

State News for NSPE Members

Registration Open: The Portal Presentation (Zoom) – Thursday, October 26

Join NSPE-California and the Transbay Joint Powers Authority for a [one-hour virtual information session on The Portal](#), also known as the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX). Attendees will learn more about the Portal and hear about upcoming procurements.

The Portal is a transformational infrastructure investment that will extend Caltrain commuter rail from its current terminus at Fourth and King streets and ultimately deliver the California High-Speed Rail Authority's statewide service to the multimodal Salesforce Transit Center in downtown San Francisco. [Register Now!](#)

Registration Coming Soon for Upcoming Events!

November 30, 2023

(Noon-1:00 p.m.)

BPESG 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 **November 7** and **December 5**. Email Executive Director Jeanne Marie Tokunaga, CAE, at admin@nspe-ca.org to receive the Zoom login information.

Welcome New NSPE-CA Members

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

October 2023

Christopher Wittman, P.E., Commander, Operations Flight, USAF, Lompoc

September 2023

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

Jakob Erdmann, EIT, civil engineer, Erdmann Services LLC, Windsor, Missouri

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

NSPE-CA Board of Directors Meeting

All NSPE-CA members are invited to attend board meetings. The next meeting will take place on **Friday, November 3** (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Email Executive Director Jeanne Marie Tokunaga, CAE, at admin@nspe-ca.org to receive the Zoom login information. Save the dates for future meetings in 2024: January 19 (virtual), April 19 (virtual), and July 13 (in-person in Pasadena with a virtual option).

State Licensing Board Meeting

The [California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists](#) will hold its next meeting **November 16-17** at the Carpinteria Sanitary District (Boardroom 5300 Sixth Street Carpinteria, CA 93013). Access meeting information [here](#).

California Selected as a National Hydrogen Hub

California will receive up to \$1.2 billion from the US Department of Energy to accelerate the development and deployment of clean renewable hydrogen, critical to cutting pollution, and expanding the clean energy economy statewide.

California will use the funds to build or expand hydrogen projects that will power public transportation, heavy-duty trucks, port operations, and more. The funds will allow the state to ramp up its leadership in clean energy technology to produce hydrogen exclusively from renewable energy and biomass. [Read more.](#)

Zero-Emission, Hydrogen Passenger Trains Coming to California

Caltrans has signed an \$80 million contract with Stadler Rail, Inc. to deliver the first zero-emission, hydrogen intercity passenger trains in North America, furthering California's standing as a world leader in clean transportation.

The vehicles will be based on Stadler's Fast Light Intercity and Regional Train concept, extending work done with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority to develop self-powered multiple-unit trains using zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells without the need of a separate locomotive. The purchase is funded through a \$10 billion, multiyear zero-emission vehicle package, which included \$407 million for the California State Transportation Agency to demonstrate and purchase or lease state-of-the-art clean bus and rail equipment and infrastructure.

The contract includes a base order of \$80 million for the first four trainsets with options for up to 25 additional trainsets that can be used throughout California. The base order is expected to primarily operate between Merced and Sacramento on the expanded San Joaquin and Altamont Corridor Express Valley Rail services that will also connect with the early high-speed rail service between Merced and Bakersfield. [Read more.](#)



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

Deputy City Engineer

Madera, CA

Principal Civil Engineer

Jurupa Valley, CA

Deputy Director of Public Works

(Wastewater Treatment Plant)

Pacifica, 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](#).

Looking Toward a Promising Future

By Bill Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2023–24



As I continue on my professional journey as the NSPE president, I often reflect on what our organization has done since its founding in 1934 and what NSPE needs to do going forward. The next stage of NSPE's future begins with our vision to ensure that the public lives in a world where engineering decisions are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. This will require that a unified engineering community step up to protect licensure laws across the nation and maintain high standards for professional practice. It will require that we embrace innovation and emerging technologies. This future will be bolstered by a new generation of engineers that we must encourage to understand that they can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my part and supporting others in these efforts.

Licensure and Emerging Technologies

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare is at our core as professional engineers. Licensure is key to ensuring consistent standards of practice and professional competencies. We must make sure that these standards and

competencies remain relevant to how we do things today, while looking toward the future.

We must continually question ourselves and the regulations that are in place. Are state licensing laws adequately regulating the profession of engineering without precluding otherwise qualified individuals from practicing? Is our current licensure model adequately serving its purpose? Are engineering licensure exemptions creating gaps where the public could be harmed? The answers to these questions can help drive us to better ways of safeguarding the public.

I believe that most individuals that become engineers do so because they are good at making things better. They are not tied to the world they are in today and are always pursuing excellence and improvement. I believe that by pooling our experiences as engineers, we can bring the best and brightest together to tackle any challenge that we may face as we seek to evolve. This evolution will involve the development and use of emerging technologies to spur innovative solutions. NSPE is supporting members by providing professional development that showcases the use of these technologies in a manner that is ethical and will benefit the public. [Read more.](#)

NSPECon24 – Call for Presentation Proposals

Prepare to share your expertise during NSPECon24 in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9, 2024. [Review the topics](#) NSPE seeks in the areas of career development, leadership, and issues and trends, and think about how you can contribute. The submission site will open on November 1 and the proposal deadline is **January 10, 2024**.

The [NSPECon23 program](#) is still available online and may give potential presenters some ideas about the caliber of sessions needed for next year.

Volunteers are the Heart of NSPE: Get Involved and Share Your Voice



Volunteers are essential to advancing NSPE's vision to ensure a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for members to grow their professional network and connect with other leaders in the field.

There are [several ways to get involved](#)...here a few opportunities to consider

Serve as a mentor for an engineering student. If interested, send an email to education@nspe.org.

NSPE online community champion. Virtual opportunity to promote community and sharing of ideas through NSPE's online channels. If interested, send an email to membership@nspe.org.

Write an article for *PE* magazine. Share your expertise and insights on professional practice, education, ethics, leadership, licensure, public policy, DEI, emerging technologies, and sustainability and resilience by serving as a guest writer for *PE* magazine. If interested, email pemagazine@nspe.org for submission guidelines.

Collaborate with staff to draft/supply input on federal legislation, regulations or public comments to federal Congressional staff and committees (Identify your area(s) of vocational expertise.) If interested, send an email to governmentrelations@nspe.org.

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