

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES February 10, 2026

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Robert Barcellos
Wm. Cory Carvalho
Robert Motte

EXCUSED

Andrew Groppetti, Vice President

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager
Donna Hanneman, Secretary
Mirian Esparza, Office Clerk

PUBLIC

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Jerry Gragnani, Gragnani Farms et al
Donnie Gragnani, Donnie Gragnani Farms

McMULLIN AREA GSA (MAGSA)

Matthew Hurley, General Manager

LEGAL COUNSEL

YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom) (Arr. 10:12 a.m.)

BKS LAW FIRM, PC / CLOSED SESSION

Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Riley Chaney led the meeting in reciting the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

4. 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.

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5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Board observed a moment of silence in honor of MARIA DE LOS ANGELES RAMOS, landowner, retired San Joaquin Elementary school teacher.

b. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ANNIVERSARY OF FORMATION

The Board noted that February 16th marks the 106th anniversary of the District's formation in 1920.

7. MINUTES

a. SPECIAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 24, 2025

b. ADIJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 24, 2025

c. REGULAR MEETING: JANUARY 13, 2026

d. SPECIAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 3, 2026

M/S/C (W.CARVALHO/R.MOTTE), to APPROVE as presented:

AYES: 4 (W.Carvalho,R.Motte,R.Barcellos,R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

In accordance with Water Code §24273, Mr. Amorelli presented reports as follows:

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: JANUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 10, 2026 (Att.1)

b. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (Att.2)

Interim Warrants (bills paid) with supporting invoices and Accounts Payable invoices (unpaid bills) were presented for review/approval. M/S/C (R.MOTTE/W.CARVALHO) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$396,548.67 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$156,934.13 by the following vote:

AYES: 4 (R.Motte,W.Carvalho,R.Barcellos,R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

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- c. PAYROLL CERTIFICATION: PAY PERIODS ENDING JANUARY, 2026 (Att.3)
A listing of payroll checks totaling \$68,002.19 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending January, 2026, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.
- d. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 31, 2026
- e. CASH POSITION REPORT: JANUARY 31, 2026
- f. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: JANUARY 31, 2026

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters since the last meeting:

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: January, 2026 - Water deliveries for the month of January were 47.13 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 55,792.47 acre-feet.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of February 1, 2026, totaled 10,614 CFS days.

AGENCIES

- ▶ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) – Based on the most recent communication received, an initial water allocation announcement anticipated this month. Staff continues to monitor conditions closely and will provide updates as new information becomes available.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

- ▶ James Groundwater Sustainability Agency (James GSA)
 - Groundwater Allocation Framework –On January 22, 2026, the James GSA Board accepted and adopted the Groundwater Allocation Framework. This Framework has been under development for approximately 15 months and represents a significant milestone in basin-wide groundwater management planning.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ▶ James Irrigation Budget Workshop - On February 3 ,2026 the District conducted its annual budget workshop, during which staff presented multiple financial scenarios based on varying water supply, sales volumes, CVP allocation percentages, and operational cost assumptions. The Board engaged in a thorough and productive discussion regarding water rates and projected demand. Based on Board input, staff prepared recommended budget to be presented later in the meeting as an action item for consideration and approval.
- ▶ Retirement & Recognition – The General Manger reported that February 27th marks the conclusion of Secretary Donna Hanneman’s distinguished career with the District, following 33 years and 7 months of dedicated service. Mr. Amorelli expressed sincere appreciation for Donna’s longstanding commitment, professionalism and unwavering dedication to the District. The Board and staff formally recognized and thanked Donna for exceptional service, lasting contribution and legacy she leaves with the District.

EVENTS

- ▶ Mid-Pacific Water Users’ Conference - January 27 – January 30, 2026 the Bureau of Reclamation hosted its Annual Water Users’ Conference in Reno, Nevada. District staff attended and met with other existing and potential water supply partners. The conference provided opportunities to discuss anticipated water supply conditions for upcoming water year, evaluate partnership opportunities and coordinate on operational and regulatory issues. The General Manger noted the conference was productive and beneficial in strengthening relationships and identifying future collaboration opportunities.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported he and field staff have been working on the following projects:

- ▶ Ongoing maintenance and well inspections.
- ▶ Construction of new well discharges.
- ▶ Pre-emergent applications resumed due to upcoming rain.
- ▶ One ditch tender currently operating District water deliveries.
- ▶ Crew continues work on East Auxiliary Channel Project.

