



CANYON TUNNEL PROJECT



Reliability for the Future

Understanding the Canyon Tunnel Project

Together with its partner Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) is constructing a bypass tunnel for its Joint Supply Canal (JSC). The project, currently referred to as the “Canyon Tunnel Project,” would increase water delivery reliability into the next century.

The JSC conveys water from the Goodwin Dam diversion on the Stanislaus River to both SSJID and OID. The Canyon Tunnel Project would bypass a risk-prone portion of the JSC downstream of the Goodwin Dam, extending around 12,000 feet downstream to a point where the JSC departs from the Stanislaus River canyon. An unstable rock slope occasionally drops rock onto this section of the JSC. The new tunnel would provide a safer work environment for District personnel and additional supply reliability for the District and its customers. The tentative project schedule concludes construction in 2028.

FACTS & FIGURES

- \$70-80 million project**
- SSJID covers 72 percent of the cost, OID covers 28 percent based on historic water use**
- 12,106 lineal feet of new tunnel**
- 100 years of water security**

2023

January 2023, SSJID’s Board approved advancing the project to the 90 percent design level

2024-25

June 2024, SSJID’s Board approved advancing the project to the 95 percent design level (currently 95 percent of the work has been concluded, 100 percent design was initiated in January 2025)

2020

April 28, 2020, SSJID’s Board approved advancing the project to the 60 percent design level

2019

January 15, 2019, SSJID’s Board of Directors approved a contract with Condor Earth to initiate a feasibility study and 30 percent design

1910

Joint Supply Canal put in place

2017

Fall 2017, Condor Earth conducted a hazard study - recommended significant repair, maintenance, and stabilization activities that could be avoided through construction of a tunnel

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Assessing Water Supply Threats

- Without the Canyon Tunnel, water supplies to the cities of Manteca, Lathrop, and Tracy; 52,000 acres in SSJID's service area; and 26,305 acres in OID's service area are at risk.
- Landslides have previously blocked the movement of water through the canal, including a large landslide in 2013 that removed the canal from operation several months before the irrigation season.
- If the landslide had occurred during the height of the irrigation season, it could have triggered severe water cutbacks and impacted many local growers.

The Canyon Tunnel would limit the potential for these hazards and build critical resiliency.

Creating a Dependable Water Supply for the Next 100 Years

Once completed, the Canyon Tunnel is expected to last for 100 years without the need for major work. This project will significantly reduce maintenance costs, protect employee safety, and advance regional water security for years to come.

For questions or to learn more, email Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson at katie.patterson@ssjid.gov.



For additional information, and to sign up for updates, visit canyontunnelproject.org