



IRRIGATION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



DEDICATED SERVICE: *How SSJID Supports Our Water and Energy Needs*

Peter Rietkerk
General Manager

Since 1909, SSJID has pushed the envelope to deliver reliable and affordable water service to local farmers, cities and businesses throughout South San Joaquin County. Defined by sustainability and innovation, this past year has been a testament to that effort.

As part of one of the 16 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the subbasin, SSJID is proud to proactively work toward reducing groundwater overdraft. Our combined efforts led to the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin submitting a GSP amendment and producing its first Periodic Evaluation for State regulators. As we await the verdict from State groundwater regulators, we continue to ensure our groundwater interests are represented in Sacramento.

SSJID also remains committed to our legislative priorities. In April, our team met with our legislative delegates to discuss SSJID's legislative priorities, including bolstering and protecting our water supply, becoming South San Joaquin County's local power provider, and supporting our ongoing operations. We will keep our community updated as state and federal legislation impacts our efforts, but rest assured, we will continue to provide dedicated service to our customers every step of the way.

SSJID is proud to have developed a reputation as an innovator in the retail electric arena thanks to the "Powered by Purpose" project. We are dedicated to becoming the safe, accountable and affordable power provider for South San Joaquin County.

We promise safety at the core of our operations, local accountability with a Board of Directors that resides within the District and is elected by District residents, and unmatched value with reduced rates that will collectively save our customers millions each year. Currently, we are awaiting a hearing at the California Public Utilities Commission for the next steps in the process.

We want to celebrate the City of Oakdale for embarking on a similar journey. The City is evaluating retail electric feasibility and stepping away from PG&E in favor of Modesto Irrigation District's services. We wish them success in their efforts.

By now, you may have heard that boating is restricted on Woodward Reservoir. SSJID is committed to protecting its water resources for you and the communities that depend on them. We have urged Stanislaus County, our recreation lease holder, to maintain a 30-day banding and quarantine program for boating at Woodward. This protects water quality and helps recreation on the water resume. Our commitment will always be to our customers to ensure that you have high-quality, reliable water to support your businesses and our community.

Thank you for trusting us as your local irrigation and energy provider. Today and every day, we will deliver dedicated service to South San Joaquin County.



CANYON TUNNEL PROJECT **UPDATES**

100 YEARS OF RELIABILITY

The Canyon Tunnel project is quickly advancing. Bids were submitted in early June 2025. Once reviewed, we anticipate that the notice to proceed will be issued during the first week of August.

Together with its partner Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) is constructing a bypass tunnel for its Joint Supply Canal (JSC). The project, currently referred to as the “Canyon Tunnel Project,” would increase water delivery reliability into the next century. The JSC conveys water from the Goodwin Dam diversion on the Stanislaus River to both SSJID and OID. The tentative project schedule concludes construction in 2028.

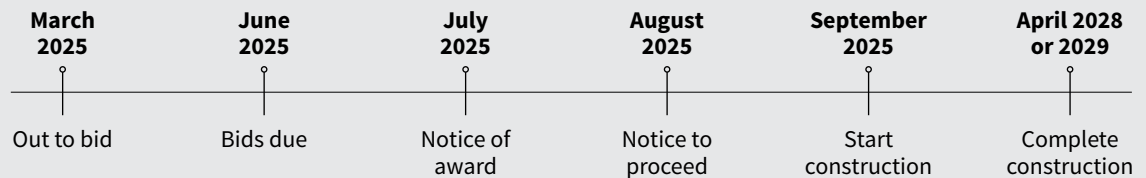
This project will significantly reduce maintenance costs, protect employee safety, and advance regional water security for years to come. It is expected to last for 100 years without requiring major work.

 For project updates, visit canyontunnelproject.org



Tentative Canyon Tunnel Project Timeline

SSJID and OID pre-qualified six contractors for project construction in November 2024. The project will adhere to the following approximate construction timeline:



Chad Parsons, Senior Civil Engineer

SSJID Delivers Another Strong Construction Season

SSJID continues to make strong progress on the Water Master Plan (WMP), adopted in December 2022. The plan outlines \$191 million in capital improvements, including maintenance, rehabilitation, and service enhancements across the District.