11. DIRECTORS’ REPORTS

Directors were given an opportunity to inform the Board of meetings and/or conferences attended on behalf of the District. None were reported.

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12. ACTION ITEMS

- a. FISCAL BUDGET: MARCH 1, 2026-FEBRUARY 28, 2027 (02/03/2026) (Att.4)

Staff presented a summary reflecting comments from the Special Meeting and Budget workshop from February 3, 2026. Following discussion, the Board determined that additional well construction is not necessary at this time given infrastructure capacity.

M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / R.MOTTE) to APPROVE the 2026-27 Fiscal Budget 1.) Lowering the irrigation water rate from \$165.00/acre-foot to \$160.00/acre-foot 2.) Based on irrigation sales of 50,000 acre-feet 3.) 30% CVP allocation 4.) No New Wells. The Budget is to be revisited April 2026 should conditions change.

AYES: 4 (W.Carvalho,R.Motte,R.Barcellos,R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

- b. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-090-24S (15.98 ACRES), 030-090-28S (366.07 ACRES) (10/16/2012)

The Board discussed the provision of a temporary water allocation pending further review. M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS / W.CARVALHO) to APPROVE a temporary allocation of 50 acre-feet for the month of March, consistent with the allocation approved for the prior month. This allocation is temporary, does not establish a permanent water right or ongoing obligation and will be brought back up for consideration at the next Regular meeting.

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

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

- c. REMOTE FLOW METER MONITORING (08/12/2025)

Staff provided an update on the ongoing remote flow meter monitoring trial with WildEye. Following review and feedback, the Board provided direction to continue the pilot program trial under the following conditions:

- Limit the pilot to three laterals
- Exclude movable meters
- Proceed under a one-year agreement
- Pay 25% until Storm interface is complete.

Board directed staff to negotiate pricing and return with an update. NO ACTION TAKEN

13. REPORT ITEMS

- a. MAIN CANAL PROJECT (01/13/2026)

Staff reported that the next Board meeting will include a presentation from Summers Engineering and Dr. Charles Burt. The presentation will provide an update on the project status, design progress and available funding options.

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ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:42 A.M.

DIRECTORS ATTENDING:

Riley Chaney, President
Robert Barcellos, Director
Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director
Robert Motte, Director

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Young Wooldridge, LLP
Alan Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

BKS Law Firm, PC
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

STAFF ATTENDING:

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

14. 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):
1 CASE

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

AS DEFENDANT: 2 CASES

- a. 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
- b. McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY V. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 24CECG03049 (08/13/2024)

AS PLAINTIFF: 2 CASES

- a. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV417565
- b. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY & LANDOWNERS WITHIN MAGSA'S BOUNDARIES
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 24CV447516

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16. 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: Manager/Designee

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

b. KINGS SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER RECHARGE EFFORTS (12/11/2018)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
McMullin Area GSA Landowners: Various

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

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

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
San Luis Water District: Lon Martin
Various CVP Contractors: General Managers or Designees

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

d. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (06/10/2025)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Santa Clara Valley Water District

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

e. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY (02/10/2026)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Various

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

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

a. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-090-24S (15.98 ACRES), 030-090-28S (366.07 ACRES) (10/16/2012)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

Landowner: Marilyn Fay Briggs, Trustee

Tenant: Thomas Coleman

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

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:15 A.M.

18. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

General Manager, Manny Amorelli, stated no reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

19. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (W.CARVALHO/R.MOTTE), to ADJOURN the meeting at 11:16 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., by the following vote:

AYES: 4 (W.Carvalho,R.Motte,R.Barcellos,R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Mirian I. Esparza, Office Clerk

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

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1. Interim Warrants: January 13 – February 10, 2026, \$396,548.67
 2. Accounts Payable: \$156,934.13
 3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending January, 2026, \$68,002.19 (net)
 4. Fiscal Budget: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027