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SSJID Sets Sept. 3rd Public Hearing to Consider Approval of Application to San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission

SSJID plan guarantees a 15 percent rate cut for homes and businesses in its service territory for retail electric service

Manteca, CA, August 11, 2009 – The South San Joaquin Irrigation District’s (SSJID) application to the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to provide retail electricity will be considered by the SSJID board of directors on September 3, 2009, at 9 am at the District’s main office located at 11011 East Highway 120 in Manteca. SSJID board approval is required before the application may be submitted to LAFCo. The hearing is open to the public.

If SSJID’s board votes to move forward, SSJID will ask LAFCo to approve its application to provide retail electric service to approximately 40,000 customers currently being served by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) in the cities of Escalon, Manteca, Ripon and in nearby unincorporated areas.

“We intend to provide locally-owned and controlled retail electricity service to both residents and businesses, which also includes agricultural and industrial customers, in South San Joaquin County,” said Jeff Shields, SSJID’s general manager. “We are confident that with our successful track record in managing our own electric generation and our more than a century of service to this community as a utility, we will be able to deliver outstanding service, improved reliability and save our customers money. It is the commitment of our board of directors to bring SSJID’s resources to bear on improving our local economy.”

SSJID's proposed rates will save customers 15 percent over PG&E rates. The net savings to residents and businesses in the service area would be nearly \$11.6 million in the first year of operation as an electric utility.

Electricity provided by a locally-owned and controlled "non-profit" such as SSJID keeps money in the community for nonprofit organizations, civic groups and charitable causes, as well as allows municipal funding to be directed more effectively for public services such as fire and police protection. Publicly-owned power also promises a boost to local employment, a commitment to energy conservation and a focus on service, not profits.

Copies of the application and supporting documents will be available online at www.ssjid.com, or at the counter of the District's main office at 11011 East Highway 120 in Manteca. Associated copy fees will be collected if a hard-copy is requested.

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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 approximately 72,000 acres of agriculture in, and surrounding, Escalon, Ripon and Manteca. SSJID's historic water rights allow for several hydroelectric power plants on a series of dams and reservoirs on the Stanislaus River. SSJID and Oakdale Irrigation District completed the original Melones Reservoir in 1926, and have co-owned the Tri-Dam Project, consisting of Donnell's, Beardsley and Tulloch reservoirs and powerhouses, since 1957. In 2005, as unprecedented urban growth replaced agricultural land, the district expanded into providing domestic water service to South San Joaquin County cities with its state-of-the-art membrane filtration water treatment plant. SSJID recently completed a 1.6 megawatt solar farm that provides nearly all the electricity to run its water treatment plant, saving the district over \$400,000 annually in power costs. The solar farm is thought to be the world's first single-axis solar tracking system featuring thin-film photovoltaic cells. For several years, the district has been moving towards providing retail electric service as well, aiming to cut electricity bills of those in its service territory by 15% across the board.