

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

### MINUTES August 11, 2020

#### ATTENDANCE

##### DIRECTORS PRESENT (5)

Robert Motte, President  
Micah Combs, Vice-President  
Robert Barcellos  
Riley Chaney (Arr.10:38 a.m.)  
Jeremy Hughes

##### STAFF PRESENT (4)

Steven Stadler, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
Emanuele Amorelli, Business Manager  
Donna Hanneman, Executive Assistant  
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent (Arr.10:12 a.m.)

##### EXCUSED

None

##### LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

None

##### ABSENT

None

##### PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

None

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT was held Tuesday, August 11, 2020, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m., by President, Robert Motte. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

#### II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

##### A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

##### B. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed to honor the passing of SUSAN DIANE PUCHEU (07/08/1946-07/27/2020), educator and wife of grower, John Pucheu.

##### C. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

##### D. 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.

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - August 11, 2020

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## III. MINUTES

### A. REGULAR MEETING: JULY 14, 2020

M/S/C (M.COMBS / J.HUGHES), to APPROVE as written by the following vote:

**AYES:** M.Combs, J. Hughes, R.Barcellos, R.Motte (4)

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

## IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

### A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Interim Warrants: July 15-August 11, 2020 (Att.1)

2. Accounts Payable (Att.2)

Interim Warrants with supporting invoices and Accounts Payable invoices were presented for review/approval. M/S/C (M.COMBS / J.HUGHES), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$878,591.72 and APPROVE Accounts Payable totaling \$780,000.18 by the following vote:

**AYES:** M.Combs, J.Hughes, R.Barcellos, R.Motte (4)

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

3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending July, 2020 (Att.3)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$78,546.24 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending July, 2020, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer and Business Manager.

4. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending July 31, 2020

Mr. Stadler discussed projections noting some significant updates are in order. He will present proposed adjustments for Board review/approval next meeting.

5. Cash Position Report: July 31, 2020

6. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: July 31, 2020

7. Work Order Status Report: July 31, 2020

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - August 11, 2020

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## B. ASSESSMENTS

### 1. Board of Equalization Meeting

M/S/C (J.HUGHES/R.BARCELLOS), to CONVENE AS A BOARD OF EQUALIZATION on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, from the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to hear objections, if any, to the valuation, acreage, or any matter pertaining to the 2020-2021 District assessments.

**AYES:** J.Hughes, R.Barcellos, M.Combs, R.Motte (4)

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

Notice will be published as prescribed by California Water Code §25550-25559 in *The West Side Advance*.

## V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

None presented.

## VI. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Stadler presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters for the month of July, 2020, as follows:

### A. OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: July, 2020 - Water deliveries for the month of July were 11,464 acre-feet which is 659 acre-feet more than was delivered during July, 2019. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 35,240 acre-feet which is 896 acre-feet more than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
  - Mendota Pool - Pumping reports (TDS, electroconductivity) for the Mendota Wildlife Area, Delta-Mendota Canal Check#21, and Mendota Pool Degradation through August 6, 2020, were reviewed. Also included was San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Meter Readings/Non-Project Wells for July, 2020.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: August 3, 2020
- ▶ Kings River Water Association
  - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of August 2, 2020, totaled approximately 4,600 acre-feet in the District's storage account.

### B. MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Well Repairs are ongoing. West Side Pump is finishing the well site on Lateral D; however, progress will be delayed pending installation of electrical service.

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - August 11, 2020

---

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. TRANSFER OF CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT CONTRACT WATER (08/11/2020)

M/S/C (M.COMBS / J.HUGHES), to APPROVE A TRANSFER OF UP TO 400 ACRE-FEET OF 2020 CVP CONTRACT WATER TO RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606 BETWEEN AUGUST, 2020-FEBRUARY, 2021.

**AYES:** M.Combs, J.Hughes, R.Barcellos, R.Motte (4)

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

### B. CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT (CVP) REPAYMENT CONTRACT (05/16/2018)

Mr. Stadler presented proposals for refinancing the District's CVP Repayment Contract. Proposals were received from Alliance Funding Solutions, CalMuni and Holman Capital. All three proposals met the District's request of a \$3,000,000 financing amount and a 10-year repayment period. The General Manager recommended that the Board accept the Alliance Funding proposal because the effective interest rate (2.40%) was low and the bank involved in the financing had approved the District's credit. Mr. Stadler stated that the CalMuni proposal had a slightly lower effective interest rate (2.35%) but it was subject to credit approval and, therefore, involved some risk. Mr. Stadler mentioned that the District had done a prior financing with Holman Capital but they offered a 3.10% rate which was not competitive with the other proposals.

M/S/C (J.HUGHES / R.BARCELLOS), to CONCUR WITH THE GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION TO SEEK FINANCING OF THE DISTRICT'S CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT (CVP) REPAYMENT CONTRACT WITH ALLIANCE FUNDING SOLUTIONS, INC., SUBJECT TO REVIEW/APPROVAL OF LENDING DOCUMENTS.

