



Peter Rietkerk
General Manager

FOCUSED ON SERVICE, COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

As we continue through a busy and important year, SSJID remains focused on what matters most: delivering reliable water and power, strengthening our infrastructure, and serving our communities with care and accountability. The updates in this newsletter reflect that commitment

in action, from major capital projects to regional partnerships and community programs.

We also recognize that this season has brought a moment of profound loss. The tragic incident at the Canyon Tunnel Project on April 14 weighs heavily on all of us. We extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Twyla Cappurro, and to everyone impacted. Safety remains at the center of everything we do, and we are fully cooperating with all appropriate agencies as the review process continues.

Even in the face of challenges, our work moves forward with purpose. The Canyon Tunnel Project represents a critical investment in long-term water reliability. Our Powered By Purpose effort continues to make progress toward delivering affordable, locally controlled power to more than 43,000 customers. Across the region, we are also working collaboratively to address groundwater sustainability, protect vital resources, and plan for the future.

At the same time, we are looking for ways to better serve our community today. Our efforts at Woodward Reservoir reflect a commitment to thoughtful local stewardship, while programs like our Water Awareness Art Contest highlight the importance of education and community engagement.

At SSJID, our work remains rooted in service. Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we carry it forward.

POWERED BY PURPOSE: ADVANCING LOCAL CONTROL AND COMMUNITY SAVINGS

SSJID's Powered By Purpose effort continues to advance, focused on local control, affordability, and long-term value for the community. The project would provide power to more than 43,000 residential, commercial, and agricultural customers, with an estimated 15% in savings while maintaining reliable service. Over the past year, legal and regulatory developments have shaped the process, including PG&E's attempt to delay proceedings through a Public Utilities Commission review. The dismissal of PG&E's application in October 2025 marked a significant milestone. SSJID is now preparing to return to court to move the case forward.

Recent legal precedent, including the Supreme Court's Town of Apple Valley decision, may also provide additional clarity as the effort progresses.



To learn more and stay up-to-date with the latest news, please visit poweredbyssjid.com.

CANYON TUNNEL PROJECT **UPDATE**

We begin this update with a heavy heart.




On April 14, a tragic incident occurred during tunneling operations on the Canyon Tunnel Project. Following reports of a rockfall inside the tunnel at the project site, emergency responders from Modesto Fire and other regional agencies were dispatched to the site. One individual was transported to a local hospital with minor to moderate injuries. Another individual, Twyla Cappurro, remained inside the tunnel and was later confirmed to be deceased.

SSJID extends its deepest condolences to Twyla's family, friends, and colleagues, as well as to all those affected by this tragedy. We are also grateful to the first responders and crews who worked diligently in the rescue and recovery efforts. Work on the project was immediately suspended and SSJID is cooperating fully with all appropriate agencies as they continue their review of the incident.

Our thoughts remain with everyone impacted.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE







The Canyon Tunnel Project is a long-term investment in protecting the region's water supply and ensuring public and worker safety, which has never been more critical. The project is designed to:

-  Safeguard water supply reliability
-  Prioritize safety for District personnel
-  Provide a long-term solution to known water delivery risks

A key driver of the project is the need to address unstable canyon slopes, which pose ongoing risks to both infrastructure and personnel. The tunnel will help prevent disruptions like the 2013 rockslide, which threatened water delivery throughout the region and highlighted the vulnerability of the existing system.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

-  **Length:** 12,106 feet
-  **Depth:** 200 to 300 feet below the surface
-  **Location:** 100% on private property
-  **Diameter:** 18–20 feet with a flat floor
-  **Structure:** Concrete-lined tunnel
-  **Capacity:** 1,263 cubic feet per second

PROJECT COST

- **Construction:** \$74,777,777
- **Other Costs:** \$19 million
- **Total Project Cost:** \$94 million

SSJID's share (72%) is approximately \$68 million.

RECENT PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Recent work on the Canyon Tunnel Project has focused on establishing key access points and staging areas necessary to support tunnel construction:



Contractor Laydown Yard

Development of a 3-acre contractor laydown yard to support equipment, materials, and operations



Downstream Portal

Continued work at the downstream portal to prepare for tunneling activities



Upstream Portal

Ongoing preparation and early construction activities at the upstream portal

At the upstream portal, initial construction has included integrating planned gate structures into the hillside and advancing intake protection features. Preparations have also been made for construction access, including a floating bridge, as well as permanent boat ramps on both sides of the river to support future maintenance and operations.

Updates will continue to be shared as more information becomes available and as the project progresses.





