

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

### MINUTES July 14, 2026

#### ATTENDANCE

##### DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

##### ABSENT

None

##### PUBLIC

##### McMULLIN AREA GSA (MAGSA)

Matthew Hurley, General Manager

##### LEGAL COUNSEL

##### YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

##### STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager  
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent (Arr.10:13 a.m.)  
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager  
Mirian I. Esparza, Secretary

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 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. 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 to comment on any item of interest before or during consideration of the item. No comments were offered.

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#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

None

#### 6. MINUTES

a. REGULAR MEETING: JUNE 9, 2026

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

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

#### 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: JUNE 9 – JULY 14, 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 (A.GROPPETTI / R.BARCELLOS) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$1,037,163.21 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$157,298.55 by the following vote:

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

c. PAYROLL CERTIFICATION: PAY PERIODS ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 (Att.3)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$89,516.33 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending June, 2026, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

d. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30,2026

e. QUARTERLY REPORT OF FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS: JUNE 30, 2026 Gov. Code §53646

f. CASH POSITION REPORT: JUNE 30, 2026

g. SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT/NOTES PAYABLE: JUNE 30, 2026

h. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: JUNE 30, 2026

i. ASSESSMENTS

- i. Sale date has been set for Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.; Notice to be published in *The San Joaquin-Tranquillity West Side Advance* (Water Code §26105)

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#### 8. 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: June, 2026 - Water deliveries for the month of June were 9,053.80 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 25,631.17 acre-feet.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: June 13, 2026
- ▶ East Side Wellfield YTD Usage: Approximately 8,509 acre-feet.
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
  - Allocations remain at 25% to South-of-Delta contractors.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
  - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of July 5, 2026, totaled 11,002 CFS days.

##### PROJECTS

- ▶ Ag Monitors – Staff continues working with Ag Monitor and PG&E regarding implementation of the District's RES-BCT tariff.
- ▶ Main Canal – Summers Engineering continues development of the Main Canal modernization Plan. A 90% design review is anticipated for the August Board meeting. Staff will present project phasing, estimated cost, and funding opportunities.
- ▶ Innovative Ag – Staff met with representatives from Innovative Ag, a consulting firm assisting growers with grants, USDA programs, and agricultural funding. Staff plans to coordinate a webinar to provide growers with information on available grants and funding programs.

##### AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings Water Alliance – Staff attended a roundtable discussion regarding recruitment challenges for water industry jobs and shared the Districts experience of primarily hiring locally due to its rural location.
- ▶ Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) – The District completed its annual property and liability inspection. Staff reported the District received a favorable assessment and remains in compliance.

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### GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

- ▶ McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MAGSA) -  
Telemetry equipment on the District's East side wells has been completed in accordance with the MAGSA settlement agreement. District staff will soon receive access and training for the monitoring platform.

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

- ▶ Continued work on the James Bypass Basin Storage & Recharge Project.
- ▶ Routine canal maintenance.
- ▶ Completion of the County's Spill Prevention Plan and Business Plan.
- ▶ Copper sulfate applications for aquatic vegetation control
- ▶ Pushing Ditch banks / backhoe jobs.
- ▶ Meter repairs.

## **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**

## **12. REPORT ITEMS**

- a. MAIN CANAL PROJECT (10/26/2021) – Staff provided additional discussion regarding proposed improvements, including:
  - Main canal modernization
  - Capacity improvements near Colorado
  - C Ditch flow improvements
  - New control gates to improve operations and enhance employee safety.Summers Engineering expected to present design plan at the August Board meeting.
- b. ETHICS TRAINING (06/20/2026) – General Manager reminded the Board that mandatory Ethics Training will need to be completed later this year. Additional information will be provided once the training date has been confirmed

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## ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:32 A.M.

### DIRECTORS ATTENDING:

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

### LEGAL COUNSEL:

*Young Wooldridge, LLP*  
*Alan Doud, 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: 1 CASE

- 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

## 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 and 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 and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions.

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- 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 and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions
- f. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (07/14/2026)  
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
Angiola Water District  
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

#### 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 and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions.
- b. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-090-29S (4.66 ACRES), APN 030-090-30S (2.03 ACRES) (06/11/2019)  
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
Landowner: Jeremy Hughes/Allison Hughes  
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

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RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:05 A.M.

13. **REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION**

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

14. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:07 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

**RECORDED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

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Mirian I. Esparza, Secretary

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Riley Chaney, President

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Manny Amorelli, General Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

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1. Interim Warrants, June 9- July 14, 2026, \$1,037,163.21
  2. Accounts Payable, \$157,298.55
  3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending June, 2026, \$89,516.33 (net)