PE MATTERS STATE NEWS

NSPE-CA NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS – CALIFORNIA

>>>> SEPTEMBER 2024

State News for NSPE Members

State Licensing Board Meeting

The California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists will hold a meeting on **October 17-18** in Sacramento. Access meeting information info here.

Governor Newsom Signals Caution on AI Regulation

Governor Gavin Newsom signaled wariness against heavy artificial regulation, telling a live audience at a major San Francisco conference that a significant piece of AI regulation heading to his desk could have a "chilling effect" on the state's nascent AI industry.

State Senator Scott Wiener's SB 1047, an AI "safety" bill, passed the legislature last month and would create vast new compliance and safety regulations for large-scale AI models and fund a California government AI. Speaking at the 2024 Dreamforce conference in San Francisco with Salesforce CEO, billionaire, and campaign donor Marc Benioff, Newsom shared some of his concerns about the bill.

"We've been working over the last couple years to come up with some rational regulation that supports risk-taking, but not recklessness," Newsom said. "That's challenging now in this space, particularly with SB 1047, because of the sort of outsized impact that legislation could have, and the chilling effect, particularly in the open source community."

The Wiener bill would require AI companies to — before training a model — implement measures to prevent "critical harm," a term "defined as mass casualties, at least $500 million in damage, or other comparable harms." Before making a model publicly available or using it, companies would also have to assess whether the model could cause or enable critical harm, test ways in which the imagined scenarios could occur, and take measures to prevent such events. AI companies would then need to make copies, with potential redactions, of safety and security protocols and conduct independent audits of companies' adherence to their duties.

Read more in *The Center Square*.

California Surpasses 150,000 Electric Vehicle Chargers

On August 28, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that California has surpassed 150,000 public and shared private chargers installed statewide, including 137,648 Level 2 chargers and 14,708 fast chargers. This announcement comes just weeks after California posted its second highest ever market share in zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) sales, according to a news release.

"When it comes to zero-emission vehicle infrastructure, California has no peers," said Governor Newsom. "The state is all-in on clean transportation, dedicating unprecedented investments to supercharge our transition. We're building a bigger, better charging network – faster."

In addition to the public network, the state estimates that more than 500,000 private home chargers are installed statewide. No other state comes close to California's ZEV infrastructure efforts, dedicating billions to support clean transportation goals. The state is also expected to receive more than $380 million from President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for building out chargers.

This year, the California Energy Commission has approved more than $1 billion in funding for EV charging and hydrogen refueling projects for cars, trucks, and buses. The projects range from deploying chargers in underserved communities to rapid expansion along the state's busiest corridors. 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

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Novato, CA

Engineering Project Manager
Oakland, CA

Licensed Professional Engineer
Fresno, 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** .*

Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award (FEYA). Nominations for the award are open until **November 22**. Access nomination information .

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 21, 2025, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January.

Capt. Stephen B. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., was named the 2024 Federal Engineer of the Year. He is a renowned expert in ventilation, engineering controls, and airborne infectious disease transmission that focused his expertise on mitigating the global COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about Capt. Martin's contributions .

Learning and Building Community at #NSPECon24

Professional engineers nationwide converged on Raleigh, North Carolina, for NSPECon24 in August. Take a moment to look through the photos captured from this year's event on the NSPE Flickr Account . Conference attendees participated in a variety of sessions and activities including tours, NSPE's Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, first-time attendee mixer, engaging keynote speakers, a new professionals trivia night, education sessions and more!

Save the Date: NSPECon25—Kansas City, Missouri—August 6–8

Engineers Week 2025 Kickoff Webinar

It's time to start planning Engineers Week (February 16-22, 2025)! On **October 23** (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET), a webinar will provide information about the Engineers Week theme, brand new resources, and outreach grants. Attend this free and informative webinar to get ideas you can start using right away.

RSVP Today

2025 Emerging Leaders Program – Application Deadline Extended

The NSPE Emerging Leaders Program is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is an intensive national five-month program with guided instruction and mentorship. The application deadline is extended to Tuesday, October 15. Prior to applying for the program, please review the 2025 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments.

The Ideal ELP Candidate
Candidates for the ELP have 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field and are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are invited to apply. Selected participants come from a variety of firms with a range of engineering expertise. **There are no age restrictions on participation in the program.**

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