

State News for NSPE Members

Welcome New NSPE-CA Members

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

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

July 2023

Mike Huerta, P.E., of Innovative Mechanical Design, Visalia

John H. Hofman, P.E., of Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co. Inc., Chino Hills

Todd Kelly, P.E., of the California Department of Transportation, Redding

Share the Benefits of NSPE-CA Membership

NSPE/NSPE-CA is multidisciplinary engineering society that supports engineers in their service to the public. We are the right engineering society for you if:

You care about licensure — NSPE — more so than any other professional society — is laser focused on promoting and defending the licensure of professional engineers. NSPE tracks and defends against threats to professional licensure throughout the country. [Learn more.](#)

You care about ethics — NSPE prides itself on promoting and teaching professional ethics. A number of resources on professional ethics are available to help engineers gain a sound understanding in ethics before and when they face a challenge. [Learn more.](#)

You want to advance your career — NSPE provides the opportunity to gain leadership experience and education that can benefit your career advancement, through our annual conference NSPECon, online education, and volunteering with NSPE-CA. [Learn more about education.](#) Inquire about leadership opportunities at admin@nspe-ca.org.

You want to get to know your community — NSPE-CA holds in-person and online events where you can meet other engineers and tour some of California's great engineering-related facilities. [Learn more.](#)

Events Task Force Planning Activities

All NSPE-CA members are invited to participate in Events Task Force planning sessions as their schedules allow. These next sessions will take place on **Tuesday, August 29**, and **Tuesday, September 19** (4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

Email Executive Director Jeanne Marie Tokunaga, CAE, at admin@nspe-ca.org to receive login information.

Join NSPE-CA for Upcoming Events



NSPE-California members are invited to a tour of the **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Pure Water Demonstration Plant** on **Saturday, September 23** (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) in Carson, California. This tour led by professional engineers will provide an overview of the facility and its innovative purification process. Learn more and register [here](#).

Upcoming Events – Registration Coming Soon!

October 26, 2023

Transbay Joint Powers Authority

Updates on Downtown Rail Extension/The Portal

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 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](#). [Access photos from recent events](#).

State Licensing Board Meeting

The [California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists](#) will hold its next meeting **September 21-22**. Access meeting information [here](#).

Board News

The latest issue of the *Board Bulletin* is available. Access the publication [here](#).

California Races to Prevent More Flooding with Levee Repairs

As forecasters sound the alarm about another potentially wet California winter fueled by El Niño, Governor Gavin Newsom is taking urgent but controversial measures to prevent a repeat of the devastating floods that befell the state this year, the [Los Angeles Times reports](#).

An executive order signed by the governor this month will streamline levee repairs and debris removal to help protect and prepare communities for another inundation. Last winter, dozens of levee breaches around the state sent stormwater rushing into communities — killing several people and causing considerable damage.

Restoring levees, river channels and other elements of the state's aged flood infrastructure is crucial to public safety. But critics say Newsom's order also comes at the expense of several rules and regulations designed to protect the environment.

"Managing California water by executive order is bad business," said Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of Restore the Delta. "Whether it's drought or flood, we have to set proper science-based environmental standards and regulate

according to those standards for the protection of people." [Read more.](#)

California Settles with SoCalGas Over Misleading Marketing

California Attorney General Rob Bonta recently announced a settlement against Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) in connection with numerous unqualified environmental marketing claims the company made in 2019 that natural gas is "renewable." Such claims are misleading, according to a [news release](#).

The vast majority of natural gas — including a vast majority of the gas distributed by SoCalGas — is not renewable, but rather is derived from fossil fuels. An investigation by the California Attorney General's office revealed that SoCalGas made the misleading statements in a wide range of mediums, such as print, electronic media, informative displays, backdrops, and promotional swag.

"SoCalGas is a large, sophisticated entity. While we appreciate its cooperation in our investigation, SoCalGas should have known better than to broadcast unqualified claims suggesting that all natural gas is 'renewable.' Truth in marketing matters, and it's required under state law," said Attorney General Bonta. "Today's settlement should send a clear message: The California Department of Justice is committed to holding accountable corporations that mislead or deceive consumers about the environmental attributes of a product."

Under the settlement — which resolves allegations that SoCalGas violated California's consumer protection laws, including the Unfair Competition Law and the False Advertising Law — SoCalGas will:

- Be prohibited from making similar unqualified statements that natural gas is "renewable."
 - Pay \$175,000 in penalties, 50% (\$87,500) of which will be directed to the California Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program to fund a Supplemental Environmental Project focused on environmental justice.
 - Publish a corrective statement on its website within 14 days of the settlement's effective date.
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Throughout his engineering career, Atkinson has taken on various volunteer and leadership positions within NSPE, the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, ASHRAE, and NCEES. He served on the Vermont Board of Professional Engineers and the University of Vermont College of Engineering Advisory Board. He has also served as an ABET observer and as the president of the Clarkson University Vermont Alumni Chapter. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Atkinson lives in Essex, Vermont, with his wife, Kim Atkinson, P.E., and two young active sons. When he and his wife are not working they are often found coaching or enjoying the outdoors in all seasons.

Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were recently honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Engineering Education Excellence Award

This award recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. It is sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) interest group.



Waterloo Tsutsui, Ph.D., P.E., is a senior research associate in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University where his primary aim is to provide a rigorous education that nurtures an engineering mindset among students and empowering them to analyze, communicate, and solve complex problems. He ensures students derive maximum advantage from meticulously designed educational experiences integrated into their curriculum, fostering lasting knowledge and capabilities that extend far beyond the confines of the classroom for the ultimate benefit of students. As an example, Tsutsui implemented virtual labs and visualization in lab courses as an innovative way to link engineering practice to education.

New Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career.

Sri Kumar, P.E., is the president and CEO of Connico, a national consultancy serving the aviation, civil, and transportation markets. In his current role, he is responsible for outlining the company's strategy for the future, ensuring the company continues to execute



its goals, and delivering excellence to clients from Tampa to Seattle. He is also committed to building Connico's employee-focused culture and is passionate about developing a strong, diverse, and uniquely talented team who work each day on solving some of the nation's most complex infrastructure challenges.

Emerging Leaders Program Seeks Candidates



The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. Candidates with 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field who are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are [invited to apply](#).

The 2024 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments are available and the application for the program is due by **Thursday, August 31**.

[Apply Now](#)

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