



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2023

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### **New Electric Utility Manager Will Spearhead Public Power Initiative**

*Bill Schwandt set to lead South San Joaquin Irrigation District's bid for locally controlled energy service*

MANTECA, CA – In a move to bring more dependable and affordable electric utility service to residents and businesses, South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) established and filled a new role to manage its retail and wholesale electric programs.

Bill Schwandt, who reports to General Manager Peter Rietkerk, began as Electric Utility Manager at the District in October 2022. Schwandt brings 37 years of public power experience to SSJID, including expertise in strategic planning, operations and engineering, and implementing highly technical strategic business plans, policies, and regulatory activities for energy utilities.

“As an accomplished municipal utility manager, electrical engineer, and leader, Bill possesses a unique set of skills specific to public electric programs,” said Rietkerk. “I have no doubt he will advance the District’s goal to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity service to our communities, while also managing our 60-year wholesale power operations.”

Recognized for his integrity and innovation, Schwandt will direct SSJID’s ongoing program to supply retail electric service by acquiring the electrical assets of PG&E within the district. He will also manage SSJID’s solar power and hydroelectric resources, advise the Board of Directors on energy-related issues and recommend the development of additional electrical generation facilities.

“I am excited join a team that is so energized to bring power to the people,” said Schwandt. “Locally controlled electric service would save residents at least 15% on their bills and ensure a more reliable and consistent energy supply.”

Schwandt most recently served as General Manager at Modesto Irrigation District, where he led electric resources planning, generation, transmission, and distribution operations. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and a Bachelor of Science in electrical and electronics engineering from North Dakota State University. Throughout his career, Schwandt has served in varying roles on the Board of Directors for many organizations, including the California Municipal Utility Association (CMUA).

For more information, visit [www.ssjid.com](http://www.ssjid.com) or [www.poweredbyssjid.com](http://www.poweredbyssjid.com).

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# SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## **About the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID)**

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 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 electric generation facilities that produce zero-carbon hydropower in the Stanislaus River watershed.

Learn more at [www.ssjid.com](http://www.ssjid.com) or follow SSJID on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SSJIDofficial/>) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ssjid>).