SSJID’s winter construction season typically runs from early November to early March. Most work takes place in the upper portion of the District, including the Joint Supply Canal (JSC), Upper and Lower Main Supply Canal (MSC), Woodward Reservoir, Main Distribution Canal (MDC), lateral ditches and pipelines, drain ditches and pipelines, the Division 9 Pressurized System, and the French Camp Outlet Canal.

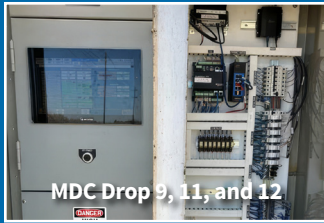
Due to water deliveries and ideal working conditions, most construction cannot be performed during the irrigation season.

The 2024-2025 winter was an average wet year, with typical rain delays impacting productivity as expected. To help meet project goals, SSJID hired nine temporary employees to increase the output of pipelining work, a major component of the WMP.

This season also marked the first use of Safety Mojo, a web-based safety management tool that improved communication, accountability, and safety processes in the field.

In addition, new inventory management software and techniques helped streamline tracking between operations and finance.

KEY PROJECTS THIS YEAR:



MDC Drop 9, 11, and 12

MDC Drop 9, 11, and 12 Control Panel Upgrade and Flow Measurement Calibration

The SCADA Department worked with Sierra Controls to replace the control panels at Drops 9, 11, and 12. The work involved the Engineering Department performing drone topo surveys of each stretch to determine storage capacity and flow characteristics of the canal to better calibrate and each drop structure flow measurement.



JSC Maintenance Crack Filling Shotcrete

JSC Maintenance

This work included removing trees, debris removal, and Shotcrete work repairing holes in the floor and walls.



Lateral Oa Sta. 84 Float Valve Division 3

Lateral Oa Float Valves (3 each) and Control Box Replacement (1 each)

District crews installed three float valves and replaced a control box at the Lateral Oa within Division 3 to extend downstream level control along the remaining Lateral Oa to serve the remaining 350 acres of the total 1246 acres along the 3.5-mile-long dead-end lateral. Lateral Oa Sta.



Lateral Da Sta. 34 Float Valve

Lateral Da Sta. 34 -12" Float Valve

Lateral Da within Division 1 received a single 12-inch diameter float valve. This liquid lever controller will serve existing customers.



Lateral Qb Sta. 0-12" Float Valve

Lateral Qb Sta. 0 – 12" Float Valve, Headwall and ITRC Flap Gates

District crews replaced the head wall and slide gate at the Lateral Q ditch at the Lateral Qb takeout. The headwall was replaced to install a new Waterman C-10 gate and a 12" float valve which included a cast in place concrete box, steel piping and fittings.

District crews retrofitted the existing Lateral Q ditch drop structure to accommodate two ITRC Flap Gates which maintain an upstream level with variations of flows to allow for appropriate service down the Lateral Qb. *The ITRC Flap Gates were previously used at another location a decade ago and were recently rebuilt and reconditioned to accommodate the current application.*



Cut down pour over walls

Cut Down Pour Over Walls (6 each)

Staff modified six pour over control boxes (A-13, K-8, Kd-1, Kd-2, I-6, and B15-6).



Spray cast pipe lining

Spray Cast Pipe Lining

District crews performed 10,492 LF of 30-inch diameter to 48-inch diameter CIPP in the 2024/2025 winter season.



For the 2024/2025 construction season, District crews worked from 10/22/2024 to 3/13/2025 with a total of 76 working days.



The Construction/ Maintenance and SCADA departments performed 32,209 manhours during the period with 13,509 manhours on budgeted CIP projects and 18,701 on general maintenance and storm water monitoring.



The District utilized nine seasonal workers which provided approximately 5,000 manhours of support to the CIP and maintenance operations.

SSJID AT WORK





GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE: PROACTIVELY REDUCING OVERDRAFT

Brandon Nakagawa, Water Resources Coordinator

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) continues to be a major force shaping water management strategies in the San Joaquin Valley. As basins confront the consequences of chronic over-pumping, including dry domestic wells and land subsidence, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board have made their expectations clear. They are calling for immediate relief for domestic well owners and the development of programs to reduce groundwater pumping.



DWR now requires stronger technical and policy assurances that local GSA projects will gradually reduce over-pumping and achieve sustainability by 2040. It has also set a firm requirement that no additional subsidence will be allowed after that year. DWR has made it clear that failure to address these issues in the latest Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) submittals may result in basins being placed under probationary status.

