

# NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

## NSJWCD AWARDED \$5.6 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR SOUTH SYSTEM PIPELINE PROJECT

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District's South System Pipeline Project has been awarded state and federal grants totalling \$5.6 million. Of this award, \$4 million will go to the district for the pipeline work and \$1.6 million will go to 19 landowners along the system to cover the cost of turnouts and other irrigation system upgrades necessary for growers to receive pressurized surface water. The \$4 million in grants to the district requires at least a 50% local match. Being selected for this competitive award is exciting news for the District and the 19

growers located near the pipeline who partnered with the District in the applications.

These grant awards add to the \$1.75 million in settlement funds that NSJWCD received from East Bay Municipal Utility District to put toward the new South System Pump Station. The grants require that the project be completed by April 2019. To meet this goal, the District needs to get landowner buy-in to pay for the balance of the cost of the proposed project.

The project, once complete, will deliver between 10,000 and 12,000 acre feet of pressurized

surface water to lands along the pipeline, reducing groundwater pumping, improving groundwater levels and reducing energy costs. The project also includes moisture sensors and weather stations for improved water management. The project will make a big difference in helping NSJWCD achieve its groundwater sustainability goals under the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and help prevent potential future pumping restrictions.

## SOUTH SYSTEM ENGINEER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED LANDOWNER ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The District's Board of Directors has been planning for the South System Improvement Project - which involves two main components: (1) a new South System pump station and (2) a new 7-mile pipeline -- both to deliver pressurized surface water with a fully automated system. The project will greatly reduce the operational costs to deliver water to about 5,000 acres.

### Capital Cost Estimate

At 30% design, the pipeline project cost is estimated at about \$12 million and the pump station cost is estimated at \$2.5 million. With grants and EBMUD funds, the District has \$5.75 million, but must look to landowners for the balance (about \$8 to \$10 million). The District will need to finance this additional amount and

secure that debt with landowner assessments.

(Annual operational expenses will be recovered through surface water rates and will not be part of an acreage assessment.)

### Assessment Options

The District hired engineering firm Provost & Pritchard to complete an Engineer's Report analyzing the parcels that will benefit from the project and proposing an

assessment method. The assessment would be a per acre annual charge that will differ depending on the level of benefit each parcel receives from the project. Parcels that take pressurized water, for example, will be assessed at a higher rate than parcels farther away from the pipeline. Also, not all parcels in the district will be assessed for this project - just those in the project benefit zone. The report will be developed over the next few months with landowner input.

### Landowner Meetings

The District will hold a series of landowner workshops to describe the different funding options and

solicit landowner input. All NSJWCD landowners are encouraged to participate, particularly those South of the river and in the vicinity of the South System pipeline. (See South System map at [www.nsigroundwater.org](http://www.nsigroundwater.org).) **The District is seeking your input so we can craft a mechanism that best serves your needs.** The project will be discussed at the NSJWCD regular board meetings on Oct. 30, 2017, Nov. 27, 2017 and Dec. 18, 2017 at 2pm at the Lodi Library. The District is also holding a **workshop in partnership with Lodi District Grape Growers at 10:00 am on November 28,**

**2017 at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds, Jackson Hall.**

### Proposition 218 Proceeding

Any new assessment will need to be approved through a Proposition 218 proceeding, which will occur no earlier than December 2017.

### South System Test Run

The District will be operating the existing South System for a test run **October 22-29** to inspect the pipeline. If you have an open valve on your property please close it or contact the District Engineer, John Podesta, for assistance: 209-662-5578.

**NSJWCD Board of Directors: Joe Valente, Tom Flinn, David Simpson, Hugh Scanlon, Marden Wilber**

**Follow Progress on the South System Project on Our Website: [www.nsigroundwater.org](http://www.nsigroundwater.org)**

**Regular Monthly Board Meeting: Last Monday of each month, 2pm, Lodi Public Library Community Room**

NSJWCD - September 2017 Newsletter  
Post Office Box E  
Victor, CA 95253

**North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Meetings**  
**Mondays, 2pm: October 30<sup>th</sup>, November 27<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lodi Library Community Room: 201 W. Locust Street, Lodi**