



IRRIGATION

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

The 2022 irrigation season and normal 10-day rotation ended October 7, and maintenance season began October 10. Customers with questions can contact their division manager or reach out to SSJID at (209) 249-4600.

ENSURING A SMOOTH AND RELIABLE IRRIGATION SEASON

With the 2022 irrigation season ending on October 7, I am proud of the dedication of our team, as always, who ensured dependable water deliveries amid severe drought and a critically dry year designation.

Despite the extreme weather, SSJID was able to provide our agricultural customers with a full supply of water. This was thanks to senior, pre-1914 water rights, efficient delivery planning and water loss reduction actions by our team. With an ongoing drought on the horizon, we also set out to conserve water for next year, wrapping up this season with additional supplies in our Water Conservation Account. You can learn more about this on page two, where Water Resources Coordinator Brandon Nakagawa discusses this year's accomplishments and looks ahead to the next irrigation season.



While we are wrapping up this year on a positive note, we cannot predict Mother Nature and could see setbacks next year. It is imperative that we all continue to do our part now to mitigate ongoing drought conditions and impacts.

In addition to drought impacts, we must also acknowledge and respond to ongoing regulatory threats to SSJID's water supply. SSJID was recently handed a win when a court sided against the State Water Resources Control Board's actions to curtail senior water rights in 2015. While this was positive for senior water right holders, there are still other ongoing regulatory actions that are threatening surface water and groundwater supplies. SSJID is continuing to protect its legal interests, but also choosing to collaborate with local

and state officials to overcome these threats by remaining open to the potential for Voluntary Agreements, and by engaging local groundwater sustainability agencies to develop long-term plans that comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Rest assured; SSJID is here for you.

The District is committed to long-term planning and daily operations that guarantee you continue to receive the highest level of service. Gaining input from our customers is vital. Our Water Master Plan (WMP), which sets the stage for infrastructure improvements to ensure reliability over the next 30 years, was unveiled on October 5 to the Grower Advisory Committee (GAC), which played an integral role in the document's development. The plan, which will go to the Board in December for approval, innovatively addresses aging system components and identifies financial strategies to make necessary upgrades. Learn more about the plan on page three.

SSJID's employees are the reason we can continue to effectively serve you. I hope you'll join me in welcoming the many new staff members who joined the team over the past six months, as well as saying happy retirement to two key employees.

From emergency response and creative water management solutions to securing a sustainable water future for generations to come, you can count on SSJID.



Peter Rietkerk
General Manager

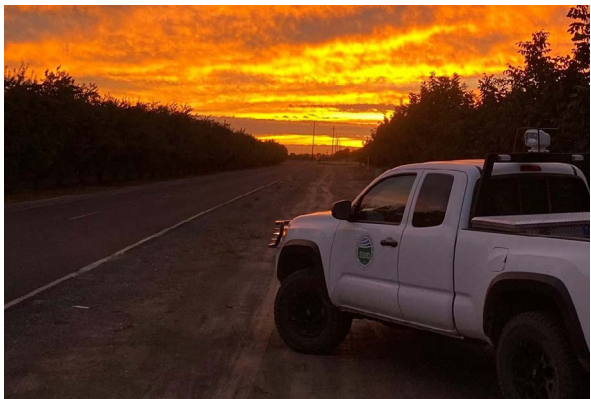




Brandon Nakagawa, Water Resources Coordinator

WATER OUTLOOK:

BALANCING A STABLE WATER SUPPLY WITH MOTHER NATURE



Not long ago, from 2012-2016, California endured five consecutive years of drought. At the height of the crisis in 2015, SSJID limited deliveries to its agricultural customers and urban areas faced mandatory cutbacks. Fast forward to 2021 and 2022, when we have again seen consecutive drought years, with 2021 recording one of the driest years on record for the Stanislaus River Watershed. There was slightly more precipitation and runoff in 2022, but not enough to avoid a **critical year** designation.

As we look ahead to the 2023 irrigation season, it is highly likely we will experience another dry year. Fortunately, SSJID is entering the 2023 Water Year with more cushion, thanks to careful planning and preparation. This does not mean we will not see impacts, however.

In 2021 and 2022, SSJID was able to ensure our agricultural and municipal customers received a full water supply despite the severe drought. This success was due to our most senior, pre-1914 water rights, which are held jointly with Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), and strategic water delivery tactics implemented by SSJID. Our division managers made significant efficiency improvements to deliver and track water more precisely. Division managers also worked closely with agricultural customers to reduce the amount of tailwater leaving the system.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? For the last two years, SSJID asked its customers to be mindful of water use because District water not diverted at Goodwin Dam can be stored in New Melones Reservoir for use by SSJID the following year. This storage is possible due to a Conservation Account that was negotiated by SSJID and OID in 1988 with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, allowing us to save unused water for times of need. In 2021, SSJID dipped into its Conservation Account to avoid mandatory cutbacks to its customers.



