

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GROWERS & LANDOWNERS  
ANNUAL MEETING

**MINUTES**  
**March 30, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMING REMARKS**

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, Growers and Landowners of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT was held Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the offices of the District at 8749 9th Street, San Joaquin, California 93660. (Attendance Roster: Att.1) The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m., by General Manager, Manny Amorelli.

**II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Amorelli thanked growers and landowners for their continued support and cooperation and welcomed guests to the meeting. Staff and crew were complimented for their efforts in the set-up and preparation of an excellent meal.

**III. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

In recognition of their service to the District, the following individuals were recognized as follows:

A. RETIREEES

1. Ricardo Covarrubia, Assistant Superintendent, will be retiring January 1, 2024, after 44+ years of service to the District. Steve Cortez will be assuming his duties.

B. NEW EMPLOYEES

1. Jose Berber Solis, Dichtender / Maintenance
2. Victor Ramirez, Dichtender/Maintenance

C. 10 YEARS

1. Steve Cortez, Dichtender/Maintenance
2. Eric Groppetti, Shop/General Maintenance

**IV. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- ▶ James Irrigation District - Cory Carvalho was appointed to the office of Director replacing Jeremy Hughes who was elected to the Board of Directors of Westlands Water District.
- ▶ Reclamation District No. 1606 - Andrew Groppetti was appointed to the office of Trustee replacing Cory Carvalho.

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GROWERS & LANDOWNERS - ANNUAL MEETING

## MINUTES - March 30, 2023

---

### WATER SUPPLY

- ▶ Central Valley Project (CVP)  
The Bureau recently announced an 80% allocation to South-of-Delta agricultural contractors.
  
- ▶ San Joaquin River
  - Riparian - The District will be receiving 100% of its riparian contract for 2023.
  - Section 215 water was recently procured and conveyed to basins for groundwater recharge.
  
- ▶ Kings River
  - Rights Water is being stored in Pine Flat Lake.
  - Flood Water is flowing down the James Bypass and is anticipated to run through June.
  - Snowpack moisture content is currently measured at 248% of average.

### JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA)

- ▶ The James GSA meets quarterly (January, April, July, October). Growers/landowners were encouraged to attend.
- ▶ Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was collaboratively developed by the seven member GSAs that comprise the Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency and was recently recommended for approval by the California Department of Water Resources. These same GSAs will continue working together toward achieving groundwater sustainability.
- ▶ Mr. Amorelli noted the District has six water sources: (1) Central Valley Project contract water; (2) groundwater; (3) Kings River riparian rights; (4) Kings River flood rights; (5) San Joaquin River riparian rights; (6) San Joaquin River flood water. To preserve groundwater resources, he emphasized the District is actively working to leave more than it extracts.

### PROJECTS

- ▶ Southwest Banking Project / Fresno Irrigation District (FID) - Mr. Amorelli expressed appreciation to FID for its support and assistance in conjunction with operations/use of the Southwest Banking Project. Water has been conveyed to the Project for groundwater recharge as well as conveyed to District canals/laterals for irrigation.

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GROWERS & LANDOWNERS - ANNUAL MEETING

## MINUTES - March 30, 2023

---

- ▶ Strategic Plan - Committees comprised of Board members and growers have started meeting. Committees fall into six categories. Growers/landowners were encouraged to get involved.
- ▶ Main Canal Feasibility Study - A multi-year plan is under development whereby capacity will be increased to improve deliveries to laterals.
- ▶ Water Hyacinth - The District has been partnering with Tranquillity Irrigation District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority to control proliferation of water hyacinth.
- ▶ K Basin Solar Array Project - Installation is nearing completion following delays caused by supply chain issues. The project is being constructed by Whitepine Renewables at no cost to the District.
- ▶ James Weir Repair - A major repair to the James Weir was completed just prior to the release of Kings River flood water. A total of 15 loads of concrete was required to repair/replace flooring.

### FINANCIAL

- ▶ Fiscal Budget was adversely impacted last year by rate increases from Pacific Gas & Electric, zero CVP allocation compounded by inflationary pressures. It was a difficult decision, but the Board voted to increase the District billing rate to \$175/acre-foot effective March 1, 2023. With anticipated positive impacts that Kings River flood releases will have on the 2023-24 Budget, the Board will be re-evaluating the increase and may possibly lower the rate. Growers will be advised if/when rates are adjusted.

### V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Riley Chaney thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. He also extended his appreciation to staff in the set-up/preparation of an excellent lunch. Mr. Chaney noted increased involvement by growers/landowners in Board meetings has been helpful. He encouraged people to attend noting their contributions have benefitted the Board in making decisions.

### VI. QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

- ▶ Remote Access to Public Meetings - Thomas Coleman commented he would like to see remote access to public meetings continued. He requested the Board reconsider their revocation of providing remote access as this may make growers feel "shut out".

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GROWERS & LANDOWNERS - ANNUAL MEETING

## **MINUTES - March 30, 2023**

---

### **VII. CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURN**

Mr. Amorelli again thanked staff for their help in assisting with today's meeting in addition to the recent office remodel which included interior paint and new flooring. He again expressed his appreciation to all who attended for participating.

There being no further business to conduct, M/S/C (R.CHANEY / W.CARVALHO), to ADJOURN the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

**RECORDED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

---

Donna Y. Hanneman, Secretary

---

Riley Chaney, President  
Board of Directors

---

Manny Amorelli  
General Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Attendance Roster: March 30, 2023