

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES October 26, 2021

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Barcellos, Assessor

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Gerald Kinnunen
Sal Parra, Jr.

EXCUSED

Jeremy Hughes, Vice-President
Micah Combs

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

- IRRIGATION TRAINING RESEARCH CENTER (ITRC),
CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO
Dr. Charles Burt, Chairman of the Board
- WATER WISE
Kristi Robinson (Zoom)

ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

LEGAL COUNSEL

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)
- BARTKIEWICZ KRONICK & SHANAHAN / CLOSED SESSION
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom: 11:09-11:30 a.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, October 26, 2021, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

This meeting was conducted in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 virus pandemic. Members of the public were encouraged to access the meeting via internet/Zoom or use the call-in number to allow them to fully participate in the meeting without having to be present.

II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

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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.

III. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING

President Riley Chaney announced the Board of Directors would convene as a Board of Equalization from the hours of 10:03 a.m.-12:03 p.m. to hear public comments on the 2021-2022 assessments approved by landowner vote October 12, 2021. Mr. Chaney explained the Board would recognize members of the public between Agenda items throughout the course of the meeting and action taken at the end of the meeting to levy annual assessments against lands within the District in accordance with California Water Code §25650.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (07/28/2021)

Mr. Amorelli introduced Dr. Charles Burt of the Irrigation Training & Research Center, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, who has worked with the District a number of times in the past evaluating District infrastructure and providing recommendations to improve efficiency. Dr. Burt provided a report, "Checklist for an Irrigation District Prior to Purchasing an Automated Canal System". (Att.1)

- ▶ Dr. Burt observed the District had constructed some of the previously recommended improvements and then appeared to stop. He wondered why as the ITRC had prepared a plan for the District's use.
- ▶ He recommended the Board analyze exactly what is needed commenting that full "automation" is not the same as "modernization" (which can include some automation).
- ▶ Recommended increased monitoring.
- ▶ Noted growers must provide two days notice, which he felt could be improved.
- ▶ Improve flow rate available during peak times by reducing bottlenecks.
- ▶ Reduce seepage (vibrating compactor)
- ▶ Reduce pumping costs
- ▶ Secure SCADA system
- ▶ Recommended installing variable frequency drives ("VFD") in wells for gradual rather than immediate/hard starting. Hard starts create wear in the motor, and subsequently shortens the life. It also can damage the pump and collapse well casing over time.
- ▶ Spend money wisely to improve efficiency.
- ▶ Grants are available from the NRCS WaterSmart and USBR WaterSmart programs and possibly the California Department of Water Resources.

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B. DISTRICT AUTOMATION (07/14/2020)

DEFERRED discussion on automating District conveyance facilities by Rubicon Water.

C. RESOLUTION 2021-06 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EASEMENT DEED TO PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-080-13T (10/26/2021) - Discussed Resolution for Easement Deed to drop PG&E power lines across Lateral E to provide electrical service to landowner's property (GLF6 Dinuba Avenue LLC). (Att.2)

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / R.BARCELLOS), to APPROVE by the following vote:

AYES: 3 (R.Motte, R.Barcellos, R.Chaney)

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

EXCUSED: 2 (M.Combs, J.Hughes)

ABSENT: 0

D. WINTER DELIVERIES (08/13/2019)

1. Coordinating Winter Irrigation Deliveries and Coordinating Maintenance Activities
2. Establish Price

To date, only three requests for winter water have been received. DEFERRED further discussion to the November 9th Regular Meeting.

V. REPORT ITEMS

None

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 11:09 A.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President

Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Barcellos, Assessor-Collector

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Legal Counsel

- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan

Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom: 11:09-11:30 a.m.)

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

4 CASES

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VII. 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 ETAL (06/08/2021)
United States District Court, Eastern District of California
Case No. 1:20-CV-00706 DAD-E.G.

B. AS PLAINTIFF: 4 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
4. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-370-32S
Eminent Domain proceedings for District wellsite on property owned by the Frank V. Motte Testamentary Trust

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

VIII. 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

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B. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Various CVP Contractors: General Managers or Designees

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

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 12:00 P.M.

IX. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

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

X. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

2021-2022 DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Directors convened as a Board of Equalization from the hours of 10:03 a.m. to 12:03 p.m., to hear and determine objections to the valuation, acreage, or any matter pertaining to the 2021-2022 assessments. Notice was published in *The West Side Advance* as prescribed by California Water Code §25550-25559.

Hearing no objections and ordering no changes, M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS / R.MOTTE), to APPROVE 2021-2022 ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS BE LEVIED AGAINST LAND WITHIN THE DISTRICT pursuant to landowner vote and Board Resolution 2021-05 adopted October 12, 2021, in accordance with California Water Code §25650 as follows:

FARM LAND		PASTURE LAND	
RATE	INCREASE	RATE	INCREASE
\$50.00	\$29.00	\$3.75	\$2.18

AYES: 3 (R.Barcellos, R.Motte, R.Chaney)
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
EXCUSED: 2 (M.Combs, J.Hughes)
ABSENT: 0

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XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (R.MOTTE / R.BARCELLOS), to ADJOURN the meeting at 12:03 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: 3 (R.Motte, R.Barcellos, R.Chaney)
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
EXCUSED: 3 (M.Combs, J.Hughes)
ABSENT: 0

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Executive Assistant

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. "Checklist for an Irrigation District Prior to Purchasing an Automated Canal System", Charles M. Burt, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, Chairman, Irrigation Training & Research Center (ITRC), Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA
2. Resolution 2021-06 Authorizing Execution of an Easement Deed to Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Fresno County APN 030-080-13T, Approved October 26, 2021