Section officers and delegates is now 31 from 50 members representing a total of 1750 Section membership strong. This year we have been implementing attendance requirements as stated in our Section By-laws and have dismissed delegates not meeting the thresholds. Over the years LA Section has been actively involved in recruiting and retaining its members, being actively involved with political outreach and fund-raising events, various outreach events both with multiple State Departments and external entities, Science and Engineering Fairs, Caltrans Career Fairs, Goodwill efforts, etc. To serve our membership holistically the officers and delegates intend to uphold to higher ethical standards and as a team and continue to be more accountable and transparent on how our Section functions and conducts its business. We are also trying to actively recruit new PECG members and encouraging them to join the EC who will adequately represent a diverse cross section of our membership and encourage participation and involvement of a new generation of members to bring forth fresh ideas and issues that are important to them as we transcend into the future and while supporting and encouraging them to be our next generation of Section and Corporate leaders.

LA Section Membership Dashboard (current as of April 14, 2022):

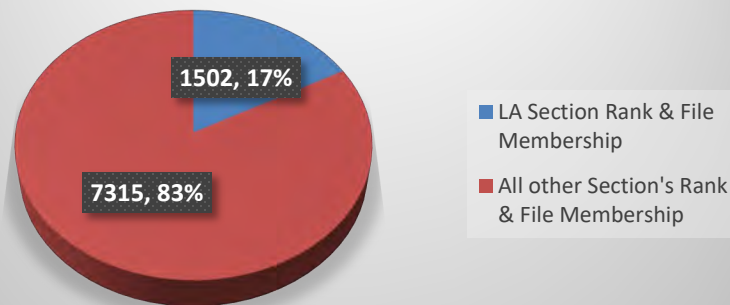
As the largest Section in the organization and 1,764 members strong here are some fun facts:

- LA Section has 89% total Rank and File Membership – **highest in the State!**
- LA Section has 67% total Supervisory and Managerial Membership
- LA Section has 123 Fed-PAC Members, 43% plus of total membership - **highest in the State!**

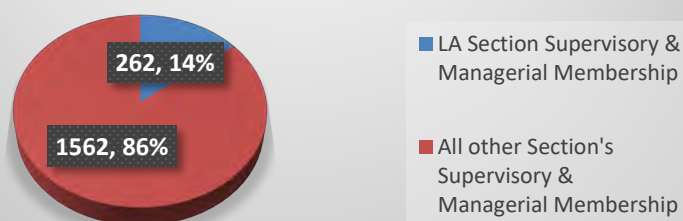
Statewide Fed-PAC Membership



Statewide LA Section Rank & File Membership



Statewide LA Section Supervisory & Managerial Membership



Section Fed-PAC Membership Meeting – March 24th, 2022:

Due to its dominant Fed-PAC membership presence in PECG, LA Section holds an exclusive Fed-PAC members meeting. Normally an elected official from Congress is invited to this meeting as a keynote speaker.

Julia Brownley (California's 26th congressional district since 2013) attended the LA Section Fed-PAC meeting virtually on March 24, 2022. There were over fifty attendees at this meeting from the Section.

Below is a summary of Ms. Brown's accomplishments from her website:



After working in the private sector, Julia entered public service because she wanted to help local children receive the high-quality education they deserve. Following her service on her local school board, she was elected to the California State Assembly, where she served as Chairwoman of the Committee on Education.

Julia was elected to Congress in 2012 and has been focusing on the issues important to Ventura County families — increasing opportunities for middle-class families, bringing down healthcare costs, making higher education more affordable, preserving and protecting our environment, making sure our veterans receive the services they deserve, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and ensuring equality for all.

As the leading Democrat on the Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee, Julia worked with local stakeholders to get a bill signed into law that will expand our local veteran's community clinic by nearly seven times its original size — as well as to increase the number of healthcare providers and the breadth of services available to our veterans. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, she was able to pass a surface transportation bill that will provide more funds to invest in our crumbling infrastructure. She has also been a consistent advocate for women and working families, including fighting to close the wage gap, raise the minimum wage, and expand job training and education assistance.

