

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SPECIAL MEETING

## MINUTES January 7, 2025

### ATTENDANCE

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President  
Robert Motte, Vice-President  
Robert Barcellos  
Wm. Cory Carvalho  
Andrew Groppetti

#### STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager  
Donna Hanneman, Secretary

#### CONSULTANTS

- LIGHTHOUSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LLC / CLOSED SESSION  
Andy Lynch (Zoom)

#### EXCUSED

None

#### LEGAL COUNSEL

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP  
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)
- BARTKIEWICZ KRONICK & SHANAHAN / CLOSED SESSION  
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

#### ABSENT

None

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT (“District”) was held Tuesday, January 7, 2025, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

### 2. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

### 3. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST [FPPC §87105]

Directors were given an opportunity to identify potential conflicts-of-interest with items appearing on the Agenda. None were reported.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public were given an opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during consideration of the item. There were no public comments.

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## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

None

### ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:01 A.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President

Robert Motte, Vice-President

Robert Barcellos, Director

Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director

Andrew Groppetti, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Consultants:

- Lighthouse Public Affairs, LLC  
Andy Lynch (Zoom)

Legal Counsel

- Young Wooldridge, LLP  
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)
- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan  
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

## 6. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

- a. SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OR (3) OF SUBDIVISION (D):

4 CASES

## 7. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION

AS DEFENDANT: 3 CASES

- a. NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, ET AL, V HAALAND, ET AL  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California  
Case No. 1:5-CV-01207LJO-GSA
- b. CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, RESTORE THE DELTA AND PLANNING & CONSERVATION LEAGUE V UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ET AL (06/08/2021)  
United States District Court, Eastern District of California  
Case No. 1:20-CV-00706 DAD-EPG
- c. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY V JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT Fresno  
County Superior Court Case No. 24CECG03049 (08/13/2024)

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AS PLAINTIFF: 2 CASES

- d. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL V. JAMES VERBOON ET AL  
Kings County Superior Court, Case No. 15 C0304
- e. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV417565

AS INTERVENOR: 1 CASE

- f. CITY OF FRESNO, ET AL V. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
United States Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-CV-01276-MCW

## 8. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.8 - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

### a. JAMES & TRANQUILLITY NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
Tranquillity Irrigation District: Danny Wade  
Kings River Lower River Units: Scott Sills

Under Negotiation: Price, terms & conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions

### b. SOUTHWEST GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECT (11/13/2012)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
Fresno Irrigation District: Bill Stretch

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions, operations & maintenance.

### c. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (04/19/2018)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
To Be Determined

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

### d. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS: MCMULLIN AREA GSA (06/22/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
McMullin GSA: Matthew Hurley, General Manager

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

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**RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 10:49 A.M.**

**9. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION** (Gov. Code 54957.1)

President Riley Chaney, stated Directors gave counsel authorization to proceed with litigation; particulars will be forthcoming.

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / A.GROPPETTI)**, to ADJOURN the meeting at 10:51 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025, by the following vote:

**AYES:** 5 (W.Carvalho, A.Groppetti, R.Barcellos, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

**RECORDED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

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Donna Y. Hanneman, Secretary

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Riley Chaney, President

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Manny Amorelli, General Manager