



# SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED INCREASE OF PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SERVICE RATES (DIVISION 9 IRRIGATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT CUSTOMERS ONLY)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board of Directors will conduct a Public Hearing on January 27, 2026, at 9 a.m. on the proposed 5-year schedule of maximum possible annual rate increases for the Irrigation Enhancement Project (Division 9 Project) customers beginning in 2026 through 2030 and explained further in this notice.

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** SSJID Board Room,  
11011 E. Highway 120  
Manteca, CA 95336

The Public Hearing will be conducted per California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6 (also known as “Proposition 218”). This notice is being sent to all owners and tenants of parcels within the Division 9 Project service area. All members of the public are invited to attend the Public Hearing and provide public comment on the proposed rates.

Additionally, under California Law, all owners and tenants of record within the Division 9 Project service area may submit a written protest to the proposed rate increases. Only one written protest per affected parcel shall be counted toward the majority protest. Please refer to the “How To Participate” section of this document for instructions on submitting a formal written protest of the proposed action.

The SSJID Board of Directors may adopt the proposed Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates if less than 50 percent of the eligible parcels within Division 9 have a submitted and verified written protest. All written protests must be received before the close of the Public Hearing. Only one protest from the owner or tenant of record will be counted for each parcel within the Division 9 Project service area.

### **Pressurized Irrigation Service Provided - Division 9 Project**

The Division 9 Project has resulted in more efficient water use while providing area growers using micro, drip and sprinkler systems (pressure systems) with individualized, automated irrigation access through online and mobile technology. The unique system, servicing approximately 3,800 acres near Ripon, was completed in 2012.

The Division 9 system includes the Sam Bologna Regulating Reservoir (formally called the East Basin); a pumping plant with seven pumps; 19 miles of pipeline; automatic flow control valves and magnetic flow meters at each turnout; soil moisture sensors in growers’ fields; and online water ordering. The District installed two supplemental groundwater wells to also feed the Sam Bologna Regulating Reservoir in

times when SSJID laterals are servicing other customers during the normal 10-day run. Each well is screened at different depths to withdraw water from two different aquifer layers.

Variable frequency drive (VFD) pump controllers from the Sam Bologna Regulating Reservoir allow precise flow rates of 50 to 60 pounds per square inch (psi) at the customer's turnout, eliminating the need for booster pumps to pressurize every customer's individual irrigation system. Customers in the Division Project service area are able to log in and schedule water deliveries based on current and past weather forecasts, previous water usage and historical evapotranspiration rates. Each farmer then selects from available delivery dates and later receives alerts via email and text message before and after delivery to confirm volume and flow rate data.

For the 2025 Irrigation Season, customers within the District's Division 9 Project service area paid a combined Pressurized Irrigation Service rate of \$58.12 per acre-foot. The Pressurized Irrigation Water rate is comprised of two parts: Electricity Cost Recapture (\$43.31 per acre-foot for the 2025 irrigation season) and Provision for Capital Assets (\$14.81 per acre-foot for the 2025 irrigation season). For years 2021 through 2025, the Electricity Cost Recapture rate was increased (or decreased) by an Electricity Recapture Index based on actual Division 9 Project electricity costs and the volume of pressurized water served in the previous year. During this period, the Provision for Capital Assets rate was also increased annually for inflation.

The basis of the Pressurized Irrigation Service Rate is to compensate the District for the cost to operate and maintain the facilities required to provide Division 9 Pressurized Water Service, including electric utility charges and other operating costs, maintenance costs and capital asset improvement and replacement reserve.

### **Proposed Pressurized Irrigation Water Rates**

The District proposes to utilize the same methodology for calculating the proposed Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates for Division 9 Project customers as has been done since 2016. California law under Proposition 218 requires the District to present a schedule of rate increases for a period not to exceed 5-years as part of the rate setting process. The District presents the following schedule of maximum allowable rates for years 2026 through 2030.

		<b>PROPOSED PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SERVICE RATES</b>				
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>
<b>Electricity Cost Recapture</b>	<b>\$43.31</b>	<b>\$46.78</b>	<b>\$50.45</b>	<b>\$54.34</b>	<b>\$58.47</b>	<b>\$62.85</b>
<b>Provision for Capital Assets</b>	<b>\$14.81</b>	<b>\$15.33</b>	<b>\$15.86</b>	<b>\$16.42</b>	<b>\$16.99</b>	<b>\$17.59</b>
<b>Total (\$ per AF)</b>	<b>\$58.12</b>	<b>\$61.21</b>	<b>\$64.47</b>	<b>\$67.91</b>	<b>\$71.54</b>	<b>\$75.38</b>

The Schedule of Proposed Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates represents the maximum allowable rate increase that can be approved in accordance with State law. The Schedule of Proposed Rates assumes the following annual rate increases based on the 2025 Rates: 1) a 6% annual increase for the Electricity Cost Recapture component, and 2) a 3.5% annual inflation rate for the Provision for Capital Assets component. The SSJID Board of Directors may only adopt the Schedule of Proposed Rates if the District receives less than 50% of the eligible written protests.

