

# NEWSLETTER

**WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?**

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HOW IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS FUNCTION



**CHEERS TO 2025! A LOOK BACK AT A YEAR OF HARD WORK AND BIG WINS**

As we prepare to welcome 2026 in just a few months, it's a good time to reflect on what we accomplished this year. Here are some highlights:

**Solar Project**

The District completed the installation of a 500kW photovoltaic solar system and is currently waiting for PG&E to finalize their work to bring it online. The District is taking advantage of a special program that allows us to offset consumed power at 50 different PG&E meters throughout the area. This approach enables the District to operate one large solar farm instead of several small systems, leading to annual savings of \$200,000.

**Canyon Tunnel Project**

OID and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) broke ground on the Joint Canyon Tunnel Project. This three-year project involves tunneling two miles to eliminate a problematic stretch of the Joint Supply Canal that is the main water supply conveyance system for SSJID and roughly 40% of OID's service area. This hazard poses an unacceptable risk to both Districts' ability to transport water into our respective areas. The total estimated project cost is \$94 million, with OID covering 28% of that cost.

**Paulsell Lateral Expansion**

This two-year project will enlarge and automate six miles (Phase 1) of the 10-mile Paulsell Lateral canal, which runs from OID's

South Main Canal, under Warnerville Road, and into Paulsell Valley. These upgrades will allow OID to move surface water more efficiently and reduce reliance on groundwater pumping.

This Project directly supports OID's groundwater sustainability plan and water management goals under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). It also advances objectives in the Modesto Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by facilitating in-lieu and direct recharge to offset groundwater use, help stabilize local groundwater levels, and improve long-term water reliability.

Construction began in November 2024 and is scheduled for completion prior to the 2026 irrigation season. The Project is funded substantially with a \$14.3 million State grant through Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Round 2 SGMA Implementation Grant, one of the largest awarded in the state.

**Day-to-Day Stuff**

A lot of work happens behind the scenes to deliver more than 247,000 acre-feet of water each year. While the Distribution System

Operators (DSOs) deliver and schedule your water, many other departments are involved too, including Construction and Maintenance (C&M), Engineering, Finance, Fleet Maintenance, IT/Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Pesticide, Warehouse, and Water Utilities. The District receives about 845 work orders each year and completes even more, ranging from minor repairs to major projects.

We're looking forward to an even more productive year in 2026!

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR WATER: OID PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL GROUNDWATER PLANNING EFFORTS**

Work continues on the Dry Well Mitigation Plan and Groundwater Use Management Program for inclusion in our Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). These efforts fulfill the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) mandate, requiring local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and implement projects and management actions as necessary to ensure long-term groundwater

*(article continued on back)*

**2025/26 AG SCHOLARSHIP**

Are you a high school senior with dreams rooted in agriculture? OID is planting seeds of opportunity with the 2025/26 OID Ag Scholarship!

**APPLICATION PERIOD: NOV. 10, 2025-FEB. 13, 2026**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN SPRING 2026!**

Learn more & apply here: [www.oakdaleirrigation.com/scholarships](http://www.oakdaleirrigation.com/scholarships)

sustainability.

While the OID is actively engaged in this collaborative, public process, these plans and programs are being drafted and coordinated by the GSAs for the two subbasins within which OID operates - the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin and the Modesto Subbasin.

DWR-approved GSPs are essential for maintaining local groundwater management. The GSAs are responsible for ensuring that these plans and programs meet SGMA requirements, including strategies to reduce groundwater demand and assist in mitigating for wells that go dry as a result of over-pumping.

OID partners with the GSAs and other local agencies in this regional planning effort. Community involvement is a vital part of the process, and we encourage all stakeholders to participate. To learn more about these plans, find details on upcoming public meetings, or provide input directly to the GSA's, please visit STRGBA.org and ESJgroundwater.org.

Your engagement is essential to ensuring new groundwater management policies reflect the needs of all users and promote long-term sustainability for our region.

## WINTER'S COMING...AND SO IS THE C&M CREW!

As irrigation season ends, OID's Construction & Maintenance (C&M) crew transitions from supporting in-season operations to preparing infrastructure for winter maintenance and improvement projects. Distribution System Operators (DSOs) join the C&M team in the off-season, bringing system knowledge and field experience to help with repairs and upgrades. This collaboration boosts the team's ability to complete winter projects efficiently and safely, ensuring our water delivery system remains reliable.

The C&M crew, supported by DSOs, takes on canal lining, structure replacements, pipeline installations, and erosion control to maintain OID's network. Their efforts keep everything ready for the next irrigation season.

The C&M team partners with Engineering, IT/Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Fleet Maintenance, and Water Utilities to plan and complete projects, efficiently and safely. Their skill and teamwork keep our water delivery system running reliably.

OID extends its appreciation to staff for their hard work and year-round commitment to excellence. As winter approaches, we thank them for the work they do behind the scenes to keep water flowing when our growers need it most.

Each Improvement District operates as an independent entity. Property owner assessments fund the ongoing operation and maintenance of their improvement district. Improvement Districts are formed, in accordance with the CA Water Code, with OID's approval upon petition from landowners who wish to share the cost of extending and maintaining irrigation or domestic drinking water services to their land.

There are five Domestic Improvement Districts that are guided by a local committee of representatives who meet with OID management at least once a year. These meetings serve to review the financial reports, discuss system performance, and consider any recommendations from either the committee or OID staff. While OID provides guidance on financial matters such as rate structures and assessment levels, it is ultimately the improvement district committee that recommends which actions best serve the interests of their respective district and helps communicate those decisions to their stakeholders.

# Important Dates.

NOV  
26-28

### THANKSGIVING

Offices will be closed for Thanksgiving and will re-open 12/1.

DEC  
22

### 1<sup>ST</sup> INSTALLMENT DUE!

The 1st installment of the Fixed Parcel Assessment and the 2025 Volumetric payments are due by 12/22 before 5 p.m.

DEC  
24-26

### CHRISTMAS

Offices will be closed for the Christmas holidays and will re-open 12/29.

JAN  
01

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Offices will be closed for New Year's Day and will re-open 1/5/26.

FEB  
16

### PRESIDENTS' DAY

Offices will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day and will re-open 2/17.

Scan the QR code to stay connected with all things at OID!



## HOW IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS FUNCTION - AND WHY THEY'RE IMPORTANT

Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) serves as the administrator of two types of improvement districts: Domestic Improvement Districts, comprising of 5 separate districts, and Agricultural Improvement Districts, comprising of 13 separate districts.

As their names suggest, Domestic Improvement Districts were primarily established to provide drinking water to properties, while Agricultural Improvement Districts were created to deliver irrigation water.

OID does not own the Improvement Districts; rather, it manages their financial operations and oversees the maintenance and repair of the infrastructure necessary to keep each system functional.

## Fresh Faces, Bright Futures: MEET SOME OF OID'S NEW TEAM MEMBERS

As OID continues to evolve, so does our team. This year, we're excited to welcome several new employees who bring fresh perspectives, valuable skills, and a shared commitment to serving our community. From field operations to office support, these new team members are already making an impact.



ERIN HUGHES

Safety Coordinator

*Since I joined OID, I have truly enjoyed getting to know each of our employees. Working here reminds me of my hometown in Texas, which is comforting. Additionally, the world of safety is always evolving, as each day brings different challenges at job sites. I take pride in knowing that I can make a difference for our employees, especially when I ask them, "What's your why?"*



GEOFF HAGMAN

IT Support Technician

*I love the people I work around, I enjoy the work we do here, and it's a quarter mile from my home.*



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