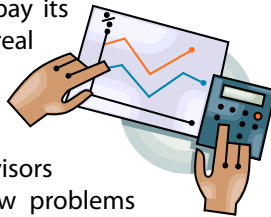


Impact of the Economic Downturn



Just weeks after the Legislature approved a new state budget for the current fiscal year, which began on July 1, the shaky and optimistic assumptions began to crumble. As the Dow Jones average plummeted to eight thousand, state revenues also took a major hit. The Department of Finance almost immediately projected that state revenue will be \$3 billion less than anticipated, a shortfall which is likely to increase in the coming weeks and months.

The inability of the state to pay its bills because of a shortfall in cash became a real concern as the Governor sought to borrow funds from private lenders or the Federal Government (which has problems of its own). Agreement on a retroactive pay raise for PECG-represented supervisors and managers remained uncertain as cash flow problems increased.



The Governor announced his intention to call a special session of existing legislators after the election but before they leave office on November 30 to address additional program cuts or, perhaps, a tax or other revenue increase. The theory could be that existing legislators, many of whom are termed out and won't be returning, are familiar with the issues and the budget process and might be less ideologically rigid when addressing budget solutions, compared to new or reelected office holders.

In the midst of all this, long-time Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill retired. She has been the Legislature's advisor for 22 years, the fourth person to hold the post since it was created in 1941. Her replacement is Mac Taylor, her deputy since 1990.

New Bargaining Team Chair

Bob McNew was recently reelected by the members as PECG Corporate Vice President for Collective Bargaining. About a week later, he learned that he was promoted to a supervisory position as a Senior Transportation Engineer. The Vice President for Collective Bargaining is also Chair of PECG's Bargaining Team for Unit 9 contract negotiations. Because supervisors are not in the Bargaining Unit, Bob was forced to resign his position.



D'Arcy McLeod

The Board of Directors selected **D'Arcy McLeod** to serve in that role for the next year. D'Arcy is a Transportation Engineer in Caltrans District 3 (Marysville). He has been Section President and Director, a member of the Political Action Committee, and Chaired PECG's Board of Registration Liaison Committee. Perhaps most importantly, D'Arcy is currently a member of the Bargaining Team, so he has the ability and experience to take over as Bargaining Team Chair during ongoing contract negotiations.

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Professional Achievement Award



Joseph Peterson (left) receives this year's **Professional Achievement Award** from outgoing President **Roger Barnes**. His development and application of a procedure to grind up and recycle worn out pavement by injecting hot asphalt and cold water to provide greater adhesion eliminates waste, reduces cost, and substantially expedites roadway replacement with minimal disruption to the traveling public. He has won multiple awards as a District Materials Engineer and is a Lead Instructor for the Materials Academy.

Section Directors



The members in each of PEGC's 17 sections annually elect a Director to serve on PEGC's Board of Directors. The new **Directors for the 2008-09 year** were inducted at PEGC's Annual Meeting in San Diego in October.

Member of the Year



This year, there were two recipients for PEGC Member of the Year. As President of the Los Angeles Section, **John Vassiliades** led his Section in increasing membership, hosting lunches with State Constitutional Officers as guest speakers, and recruiting volunteers to work on behalf of legislative candidates. John is a member of the Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair Organizing Committee and is a participant in the Franklin High School Student Mentoring Program.

Also receiving an award from incoming Corporate President **Mark Sheahan** was **Josan Feathers**, who has been a Corporate Officer, Chairperson of PEGC's Political Liaison Committee and member of the Political Action Committee. Josan was honored to be selected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.



Guest Speakers



PECG's Annual Meeting in San Diego featured two excellent dinner speakers. **Gary Gallegos** (left), former Caltrans District 11 Director and currently Executive Director of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) discussed the extensive transportation needs in the San Diego area and SANDAG's close and ongoing working relationship with Caltrans and other agencies. **Pedro Orso-Delgado** (second from right), current Caltrans District 11 Director, discussed the need to continue to recruit and retain high-caliber engineers and to be involved in all aspects of the Transportation Program to address increasing population and relieve traffic congestion. They are shown here with San Diego Section officers **Mehrdad Nabizadeh** and **Fred Abdipour** (far right).

Outreach Award



Mark Sheahan with Paul Milkey

2008 PECG Outreach Award winners include **Paul Milkey**, Chair of PECG's Specialty Engineers and Classification Committee, who pioneered surveys and analysis of PECG's membership to determine licensing and educational experience and needs; and **Steve Lee**, President of the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association, principal organizer for a National Math Competition, Associate Member of the Democratic Party of Sacramento, and a member of the Sacramento Sister City Council.



Steve Lee and Mark Sheahan

Section of the Year

The **Los Angeles Section** is the winner of the **2008 Section of the Year Award**. More than 90% of the Unit 9 employees and two-thirds of eligible supervisors and managers are PECG members in Los Angeles, PECG's largest section. Section membership meetings average more than 300 attendees. Recent speakers included State Controller **John Chiang** and Secretary of State **Debra Bowen**. This well organized and active section provides volunteer workers for political candidates, sponsors and participates in the Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair, participates in High School Mentoring Programs, and maintains an excellent website.



PECG Endorsements for the November 4 Election

PECG periodically makes recommendations to the members regarding ballot measures which affect workload, compensation, or other employment-related considerations, as well as legislative officeholders or candidates who have shown themselves to be supportive of PECG's goals and effective, efficient public service. For legislative candidates, the analysis typically includes a proven track record or an in-depth questionnaire regarding the candidate's views. The following are PECG's recommendations for the November 2008 Election.



Yes – Proposition 1A. This \$10 billion High-Speed Rail Bond Measure raises questions regarding the need, effectiveness, and ultimate cost of the High-Speed Rail Network in California, but the Measure won PECG's support based on the opportunity for job creation, reducing traffic congestion, reducing dependence on foreign oil, and helping to address concerns regarding global warming and climate change.



Yes – On Measure A in Santa Barbara County. This measure would extend the ½-cent sales tax to fund transportation projects. A substantial amount of the funds would be used on state highways. History has demonstrated close cooperation between Caltrans and local agencies in the area.



Yes – On Measure D in Imperial County. Another extension of the ½-cent sales tax. Most of the money would go for local streets and roads, but the agencies have demonstrated a cooperative working relationship and effective use of funds.

Legislative Candidates – Go to the PECG website at www.PECG.org and click on "PECG's Endorsements for the November 4 Election" to learn PECG's recommendation, if any, on legislative candidates in your area.

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