



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

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## **PECG Commends Creation of New Pipeline Safety Unit and More Inspectors at Public Utilities Commission**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) supports independent on-site public inspectors during the construction and testing of natural gas pipelines. On-site inspectors are the key to protecting the public against future gas explosions. PECG commends the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for taking an important first step toward that goal.

Last week, the Commission announced the creation of a new Risk Assessment Unit and increased staff for its pipeline inspection team to improve pipeline safety. This comes in the wake of calls for increased safety measures following the deadly explosion of a PG&E transmission pipeline in San Bruno, California last September.

“The inspection staff at the California Public Utilities Commission has been stretched too thin for too long. We are very pleased to see the state recognize this and provide the Commission with the additional inspectors,” said PECG President Matt Hanson. “This is a welcome and long overdue move. PECG seeks to have public inspectors in California and around the country take a more prominent role in the physical inspection of new and existing pipelines to ensure public safety.”

The tragedy in San Bruno last year showed that the private companies that build and operate our pipeline systems do not have public safety as their top priority. PECG encourages policymakers in California and in Washington, D.C. to insist on public inspection and testing for all natural gas pipelines.

### **ABOUT PECG**

*PECG represents 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California’s infrastructure, improving air and water quality, and developing clean energy and green technology.*

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