



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

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PECG Supports Increased Funding for Nation's Aging Infrastructure

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Today, the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) showed support for increased funding to rehabilitate and add to the nation's aging infrastructure in transportation and other important functions.

In a letter to President Barack Obama, PECG President Matt Hanson strongly supported the increase of funding for the nation's infrastructure but urged the Administration to keep in mind principles enunciated in the Campaign to Cut Waste and the effort to root out misspent tax dollars.

“The proposal for additional federal infrastructure funding and creation of a National Infrastructure Bank comes at the perfect time,” said Hanson. “Caution should be exercised in utilizing public private partnerships (P3s) because they waste taxpayer dollars and delay projects.”

To date, there have been three large P3 state highway transportation projects in California. All have proven to be disasters. State Route 91 in Orange County required a \$207 million taxpayer bailout and is now a public toll road. San Diego County's State Route 125 is in bankruptcy and in default on hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer loans. And the latest effort, the Presidio Parkway/Doyle Drive project in San Francisco, was fully funded and on schedule at \$473 million when it was changed to a P3 and the cost escalated to \$1.4 billion.

To spend this much needed money wisely, PECG urged the President to adhere to the outsourcing principles he has consistently state since taking office in 2009:

- Use competitive bidding for construction contracts.
- Require inspection of a contractor's construction be performed by a trained professional who works for the public, not another contractor.
- Do not outsource professional services, such as design of infrastructure projects, if those who work for and serve the public can perform those services at less cost.

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. For more information visit <http://www.pecg.org>