SECURING OUR GROUNDWATER FUTURE

Brandon Nakagawa, Water Resources Coordinator

SSJID continues to play an active role in advancing sustainable groundwater management across the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. Like many regions in California, the basin faces ongoing challenges, including declining groundwater levels, land subsidence, water quality concerns, and reduced groundwater storage. Addressing these issues is critical to protecting long-term water reliability for our communities and agriculture.

Between 2015 and 2024, approximately 600,000 acre-feet more groundwater was pumped from the subbasin than was replenished, underscoring the need for coordinated action. Satellite data also indicates land subsidence in areas east of Stockton and west of Linden, estimated at nearly one inch per year, which will continue to be verified through traditional surveying methods.

In response, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have worked collaboratively to develop a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Through the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, agencies are coordinating efforts to implement solutions that balance groundwater use and recharge.

The plan includes 31 proposed projects focused on improving groundwater conditions, enhancing recharge, and protecting water quality. Together, these efforts represent meaningful progress toward a more sustainable water future for the region.

ENHANCING RECREATION AT WOODWARD RESERVOIR

SSJID is moving ahead with plans to take on recreation services at Woodward Reservoir, a transition that has drawn strong interest and input from the community. At its core, this effort is about local stewardship and making sure this important resource continues to serve the region well.

Since 1916, Woodward Reservoir has supported water storage, agriculture, and outdoor recreation. Today, it plays a key role in serving more than 215,000 residents in Manteca, Lathrop, and Tracy, while helping irrigate nearly 50,000 acres with a storage capacity of 33,000 acre-feet.

With this opportunity, SSJID is focused on improving site management, protecting water quality, and enhancing the recreational experience for visitors. During this transition phase, reservations at Woodward Reservoir will no longer be accepted beyond October 14, 2026, and campers will need to vacate by October 15, 2026.

SSJID will continue listening and working with the community as this transition moves forward. We have the financial strength to take this on responsibly, invest where needed, and create new revenue to keep Woodward Reservoir a place people enjoy.



2026-2027 DUCK HUNTING SEASON CANCELLATION

We regret to inform our community that the 2026–2027 duck hunting season at Woodward Reservoir has been canceled due to ongoing negotiations between SSJID and Stanislaus County regarding Woodward Reservoir. We appreciate your patience and understanding as these negotiations continue, and we will provide updates as additional information becomes available. For questions, please reach out to Katie Patterson, Public and Government Relations Manager at 209-249-4600.



FACES OF SSJID

#TEAMSSJID

SSJID is proud to continue building a strong, talented team dedicated to serving our community. Please join us in welcoming and recognizing the following employees:



Michael Parnell
PROMOTION
DIVISION MANAGER



Matthew Smith
PROMOTION
DIVISION MANAGER



Cooper Bartholomew
PROMOTION
DIVISION MANAGER



Monica Flores
PROMOTION
ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN



Nate White
HEAVY EQUIPMENT
OPERATOR



Robert Jones
MECHANICAL
TECHNICIAN II



Edgar Torres, PE
ASSOCIATE ENGINEER



Kent Norman
ASSISTANT ENGINEER



Andrea Becerra
ACCOUNT CLERK



Cynthia Sanchez
HR ADMINISTRATOR



Spencer Van Rys
DIVISION MANAGER



Kamryn Bylsma
ACCOUNTANT

SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP



Chad Parsons, PE, has been promoted to Senior Engineer in recognition of his expertise, leadership, and ongoing contributions to SSJID's engineering efforts. His work plays an important role in advancing key projects that support reliability and long-term service for our customers.



INSPIRING CREATIVITY THROUGH WATER

#SSJIDCARES!



SSJID's annual Water Awareness Art Contest once again showcased the creativity and insight of local students, with more than 120 entries highlighting the theme "Water Makes It Possible."

Congratulations to grand prize winner Kadence J., whose artwork will be featured on SSJID irrigation trucks throughout the 2026 season, bringing a powerful message about water's importance directly into the community.

WATCH OUR PROGRESS IN ACTION

See how SSJID is powering the future. Visit our YouTube channel for the latest updates, project highlights, and community stories!

Visit us at youtube.com/@SSJIDofficial



CONTACT: ssjid.gov • info@ssjid.gov • (209) 249-4600 • 11011 E. Highway 120, Manteca, CA 95336

FIND US ON:  [SSJIDofficial](https://facebook.com/SSJIDofficial)  [SSJIDofficial](https://instagram.com/SSJIDofficial)  [ssjid](https://linkedin.com/company/ssjid)  [powerbypurpose](https://facebook.com/powerbypurpose)  [SSJIDofficial](https://youtube.com/SSJIDofficial)