In 2022, the District was able to replenish and add to the Conservation Account for 2023.

While we are entering the 2023 Water Year with more in the Conservation Account, depleted storage levels in New Melones Reservoir are concerning. Will New Melones Reservoir be able to meet its obligations to OID and SSJID, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Central Valley Project? Despite the steps taken to weather the last two years of drought and to conserve stored water behind New Melones Dam, a third consecutive year could bring more impacts to SSJID's customers and others who rely on New Melones Reservoir. It's all up to Mother Nature.





WATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Forrest Killingsworth, Engineering Manager

As 2022 winds down, SSJID is finalizing its long-range planning document, the Water Master Plan (WMP). The recommended 30-year Capital Infrastructure Program (CIP), along with the financial strategies required to implement the plan, was unveiled at the Grower Advisory Committee (GAC) on October 5, 2022, keeping the Committee part of the plan development process.

Development of the WMP has been all but fast-moving. However, to produce a plan that is truly useful, shortcuts are not an option. The process requires disciplined focus, organized coordination, community involvement, and passionate team members fiercely committed to the betterment of the District and the community.



Grower Advisory Committee

Initial planning for the WMP began in 2018, with significant engagement of District Board members, local municipalities, grower organizations and the 30-member GAC. From the early stages of development, District staff recognized the importance of involving the community in the planning process to ensure stakeholders' needs continue to be met. The GAC, organized specifically for the WMP development process, established a representative

group of irrigation customers to provide valuable input and guidance to the WMP development team at strategic milestones of the planning process. The GAC is a valuable resource, informing decisions regarding the next 30 years of infrastructure and financial planning for SSJID. The Committee's input has been critical in advancing the WMP for adoption by the District's Board of Directors.

What's in the recommended plan?

The recommended 30-year CIP includes several categories of projects involving maintenance, rehabilitation and service improvement. From a financial perspective, a large portion of the burden is associated with addressing aging infrastructure and stabilizing service across the District. SSJID's distribution system is, unlike most in the state, differentiated by large quantities of cast-in-place, unreinforced concrete pipelines. SSJID owns and operates more than 315 miles of pipelines, the majority of which were installed in the 1950s and 1960s. Underground pipelines take up less surface area than open ditches, minimize evaporation and seepage losses, and are good conduits for flood irrigation. However, they are more difficult to maintain and access, are subject to unauthorized encroachments, can be more costly to replace, and are inefficient and impractical in providing service to on-farm pressurized service customers.

The CIP includes specific strategies aimed at mitigating these difficulties in the most efficient way possible.

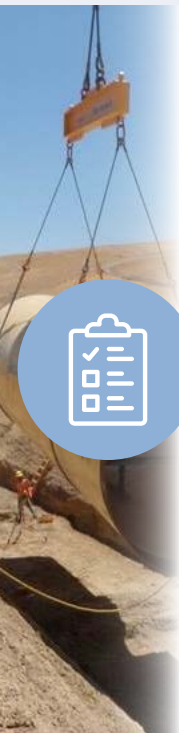
A secondary portion of the plan is focused on modernization and service improvement. To ensure that projects are identified and prioritized appropriately, District staff developed an analytical tool to measure "service" in each geographic region of the District. By doing so, the infrastructure team was able to understand where the shortcomings of the existing conveyance system are located, where targeted projects can enhance level of service to growers, and by how much.

Many innovative and technologically advanced projects have been identified, documented, and dreamt about. Unfortunately, not all projects will be prioritized. The District must be practical in selecting the most necessary and beneficial projects to execute. Our financial abilities do have a limit. It will be up to the WMP development team, the GAC and the Board of Directors to appropriately balance the CIP with a sound financial strategy that maximizes non-operating revenue and right-sizes customer rates.

A secure water future

This is an exciting time for the District. In just a few short months, for the first time in District history, we will have a plan that guides the District's infrastructure, service and financial plans for the next 30 years. The WMP is on track to be considered by the Board of Directors in December 2022. While the WMP looks ahead for 30 years, the reality

is it will need to be revisited every five years to evaluate how strategies are being implemented and to update the plan for the next 30 years. With this type of futuristic thinking and community engagement, we can ensure long-term success for the District and its customers for many generations to come!



MOVING AND IMPROVING

As another irrigation season comes to an end on October 7 and maintenance season begins, here are some important operations updates for customers:



Frank Avila, Irrigation Operations Manager

UNSCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

This year, SSJID responded to two unscheduled maintenance issues on our aging conveyance system, requiring immediate repairs. This resulted in a temporary disruption of services to a portion of customers served by the V-ditch in Ripon and to those located near Drain #11 (Airport Road in Manteca).

The V-ditch serves most of the western Ripon area. An extended outage would have been devastating. Thankfully, our crews were able to assess the issue and make repairs allowing for irrigation services to the V-ditch to resume about 24 hours later.

