

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

## MINUTES

November 12, 2024

### ATTENDANCE

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President  
Robert Motte, Vice-President  
Robert Barcellos (Arr.10:12 a.m.)  
Wm. Cory Carvalho  
Andrew Groppetti

#### EXCUSED

None

#### ABSENT

None

#### STAFF PRESENT

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

#### PUBLIC

- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606  
Gerald W. Kinnunen, President
- McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
Matt Hurley, General Manager  
Jerry Gragnani, Gragnani Farms et al  
Donnie Gragnani, Donnie Gragnani Farms

#### CONSULTANTS

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

#### LEGAL COUNSEL

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP  
Brett A. Stroud, Esq. (Zoom)
- BARTKIEWICZ KRONICK & SHANAHAN / CLOSED SESSION  
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, November 12, 2024, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 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.

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## 4. 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.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

### a. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed to honor the passing of MARIE RUSCONI ANDERSON (1929-2024), landowner, former San Joaquin resident & business owner (Rusconi Hardware, Auto Parts, Tire Shop).

## 6. MINUTES

### a. REGULAR MEETING: OCTOBER 8, 2024

### b. SPECIAL MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2024

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

**AYES:** 4 (R.Motte, W.Carvalho, A.Groppetti, R.Chaney)

**EXCUSED:** 1 (R.Barcellos)

## 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

### a. Interim Warrants: October 9-November 12, 2024 (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 (A.GROPPETTI / R.MOTTE), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$841,000.32 and AUTHORIZE/APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$166,854.80 by the following vote:

**AYES:** 4 (A.Groppetti, R.Motte, W.Carvalho, R.Chaney)

**EXCUSED:** 1 (R.Barcellos)

### c. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending October, 2024 (Att.3)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$79,024.42 (net) issued to employees and members of the Board was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

### d. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending October 31, 2024

### e. Cash Position Report: October 31, 2024

### f. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: October 31, 2024

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## 8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters for the month of October, 2024, as follows:

### OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: October, 2024 - Water deliveries for the month of October were 3,394 acre-feet which is 410 acre-feet more than was delivered during October, 2023. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 47,252 acre-feet which is 4,679 acre-feet more than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: November 4, 2024
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
  - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of September 30, 2024, totaled 7,893 CFS-days.

### AGENCIES

- ▶ Fresno Irrigation District (FID) - Met with FID representatives on October 21<sup>st</sup> to review 2024 operations and explored ways in which improvements might be made. Both agreed that keeping lines of communication open is extremely important.
- ▶ Kings River Water Quality Coalition (KRWQC) - Met October 15<sup>th</sup> and discussed nitrate issues.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ▶ GONSALO BEDAL was hired November 11<sup>th</sup> as a Dichtender.

### EVENTS

- ▶ Association of California Water Agencies, Region 6 & 7 - Attended the meeting at Harris Ranch on October 11<sup>th</sup> which was well attended. Roundtable discussion on SGMA, regulatory impacts and climate change affecting the Central Valley. Mr. Amorelli noted it to be a positive networking experience.

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## 9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported on the following activities.

- ▶ Weir repairs (gates, boards, voids)
- ▶ Maintenance of banks/levees
- ▶ Spraying, mowing
- ▶ Repairing leaky headgates
- ▶ Well Repairs
- ▶ Constructing new discharges on pumps
- ▶ New well chemical treatments for reducing calcification were found to be successful, resulting in a 30-50% increase in yield.

## 10. 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.

## 11. ACTION ITEMS

- a. RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606 (RD1606) / JAMES ID COLLABORATIVE MEETING (04/11/2023)

Following the June 13, 2023, Joint Meeting, Mr. Amorelli inquired whether the Board would be interested in scheduling another meeting with RD1606 to discuss long-term leases, water allocations, collaborative land use/planning, etc. It was the general consensus to schedule a joint meeting sometime in February, 2025.

## 12. REPORT ITEMS

- a. ETHICS TRAINING (06/20/2006)

Most biennial training certificates are expiring. A 2-hour class will be scheduled tentatively in December after the James ID Board Meeting. Lunch will be included.

### ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:23 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)  
Brett A. Stroud, Esq. (Zoom)
- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan  
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

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## 13. 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

## 14. 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)

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

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## 15. 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.

**RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:30 A.M.**

## 16. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION Gov. Code 54957.1

Following Closed Session deliberation, Open Session discussion/actions were taken as follows:

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO) to provide direction to counsel on matters involving the MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY.

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

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## 17. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS/A.GROPPETTI), to ADJOURN the meeting at 11:33 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024, by the following vote:

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

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Interim Warrants: October 9-November 12, 2024, \$841,000.32
2. Accounts Payable: \$166,854.80
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending October, 2024, \$79,024.42 (net)