

State News for NSPE Members

EPA Restores California's Authority to Enforce Emission Standards

The Environmental Protection Agency has reinstated California's authority under the Clean Air Act to implement its own greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards and zero emission vehicle (ZEV) sales mandate, according to [a news release](#).

This action concludes the agency's reconsideration of 2019's Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule Part One: One National Program Rule (SAFE-1) by finding that the actions taken under the previous administration as a part of SAFE-1 were decided in error and are now entirely rescinded.

With this action, the EPA is also withdrawing the SAFE-1 interpretation of the Clean Air Act that would prohibit other states from adopting the California GHG emission standards. As a result, other states may choose to adopt and enforce California's GHG emission standards in lieu of the federal standards, consistent with section 177 of the Clean Air Act.

California Remains Ahead of Clean Electricity Goals

Data from the California Energy Commission (CEC) shows that 59% of the state's electricity came from renewable and zero-carbon sources in 2020.

The CEC estimates that in 2020, 34.5% of the state's retail electricity sales were served by Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)-eligible sources such as solar and wind. When sources of zero-carbon energy such as large hydroelectric generation and nuclear are included, 59% of the state's retail electricity sales came from non-fossil fuel sources in 2020.

In 2019, over 60% of the state's electricity came from renewable and zero-carbon sources. The decrease in 2020 is due to decline in hydroelectric generation caused by severe drought, as well as pandemic-related delays to new renewable energy projects.

Read more.

Astrolab Unveils Space Rover

A Los Angeles-area startup founded by a veteran spaceflight robotics engineer unveiled its full-scale, working prototype for a next-generation lunar rover that is just as fast as NASA's old "moon buggy" but is designed to do much more, according to [Reuters](#).

The company, Venturi Astrolab Inc, released photos and video showing its Flexible Logistics and Exploration (FLEX) vehicle riding over the rugged California desert near Death Valley National Park during a five-day field test in December.

Astrolab executives say the four-wheeled, car-sized FLEX rover is designed for use in NASA's Artemis program, aimed at returning humans to the moon as early as 2025 and establishing a long-term lunar colony as a precursor to sending astronauts to Mars.



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.

The latest California jobs are pulled from the NSPE Job Board and appear on the NSPE-CA website. New career opportunities are also posted through NSPE-CA social media profiles on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#).

Featured Jobs

Public Works Director

San Bernadino, CA

Assistant/Associate/Associate Civil Engineer

Modesto, CA

Civil/Rail Engineer

Oakland, 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](#).

Meet the 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year



Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named NSPE's [Federal Engineer of the Year](#) during a [virtual awards event](#) on February 24 for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field. The Federal Engineer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide.

Zueck works in the US Department of the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms.

"Every success for me has come out of the hard teamwork of many fellow engineers and scientists," Zueck stated. "I thank them all—particularly those who provided valuable constructive criticism of my rather unique research results."

In a basic research project conducted several years ago, Zueck discovered how geometrically complex vibrations initiate, grow, and sustain themselves, often limiting higher performance for many combat systems. He used this new vibration knowledge to improve the Expeditionary Warfare Center's modeling capability for designing, analyzing, and deploying towed sensors, ship moorings, sub-sea arrays, and other slender naval structures.

"This basic science discovery could be very useful for modeling, simulating, and testing in many other fields of engineering and science," he said.

[Read more.](#)

Mark Your Calendars: 2022 Professional Engineers Conference



August
1-3
2022
Philadelphia, PA
Sheraton Philadelphia
Downtown

The 2022 NSPE [Professional Engineers Conference](#) will bring together professional engineers across disciplines from August 1–3, in Philadelphia at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. Registration for the conference opens in April.

PECON attendees can access specialized content from experts as they discuss issues and trends impacting the profession, develop power skills and life skills not taught in school, and advance their careers by expanding their expertise and preparing for future developments in the industry.

The seventh annual [PE Day](#) will coincide with the conference's culmination on August 3. These two events allow PEs to join their peers in celebration of the profession and advocacy for licensure.

NSPE will continue to monitor health and safety guidelines while we proceed toward hosting this in-person event.

2022 NSPE Student Scholarships Available

Students can apply for the 2022 NSPE Education Foundation scholarships through a new [online submission platform](#). The following scholarships have an **April 1** application deadline:

The [Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering](#) is awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university.

The [Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship](#) is awarded annually to a female undergraduate entering or continuing their junior year of a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program.

The [Steinman Scholarship](#) is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program.

The [George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship](#) is awarded annually to a current engineering undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled in, or graduated

from, an ABET-accredited engineering program.

Coming soon! The [Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship](#) will be a multi-year scholarship, providing \$5,000 each year for the recipient's four-year education. Applicants must be a female high school senior from an ethnic minority pursuing a degree in engineering at an ABET-accredited program.

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