Julia is committed to staying above the partisan gridlock in Washington, and she has a strong record of working with both Democrats and Republicans to get things done for Ventura County. Some of her bills signed into law with bipartisan support include legislation to make an Oxnard veteran eligible to receive the Medal of Honor, evaluate which suicide prevention and mental health programs best serve women veterans, help more veterans succeed in the job market after their service, and ensure equitable funding for the Port of Hueneme.

She has consistently delivered for Ventura County, including helping more than 6,000 constituents with casework and returning more than \$16 million in benefits owed to Ventura County residents.



Thank you, Congresswoman!



Thank you, Nadine, Jesse and Kandi and the Section Fed-PAC Members! You Rock!!



72nd Annual LA County Science & Engineering Fair – March 16th & 17th, 2022:

The 72nd Los Angeles County Annual Science & Engineering Fair once again was done virtually. This year, fourteen LA Section members had volunteered to take part in judging 378 projects presented by 450 students. Project judging began on Wednesday, March 16 for day-long interviews with students on Physical Science Categories. Continuing Thursday, March 17th with Life Science Categories and Friday, March 18th with the Special Awards by sponsoring organizations in specific categories of competition. Fair was concluded on Sunday, March 20th with the Virtual Awards Ceremony attended by proud parents, teachers, educators, other professionals and science enthusiasts. The link for the YouTube awards ceremony announcing the winners is:

[2022 L.A. County Science & Engineering Fair Presentation of Awards](#) *(please click active link to follow)*
(PECG special awards are announced at the 30:25 to 33:17 minutes of the video)

The judges' final vote for the winners of the 2022 PECG special awards was as follows:

\$1,000 Marilyn J. Reece Special Award split between:

Student: Adela Riggs - Project # S447 Category: Environmental Management – Sr

Project Title: Testing a Storm Drain to Minimize Plastic Waste in Drainage Systems

Student: Ayla Soto - Project # J234 Category: Physics General – Jr

Project Title: Bearing Capacity Analysis of Various Classifications of Soils Erosion

\$1,000 James E. Roberts Special Award:

Student: Zach Matise - Project # J826 Category: Engineering Applications - Jr

Project Title: From the Ground Up! Factoring Skyscraper foundation in an earthquake zone

PECG SPECIAL AWARDS' & HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS:

1. Aydan Tashman (Project J164) - Project Title – Earthquakes: The Next Level
2. Francis Lawton (Project J228) - Project Title - Pier Pressure bridge that takes least damage in an earthquake
3. Trevor Atkins (Project J228) – Project Title - Pier Pressure bridge that takes least damage in an earthquake
4. Cadw Saivar (Project J404) – Project Title – Comparing Sandman vs. Quick Damamite to prevent flood damage
5. Owen Whalen (Project J354) – Project Title – Car crashes test to find what materials could absorb the most shock
6. Jacie Salonga (Project J18) – Project Title – What effect do plants have on noise pollution?
7. Daniel Kim (Project J487) - Project Title – Testing a Storm Drain to Minimize Plastic Waste in Drainage Systems

The above 7 Honorable Mention Winners will receive their awards via USPS to their mailing addresses of record.

The James Roberts and Marilyn Reece Winners received their awards at the Caltrans Downtown LA Office building during a special luncheon ceremony on Friday, May 6, 2022, with Caltrans District 7 Director, Tony Tavares, Corporate Past President, Keith Mack, and PECG LA Section Officials.



Pictures from special award ceremony on Friday, May 6, 2022



Pictures from previous special award ceremonies held in 2020 & 2021 with Caltrans' Directors John Bulinski (top) and Tony Tavares (bottom). Cameron Knudson, PE/CG President-Elect is also seen with Director Tavares (bottom). Section President and Director were also present at these ceremonies.

About the Awards:

In April of 2009, the Los Angeles Section of PECG had established two new awards, in recognition of two former Caltrans Engineers, the James E. Roberts Award and the Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award, to be presented annually at the Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair as follows:

The **James E. Roberts Award** (\$1,000 cash), presented to the top male engineering student either in the senior or junior divisions. James Roberts spearheaded the worldwide highly recognizable Caltrans Highway Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program that made highway bridges throughout the state seismically safer. He has demonstrated the California seismic retrofit concepts at many conferences throughout the world.

