

## 2023 December Quarterly Report – Q4

### Section Officers

*Aman Bains*  
**Director**

*Jeff Kessler*  
**President**

*Steven Johnson*  
**President-Elect**

*Jacob Englander*  
**VP Supervisory**

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

*Julie Cooper*  
**Secretary**

*Kyle Bly*  
**Treasurer**

*Aman Bains*  
**Web-Cordinator**

### On September 29, 2023, the following Fort Sutter Section Officers Took the Oath of Office for the 2023–2024 Term



**FS Director  
Aman Bains**

**FS President  
Jeff Kessler**

**FS President-Elect  
Steven Johnson**



**FS VP Supervisory  
Jacob Englander**

**FS VP Rank & File  
Stephen Chastain**

**FS Secretary  
Julie Cooper**

**FS Treasurer  
Kyle Bly**

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 891 members and 413 non-members. Our rank and file, supervisors, and managers are from the following BDO's:

- California Air Resources Board (605 members),
- California Highway Patrol (5 members),
- Department of Transportation [Caltrans] (1 member),
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (39 members),
- Department of Consumer Affairs (17 members),

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- Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (18 members),
- 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 the Military (1 member),
- Department of Motor Vehicles (5 members),
- California Environmental Protection Agency (4 members),
- Division of the State Architect (2 members),
- Healthcare Access and Information (44 members), and
- Department of Toxic Substance Control (105 members)

Fort Sutter membership has increased by just over 10% when compared to the third 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 overwhelmingly performed by State staff and not outsourced to private consultants.

### **Membership Recruitment Incentive**

Fort Sutter Section is planning quarterly recruitment “phone bank” events for the new term. The first recruitment event this quarter occurred on October 11th at Der Biergarten in Midtown Sacramento. We met with laptops and contacted non-members throughout the evening.

We know that union membership strengthens PEGC’s bargaining power. Improving our membership numbers will increase our bargaining power for better provisions for our MOU contracts. This is especially important as the current MOU expires in June 2025. We are only as strong as our membership is large. Recruitment will continue to be a primary goal for the Fort Sutter Section.

**Do you know someone that’s 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 a \$200 referral bonus. Please get in touch with Fort Sutter PEGC officers if you would like to learn more!

### **Fourth Quarter Highlights**

**Fort Sutter Hybrid Office Hours:** On Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Fort Sutter held its first hybrid office hours of the new quarter on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Cal-EPA Building in Downtown Sacramento. Fort Sutter created its office hours in 2022 to give members a chance to talk with a PEGC officer about member concerns for union- relevant issues. The hybrid office is open twice monthly and combines in-person and teleconferencing to reach more members each month. For those attending in-person, pizza was provided. Member concerns are frequently shared with PEGC Corporate and the Bargaining Committee

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Team. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for how we can improve our office hours program to make it more effective.

**Meet & Greet Event with Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** The Fort Sutter Section is hosting a pizza lunch meeting for PECG members and potential members at Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). After the California Air Resources Board (CARB), DTSC is the second largest sub-group within the Fort Sutter Section. With many of our members teleworking, it is important to find opportunities to meet in-person and renew our relationship with members across the Fort Sutter Section.

**Semi-Annual Membership Appreciation Event – Sacramento Kings verses the San Antonio Spurs – February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024:** Fort Sutter Section is in the midst of planning our Semi-Annual Membership Appreciation Event. Members will be able to purchase up to two (2) tickets at the subsidized rate of \$42 each for the lower corner seats and \$15 each for the upper corner seats. 295 tickets in total are available for this event. Stay tuned for highlights.

**Retirement Announcement – Tom Byerly from CDCR:** Tom Byerly is a licensed Electrical Engineer and has served the State of California for twenty-five years. He came to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) by way of the California Youth Authority, when that agency was made part of CDCR. While his last days in the office will be in December 2023, his date of separation from the State will be in February 2024. Tom has been recognized by PECG with a certificate signed by PECG Corporate President Brad Shelton, a “RED” PECG retirement pin, and an inscribed acrylic paperweight recognizing his 25 years of dedicated public service to the citizens of the State of California.



### Other Useful Information



**PECG 2022-25 MOU:** The PECG 2022-2025 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expires on July 1st, 2025. Until then, members can request printed copies of the PECG MOU at [PECG.org](https://www.pecg.org). For a printed copy, please complete the [MOU request form from the PECG website](#). The MOU is also available [electronically](#) through the website at [PECG.org](https://www.pecg.org). Some of the items in this MOU are:

- **General Salary Increase:** There have been three General Salary Increases (GSI) in this MOU. The next GSI will be a 2% increase on July 1, 2024.
- **Longevity Pay:** Longevity pay is significantly improved to 2% raise at 17 years, 3% at 18 years, 4% at 19 years, and 5.5% at 20 years.

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- **Geographic Pay:** Contra Costa County is added to the current list of counties for which employees are eligible to receive the \$250 per month geographic pay differential.
- **Range C Salary Increases:** The MOU allots \$24 million for a joint PEGC and State Committee to mutually decide on special salary adjustments for 13 Range C classifications within deep classes.
- **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. 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 your Administrative Service Division is not able to provide any 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.

Check the [PECG.org](http://PECG.org) website for more MOU provisions and benefits available to members.

### Little Known PEGC MOU Information – Article 18.5 Bulletin Boards

*“PEGC shall be provided adequate space to post material on State-furnished bulletin boards which are located at easily accessible locations at each work site of employees in the bargaining unit.”*



CDCR recently received permission to locate a PEGC bulletin board within the breakroom of the Architecture and Engineering Section where many of PEGC’s members at CDCR are located. If you would like information on how to obtain a bulletin board for your work site, contact FS President-Elect Steven Johnson at [Steven.Johnson@cdr.ca.gov](mailto:Steven.Johnson@cdr.ca.gov).

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### Still More Useful 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.

**Want to get more involved?** Please contact Fort Sutter President Jeff Kessler at [Jeff.Kessler@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Jeff.Kessler@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 the Fort Sutter section in 2024, contact us via email at [fspecg@gmail.com](mailto:fspecg@gmail.com).

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**For More Information, Visit Us**

<http://fortsutterpecg.org>

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