

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES April 26, 2022

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Jeremy Hughes, Vice-President
Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Barcellos, Assessor (Arr. 1:05 p.m.)
Micah Combs

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Walter Flores, Office Manager
Donna Hanneman, Executive Assistant

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Sal Parra, Jr., Burford Farming

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

- WHITEPINE RENEWABLES
Michael Kremer (Zoom)
- RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Annaliese Miller (Zoom)
- McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Matt Abercrombie (Zoom)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT (“District”) was held Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

B. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

C. 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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III. ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE FINAL INITIAL STUDY-MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE 4MW SOLAR PROJECT AND APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT (04/26/2022)

▶ Rincon Consulting, Inc. - CEQA

- Annaliese Miller, Sr. Environmental Planner/Project Manager, with Rincon Consulting, explained in detail how the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process had progressed and discussed documentation and Board actions needed to move forward with Project #1.
- The (1) Final Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration, (2) Responses to Comments on the Draft Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration, (3) Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program, and (4) Notice of Determination were presented for review.
- Ms. Miller noted there were no public comments received during the 30-day public comment period required by CEQA.
- Only minor edits were needed to include revisions for Tribal Cultural Resources to reflect the conclusion of the Tribal consultation. These did not constitute substantial changes and recirculation of the documents was not required.

▶ WhitePine Renewables

Michael Kremer, Head of Strategic Finance, indicated he anticipates the building permit will be issued this summer and thanked the Board for its patience.

M/S/C (M.COMBS / J.HUGHES), to ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-07 FOR ADOPTION OF THE FINAL INITIAL STUDY-MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE 4MW SOLAR PROJECT AND APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT.

AYES: 5 (M.Combs, J.Hughes, R.Barcellos, R.Motte, R.Chaney (Att.1))

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE AND/OR CANCELLATION OF DISTRICT CREDIT CARDS (04/26/2022)

Discussed the need to update the Wells Fargo Bank/Mastercard credit card accounts deleting Steven Stadler and adding Manny Amorelli as card holders. M/S/C (J.HUGHES / R.BARCELLOS), to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-08 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE AND/OR CANCELLATION OF DISTRICT CREDIT CARDS. (Att.2)

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

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ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 1:08 P.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President

Jeremy Hughes, Vice-President

Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Barcellos, Assessor-Collector

Micah Combs, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

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

3 CASES

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

A. AS DEFENDANT: 2 CASES

1. 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
2. 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. 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

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

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VI. 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/Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 Grant Application

C. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (06/22/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

McMullin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

D. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (06/22/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

To Be Determined

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 1:19 P.M.

VII. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

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

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VIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (M.COMBS / J.HUGHES), to ADJOURN the meeting at 1:20 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022, by the following vote:

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

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Executive Assistant

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 2022-07 For Adoption of the Final Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Construction of the 4MW Solar Project and Approval of the Project, Adopted April 26, 2022.
2. Resolution 2022-08 Authorizing Issuance and/or Cancellation of District Credit Cards, Adopted April 26, 2022