

## 2023 September Quarterly Report – Q3

### Section Officers

*Steven Johnson*  
**Director**

*Aman Bains*  
**President**

*Jeff Kessler*  
**President-Elect**

*Alexander “Lex” Mitchell*  
**VP Supervisory**

*Stephen Chastain*  
**VP Rank & File**

*Julie Cooper*  
**Secretary**

*Kyle Bly*  
**Treasurer**

*Aman Bains*  
**Web-Cordinator**

### Your 2022-2023 PECG Fort Sutter Section Officers



Should you have any PECG related questions or suggestions, please contact any of your elected officers pictured above or reach out to us at [fspecg@gmail.com](mailto:fspecg@gmail.com).

### Who We Represent

The Fort Sutter Section represents PECG members from 16 Boards, Offices, and Departments (BDO) and is comprised of engineers and related professionals responsible for improving air quality and water quality, developing clean energy and technology, and designing and inspecting California’s infrastructure and improving State occupied buildings.

Fort Sutter section currently represents 882 members and 393 non-members. Our rank and file, supervisors, and managers are from the following BDO’s:

- California Air Resources Board (597 members),
- California Highway Patrol (5 members),
- Department of Transportation [Caltrans] (1 member),
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (40 members),
- Department of Consumer Affairs (17 members),
- Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (17 members),

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- Department of Developmental Services (2 members),
- Franchise Tax Board (1 member),
- Housing Finance Agency (3 members),
- Department of Industrial Relations (40 members),
- Department of Justice (1 member),
- Department of Motor Vehicles (4 members),
- California Environmental Protection Agency (4 members),
- Division of the State Architect (2 members),
- Healthcare Access and Information (45 members), and
- Department of Toxic Substance Control (103 members)

Fort Sutter membership has increased when compared to the second quarter of 2023. This is encouraging news. Thanks to a strong and committed PEGC membership, our salaries have increased, pensions remain protected, fantastic health care benefits are available, and State work is overwhelming performed by State staff and not sourced out to private consultants.

### Membership Recruitment Incentive

We know that union membership strengthens worker's bargaining power and relationships with their employers. We also know that as membership increases so does our bargaining power. Having more bargaining power means we can win better provisions for our MOU contracts. We are only as strong as our membership is large.

**Do you know someone not currently a PEGC member?** PEGC's membership recruitment campaign provides a \$50 reward to PEGC rank and file members for each new member they recruit! Supervisory/manager PEGC members receive \$200 referral bonus. Please get in touch with Fort Sutter PEGC officers if you would like to learn more!

### Third Quarter Highlights

**August 13 Member Appreciation Event – Sierra White Water River Rafting:** Almost 100 adventurous section members and guests took advantage of this year's significant snow melt to raft a hairy portion of the Lower South Fork of the American River. After meeting along the river in historic Coloma, members gobbled up a tasty catered lunch, met PEGC President Mark Sheahan, donned safety gear and then met with experienced guides before climbing aboard large 6 to 8 person capacity rafts for an unforgettable trip down the river. Attendees experienced thrilling class three rapids, impossibly narrow chutes, and near vertical walls of hungry white water. 13 miles and 3 hours later, our epic trip had eventually come to an end. Our crew of water-soaked adrenaline junkies used their sea legs to board shuttle vans for the short but twisty drive back to Coloma where the adventure first began.

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Figure 1. Wasim Ali and his kids



Figure 2. Eugene Yang and guests



Figure 3. Bruce Lewis, Dawn Bascomb, and Lora Jameson from the Department of Toxic Substances Control

**August 16 Informational Meeting:** The Fort Sutter Section hosted a pizza lunch and meeting for PECG members. The meeting featured guest speaker Ted Toppin, PECG’s Executive Director. Ted updated members on the current state budget, Unit 9’s groundbreaking family leave benefits, recruitment, salary and pension, telework, and healthcare. There was also a productive question-and-answer portion. Ted answered questions about telework and reassured members that even before the pandemic, PECG continues to advocate for telework to allow Unit 9 employees a work life balance. Ted also shared that PECG’s bargaining team added a new member. Wasim Ali a CARB employee was recently appointed to the Bargaining Committee, congratulations to Wasim. There are currently six seats on the Bargaining Committee. Ryan Atencio and Wasim Ali, both of CARB employees fill two of these seats. The remaining seats are held by Caltrans employees. The chair of the committee is D’Arcy Mcleod, Caltrans Transportation Engineer in the Marysville Section.

