

# LOS ANGELES SECTION

PE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
CG IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

September 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 September 2022 Annual Board of Directors Meeting.

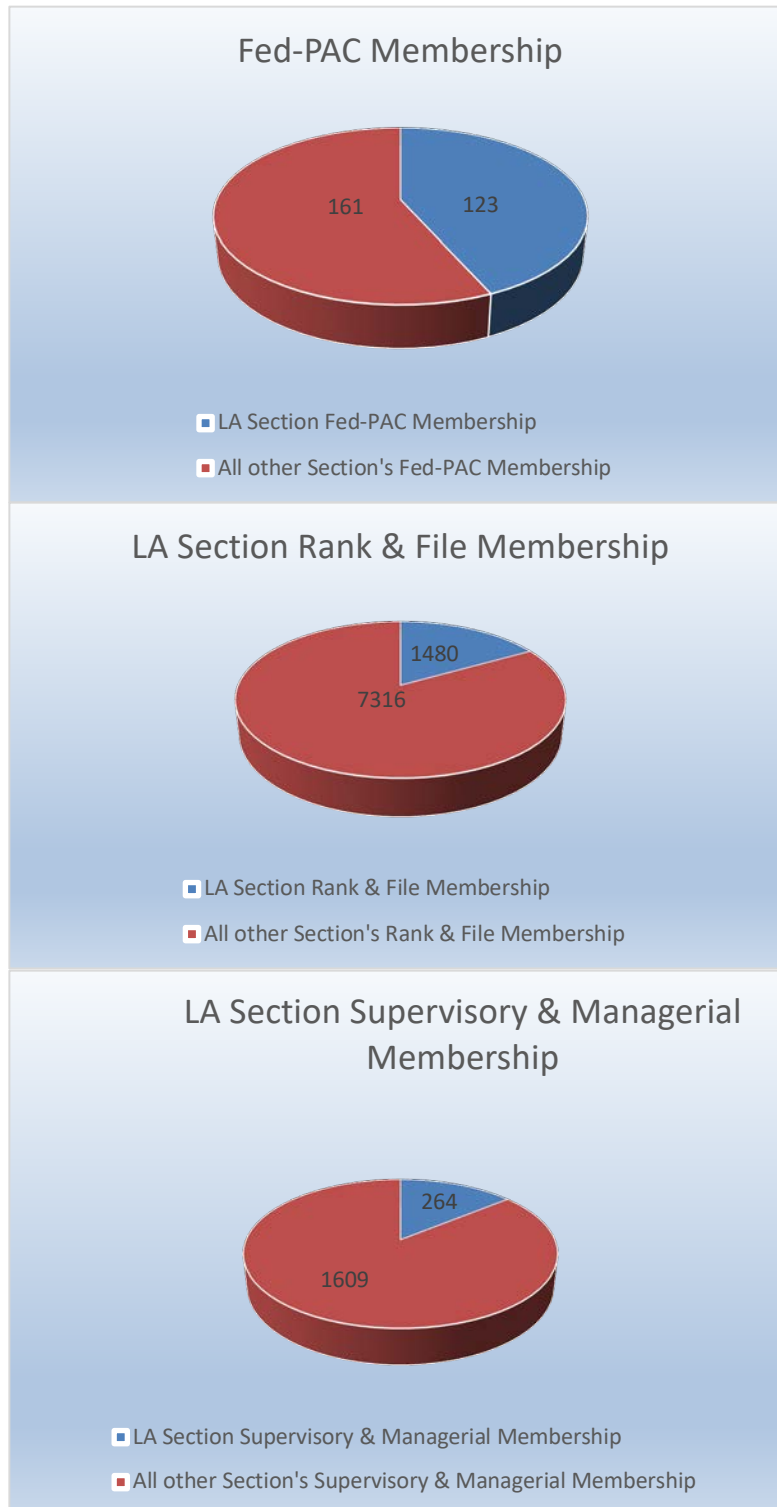
We are here at the end of the year, and as the largest Section of this great organization as planned, we have been constantly challenging and striving to better ourselves in how we can be more effective in conducting our affairs and serve the vast and diverse Caltrans and At-large PECG membership. LA Section officers, along with delegates, constitute the Los Angeles Section Executive Committee (EC), which varies to between 30 to 50 members strong and represents a total of 1,744 Section members. This year we have been implementing attendance requirements – as stated in our Section By-laws – and have dismissed delegates not meeting the attendance thresholds.

