

## State News for NSPE Members

### NSPE-CA Member Lt. Cmdr. Garrett Chun, P.E., Named FEYA Finalist

NSPE-CA member Lt. Cmdr. Garrett Chun, P.E., was named as the US Department of Interior National Park Service [2020 Federal Engineer of the Year](#). The award honors the best and brightest engineers employed at federal agencies.



Chun is the Design & Construction Branch Chief at Yosemite National Park. At his duty station in Mariposa, California, he serves as a Public Health Service officer, holding positions as a technical engineer, project manager, and supervisor. One of Chun's most notable achievements was the completion of a \$1.6 million decentralized wastewater treatment system to replace an outdated, malfunctioning setup. Complementing his planning, design, and construction manager duties for that project, he facilitated research using student interns to perform hydraulic modeling, groundwater monitoring, and soil profiling.

He was also park coordinator for the recent construction of \$17 million in sewerage infrastructure improvements that accommodate two communities and visitors traveling to Yosemite Valley. In addition to his professional duties, Chun volunteers on a management team aimed at improving staff housing conditions and promoting sustainable practices.

Timothy Sullivan, Ph.D., P.E., of the US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, was named the 2020 Federal Engineer of the Year at the

national award ceremony on February 14 in Washington, D.C. Chun was recognized at the ceremony as a top 10 finalist.

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## Threats to Licensure in California

What are the threats to licensure that could affect professional engineers and engineering in California? NSPE's [State Watch tool](#) allows easy drilling down by state, with threats categorized as

- Active threat—introduced in the current legislative session;
- Potential threat—prior licensure threats that could resurface;
- Enacted—signed into law;
- Consumer choice bill—allows unlicensed persons to practice professions that require licensure;
- Right to engage in a lawful occupation act—often assumes market competition is sufficient to protect the public and that licensure is unnecessary.

[Learn about the latest threats and potential threats in California.](#)

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## New Tools Available for PE Advocates

As “occupational reform” bills spring up across the country and put professional licensing at risk, an NSPE-formed coalition has prepared a useful resource kit that can be used by PE advocates to set the record straight.

The [Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing](#) is working to remind lawmakers that highly complex and technical professions, like engineering, rely on a rigorous system to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It's this rigor that clearly sets these professions apart from the vocational occupations that lawmakers often cite in defense of their efforts to weaken licensing requirements.

You can learn more about the threat in an ARPL-produced [webinar](#) covering the organization's background, its work on behalf of highly technical licensed professions, and the state advocacy tools it's created.

You'll also find advocacy and messaging resources on the [main page](#) of the public Drop Box, titled “State Partner Tools and Resources (ARPL).” On this page, you'll see folders for Key Messages and Talking Points, Lawmaker Outreach Handouts, Public Opinion Research, Sample Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds, Social Media, State Specific Folders, Video Files, and a folder for the webinar.

In addition to NSPE, alliance members include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Civil

Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

*If you have questions, please contact Margaret Edwards at [medwards@nspe.org](mailto:medwards@nspe.org).*

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## Duo Sentenced in LA County Unlicensed Practice, Fraud Case

Two former engineering firm employees were sentenced to a year in county jail on March 9 by a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge after being convicted on multiple counts related to forgery, identity theft, and grand theft in November.

Wilfredo Rodriquez and Ruben Gutierrez were employed at Palos Verdes Engineering where they forged the signature of a licensed engineer on plans and documents for residential and commercial renovation and construction projects in more than 50 cities over the course of seven years, according to a March 10 *Downey Patriot* news article.

Neither Rodriquez, a former engineering drafter, or Gutierrez, a former architectural designer, were licensed designed professionals. They were convicted on more than 200 felony counts and will be on probation for five years after serving their time. They must also complete more than 100 days of community labor.

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## Climate Change Special Issue

As climate change effects proliferate, professional engineers are taking on the crisis. They're working to provide solutions as part of their responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The [March/April issue of PE magazine](#) includes three articles highlighting PEs' work in this area:

- ["Climate Changers"](#) –Young engineers feel a responsibility to take action on climate with their work—and they're increasingly choosing to work for companies that share this perspective.
- ["Harsh Realities Drive Adaptation"](#) – Cities are targeting climate-change impacts with comprehensive policies. Professional engineers and AEC firms are showing that their expertise can help bring these plans to fruition.



- “A Grand Challenge Needs to Inspire Grand Solutions” – Professional engineers have an abundance of opportunities to invent creative, innovative solutions to issues surrounding environmental sustainability and resilience.

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## Share Your Views on the Engineering Profession

Do you support the elimination of state licensure exemptions? Should states align their licensing requirements to help PEs easily practice in multiple jurisdictions? Does your place of employment welcome diverse perspectives?

These are just some of the issues facing the professional engineering community. NSPE encourages you to provide your perspectives on these topics and more by participating in the [2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey](#).

The 15-minute survey is open to NSPE members, engineering students, and engineering professionals. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards.

The results of the survey will be made available to participants and will also be shared in *PE* magazine and other NSPE publications.

[Access the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.](#)

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## Communication on Your Terms: Update Your Preferences

The screenshot shows the 'My Account' page for Mrs Rhoda Chari. It includes a profile picture with an 'EDIT' button, member details (MemberID: 300182816, Membership Expiration Date: 12/31/2019, 1420 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2794, zrchari@nspe.org), and a 'My Account Links' sidebar. Red arrows point to 'Step 1: Update your profile' (pointing to 'EDIT CONTACT INFO', 'EDIT DEMOGRAPHICS', 'RENEW NOW', 'CHANGE PASSWORD') and 'Step 2: Select your email preferences' (pointing to 'NSPE COMMUNITIES', 'STATE HOME', 'ENTERPRISE ADMIN').

NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to [review their member profile and update their information](#).

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly

what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order to make this possible, all members' email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

[Update information and preferences.](#)

**Share with your network**



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