

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES September 8, 2026

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Andrew Groppetti, Vice President
Robert Barcellos
Wm. Cory Carvalho
Robert Motte

PUBLIC

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Gerald W. Kinnunen

CONSULTANTS

SUMMERS ENGINEERING, INC

Jeff Gilkey, P.E. (Zoom)

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

LEGAL COUNSEL

YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

Brett A. Stroud, Esq. (Zoom)

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager
Mirian Esparza, Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, September 8, 2026, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President 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.

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.

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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. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING

The Board of Directors convened as a Board of Equalization from the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to hear public comments regarding the 2026-2027 District Assessments. The Board was prepared to recognize members of the public between Agenda items throughout the course of the meeting with action to be taken prior to adjournment.

8. MINUTES

a. REGULAR MEETING: AUGUST 17, 2026

M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS / A.GROPPETTI), to APPROVE as presented:

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

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: AUGUST 18 – SEPTEMBER 8, 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 / W.CARVALHO) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$546,641.58 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$211,303.63 by the following vote:

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

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

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$90,488.07 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending August, 2026, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

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

e. CASH POSITION REPORT: AUGUST 31, 2026

f. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: AUGUST 31, 2026

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10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: August, 2026 - Water deliveries for the month of August were 6,697.22 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 42,205.05 acre-feet.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: August 31, 2026
- ▶ East Side Wellfield YTD Usage: Approximately 13,600 acre-feet.
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
 - Allocations remain at 28% to South-of-Delta contractors.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of August 31, 2026, totaled 9,444 CFS days.

AGENCIES

- ▶ San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) – General Manager reported on recent construction tour of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Project. Work is currently underway along the upper portion of the Delta-Mendota Canal includes raising portions of the existing canal liner. The overall rehabilitation project encompasses approximately 117 miles of canal.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA) – Staff reported continued discussion with the Kings River Water Association regarding the J&T Agreement. A draft agreement is expected to be presented at the upcoming KRWA meeting before being forwarded to the full Board for consideration. Staff anticipates providing additional update at future District meeting.
- ▶ SALTS on Ground – Staff attended a SALTS on Ground meeting regarding regional salinity management. Long-term treatment and disposal options continue to be evaluated; however, implementation would require significant infrastructure and funding.

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11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The General Manager reported on behalf of Superintendent Kenneth Mancini regarding current field activities and projects:

- ▶ James Bypass Basin & Recharge Project – Project is nearing completion. The final concrete work was completed during the previous week, and consultant involvement with construction is expected to conclude shortly. Remaining work includes general cleanup and installation of safety railing.
- ▶ Maintenance – Field staff continued routine canal and facility maintenance, spraying, weed control and general cleanup throughout the District.
- ▶ Wells & Pumps – Crew continue monitoring and performing maintenance and repairs on District wells and pumping equipment as needed.

12. 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.

13. ACTION ITEMS

- a. ▶ RESOLUTION 2026-03: CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE (09/08/2026) – (Att. 4) The Board considered Resolution 2026-03 ANNOUNCING THE INTENT TO ADOPT AN AMENDED CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD as part of the District's biennial review. Staff reported that the updated code was prepared in coordination with legal counsel and is required to be submitted to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors by October 1, 2026. M/S/C (R.CHANEY / R.BARCELLOS) to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-03 ANNOUNCING TO ADOPT AN AMENDED CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD.

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

14. REPORT ITEMS

- a. MAIN CANAL PROJECT (10/26/2021) – Jeff Gilkey of Summers Engineering, Inc. provided an update via zoom on the Main Canal project. Key items discussed included:
- Engineering and design work for Phase I of the project continues to progress.
 - Additional surveying and evaluation of Lateral C and D are underway following water delivering concerns experience this season
 - Any additional improvements identified for the laterals would be address separately and wound not delay the Main Canal Project.
 - Engineering plans are anticipated to be substantially complete by November 2026, finalized in December 2026, with bidding anticipated in early 2027.
 - Summers Engineering will provide and additional update at future meeting.

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- b. A.C.W.A. FALL CONFERENCE: 12/01 – 12/03, ANAHEIM , CA (09/08/2026) - Staff reported Fall Conference is scheduled for December 1-3, 2026 in Anaheim, CA. Board Members were encouraged to attend.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:24 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

15. 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

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

AS DEFENDANT: 2 CASES

- 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 of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
Case No. 25-5137
- b. NORTH COAST RIVERS ALLIANCE V UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ET AL
United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
Case No. 26-2457

17. 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.

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- 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.
- 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
- f. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (07/14/2026)
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Angiola Water District
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

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

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- b. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-090-29S (4.66 ACRES), APN 030-090-30S (2.03 ACRES) (06/11/2019)
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Landowner: Jeremy Hughes/Allison Hughes
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:03 A.M.

19. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

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

20. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION - CLOSE MEETING

Hearing no objections and ordering no changes, the Board of Equalization meeting was closed at 12:00 p.m. M/S/C (A.GROPPETTI / W.CARVALHO) to APPROVE annual assessments be levied against lands within the District pursuant to landowner vote and adoption of Board Resolution 2021-05 on October 12, 2021, in accordance with California Water Code §25650 as follows:

Farm Land \$75.00 per \$100.00/acre assessed value (no change)

Pasture Land \$5.63 per \$7.50/acre assessed value (no change)

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

21. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:01 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Mirian I. Esparza, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

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- 1 Interim Warrants, August 18- September 8, 2026, \$546,641.58
 - 2 Accounts Payable, \$211,303.63
 - 3 Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending August, 2026, \$90,488.07 (net)
 - 4 Resolution 2026-03 Conflict-of-Interest