

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES March 10, 2026

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager
Mirian Esparza, Secretary

PUBLIC

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606

Gerald W. Kinnunen, President

McMULLIN AREA GSA (MAGSA)

Matthew Hurley, General Manager

CONSULTANTS

SUMMERS ENGINEERING, INC

James C. "Chris" Linneman, P.E.
Jeff Gilkey, P.E.

IRRIGATION TRAINING RESEARCH CENTER (ITRC)

Charles M. Burt, Ph. D. E. CID (Zoom)

LEGAL COUNSEL

YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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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.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

President Riley Chaney raised the topic of the possibility of the Board seeking potential Director candidates in the future. Mr. Chaney also recommended exploring implementation of direct deposit and waiving the fees for electronic payment.

7. **MINUTES**

a. REGULAR MEETING: FEBRUARY 10, 2026

M/S/C (A.GROPPETI / R.MOTTE), to APPROVE as presented:

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

8. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 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.CHANEY / R.MOTTE) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$195,872.59 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$19,642.90 by the following vote:

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

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

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$74,083.59 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending February, 2026, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

d. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2026

e. CASH POSITION REPORT: FEBRUARY 28, 2026

f. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: FEBRUARY 28, 2026

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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: February, 2026 - Water deliveries for the month of February were 460.86 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 56,253.33 acre-feet.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of March 1, 2026, totaled 10,649 CFS days.

MAINTENANCE

- ▶ James Bypass – Construction of the James Bypass recharge project began January. Most groundwork and excavation have been completed. The estimated completion date is late April, depending on weather.

AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA) – On February 17, Kings River Water Association provided updates on projected runoff and snowpack conditions at Pine Flat Reservoir. KRWA also completed its search for new General Counsel to replace Joe Hughes.
- ▶ Fresno Irrigation District (FID) – Staff has been coordinating with FID, and water deliveries are expected to begin next month.
- ▶ Panoche Water District (PWD) – The District worked with Panoche Water District to bring excess surface water to the District. Approximately 3,000 acre-feet will be taken this year through an exchange agreement, with half to be return in future date.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Kings GSA) – North Kings Board voted unanimously to accept the Kings Subbasin water allocation framework developed with other GSAs.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, was not present. General Manager Manny Amorelli provided the report on his behalf. He reported that the District currently has two Ditch tenders on water, and the crew continues work on the Auxiliary project.

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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.

12. ACTION ITEMS

a. ► MAIN CANAL PROJECT (10/26/2021)

Summers Engineering provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Main Canal and Lateral C upgrades project. Key improvements included:

- Upgrades to H and J Booster Stations
- Increase Main Canal capacity
- Increase Capacity of Lateral C
- Modifications to the Colorado Avenue crossing
- Replacement of the existing Little Weir structure.

Following discussion, the Board M/S/C (A.GROPPETTI / R.MOTTE) to APPROVE moving forward with Final Design phase.

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

b. ► REMOTE FLOW METER MONITORING (08/12/2025)

The Board discussed the WildEye telemetry monitoring project for stationary meters on Lateral C, H, and K. The proposed price still needs to be negotiated.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

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

The Board reviewed the request for permanent water supply to the severed parcel. The item will be revisited at a future meeting. NO ACTION TAKEN.

d. ► ANNUAL SALARY REVIEW: 2026 (03/10/2026)

The Board considered the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Salary/Benefit Committee regarding the annual salary review. M/S/C (R.CHANEY / W.CARVALHO) to APPROVE ROBERT BARCELLOS AND ROBERT MOTTE

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

e. ► RETIREMENT: DONNA HANNEMAN (03/10/2026)

The Board recognized Donna Hanneman for her 34 years of service to the District and considered a retirement recognition. The Board M/S/C (R.CHANEY / W.CARVALHO) to APPROVE a \$5,000 net gift in recognition of her dedication to the District.

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

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13. REPORT ITEMS

- a. ANNUAL MEETING (03/10/2026) – General Manager reported the 2026 Annual Meeting / Lunch will be held Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. An email invitation will follow.
- b. A.C.W.A. SPRING CONFERENCE: MAY 5 – MAY 7, 2026, SACRAMENTO, CA (03/10/2026)
The General Manager informed the Board of the upcoming Spring Conference and encouraged Board Members to attend.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:58 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: 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)

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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 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.

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

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

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:35 A.M.

14. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

Office Manager Manny Amorelli, reported that no reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / A.GROPPETTI), to ADJOURN the meeting at 11:38 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., by the following vote:

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

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Mirian I. Esparza, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

- _____
1. Interim Warrants: February 11 – March 10, 2026, \$195,872.59
2. Accounts Payable: \$19,642.90
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending February, 2026, \$74,083.59 (net)