If approved, the SSJID Board of Directors must annually adopt the year's proposed rate increase prior to the irrigation season. The actual rate will be calculated using the District's methodology as presented at the November 12, 2025, Division 9 Grower Workshop. If, in any year, the formula-based calculation results in a rate higher than the maximum allowable rate as presented in the Schedule of Rates, the Board of Directors may only adopt the maximum allowable rate. If, in any year, the formula-based calculation results in a lower rate than the maximum allowable, the Board is obligated to adopt the lower calculated rate.

In a recent example for the 2023 Irrigation Season, the Board of Directors lowered the Electricity Cost Recapture Rate component by one dollar per acre-foot based on the District's methodology. For years 2026 through 2030, actual electricity usage, quality of water delivered, and actual rates of inflation may result in calculated rates that are lower than those published in the Schedule of Proposed Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates, for which the District, by law, cannot exceed under Proposition 218. Any additional rate changes after 2030 would also be subject to a subsequent Proposition 218 process.

### **How to Participate in the Rate Setting Process**

The SSJID Board welcomes customer questions and participation prior to considering adoption of the proposed schedule of rates. Options include:

#### **Give us a Call or Visit**

The Division 9 Pressurized Irrigation information on the proposed changes are available for review at [www.ssjid.fov/division-9-proposed-rates](http://www.ssjid.fov/division-9-proposed-rates) and at SSJID's headquarters. Staff are also available to answer questions during normal business hours. You can call (209) 249-4600 or email [prop218@ssjid.gov](mailto:prop218@ssjid.gov).

#### **Attend the Informational Meeting.**

SSJID will host an informational meeting to help Division 9 customers understand the proposed changes and have an opportunity to provide feedback. The date, time and location of our informational meeting is:

9:00 a.m., January 22, 2026 — SSJID Board Room – 11011 East Hwy 120, Manteca

#### **File a Written Protest**

Owners and tenants of parcels within the Division 9 Project service area, may file a written protest against the proposed rate increases; however, only one written protest per affected parcel will be counted in calculating the majority protest as explained below ("Public Hearing Process"). Each protest must be:

- In writing and delivered via mail to P.O. Box 747, Ripon, CA 95366, or in person to SSJID, Attention: Prop 218, 11011 E. Highway 120, Manteca, CA 95336
- Received before the close of the Public Hearing on January 27, 2026
- Submitted only by record owners and/or tenants of the affected parcels

All protests must be submitted in writing. For your convenience, you may use the attached protest form, or send in a written protest letter that must include:

1. Printed name of record owner or tenant;
2. Clear indication that the document is a protest;
3. Parcel number (APN) of identified parcel;
4. Address of the property; and
5. Signature of record owner or tenant submitting the protest – in original ink. Photocopied or scanned signatures will not be accepted.

**Attend the Public Hearing**

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Public Hearing and voice any concerns regarding the proposed rate changes.

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 9 a.m.  
South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board Room  
11011 E. Highway 120, Manteca, CA 95336**

**Public Hearing Process**

At the Public Hearing, the SSJID Board of Directors will hear and consider all oral comments regarding the proposed rate increases and conduct the written protest procedures in compliance with California Proposition 218. Oral comments do not qualify as a formal protest; only qualified written protests will be logged. Protests submitted by fax, email, or other electronic means do not count as formal written protests. Upon conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board of Directors will consider, evaluate, and count any written protests received prior to the close of the Public Hearing. In accordance with State law, the Board of Directors may adopt the Proposed Pressurized Irrigation Service Schedule of Rates if formal written protests do not represent a majority of owners or tenants (50% + 1) of identified parcels. Pursuant to Government Code section 53755(b), only one written protest per parcel shall be counted.

If adopted and approved, the 2026 Pressurized Irrigation Service Rate would be billed during the 2026 Irrigation Season. Additional annual rate increases through 2030 must be approved by the Board of Directors annually prior to taking effect.

For more details on the Proposed Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates, please visit [www.ssjid.gov](http://www.ssjid.gov)

***Example Protest Form on Next Page.***

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I understand that I am submitting this **PROTEST** on the proposed Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates increases for Division 9 Project Customers proposed by the South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

Assessor's Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Tenant Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Tenant Original Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*photocopied or scanned signatures will not be accepted

If you want to protest the proposed rate increases, you must sign and return this form by the close of the Public Hearing on January 27, 2026. Additional instructions are included above.

If you **DO NOT** want to protest the proposed rate increases, **DO NOT** return this form.