



SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT RECEIVES RENEWED SUPPORT
TO BRING PUBLIC POWER TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Today, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) is forwarding to Governor Gavin Newsom a letter signed by the Mayors of the Cities of Escalon, Manteca, and Ripon renewing City endorsement of SSJID's 15-year bid to takeover Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) electric service for these Central Valley communities.

"SSJID has completed all of the necessary work to prepare for condemnation and subsequent operation of PG&E's system within its service territory," noted the June 26, 2019 letter endorsed by Mayors Robert Swift of Escalon, Benjamin J. Cantu of Manteca, and Leo Zuber of Ripon. "Our communities have long endeavored to realize the promise of SSJID's project, and the time for this project to come to fruition is now."

In the letter, the Mayors request that Governor Newsom and local legislators give SSJID's long-time effort to purchase and operate PG&E's local distribution system serious thought as California now begins to wrestle with how best to solve issues surrounding PG&E's wildfire liabilities, felony convictions, and now bankruptcy. The letter suggests that municipalization, even in limited fashion, should qualify as component of the overall PG&E solution.

"The concept of municipalizing specific PG&E-served areas that are ready and willing to shoulder the responsibility of serving their own communities... should be given strong consideration as a solution to

the current PG&E problem,” continues the letter. “Municipalization provides an opportunity to generate capital to address wildfire liabilities through sale of PG&E assets, makes PG&E more efficient for remaining utility customers by incrementally reducing PG&E’s size, and incentivizes a reorganized PG&E (or its successor) to develop and implement a proper corporate culture that prioritizes safety and capital improvement to avoid future catastrophes.”

“On behalf of the SSJID board of directors, I would like to thank the communities of Escalon, Manteca, and Ripon, for their continued support of SSJID’s Retail Electric Project,” said Peter Rietkerk, General Manager of SSJID. SSJID is technically and financially capable of bringing this project to fruition, and our resolve remains as strong as our purpose, to provide the utmost value to our agricultural, urban, and business communities, by protecting and delivering vital resources with exceptional service.”

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The South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) was established in 1909 and is headquartered in Manteca, CA. SSJID provides agricultural irrigation water to about 56,000 acres surrounding Escalon, Ripon and Manteca, and wholesale drinking water to over 193,000 residents in Manteca, Lathrop, Tracy, and in the future, Escalon. SSJID, along with Oakdale Irrigation District, owns and operates the Tri-Dam Project, a series of storage reservoirs and generation facilities that produce zero-carbon hydropower in the Stanislaus River watershed. Learn more at www.ssjid.com.