



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 1, 2009

CONTACT:
Lisa Marie Burcar
916-446-0400

PECG TO CHALLENGE GOVERNOR'S FURLOUGH

SACRAMENTO – The Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) will be filing a legal challenge to block implementation of an Executive Order issued today requiring all state employees to take a third furlough day per month.

“Engineers are working to expedite infrastructure projects which create jobs and rebuild the economy,” said Mark Sheahan, President of PECG. “Telling people to stay home a third day a month slows economic recovery.”

As state-employed engineers are ordered to stay home three days per month, the work would have to be outsourced to private companies at more than twice the cost. “With a \$26 billion budget deficit, outsourcing this work at more than twice the cost to taxpayers is outrageous,” said Sheahan. “This Executive Order mandates the waste that the Governor says he wants to eliminate.”

The state is currently facing a \$26 billion General Fund Deficit. However, ninety-five percent of PECG’s members are paid through Special Funds, such as gas tax, federal funds, and other sources. “Cutting our pay won’t help the General fund, but it will cost the taxpayers more than twice as much,” said Sheahan.

In June of this year, the Governor’s Department of Finance and the Legislature concluded that a state engineer costs the taxpayers \$103,000 a year, but outsourcing the same work costs \$232,000.

PECG’s lawsuit and grievance challenging the original two-day furloughs are working their way through the court system and the administrative process.

ABOUT PECG

PECG represents the 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California’s highways and bridges, ensuring that schools and hospitals are safe during earthquakes, and protecting our air, water and beaches from polluters.

HEADQUARTERS: 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 501, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 446-0400
LOS ANGELES: 130 N. Brand Boulevard, Suite 301, Glendale, CA 91203 • (818) 500-9941
SAN FRANCISCO: 1 Sutter Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94104 • (415) 861-5720
TELEFAX: Headquarters (916) 446-0489; Los Angeles (818) 247-2348; San Francisco (415) 861-5360