



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 16, 2021

**Contact:** Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager  
(209) 249-4645 or [prietkerk@ssjid.com](mailto:prietkerk@ssjid.com)

## **SSJID Prevails in Legal Appeal: One Step Closer to Replacing PG&E as Local Retail Electric Service Provider**

*District is a critical step closer to bringing affordable power to the communities of Escalon,  
Manteca and Ripon*

MANTECA, CA – On December 15, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) was handed a critical victory by the Third District Court of Appeal in its ongoing bid to bring locally-controlled electric service to residents in the communities of Escalon, Manteca, and Ripon. The decision provided SSJID with two critical wins: First, it validated the Local Agency Formation Commission’s approval of SSJID’s ability and authority to provide retail electric utility service to its customers; second, the decision allows the district to move forward with the ability to provide those services by purchasing PG&E’s facilities through the process of eminent domain.

“Today is a win for our communities. With rising costs, it is critical that our local communities have access to reduced rates, with local accountability. We are committed to seeing this through, and if granted the opportunity to take over that responsibility, we will follow through on our commitment to deliver to our local communities exceptional value and service,” said Peter Rietkerk, General Manager.

“The court’s decision puts us back on track with our condemnation action to gain the right to purchase PG&E’s local distribution assets, a process we started in 2016 to become a retail electric provider,” said Mia Brown, General Counsel.

### **Background:**

- Since 2004, SSJID has been actively working to replace PG&E as the electric utility for customers in Manteca, Escalon, Ripon and the surrounding areas.
- As part of that process, SSJID was required to obtain approval from a San Joaquin County agency called the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). In 2014, after five independent studies and a public workshop before LAFCo, LAFCo found that SSJID’s business plan was sound and that SSJID has the ability to carry out its service commitments.
- PG&E filed a lawsuit to have the LAFCo decision overturned in San Joaquin County Superior Court. After continued litigation and some favorable court decisions for SSJID, SSJID offered to purchase local electric distribution assets from PG&E in 2016. After PG&E indicated its assets

were not for sale, the District filed a lawsuit to gain the right to purchase the assets from PG&E, through a process called eminent domain.

- On March 25, 2020, SSJID and PG&E stipulated to a “relief from stay” in the bankruptcy hearing that would allow ongoing litigation between the two parties to continue. This stipulation allowed for final briefs to be filed and for the appellate court to take the appeals under consideration.
- SSJID has offered to pay PG&E \$116 million for the power lines, substations and transmission infrastructure required to deliver electricity to our region. We are supported by thousands of local residents as well as many business and government leaders, who are all confident SSJID is up to the task of becoming a retail electric provider, and can do so in a safe, trustworthy and affordable manner.

###

### **About the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (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 the cities of Manteca, Lathrop, Tracy, indirectly serving over 193,000 residents, and in the future, the city of 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 <https://poweredbyssjid.com>, or follow us at [www.facebook.com/poweredbypurpose](http://www.facebook.com/poweredbypurpose)

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>).