



**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN
IRRIGATION DISTRICT**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SSJID introduces Powered by Purpose, a public education campaign to explain local bid for PG&E assets

MANTECA, Calif. – The South San Joaquin Irrigation District has launched a public education effort named Powered by Purpose as part of its continuing project to replace Pacific Gas and Electric as the retail electric power provider for Manteca, Escalon, Ripon and the surrounding areas.

Powered by Purpose is intended to build awareness and understanding of SSJID's 16-year quest to become the locally owned and operated power provider within its boundary. SSJID has offered to pay \$116 million for local assets of PG&E, which filed for bankruptcy protection in January 2019 and faces up to \$35 billion in unfunded liabilities related to California wildfires in 2017 and 2018.

SSJID's vision to deliver electric service is guided by these core principles:

- **Safety:** SSJID will proactively work to assure that local electrical distribution is safe and reliable for the region, just as it does now with its irrigation and water treatment services.
- **Accountability:** SSJID is governed and overseen by a Board of Directors who live in the District and are elected by District residents. Board meetings are open to the public, allowing customers to participate in and be a part of the District's decision-making process.
- **Value:** Reduced electric rates will save SSJID customers millions of dollars each year. Rate stability will mean lower increases in the future as SSJID maintains a 15% discount from PG&E's rates.

The Powered by Purpose website features details about SSJID's offer, including information about the economic benefits to the communities, a history of the project and answers to frequently asked questions.

“The name ‘Powered by Purpose’ reflects the District’s ongoing commitment to carrying out its mission and vision of service to local customers and communities,” said Peter Rietkerk, SSJID’s general manager. “The effort also outlines the core tenets that continue to drive SSJID’s project to become a community-owned retail electric provider for our region. We believe the Powered by Purpose website will serve as a resource to keep our customers up to speed with the latest activities in SSJID’s long, ongoing efforts.”

Catch up on this important effort to improve our community by visiting the following links:

- Powered by Purpose website: PoweredBySSJID.com
- Facebook: facebook.com/poweredbypurpose/
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/ssjid

Recent Events

SSJID’s recent efforts to become the local, community-owned utility have included closely monitoring PG&E’s bankruptcy hearing in Sacramento, participating in related proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission, and working with local elected officials to support and/or protect the District’s project.

The District presented a \$116 million offer in September 2019 to PG&E that would have provided additional cash to creditors and other PG&E claimants who expect to suffer financial losses due to wildfires caused by PG&E facilities. Unfortunately PG&E did not express interest in selling electrical distribution assets at that time, and similarly rejected offers totaling \$3.1 billion from public agencies in San Francisco, Nevada, Placer and Yolo counties.

In December 2019, SSJID joined those other public agencies in sending a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission urging it to consider sale of parts of PG&E’s system to communities who are ready to take on the responsibility of providing retail electric service.

In March 2020, SSJID and PG&E agreed to remove the hold on litigation due to PG&E’s ongoing bankruptcy, allowing pending appeals on two related court cases to move forward before state’s Court of Appeals. The first is related to PG&E’s suit against the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and LAFCo’s approval of SSJID’s project to provide retail electric service for local residents within its service area. The second was prompted when PG&E refused an offer from SSJID to purchase assets in 2016, prompting SSJID to file a condemnation action against PG&E to legally acquire local electric assets. PG&E received favorable decisions on both matters in 2017, and SSJID appealed both decisions. Final documents will be submitted for the court’s consideration in June 2020.

Multiple independent studies have proven SSJID’s financial and technical ability to own and operate local electrical distribution. City governments in Manteca, Escalon and Ripon also support the District’s efforts to provide locally owned retail electric service.

About SSJID: The South San Joaquin Irrigation District 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 more than 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.