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**Figure 4. Members meeting with guest speaker Ted Toppin**

**August 16 Member Meet and Greet Dinner at Loyal Legion:** The Fort Sutter officer held an off-site meet and greet at Loyal Legion in Downtown Sacramento. The event was a chance for members to mingle and enjoy free craft drinks and endless trips to the build your own street taco bar that also included a flavorful fresh charcuterie board and yummy cheesecakes. The Fort Sutter section plan to host more meet and greets for our members in 2024. Stay tuned!

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**Fort Sutter PEGC Divestment Resolution:** At their monthly officer meeting, on July 6, 2023, Fort Sutter PEGC officers approved and adopted the Fort Sutter PEGC Divestment Resolution calling for the divestment of retirement funds from fossil fuel companies. At the meeting, officers discussed the potential for PEGC Corporate to do more to combat climate change as the state aims for carbon neutrality targets outlined in law signed by Governor Newsom in 2022. In the resolution, Fort Sutter PEGC officers urged PEGC leadership to collaborate and call on CalPERS to divest retirement funds from all publicly traded fossil fuel companies. Hard copies of the signed and executed resolution were mailed to California State Assembly Speaker Robert A. Rivas, California State Senate President pro Tempore Toni Adkins, California Governor Gavin Newsom, and PEGC President Mark Sheahan. As of today, no other PEGC section has adopted a similar resolution that urges PEGC to do more about climate change and urges CalPERS to divest retirement funds from all publicly traded fossil fuel companies.

Fort Sutter PEGC has pursued resolutions in the past as a tool to usher change. Information about Fort Sutter PEGC’s March 2022 resolution condemning the Russian Federation invasion of Ukraine is available in the June 2022 quarterly report for 2022. Please contact us at [fspecg@gmail.com](mailto:fspecg@gmail.com) for a copy.

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>PE</b> PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT <b>CG</b> FORT SUTTER SECTION</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fort Sutter PEGC Divestment Resolution</b></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, climate change is impacting Fort Sutter PEGC members today due to more severe wildfires caused by climate change that have led to increased power shutoffs, wildfire smoke, impacts to human health and safety, and poor air quality;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, as climate change worsens, it will further impact California through public health risks, damage to property and infrastructure, disruption of food systems, life-threatening events, and impaired natural resources;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, California confronts five major hazards as the result of climate change: higher average temperatures and periods of extreme heat, more frequent and intense droughts, increased risk of floods, more severe wildfires, and coastal flooding and erosion;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, there is a global scientific consensus that continued use of fossil fuels will only exacerbate the violent and long term impacts of climate change;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, climate change poses an immediate and long-term threat to all working people and their families, our communities, and our economic security;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, the state of California has enacted legislation and regulatory measures to directly promote a low-carbon and no-carbon technology transition;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, there is work to be done by every union to combat climate change, protect and prepare our communities for the impact of climate change, and actively engage in the fight for policy changes that promote sustainability, environmental protection, and the creation of well-paying clean energy jobs;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, the majority of recently surveyed Fort Sutter PEGC members support PEGC to do more to address the impacts of climate change;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, engineering jobs, salaries, and pension investments can all be impacted by stranded asset risks as well as costs of infrastructure needed to further mitigate and adapt to climate change effects;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, divestment from fossil fuels is a powerful signal to show our support for a clean energy future and to protect our retirement savings;</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>PE</b> PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT <b>CG</b> FORT SUTTER SECTION</p> </div> <p><b>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Fort Sutter chapter of Professional Engineers in California Government supports the call for divestment of our retirement funds from fossil fuel companies;</li> <li>2. Fort Sutter PEGC urges our PEGC corporate leadership to further take action to divest our retirement funds from fossil fuel companies;</li> <li>3. Fort Sutter PEGC urges the CalPERS Board of Directors to divest from all publicly traded fossil fuel companies;</li> <li>4. Fort Sutter PEGC urges like-minded public-employee unions to support divestment from all publicly traded fossil fuel companies;</li> <li>5. Fort Sutter PEGC urges the State of California to divest from fossil fuel companies;</li> <li>6. Fort Sutter PEGC will sign-on in support of Senate Bill 252 (Gonzales); and</li> <li>7. Fort Sutter PEGC will transmit copies of this resolution to the PEGC corporate leadership, the Chief Executive Officer of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), the Assembly Speaker, and the Senate President pro Tempore of the California State Legislature.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aman Bains</i> Aman Bains President, Fort Sutter PEGC</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Julie Cooper</i> Julie Cooper, Secretary, Fort Sutter PEGC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adopted; Date <u>July 06</u>, 2023      YES: <u>6</u> Votes, NO: <u>0</u> Votes, Abstain: <u>1</u></p>
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Figure 5. Examples of Divestment Resolution

