

## State News for NSPE Members

### NSPE-CA and Education Foundation Planning for Hybrid Year

The NSPE-CA and Education Foundation board of directors met in person in October for the first time in more than a year to discuss how to move forward with events, including NSPE-CA meetings and MATHCOUNTS competitions.

NSPE-CA will continue to host online events with the hope of adding in-person events sometime in 2022. [MATHCOUNTS of California](#) official chapter competitions will be online again this year, with some chapters having in-person bonus events to complement the virtual competitions if they can find a suitable venue and enough volunteers, per the National MATHCOUNTS Foundation. State and national competitions are being planned for in person. The boards also discussed how to promote engineering as a profession to MATHCOUNTS Mathletes.

In addition to the board meetings, new officers and board members for both organizations were installed. New to the boards this year are Michael Ozatalar, NSPE-CA vice president, and Kevin Wood, Education Foundation director.



(Pictured left to right): Foundation President Peter Livingston, P.E.; Foundation Director Kevin Wood; NSPE-CA Vice President Michael Ozatalar, P.E.; NSPE-CA

President Joseph Quinn, P.E., and Treasurer (for both organizations) Ken Discenza, P.E. Also in attendance virtually was Foundation Director Ziliang Zhou, Ph.D.

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## **NSPE-CA Hosts Licensing Board Q&A Session**

California engineering licensing board staff joined NSPE-CA members in October for a Q&A session about engineering licensure.

Mike Donelson, P.E., and Natalie King, P.E.—engineering registrars with the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG)—took questions directly from attendees via chat. Questions centered around required exams, meeting the work experience requirement, and NCEES records.

Email addresses for reaching out to the board are now by discipline, including engineers-in-training. Access the list of email addresses for contacting board staff [here](#).

If you missed this opportunity to ask questions directly of BPELSG staff and are interested in participating in such a Q&A in the future, [email NSPE-CA Executive Director Jeanne Marie Tokunaga](#).

### **BPELSG Connect Update**

On November 10, the licensing board released the BPELSG Connect 3.5, which features the addition of application submittal/processing for both civil engineer and land surveyor license types, and refinements to existing application functionality.

In September 2020, the board launched Phase 1 of its new integrated application and license management system. The first phase of the system, known as BPELSG Connect, successfully transitioned the engineer-in-training (EIT) and land surveyor-in-training (LSIT) application process to an online process which can be managed both by the applicant and board staff and additionally launched a new online complaint submittal process.

In January, Phase 2 launched which included the ability for all current license holders to renew their license(s) through the Connect online portal. And in June, Phase 3 launched with functionality extending the ability for applicants to submit applications for professional engineer licenses which do not require a state exam component.

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## **Help Create the Events You Want to Attend**

NSPE-CA is seeking additional members of its Events Task Force that will help decide programs through June of 2022. It's a low-commitment way to become

involved in your profession and help make the organization what you want it to be.

If you are seeking a low-commitment way to become involved with NSPE-CA and help your profession, consider participating. For more information, [contact Executive Director Jeanne Marie Tokunaga](#).

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## Protecting Coastal Structures and Beaches a Delicate Balancing Act

In California, experts are concerned that beaches will be sacrificed for the sake of homes and businesses that are preserved by the construction of seawalls, [Stateline](#) reports. Building armoring to protect buildings merely pushes the problem to shorelines, where waves become more forceful and exacerbate erosion.

The California Coastal Commission's Coastal Act of 1976 has protected public beaches by limited shoreline armoring and prevented development of flood-vulnerable areas, but homeowners say the state needs to work harder to protect their homes. State Senator Patricia Bates introduced a bill in 2020 that would automatically approve seawall permit applications not denied by the commission within 30 days. The bill failed, but Bates has reintroduced it. Currently, 12% of California's coast is armored.

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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

[Director of Transportation](#)  
Montebello, CA

Electric Utility Director  
Roseville, CA

Mechanical Engineering Department Head  
Berkeley, 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](#).

## Share Your Story: #IAMNSPE



NSPE is its members. It's a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are [sharing their stories](#)....join them. #IAMNSPE

## I Am the Future

Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.

Civil Engineer

NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020

“I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to inspire the next generation of girls and women, especially Latinas, who want to be engineers one day.”



## PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals



Harnessing the Power  
of PEs to Create a  
Better World

Call for  
presentations  
is now open!

Deadline to submit  
is November 30,  
2021.



August  
**1-3**  
2022  
Philadelphia, PA  
Sheraton Philadelphia  
Downtown

NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is **November 30**.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

### Conference Topics

- **Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills**—Beyond being technically qualified and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.
- **Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession**—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.
- **Invest in Your Career**—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

[Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

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## Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department's director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.

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**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA  
22314**

