

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES April 14, 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
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager
Mirian Esparza, Secretary

PUBLIC

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Jerry Gragnani, Gragnani Farms et al
Donnie Gragnani, Donnie Gragnani Farms
Justin Ayerza, A&A Farms
Tom Coleman, Coleman Farms
Jeremy Hughes, Hughes Jeremy Farms

McMULLIN AREA GSA (MAGSA)

Matthew Hurley, General Manager

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

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, April 14, 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

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 to comment on any item of interest before or during consideration of the item. No comments were offered.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

7. **MINUTES**

a. REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 10, 2026

b. ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 26, 2026

M/S/C (A.GROPPETI / W.CARVALHO), to APPROVE as presented:

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

8. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: MARCH 11 – APRIL 14, 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 (A.GROPPETTI / R.BARCELLOS) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$893,203.44 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$85,640.24 by the following vote:

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

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

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$70,707.80 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending March, 2026, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

d. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2026

e. QUARTERLY REPORT OF FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS: MARCH 31, 2026 Gov. Code §53646

f. CASH POSITION REPORT: MARCH 31, 2026

g. SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT/NOTES PAYABLE: MARCH 31, 2026

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h. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: MARCH 31, 2026

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented a verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects, and other District matters since the last meeting:

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: March, 2026 - Water deliveries for the month of March were 3,746.84 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 3,746.84 acre-feet.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: April 13, 2026
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
 - Allocations remain at 20% to South-of-Delta contractors.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of March 29, 2026, totaled 750 CFS days.

AGENCIES

- ▶ Reclamation District No. 1606 (RD 1606) – A Regular Meeting was held on March 24, 2026. A survey prepared by Provost & Pritchard was presented. Discussion was held regarding potential future projects and improvements on RD 1606 lands. Direction was provided to explore project feasibility and next steps.
- ▶ San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) – The District continues to monitor the spread of the Golden Mussel, which has been detected in multiple California waterways. Staff is actively participating in a regional coordination group organized by the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority. Efforts include:
 - Evaluation of treatment and mitigation strategies.
 - Collaboration with state agencies and neighboring Districts.
 - Coordination with external experts, including firms with experience managing infestation.
- ▶ Fresno Irrigation District (FID) – District Staff met with Fresno Irrigation District to review current operations related to the Southwest Groundwater Banking Project. Discussion focused on:
 - Current water year operations.
 - Opportunities for future collaboration
 - Optimization of recharge and recovery efforts

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ▶ Timekeeping System Upgrade – Staff has initiated implementation of new mobile timekeeping system, WorkSana, to replace the Districts existing time clock, which is no longer supported. The new system will allow improved tracking of employee hours and field operations efficiency.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported he and field staff have been working on the following projects:

- ▶ East Auxiliary Project: A significant portion of field staff continues to be assigned to Project. Crews have remained focused on construction- related duties to maintain progress and timelines.
- ▶ Ongoing water operations and maintenance activities.
- ▶ Spot spraying and moss control efforts underway.
- ▶ No recent theft incidents reported; continued preventative measures in place.

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. GROWER REBATES: MARCH 1, 2025-FEBRUARY 2, 2026 (04/14/2026)

The Board reviewed the District's year-end financial position for the 2025-2026 water year, including budget-to-actual revenues, operating expenses, capital expenditures and current reserve balances. Discussion was also held regarding delinquent accounts. The Board discussed returning excess revenues to growers and reviewed approximately \$1.2 million available for rebate. Staff calculated a rebate of approximately \$21.33 per acre-foot. After discussion, the Board recommended a rebate of \$21.00 per acre-foot. Consensus was any rebates owed to accounts with outstanding balances should first be applied to balances.

M/S/C (R.CHANEY / A.GROPPETI), to APPROVE REBATE OF \$21.00 PER ACRE-FOOT TO GROWERS FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1 2025 – FEBRUARY 28, 2026. REBATES FOR ACCOUNTS WITH OUTSTANDING BALANCES WILL BE APPLIED AS AN OFFSET AGAINST THOSE DELINQUENT AMOUNTS.

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

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- b. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-090-24S (15.98 ACRES), 030-090-28S (366.07 ACRES) (10/16/2012) –
Due to confidential and negotiable nature of the matter, the item was deferred to Closed Session for discussion with legal counsel and staff.

NO ACTION was taken.

- c. REMOTE MEETINGS OPTIONS (04/14/2026)

The Board discussed the possibility of implementing remote or hybrid meeting access for future Board Meetings through video platforms such as Zoom. District legal Counsel provided overview of current Brown Act requirements. Board members discussed both advantages and disadvantages of hybrid access. M/S/C (R.CHANEY / A.GROPPET to APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH REMOTE MEETINGS

AYES: 2 (R.Chaney A.Groppetti)

NAYS: 2 (R.Barcellos, R.Motte)

ABSTAIN: 1 (Wm.Carvalho)

Motion FAILED, for lack of majority approval. NO CHANGES were made to the current in-person meeting format.

13. REPORT ITEMS

- a. SAN LUIS DELTA WATER AUTHORITY (SLDMWA) (04/14/2026)

Federico Barajas, Executive Director of the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority, provided an update on:

- Proposed adjustment to Legislative Affairs Funds contributions
 - District fees will increase approximately \$3,800 beginning next year.
- Current CVO allocation at 20% with potential for increase.
- Federal workforce reductions impacting Bureau of Reclamation operations
- Progress on Delta-Mendota Canal Project
- Regional coordination and response to Golden Mussel Infestation

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

Staff provided an update regarding proposed remote meter monitoring system. The District remains in discussion with vendor, WildEye. Staff expects to have additional information and a more complete update available at future meeting.

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ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 11:09 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: 1 CASE

- 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

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.

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- 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

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

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:59 A.M.

- 18. 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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19. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:00 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Mirian I. Esparza, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

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- 1 Interim Warrants, March 11- April 14, 2026, \$893,203.44
 - 2 Accounts Payable, \$85,640.24
 - 3 Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending March, 2026, \$70,707.80 (net)