

State News for NSPE Members

Mailed License Renewal Notices Are Going Away

Watch for notices from the licensing board to register in new online system.

A message from the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists:

As many of you know, in early 2020 the board initiated the development of a new application/licensing system designed to facilitate the submittal of applications and management of license(s) through an online portal, known as BPELSG Connect. The first release resulting from this development launched in September 2020 with online engineer-in-training and land surveyor-in-training applications in addition to online complaint submittals.

The board anticipates that renewal of existing licenses will be included in the next release, which is scheduled to occur in early 2021. Traditionally, license holders have become accustomed to receiving a renewal notification in the mail around 30-60 days prior to their license renewal date, on a biennial basis. These notices are printed and mailed by a state agency, through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) on behalf of the board. Due to circumstances outside of the board's or DCA's control, this other agency will discontinue production and distribution of the printed renewal notices sometime during 2021.

Once renewal functionality in the next release of BPELSG Connect becomes publicly available, it will be imperative for each individual license holder to register a new profile in the system as soon as possible to ensure that future renewal notices are received by each license holder in a timely and efficient manner.

It is anticipated that during registration, the license holder will:

- Confirm contact information including address of record
- Link their profile to their existing license(s)
- Verify receipt of a confirmation email

The board believes that this initial process should only require approximately 10

minutes of the license holder's time to complete and will be well worth that time to ensure that each license holder is properly served in an effective manner during this transition.

PE application and renewal fees increase on January 1

The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists is increasing PE application fees from \$125 to \$175 and renewal fees from \$115 to \$180, beginning January 1, 2021.

The board is standardizing fees for services to all professions it regulates and is addressing the structural imbalances in its budget to ensure future solvency. It has also clarified under what circumstances certificates, including duplicate certificates, will be issued. This regulatory action becomes effective on January 1, 2021.

[Access the full text of the changes \(in the links under the second paragraph\).](#)

California Commission Approves \$2 Billion for Infrastructure Projects

The California Transportation Commission has approved \$2 billion for 56 new projects, some of which aim to improve the movement of goods and reduce congestion. These projects are supported by three programs that were created by the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, according to a *Transport Topics* article.

The legislation, also known as Senate Bill 1, raised the tax for diesel by 20 cents to 36 cents per gallon and for gasoline by 12 cents to 41.7 cents per gallon. "These projects are going to benefit California in multiple important ways," said Commission Chairman Hilary Norton. "This will be a game changer for transportation in California, especially as the state moves toward making travel on all of these modes cleaner."

[Read more.](#)

State to Offer \$500 Million in COVID-19 Business Relief Funds

More financial relief is on the way for businesses taking repeated hits from the COVID-19 pandemic, under a series of programs announced by Governor Gavin Newsom.

California is developing a new \$500 million Covid Relief Grant program for small businesses impacted by the pandemic, according to the *Sacramento Business*

Journal. The program would provide grants of up to \$25,000 to small businesses and nonprofits. The funds would be distributed through community development financial institutions and could arrive by early next year, according to the governor's office.

[Read more.](#)

Pathway to 100% Clean Electricity Begins to Take Shape, but Reliability Concerns Persist

The California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, and California Air Resources Board released a draft report on getting to a 2045 clean electricity portfolio, which indicated that the goal is technically achievable, according to a *Utility Dive* article.

But multiple stakeholders raised the need to think hard about system reliability at a joint agency workshop, including Jim Shetler, general manager at the Balancing Authority of Northern California. “[W]e support California’s greenhouse gas reduction goals as defined in SB 100—with the understanding that implementation needs to be balanced against the equally important requirements of safety, reliability and affordability,” Shetler said.

[Read more.](#)

A Jump Start on the Hydrogen Fuel Economy

Since President George W. Bush fueled a minivan with hydrogen 15 years ago, the promise of cars and trucks powered by the fuel has come up mostly empty. That hydrogen pump, in Washington, closed long ago. But in California, the beginnings of a hydrogen economy may finally be dawning after many fits and starts, according to a *New York Times* report.