The **Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award** (\$1,000 cash), presented to the top female engineering student either in the senior or junior divisions. Reece, an award-winning engineer, literally paved the way for women in the field of engineering as the first licensed female professional civil engineer (PE) in the State of California. Senate Resolution 72, authored by Senator Debra Bowen, has renamed the Santa Monica Freeway and San Diego Freeway Interchange to the "Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Memorial Interchange," after the pioneer Caltrans engineer.

More information about the fair is available on our website at www.lapecg.net.

Caltrans Career Fair – March 23rd, 2022:



The graphic is a promotional poster for a Caltrans career event. It features the Caltrans logo at the top left, with the text 'OPPORTUNITY AWAITS AT' above it and 'CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION' below. A large orange banner reads 'LOS ANGELES WE ARE HIRING!'. Below this, it says 'MULTIPLE CALTRANS VACANCIES! Medical, Dental, Vision, Paid Sick Leave and Retirement Benefits!'. On the right, a green and orange sign reads 'JOIN US AT OUR IN-PERSON CAREER EVENT' with details for District 7 on 3/23/22 from 8:30AM-2:30PM at Caltrans Plaza, 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At the bottom, there is a QR code, a list of three steps to apply (Create a CalCareers Account, Take an Exam, Apply for Jobs), and contact information including an email address (AskRecruitment@dot.ca.gov), a phone number (916-227-7858), the website (DOT.CA.GOV), and social media handles (@CALTRANS HQ and FACEBOOK.COM/CALTRANS HQ).

LA Section provided support and volunteered its officers and members at this successful Caltrans Career Fair which was a daylong event. In addition to the Career fair attendees D07 Executive Staff and Caltrans Human Resources (HR) staff also stopped by at our PECG Corporate sponsored booth. Ashley McGuckin, Caltrans HR Staff visited our booth on the day of the event. We appreciate PECG Corporate for sponsoring giveaway swag, snacks, water and providing posters at this event.

Special thanks to the Section officers/delegates for volunteering – Fouad Dagher, John Vassiliades, Refugio Dominguez, and Grish Biglarian!! Thank you all for your time, effort and the stellar representing of our organization and the professions it represents.



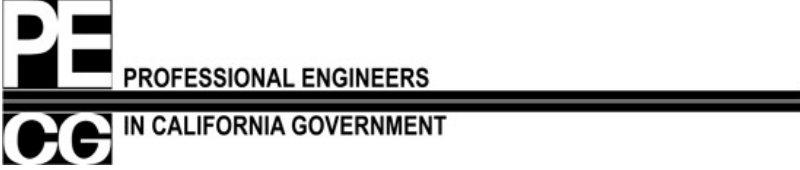
Caltrans Career Fair attendees and volunteers – The Section Thanks You!!



Joint Section(s) Picnic – Orange County, Inland Empire and Los Angeles Sections:

This year we are embarking on a one of a kind event where three PECG Sections (Los Angeles, Orange County and Inland Empire) are coming together to organize a joint-section picnic in July 2022. We are not aware of such joint Section event ever having been held in the past. The intent and sentiment intended is as below and was included with our communication with all the three Section membership.

“After a couple of tumultuous and challenging years cutoff from each other, it's time to get together with our colleagues, friends and loved ones to enjoy the outdoors and reconnect with our fellow PECG members. For the first time ever, the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Orange County Sections have come together to organize a SoCal Section Picnic to show our comradery and solidarity as one big happy PECG family!”



Hello PECG Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Orange County Section Members!

After a couple of tumultuous and challenging years cutoff from each other, it's time to get together with our colleagues, friends and loved ones to enjoy the outdoors and reconnect with our fellow PECG members. For the first time ever, the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Orange County Sections have come together to organize a SoCal Section Picnic to show our camaraderie and solidarity as one big happy PECG family!

Due to logistical and practical reasons this event will be limited to the members of the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Orange County Sections. We look forward to seeing you and your families at this event and would like to thank you in advance for your support in making this event successful, memorable, and fun!

Please follow the link below to let us know your preferred event date and the number of people you plan to bring so we can plan accordingly. The date that receives the most votes by **5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2022**, will be the date of this year's event.

[2022 Joint SoCal Section Picnic Planning Survey](#)

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. We appreciate your input!

Sincerely,
Your Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Orange County Section Officers

The three Sections have agreed to retain the services of event planning company James Event (<https://jamesevents.com>) for the logistical details and execution of this event.