**AYES:** J.Hughes, R.Barcellos, R.Chaney, M.Combs, R.Motte (5)

### C. STRATEGIC PLANNING (09/11/2018)

Mr. Stadler discussed engaging a consultant to prepare a Strategic Plan and other related documents for the District. He noted the Board had previously discussed the need for strategic planning but elected to defer the matter (Min: 09/11/2019).

Reviewed a proposal from Rauch Communication Consultants, Inc., quoting \$24,000 for research/development of a Strategic Plan. This firm was recently engaged by the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The District is facing many issues (operations, maintenance, administration, SGMA, etc.) and a Strategic Plan could provide clear direction. President Motte stated the Board needs to look to the future to determine the District's long-term viability. Directors Chaney and Hughes objected to the cost.

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - August 11, 2020

---

It was the consensus of the Board to proceed independently by scheduling a Strategic Planning meeting. Each Board member agreed to submit five bullet points for consideration. Depending on the results of these meetings, a determination will be made on enlisting the services of Rauch Communications. A Special Workshop was set for Tuesday, October 6, 2020, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Superintendent Kenneth Mancini was requested to participate.

D. REPLACEMENT FOR WELL D-40 (08/11/2020)

Mr. Stadler reported Well D-40/Main Canal is sanding, the casing has rusted/deteriorated and has a number of breaks. The casing has broken previously and was swaged. Repairs could cost \$40,000-\$50,000 and may only extend its life by 2-3 years. Mr. Stadler recommended the well be abandoned/replaced. The Board authorized Mr. Stadler to move forward in researching a site for a replacement well.

Mr. Stadler noted Well D-15 is 60 years old and the well has collapsed. He will be presenting additional information at a later date.

E. DISTRICT AUTOMATION (07/14/2020)

Directors Jeremy Hughes & Riley Chaney reported on their research evaluating the potential to automate the District's infrastructure with the ultimate goal of improving the efficiency of the delivery system thereby reducing labor costs. Their research led them to Rubicon Water (Australia, satellite office in Modesto) who specializes in automating gravity-fed irrigation networks. Upon contacting Rubicon, they learned that Rubicon would perform a feasibility study at no cost that would take two weeks to complete. It was noted that grant funding may be available to support this endeavor.

M/S/C (J.HUGHES/R.CHANEY), to AUTHORIZE Rubicon Water to perform a feasibility study to be reviewed before the grant application deadline of September 15.

**AYES:** J.Hughes, R.Chaney, R.Barcellos, M.Combs, R.Motte (5)

## VIII. REPORT ITEMS

A. DISTRICT ELECTIONS: 2020 (06/09/2020)

There are three Director terms expiring December, 2020, namely Directors Riley Chaney, Micah Combs and Jeremy Hughes (replacing Thomas Chaney). All three incumbents timely filed their Declaration of Candidacy forms. Just before the filing deadline, Friday, August 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., Thomas Chaney, filed as well. As there are four candidates for three vacancies, an election will be required.

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - August 11, 2020

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## Adjourned to Closed Session at 11:16 a.m.

Attending:

Robert Motte, President  
Micah Combs, Vice-President  
Robert Barcellos, Director  
Riley Chaney, Director  
Jeremy Hughes, Director

Staff:

Steven Stadler, General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer

### IX. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

3 CASES

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

#### A. AS DEFENDANT: 3 CASES

1. NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, ET AL, V BERNHARDT, ET AL  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California  
Case No. 1:5-CV-01207LJO-GSA
2. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY VS. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT;  
JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00507
3. AMY BEZERA VS. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00572

#### B. AS PLAINTIFF: 3 CASES

1. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL V. JAMES VERBOON ET AL  
Kings County Superior Court, Case No. 15 C0304
2. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT VS. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL  
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 19CECG00769
3. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT  
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00688

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - August 11, 2020

---

C. AS INTERVENOR: 1 CASE

1. CITY OF FRESNO, ET AL V. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
United States Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-CV-01276-MCW

D. AS CLAIMANT: 1 CASE

1. PG&E CORPORATION AND PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (04/14/2020)  
United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of California  
San Francisco Division, Chapter 11 Case No. 19-30088 (DM) (Lead Case)  
(Jointly Administered)

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

A. JAMES & TRANQUILLITY NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: Steven Stadler  
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: Steven Stadler  
Fresno Irrigation District: Bill Stretch  
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions/Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 Grant Application

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

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: Steven Stadler  
San Luis Water District: Lon Martin  
Various CVP Contractors: General Managers or Designees  
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

**Reconvened in Open Session at 12:29 p.m.**

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## **XII. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION**

No reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

## **XIII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:30 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

**RECORDED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

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Donna Y. Hanneman, Executive Secretary

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Robert Motte, President

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Steven P. Stadler, P.E.  
General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Interim Warrants: July 15-August 11, 2020, \$878,591.72
2. Accounts Payable: \$780,000.18
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending July, 2020, \$78,546.24 (net)