



SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD
APPOINTS NEW DISTRICT COUNSEL**

The South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board of Directors are pleased to announce that they have selected local area attorney Mia Brown to serve as District Counsel. She will begin working for the District on August 21 alongside current District General Counsel, Steve Emrick—both reporting directly to the board. Emrick plans to retire at year's end and Brown is set to succeed him as General Counsel effective January 1, 2018. The Board of Directors has expressed their intention to continue Mr. Emrick's employment after January 1, 2018 in a reduced capacity to focus on the District's effort to acquire the PG&E retail electric system.

Brown will direct and manage all legal activities impacting SSJID, will participate in projects covering all aspects of SSJID's operations, and provide recommendations and advice to SSJID's General Manager and Board of Directors.

"We look forward to utilizing Mia's experience and knowledge to represent and uphold SSJID's commitment to provide reliable service to our customers," said SSJID Board President Dale Kuil.

Brown will be closing her private practice, where she has focused on water issues, public agency, property and agriculture law for the past five years. Previously, she served as an attorney for six years at Neumiller & Beardslee in Stockton, CA.

Brown has 11 years of experience performing riparian and pre-1914 water rights evaluations and defense. She has served as assistant and general counsel to numerous public agencies,

including counties, cities, local agencies (including water, reclamation, community services, and sanitation districts). In addition, she has served Councils of Government, Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) and various Joint Powers Authorities. Brown has represented clients concerning regulatory agencies at the federal, county and local level, including the US Department of the Interior, US Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, San Joaquin LAFCo and various city and county departments. She has also represented private entities in various agricultural law matters.

Brown is an adjunct professor for the Laurence Drivon School of Law in Stockton, teaching water, local government and property law. She serves as chair for the San Joaquin County Bar Association for the Public Agency, Land Use, Agriculture and Natural Resources Section of the San Joaquin County Bar Association and is an advisor for the California Bar Association Agribusiness Committee.

Brown received her juris doctor degree from University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and a bachelor's degree in Rhetoric and Communications from University of California, Davis.

"We welcome Mia and look forward to having her on the SSJID team," said SSJID's General Manager Peter Rietkerk. "Mia's broad experience with public agencies, water rights and communications, and her personal and professional history within San Joaquin County will serve our board, constituents, and local communities well."

Brown will commence work with SSJID on a part-time basis through September, with full time work beginning in October. Her salary as General Counsel will begin at approximately \$181,000.

"I am honored to have been selected to serve as District Counsel, and look forward to working with the SSJID board and staff to serve the District's customers," said Brown. "Mr. Emrick sets a very high standard in his longtime representation of the District, and I am committed to doing the same."

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In 1909, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District was established to provide a reliable and economical source of irrigation water for the agricultural areas surrounding Escalon, Ripon, and Manteca. In 2005, the district expanded into providing domestic water service to Tracy, Lathrop, Manteca and other parts of San Joaquin County. For several years, the District has been moving towards providing electric service as well.