Drain #11 serves as an important drain to farmers by removing excess water at the end of fields that collects either from irrigating or rain. The drain also serves the region between West Ripon and Woodward Roads, to Airport Way, where wells control of groundwater levels in that area.



Crews quickly resolved a culvert issue that was blocking flow and temporarily interrupted irrigation service for some landowners in the vicinity.



SCADA SHARING PROJECT

SSJID completed a Board-approved project at the start of the water season, allowing SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) data to be shared directly with the irrigation division managers who canvass the District daily during irrigation season. The real-time data collection and automation allows division managers to view the total amount of water going into each lateral and offers the ability to adjust the head gate on some lateral control boxes. The project ensures division managers stay aware of the flows to better serve our customers.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

Our crews are ready to start maintenance season. We are expecting to receive the District's use permit from the California Air Resources Board, allowing us to start using SSJID's new pipe lining refurbishing machine. This machine will enable SSJID crews to start lining projects on our aging laterals with the goal of getting additional years of service out of the pipelines. This operation will be in addition to regularly scheduled winter maintenance projects that include general projects, building float valve and control boxes, and other necessary structures on the laterals, and shotcrete (sprayed concrete lining) work.

SHOP DEPARTMENT

The shop team will be actively maintaining our fleet vehicles, including the division manager trucks that run nearly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during irrigation season. The crew will also be preparing the shotcrete machines and the new pipeline machine that are anticipated to be widely used this season.



WELCOME TO SSJID!

SSJID is excited to announce the following new employees who joined the team over the last six months!



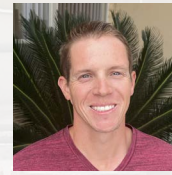
William "Bill" Schwandt

Electric Utility Manager



Billy Ashby

*Ditchtender/
Maintenance Worker*



Carson Allen

*Ditchtender/
Maintenance Worker*



David von Savoye

*Ditchtender/
Maintenance Worker*



Glenn Boyles

*Ditchtender/
Maintenance Worker*



Wesley Manchester

Ditchtender/Maintenance Worker

Wesley joined SSJID in May and is excited to make a positive impact within the community! Wesley appreciates the District's commitment to safety and enjoys hiking, camping and learning new trade skills.



Rob Rankin

IT Support Technician

Joining the team in March, Rob's favorite part of working at SSJID is the teamwork. "I love solving problems as a team, it makes finding the solution so much better when you have someone to share the experience with. Everyone shows up ready to work and we get things done. Can't ask for a better work environment. It's like a family," Rob said.



Lance Martin

*Industrial Electrician/
Instrumentation Technician*

Lance started his role in September. He's excited to help advance SSJID's mission and be part of an organization that values teamwork. Lance said, "it takes a very diverse set of skills to run an organization this complex. Teamwork is critical to bringing all those skills together for a common mission."



Sonya Williams

Finance and Administration Manager

Sonya, who came to SSJID in July, is excited to join a positive environment that promotes and encourages strong values. Sonya appreciates SSJID's value of integrity because it creates a better workplace for employees and fosters the District's other core values: teamwork, positivity, accountability and respect.



John Kelly

Auto/Equipment Mechanic

John joined the District in August and is excited to be part of the team keeping vehicles operating, an important component in ensuring SSJID can provide dependable service to its customers. In his spare time, John enjoys camping, fishing, mountain biking and off-road trips.

SSJID was sad to say happy retirement to two vital team members in the past few months. Congratulations to Assistant General Manager Bere Lindley, who retired in March, and Telemetry System Supervisor Llyod Wayman, who retired in June. ***We wish you the best!***

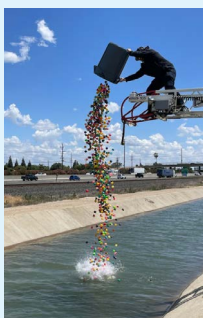




Congratulations to Brady B., a fifth grader at Weston Elementary School in Ripon, who was the grand prize winner of SSJID's annual "The Flow of H2O" art contest. *Brady's unique artwork was displayed on SSJID trucks for the duration of the water season.* Brady also received a \$100 gift card for creatively portraying the value of our most precious resource!

Check out the other winners from first through fifth grades at ssjid.com.

SSJID IN THE COMMUNITY



The annual Ripon Rotary Duck Race took place in the SSJID canals in May!



SSJID was proud to sponsor Garden Joy!



Our team was honored to volunteer at the annual Love Ripon event in April, working to better our community.



Education at an early age is key!
SSJID was excited to participate in the Great Valley Ag Day in April.



The District was a proud participant at the Ripon, Escalon and Manteca chamber mixers.



More than 250 people attended the Second Harvest Bowls United event in September, which honors the many agencies, including SSJID, that help Second Harvest provide food to the most vulnerable members of our community.