Over the years, LA Section has been actively involved in recruiting and retaining its members, political outreach and political 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, the officers and delegates intend to uphold to higher ethical standards 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, which represents our membership and encourages the participation and involvement of a new generation of members to bring forth fresh ideas and issues as we transcend into the future.

## LA Section Membership Dashboard: (Membership stats as of 8/12/2022)

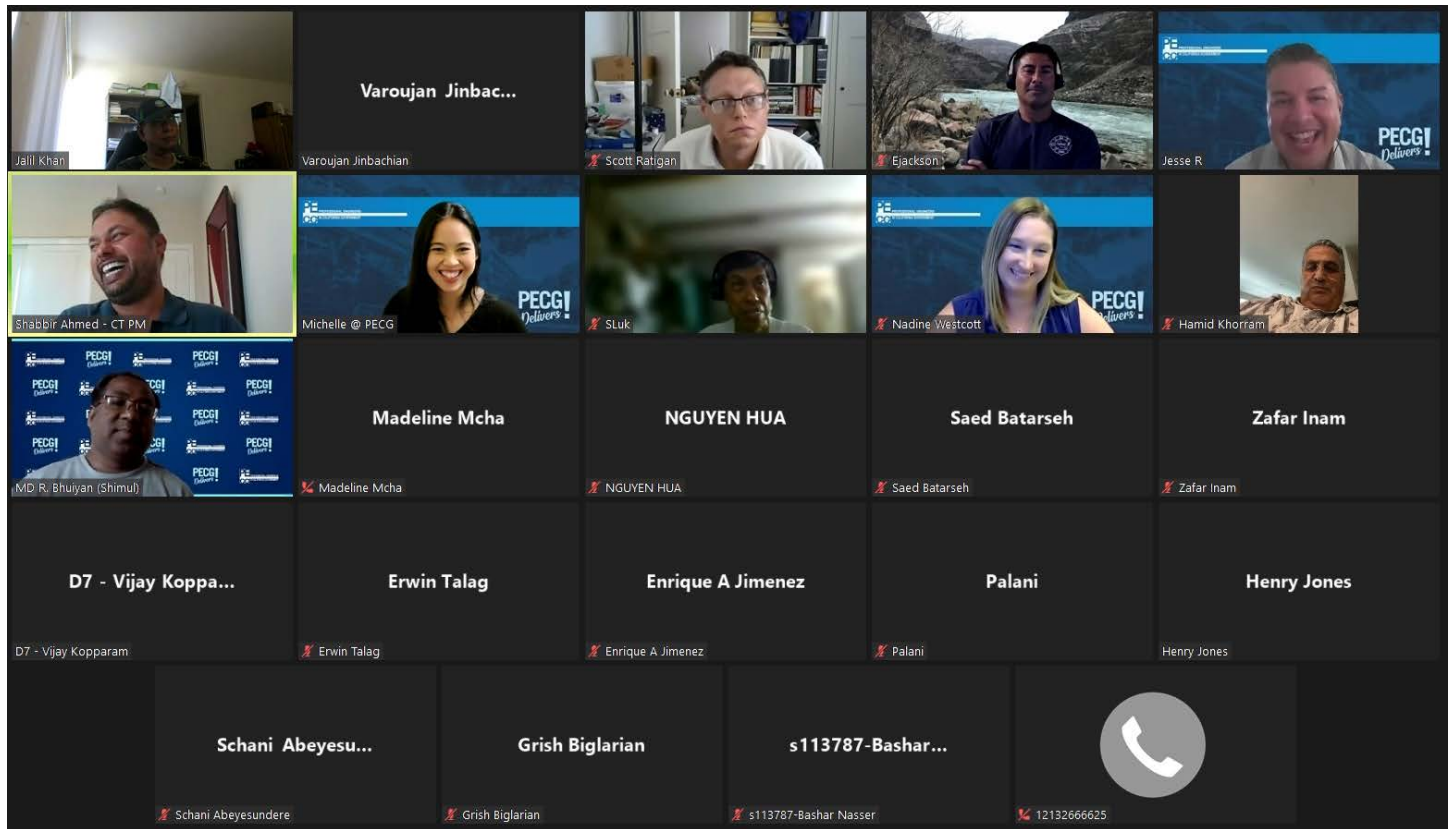
As the largest Section in the organization and 1,744 members strong here are some fun facts:

- LA Section has 88% 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!**



## Monthly Executive Committee Meetings:

Our Monthly Executive Committee (EC) meetings snapshot from our very last EC meeting this year in August. EC comprises of all Section Officers and twenty (20) plus delegates.



## Section Fed-PAC Membership Meeting – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

Due to our dominant Fed-PAC membership in PEGG, LA Section holds exclusive Fed-PAC member meetings. Normally an elected official from Congress is invited to this meeting as a keynote speaker. However, for our latest meeting, we hosted Jim Kolb, PEGG's Federal Lobbyist, to attend the Fed-PAC membership meeting. Jim did an excellent job in providing an overview on efforts PEGG is involved with at the Federal level. Nadine Westcott, PEGG Staff responsible for Federal Affairs, also attended the meeting and provided an overview of National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions (NASHTU). The need for Fed-PAC support and recruitment efforts were also discussed. Fed-PAC membership with the PEGG LA Section Executive Committee is over ninety (90) percent. Thank you ALL for your support!

## Section Supervisors and Managers Meeting – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

Henry Jones, Section V.P. Supervisory led this meeting. Stefan Cajina, Corporate V.P. Supervisory was invited as the guest speaker. This event was well attended, and we thank Stefan for making the time and the effort to honor our Section with his presence. Thank you all for attending!

## General Section Meeting – August 08<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

William (Keith) Mack, Past Corporate PEGG President was the keynote speaker at this event. About 200-plus Section members attended this event. PEGG Staff, Jesse Rodriguez, was also attended to provide information and support to the Section. This meeting was open to all Section members including At-Large and Supervisory members. This year we did our best to keep the membership of all classifications involved. This was the second round of all four (4) meetings all different classifications. Thank you, Keith, for attending and supporting our Section!

## Section At-Large Meeting – July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

Los Angeles Section has the largest At-Large membership in the State! And, as such, we wanted to pay special attention to our At-Large members in addressing their issues and concerns. Karmina Padgett, Corporate V.P. At-Large, who works at the State Waterboard, was the keynote speaker at the Section At-Large meeting. Thank you, Karmina, for your continued Support! We appreciate all of our At-Large members for attending. Dawn Grosodonia, PEGG Staff, also attended the meeting and provided support and updated the membership.

The image shows a Zoom meeting grid with 20 participants. The participants are arranged in a 4x5 grid. The names and initials of the participants are as follows:

Shabbir Ahmed	Varoujan Jinbachian	Erwin Talag	Karmina Padgett	Michelle @ PEGG
Samuel Luc	Dawn Grosodonia	refugio dominguez	zahra Mosavat	Gregg Aniolek
Anthony Likovich III	Deborah Kennedy	M Maa	Vincent Chan	Monica Lim
Ben Yousefi	Thomas Tsui	Matthew Cervantes	Kristie Kao	KEVIN LIN
Gen Hasegawa	Rebecca Christmann	Palani Chandrasekaran	Madeline Ocampo	Thomas Siebels

On the right side of the grid, there is a chat window with several messages:

- Michelle @ PEGG to Everyone: If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Jesse and Dawn at our Pasadena office by sending an email to pecg@pecg.org.
- Jason Flores to Everyone: CARB here, I asked my supervisors for an "in-office holiday", meaning full telework for a few weeks, because of recent COVID outbreaks. I was told to pick a less busy day of the week to go into office. What do we face if we simply choose NOT to go into the office?
- Lawrence Sanchez to Everyone: Im so sorry to hear this Gregg
- Thomas Tsui to Everyone: Thank you for your works!
- Gregg Aniolek to Everyone: Thanks for listening to us
- Danilo Arce to Everyone: Thank you all! I hope something can be done soon on telework to allow us to work from home.