At the regularly scheduled monthly L.A. Section Executive Committee meetings in April and May, 2022, the L.A. Section President Shabbir Ahmed provided an overview of the intent of this activity and updates on the progress of the planning of this activity.

On May 4, 2022, PEGG HQ staff sent a survey to members of all three Sections. Event date of **Saturday, July 16, 2022** was selected by most number of survey respondents.

Survey results are shown in the table below:

Section	# Survey Respondents	% of Survey Respondents	# of Adults Attending	# of Children Attending	# of Total Attending	% of Total Attending
Inland Empire	72	31%	126	64	190	32%
Los Angeles	104	44%	189	70	259	44%
Orange County	58	25%	100	37	137	23%
Total	234		415	171	586	
Approximate Grand Total: 586 (= 234 members + 586 guests)						

At this time we are proceeding and finalizing with the planning of this event, procuring funds and executing the details of the picnic. Details to the membership will soon follow regarding this event. We very much look forward to this unique event!! We would like to thank all three Section membership for their support, including the Section officers and the delegated organizers from their respective Sections.

Caltrans District 07 Workers Memorial – May 12, 2022:

The Los Angeles Section is proud to continue its Goodwill sponsorship of the Caltrans District 7 Workers Memorial event held on May 12, 2022 by donating \$500. This event is held annually to recognize and remember Caltrans employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty. During the event, PEGG was recognized for once-again sponsoring this event.

Monthly Section Executive Committee (EC) Meetings:

This year the Section has started implementing the attendance requirements as stated in our Section By-laws and have dismissed delegates not meeting the thresholds. As such, now there are 31 (thirty-one) members of the Executive Committee that includes Section Officers and Delegates. Jesse Rodriguez, PEGG Staff and Legal Counsel provides updates and discusses major issues with the EC. Robert's rules of conduct and all formalities are adhered to during these meetings. EC formally approves the Meeting Minutes prepared by the Section Secretary, Varoujan Jinbajian from the past meeting, and approves the latest treasury report prepared by the Section Treasurer, Fouad Dagher. All Motions Agenda is presented to the EC prior to the meeting for their review. Motions are voted on per the current By-laws and Policy File, and any deviations from this is voted by the EC Quorum with a 2/3 majority vote to supersede the minimum criteria.

New Employee Orientation (NEO) and Save Opportunity:

Section officers have actively been involved with Caltrans scheduled New Employee Orientation (NEO) meetings and Save opportunities, members who may be inclined to drop their PEGG affiliation. LA Section being one of the largest Sections in the State, it's been an incredible effort by same number of Section officers as any other Section to cater to its members' needs. The NEO meetings are set twice a month and Brandon Cheathon, PEGG Staff assists the Department in scheduling these meetings with Section volunteers. Kudos to all the volunteering

officers (Md, John, Henry, Refugio, Ed, Sam, Mercedes & Varoujan) who have stepped up to this challenging task!

Section By-Laws and Policy File Updates:

Very often Sections tend to neglect to periodically update their By-Laws and Policy files. Over time how we conduct Section business needs to be questioned, improved, and updated, and sure enough we as a Section are challenging our process this year. Varoujan Jinbachian, Section Secretary and Chair of this committee and Shabbir Ahmed, Section President along with the assistance PECG Staff and Legal Counsel are actively in the process 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.

Update: The first two tiers (non-controversial and ‘requiring discussion’) of the Section By-laws and Policy File have now been approved by the Executive Committee. The By-laws committee is preparing to present the ‘controversial’ items to the EC to be discussed at the June 16, 2022, Section Executive Meeting.

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 along, we may add on more Ad-Hoc committees as needed. Some of the committees being proposed this year are the following and the Chairs currently assigned to them.

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

Informational Technology and Section Swag (New Section Website and Section Logo):

With most of us teleworking and conducting meetings 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 is considering on how some of the new technological tools can assist the Section in being more effective and connected with its members. With the help of PECG Staff the Section website with a more modern look and a new logo is being developed. The draft version of the website and the logo will be presented to the Executive Committee shortly. We may also make this a fun event with the membership to vote on their favorite versions of both the website and the logo and perhaps offer some incentive prizes. Once the logo is finalized, we will work on imprinting them on Section merchandise and clothing as potential giveaways.