In the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, where SSJID, Ripon, and Escalon have partnered as one of the sixteen Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), an amendment to the GSP was recently completed along with the first Periodic Evaluation for state regulators. All sixteen GSAs adopted and submitted their required documentation before the January 31, 2025 deadline.

As with the 2022 Revised GSP, which received DWR approval, the updated plan remains proactive. It prioritizes projects that recharge groundwater by using more surface water in place of pumped groundwater and by capturing stormwater and high flows in recharge basins. SSJID and the broader community strongly support the efforts of local GSAs working to address the long history of overdraft in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin.

DWR may take up to two years to evaluate the new GSP submittals. In the meantime, the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin has adopted a Domestic Well Mitigation Program that allows reimbursement to well owners whose wells fail due to over-pumping of groundwater.

To further reduce overdraft, GSAs have committed to implementing recharge projects and reducing groundwater pumping. All sixteen GSAs have also agreed to fund traditional land surveys to help verify satellite-based monitoring data and determine if inelastic land subsidence is occurring.

If DWR does not approve the GSP, the basin could be referred to the State Water Board for enforcement. This would mean significant financial penalties for groundwater users and a loss of local control, an outcome the region has worked to avoid since SGMA was enacted in 2014.

Uninterrupted access to and stewardship of the Stanislaus River is key to SSJID's success under SGMA. While surface water is SSJID's primary supply, groundwater is an important supplemental source for agriculture, domestic use, and urban needs.

In partnership with the Cities of Escalon and Ripon, SSJID will represent local groundwater interests among the sixteen GSAs in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin and in Sacramento, where we await the State's review of our GSP. In the meantime, recharge project implementation is moving forward, and preparation has already begun for the next Periodic Evaluation due in 2030. Stay tuned!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

#TEAMSSJID



Monica Flores
ACCOUNT CLERK



Barron Sweet
IRRIGATION OPERATIONS
MANAGER

Welcome to the Team

SSJID welcomed **Monica Flores** as our new Account Clerk in April. Monica is from Modesto and has been most recently employed with Stanislaus County.

Barron Sweet joined our team as Irrigation Operations Manager in April. Barron brings over 27 years of experience in the construction industry, most recently with Myers and Sons, overseeing construction of water conveyance and treatment infrastructure. Barron lives locally in Ripon.

John Holbrook Appointed Chair

Director John Holbrook was appointed Chair of the San Joaquin County Water Advisory Commission. The Commission supports the Board of Supervisors and the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on critical flood and water concerns that impact the region. He will serve a four-year term.

SSJID Welcomes New Board Member

Billy Van Ryn was sworn in to serve on the Board of Directors in December 2025, representing Division 3. A lifelong resident of Manteca, Director Van Ryn has worked in the family business Van Ryn Brothers since 1996. He is an avid volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank. Director Van Ryn is married to his wife Sandra and is the proud father of two children.

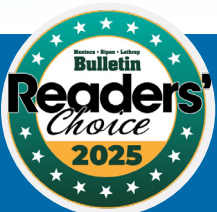
Volunteer of the Year Award

SSJID was honored by the Escalon Chamber of Commerce with the Volunteer of the Year award. Director John Holbrook proudly accepted this award on behalf of SSJID.



Director Dave Kamper Retires

SSJID thanks Director Kamper for his 27 years of dedicated service to the District. He retired in November 2024.



SSJID Named a 2025 Reader's Choice Winner

SSJID is honored to be named a 2025 Reader's Choice Winner from the Manteca and Ripon Bulletin. SSJID also received this recognition in 2023.

SSJID IN THE COMMUNITY

#SSJIDCARES!

Local students made a splash in SSJID's annual art contest

Fifth grader Aubree B. from Ripon's Colony Oak Elementary received the grand prize, while six other students were recognized. Aubree's artwork became an SSJID service truck vehicle wrap for the 2025 water season.



Sean Jefferson, Joe Hasten, and Chad Parsons at the Escalon Farmers Market handing out SSJID totes



FOX 40 interviewed Katie Patterson about potential Golden Mussels at Woodward Reservoir



Katie Patterson and art contest winner Aubree B.



Forrest Killingsworth, Engineering Department Manager, presents at the Canyon Tunnel Community Meeting



Bill Schwandt, Electric Utility Manager, at the Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley meeting



Katie Patterson and the teachers at Colony Oak Elementary School announcing the art contest winners