

State News for NSPE Members

Welcome New NSPE-CA Members

NSPE-CA would like to give a warm welcome to our newest professional members!

September 2023

Charles Burt, P.E., professor emeritus of irrigation, San Luis Obispo

Ryan Johnson, P.E., energy engineer at SitelogIQ, Rancho Cordova

August 2023

Peter Lloyd, laboratory engineer, Berkeley Engineering and Research, Berkeley

Rus Pangilinan, of Northrop Grumman, San Diego

Joseph Garcia, recent graduate, mechanical engineering, UC Irvine

State Licensing Board News and Activities

Governor Seeks to Fill Board Vacancy

The Governor's Office is currently accepting applications for the vacant **mechanical engineer seat** on the [California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists](#). Interested individuals can visit the [governor's appointments webpage](#) for more information on how to submit an application for consideration.

WANTED: Expert Consultants for Review of Enforcement Cases

The board is seeking licensed independent expert consultants to help protect the public by reviewing enforcement cases. For more information visit the [technical experts recruitment page](#).

Upcoming Meeting

The board will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, October 3**.

Examinations

Effective January 1, 2024, the state-specific Civil Engineer exams, Engineering Surveying (CES) and Seismic Principles (CSP), will be implementing a new test

plan. Both the new and the current test plans are available on the [board website](#).

\$300 Million to Prepare State's Groundwater Infrastructure for Climate Change

California will spend about \$300 million to prepare a vast groundwater and farming infrastructure system for the growing impacts of climate change, [Courthouse News Service reports](#).

California Department of Water Resources recently announced that it has awarded \$187 million to 32 groundwater sub-basins, which store water for future use that mainly flows from valuable snowmelt, through the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program.

Governor Gavin Newsom also announced that California's Department of Food and Agriculture will award more than \$106 million in grants to 23 organizations, which will design and implement new carbon sequestration and irrigation efficiency projects.

The funding will support 103 projects to enhance groundwater monitoring and recharge, water use efficiency, recycled water capacity and water quality improvement to support local sustainable groundwater management. More than \$160 million will directly benefit tribes and underrepresented communities, the state promised.

The state is still recovering from years of historic drought. Despite a record-breaking winter of unprecedented storms and snow, state experts say many of California's 515 groundwater basins have a long way to go to replenish what has been lost due to years of overpumping. Many communities rely on groundwater basins for water, particularly during periods of drought when surface water is severely depleted. [Read more](#).

California Legislature Passes Slate of Energy, Environment Bills

At midnight on Thursday, September 14, California lawmakers put their pencils down. The legislative session had come to a close in Sacramento, and elected officials had approved a whole bunch of climate change, energy, and environment bills — and rejected others. *The Los Angeles Times* offers up a [brief roundup of some of the highest-profile legislation](#) that will head to Governor Newsom's desk for signature or veto by October 14.

Join NSPE-CA for Upcoming Events

Registration Coming Soon!

October 26, 2023

(Noon – 1:00 p.m.)

Transbay Joint Powers Authority (Zoom)

Updates on Downtown Rail Extension/The Portal

November 30, 2023

(Noon-1:00 p.m.)

BPELSG License Enforcement Issues (Zoom)

December 8, 2023

(10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Sierra Nevada Brewery Tour - Chico, California

TBD January 2024

(Noon -1:00 p.m.)

Ethics Issues (Zoom)

February 19, 2024

San Diego Engineers Week Awards Banquet

February 22, 2024

(Noon - 1:00 p.m.)

Careers with Caltrans (Zoom)

As details are finalized and registration opens, events and links will be listed on the [NSPE-CA home page](#).

Events Task Force Meetings

All NSPE-CA members are invited to participate in events planning sessions as their schedules allow. The next sessions will take place from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on **October 10**, **November 7**, and **December 5**. Email Executive Director Jeanne Marie Tokunaga, CAE, at admin@nspe-ca.org to receive the Zoom login information.



NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

Featured Jobs

[Public Works Director/Town Engineer](#)

Woodside, CA

[Generation Services Engineer](#)

Roseville, CA

[Civil Engineer](#)

San Rafael, CA

[Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Workability Webinars Series to Focus on Emerging Tech

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The first webinar of this season took place on September 13 - [How New PFAS Regulations Will Impact Water and Wastewater Utilities](#). A webinar on [What Utilities Want Fleets to Know About Moving to Electric Vehicles](#) will take place on September 27.



NSPE members get free access to the webinars, but must register to attend. Visit

the [PE Institute](#) to review the full series line-up and to mark your calendar for these live, online events.

Registration Open: 2023 NSPE Women's Leadership Virtual Fall Symposium

Join us for these live, one-time events to hear from experts in the field and join your colleagues in important discussions organized by NSPE's Women Leadership Program Task Force: [The Cost of Leadership](#); [Leading Yourself: Learning to Increase Your Emotional Intelligence](#); and [Networking Strategies: An Unconventional Approach to Connecting with Others](#) . The webinars will take place on October 12, October 19, and October 26 at 1:00 p.m. (ET). This exclusive package is free and includes all three live, one-time sessions. The sessions will not be recorded and PDH credits will not be issued for them.

[Register now.](#)

#NSPECon23 Revisited

NSPECon23 provided an opportunity to learn and build community in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky. Find photos from the All Things Louisville reception, the first-time attendee mixer, PE Day celebrations, recognition and installation ceremonies, and more on [NSPE's Flickr account](#) . Relive the fun and excitement with all your PE peers that gathered to celebrate the engineering profession.



Save the Date: NSPECon24—Raleigh, North Carolina—August 7–9



A False Solution for Our Workforce Challenges

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) recently posted an opinion column that highlights the risks of weakening professional licensing requirements to address workforce challenges. NSPE is a member of ARPL.

Workforce shortages, talent pipelines at a trickle and expensive labor are all-too-familiar challenges facing businesses and the public sector. In an attempt to tackle these problems, there is a growing trend of exploring the weakening or elimination of certain key job requirements. These proposals include getting rid of college degree requirements without equivalency alternatives, doing away with requisite testing, and downgrading credentials and licensure for professionals.

To be sure, there are some elements of the occupational licensure process that require continuous improvement and elimination of impediments disparately impacting underrepresented groups. However, in the rush to address workforce challenges, legislators and other policymakers must be cautious not to create new problems that leave employers and the public at risk.

Weakening professional licensing requirements is a false solution to various workforce ills. Minimum qualifications ensured by licensing exist to protect employers and the public they serve. This is particularly important for technical professions with high public impact, such as architecture, certified public

accountancy, engineering, landscape architecture and land surveying. Care must be taken to ensure that critical licensing systems for such professions, designed to ensure public and economic protection, are not compromised and swept up in broad-brush calls for occupational licensing reform. [Read more](#) .

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22314**