At the bottom of the chat window, there is a "Who can see your messages?" dropdown menu set to "Everyone" and a text input field for typing a message.

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

This year, the Los Angeles, Orange County, and Inland Empire PEGG Sections came together to organize a joint-section picnic on July 16, 2022. We are not aware of such Southern California-focused joint section event ever having been held in the past. The intent and sentiment was included with our communication to the membership of all three Sections:



*“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 PEEG 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 PEEG family!”*



Hello PEEG 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 PEEG 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 PEEG 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 agreed to retain the services of event planning company, James Event (<https://jamesevents.com>), for the logistical details and execution of this event. The event was held at the Oak Canyon Private Park in Orange County.

**The event was a great success!! About 460 folks attended this picnic. Here is a short clip with some of the highlights from the picnic – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7S6qa12WNo>**

[Caltrans District 07 Workers Memorial – May 12, 2022:](#)

The Los Angeles Section is proud to continue its Goodwill sponsorship of the D7 WOMEN's group, which was formed in 2019 and aims at mentoring, empowering, and creating networking opportunities for women in the district. The group is inclusive and shares the opportunities it creates with all Caltrans staff regardless of gender. The D7 WOMEN's group has also inspired D8, D11, D4 and D1 women to start a WOMEN's chapter in

their respective districts. The group has its own informal mentoring program and encourages women to seek leadership prospects in the field of transportation by attracting, sustaining, and advancing their careers. The D7 WOMEN's group requested LA Section PECG for a contribution of \$500, to help cover expenses for outreach programs and to sponsor events. PECG will be recognized at future events as an event sponsor. The motion was approved unanimously by the LA Executive Committee.

### 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 who fail to meet the thresholds. As such, now there are 30 members of the Executive Committee, which includes Section Officers and Delegates. Jesse Rodriguez, PECG Staff and Legal Counsel continues to provide updates and discusses major issues with the EC. Robert's Rules of Order – and all formalities – are used to govern 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 scheduling New Employee Orientation (NEO) meetings and Save opportunities (members who may be inclined to drop their PECG membership). The NEO meetings are set twice a month and Brandon Cheathon, PECG Staff, assists the Department in scheduling these meetings with Section volunteers. Kudos to all the volunteering officers who have stepped up to this challenging task: Md, John, Henry, Refugio, Ed, Sam, Mercedes and Varoujan!

### Section By-Laws and Policy File Updates:

Sections tend to neglect to periodically update their By-Laws and Policy files. Over time, it is important to remember that how we conduct Section business needs to be questioned, improved, and updated. Varoujan Jinbajian, Section Secretary and Chair of this committee, and Shabbir Ahmed, Section President, along with the assistance PECG Staff and Legal Counsel are actively 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: We are happy to report all 'three' tiers (non-controversial, 'requiring discussion' and 'maybe controversial') of the Section By-laws and Policy File have now been approved by the Executive Committee. The By-laws committee presented the 'controversial' items to the EC to be discussed at the June 16, 2022, Section Executive Meeting. The EC passed these set of changes to the By-Laws and Policy-File unanimously as well.

### 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 – along with the proposed Chairs – are the following:

- Policy and Bylaws – Varoujan Jinbajian

- 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 how some of the new technological tools could assist the Section to be more effective and connected with its members. The intent is that – with the help of PECG Staff – to develop a Section website that has a more modern look and a new logo. The draft version of the website and the logo will be presented to the Executive Committee. We also plan to make this a fun event that the membership can vote on their favorite versions of both the website and the logo. Once the logo was to be finalized, we would imprint them on Section merchandize and clothing as potential giveaways. Unfortunately, due to logistical issues with PECG Staff, this effort is deferred until next year.