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**Fort Sutter Office Hours:** The Fort Sutter office hours program was created in 2022 to give members a chance to talk with a PEGC officer at most once each week to ensure that concerns about union-relevant issues can be documented and better addressed by the union. This has been a highly successful endeavor, particularly in bringing forth concerns/issues from members related to telework policy and return-to-work requirements by departments. These concerns/issues have been shared with PEGC Corporate and the Bargaining Committee Team. Fort Sutter plans to continue this program throughout 2024 and will continue to share information with PEGC Corporate as issues/concerns arise. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for how we can improve our office hours program to make it more effective.

### **Other Useful Information**

**Mass Transit and Vanpool Commute Subsidy:** This subsidy increased from \$280 to \$300 per month for all Unit 9 employees. The \$300 subsidy may be used for public transit passes sold by state agencies or purchased directly by Unit 9 employees. The subsidy is also available to vanpool drivers and riders. Check the MOU for more details.

**PEGC 2022-25 MOU:** Printed copies of PEGC's 2022-2025 MOU are available for delivery by request. For a printed copy, please complete the MOU [request form from the PEGC website](#). The MOU is also available [electronically](#) at the PEGC website.

**Groundbreaking: Non-Industrial Disability Insurance – Family Care Leave (NDI-FCL) Program:** For the first time, rank and file bargaining unit members are to receive improved benefits in the NDI-FCL program. The MOU includes substantially expanded leave benefits for represented employees. Effective, July 1, 2023, and at no cost to employees, rank and file employees who are enrolled in the Annual Leave Program will be eligible for the leave as described. Employees will receive 50 percent of their gross salary for up to six weeks of leave. NDI-FCL allows eligible employees to care for a seriously ill family member or bond with a newborn child, adopted child or foster care placement.

Please contact [pecg@pecg.org](mailto:pecg@pecg.org) for further details if Administrative Service Division is not able to provide any information.

**Fort Sutter Section Website:** On the website, members will find: Overview of services & programs, PEGC history, Fort Sutter officers and their duties, FAQs & reports, information for supervisors and managers, committees, a link to PEGC member discounts, and a link to the PEGC Corporate website. Please visit us at <http://fortsutterpecg.org>.

**Members Benefits:** PEGC provides a variety of discount services to its members. Benefits are available online after logging in on the password-protected members only section of this website: <http://pecg.org/benefits/consumer-discounts/>. Please call the PEGC Sacramento office at (916) 446-0400 to acquire a member password if you do not have one.

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### What's Coming Up Next Quarter

**Another Section Event:** In the next coming weeks, your Fort Sutter Officers will be reviewing our budget and brainstorming ideas for 2024 events. Popular events from the past have included visits to the California Academy of Sciences Museum in San Francisco, rafting on the American River, minigolf, and dizzying spins at Bay Area amusement parks. We will need your input for more ideas for upcoming member events. Start thinking of ideas and keep an eye out for a member survey. Details of events will be available in Q1 of 2024 section report.

**Election of Officers for 2023-2024:** Details on our new section officers will be released in our fourth quarter report.

**Want to get more involved?** Please contact Fort Sutter President Aman Bains at [aman.bains@arb.ca.gov](mailto:aman.bains@arb.ca.gov) or any member of the Fort Sutter Board if you are interested in being more involved. If you have any thoughts about what you would like to see from our section in 2024, contact [fspecg@gmail.com](mailto:fspecg@gmail.com).

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**For More Information, Visit Us**

<http://fortsutterpecg.org>

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