Dozens of hydrogen buses are lumbering down city streets, while more and larger fueling stations are appearing from San Diego to San Francisco, financed by the state and federal governments. With the costs of producing and shipping hydrogen coming down, California is setting ambitious goals to phase out vehicles that run on fossil fuels in favor of batteries and hydrogen. Large auto and energy companies like Toyota Motor and Royal Dutch Shell have committed to supplying more cars and fueling stations.

“In past cycles, there was always something missing,” said Matthew Blieske, Shell’s global hydrogen product manager. “There was a policy missing, or the technology wasn’t quite ready, or people were not so serious about

decarbonization. We don't see those barriers anymore.”

[Read more.](#)

A recent San Francisco Chronicle article also highlights the growth in advocacy for hydrogen powered cars.



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.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

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

**NSPE Government Relations Staff Releases 2020
Advocacy Report**

NSPE's Government Relations staff has released its year-end report—**By the Numbers**—a semi-deep dive into how advocacy campaigns performed, which issues staff tracked and how often, and which members of Congress were most and least supportive of NSPE issues.

The report provides summaries of lessons learned and establishes best practices. It also draws some fact-based conclusions on who are NSPE allies on the Hill, and which offices need a little more prompting before they get on board. It's an excellent capstone to an unexpected and difficult, but ultimately successful year!

[Access the report.](#)

Education Foundation Celebrates 60 Years of Giving Back



For 60 years, the NSPE Education Foundation has been a major source of support for the educational and ethical practice needs of engineering students, engineering teachers, and practicing professionals.

This past year, the foundation gave out five scholarships to [deserving engineering students](#) and supported young professionals in NSPE's [Emerging Leaders Program](#). In the coming year, the foundation will explore additional programs to broaden its reach and impact, and NSPE member support will mean more than ever before.

In this season of giving, and in honor of the NSPE Education Foundation's 60th anniversary, a donation of \$60 will help further its mission to support students, educators, young professionals, and the profession at large.

[Donate today.](#)

EJCDC Releases New Owner and Engineer Task Order Docs

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released a new document: [EJCDC E-505 2020, Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services—Task Order Edition](#) . This document is available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.

EJCDC E-505 defines individual task orders for specific professional assignments. In a task order, the owner and engineer agree to task-specific terms, such as scope of services, schedule, and compensation, for each specific assignment. When a task order is issued, no drafting or negotiating is needed for provisions such as indemnification, insurance, claims, dispute resolution, suspension, or termination because these provisions will have been negotiated previously and set in place in the E-505 Main Agreement and its exhibits.

The E-505 is designed for multiple or recurring assignments (“tasks”) related to one or several projects; it is similar to the E-500 Agreement Between Owner-Engineer for Professional Services in structure, terminology, and conditions. Updates to the EJCDC E-505 include enhanced and reorganized exhibits to the E-505 main agreement and task order form to reflect evolving contract practice and improve ease of use. This edition is published in four parts, which are included in a downloadable zip file.

[Learn more.](#)

It's Not Too Late: Get Your 15 Free PDHs for 2020

Act now to take advantage of the annual NSPE membership benefit of 15 free PDHs. Access to the [2020 lineup of courses](#) will end after **December 31**.

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.



Don't have time to view the 15 free courses before December 31? Simply “purchase” the webinars by December 31 and add them to your NSPE member account. That way you can view them when you are ready. Webinars in your account can be accessed for up to one year.

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

- [Engineering Ethics: The obligation to conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically and lawfully](#)
- [Drones: The Sky's the Limit](#)
- [How Not to Fail as a Leader](#)
- [Professional Engineer's Role on Application of Artificial Intelligence and Technology](#)
- [Texts and Emails That Fuel Engineering Success](#)

Act now to access the [2020 free courses](#) .

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