



# CANYON TUNNEL PROJECT



April 15, 2026

## **For Immediate Release**

(Manteca, CA) – The South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) and Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) are deeply saddened by the loss of a Canyon Tunnel Project team member yesterday, following a rock fall inside the tunnel at the project site located just northeast of Knights Ferry in Calaveras County. Twyla Cappurro was a member of the Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group’s team, an advisor on the project. All work on the project has been suspended at this time.

At approximately 3:42 p.m. on April 14, emergency responders from Modesto Fire and other regional agencies were dispatched following reports of a rock fall inside the tunnel. One individual was transported to a local hospital with minor to moderate injuries. One individual remained inside the tunnel and tragically was later confirmed to be deceased. Rescue and recovery crews worked tirelessly and recovered the individual at approximately 10:00 p.m. that evening.

SSJID and OID extend their deepest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of those involved in yesterday’s incident. The Districts thank all the first responders across multiple jurisdictions who responded to the project site and coordinated their efforts in rescue and recovery. We further offer our thanks and condolences to construction team, as they worked in conjunction with first responders in the rescue and recovery of their own. Our hearts are with everyone touched by this tragedy.

SSJID and OID are actively participating with all responding and regulatory authorities in their investigation of this matter. The Districts will continue to provide updates as information becomes available.

*The Canyon Tunnel Project is a joint effort between South San Joaquin Irrigation District and Oakdale Irrigation District.*

All media and public inquiries regarding this incident should be directed to:

Katie Patterson, Public and Government Relations Manager

(209) 652-6681

[katie.patterson@ssjid.gov](mailto:katie.patterson@ssjid.gov)

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