

JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES July 16, 2020

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: (5)**RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606:**

Wm. Cory Carvalho, President

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT:

Micah Combs, Vice-President

Robert Motte

Salvador Parra, Jr.

Steven Stadler, Executive Director

INTERESTED PARTIES PRESENT:

None

DIRECTORS EXCUSED:

None

PUBLIC/CONSULTANTS PRESENT: (2)**JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT:**

Emanuele Amorelli, Office Manager

Donna Hanneman, Executive Assistant

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ("James GSA") was held Thursday, July 16, 2020, in the Agency office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m., by President, Wm. Cory Carvalho. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

B. MEETING DATE CHANGE

It was noted for the record that the April 16, 2020, Regular Meeting was ADJOURNED to this date due to the COVID19 pandemic.

C. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

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D. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (FPPC §87105)

Directors were given an opportunity to identify a potential conflict-of-interest with items appearing on the Agenda; none were reported.

III. MINUTES

A. SPECIAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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

AYES: M.Combs, S.Stadler, R.Motte, W.Carvalho (4)

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE / INTERIM WARRANTS: FEBRUARY 21-JULY 16, 2020 (Att.1)

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / M.COMBS), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$25,665.60 by the following vote:

AYES: R.Motte, M.Combs, S.Parra, W.Carvalho, S.Stadler (5)

B. CASH POSITION REPORT: JUNE 30, 2020

C. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL) PERIOD ENDING: JUNE 30, 2020

D. QUARTERLY REPORT OF FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS: JUNE 30, 2020 (Gov. Code §53646)

E. FISCAL AUDIT: MARCH 1, 2019-FEBRUARY 29, 2020

Mr. Stadler reported at present the California Secretary of State has no regulations requiring annual audits for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. This is anticipated to change in the future.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

None

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- ▶ Appointment of Salvador Parra, Jr. - Mr. Stadler reported the Board of Directors of James Irrigation District appointed Salvador Parra, Jr., as their representative to the James GSA (replacing Thomas Chaney) and welcomed Mr. Parra to his first meeting.
- ▶ Annual Report - A milestone was recently reached when the Kings Groundwater Subbasin submitted its first annual report which was due April 1, 2020.

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- ▶ Kings Basin Coordinating Committee has been meeting remotely during the COVID19 pandemic.
- ▶ Groundwater Storage - A report plotting groundwater storage statistics from 2012-13 to 2018-19 was reviewed. During this period, James GSA averaged an annual overdraft of 1,400 acre feet. Taking back our Kings River entitlement has helped. Mr. Stadler stated the James GSA is well ahead of the curve in addressing overdraft/sustainability issues.
- ▶ City of San Joaquin - Discussed City of San Joaquin involvement with the James GSA. Although not a member of the James GSA by their choosing, Mr. Stadler stated the City is informed of GSA activities which are coordinated in consultation with the City.

VII. REPORT ITEMS

- A. PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA REPORT (07/16/2020)
"A Review of San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plans", an evaluation produced by the Public Policy Institute of California ("PPIC"), a non-partisan "think tank", was provided for review. The PPIC analyzed San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plans and submitted their comments to the DWR during the public comment period. The PPIC observed that the Kings Groundwater Subbasin GSP is most heavily reliant on augmenting its supply rather than focusing upon "demand management". Also of significance is their assessment that, "Many plans do not have protections for domestic wells" as there have been some problems in the Kings Basin with residential wells going dry. Mr. Stadler noted the State tends to rely on PPIC information.
- B. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PORTAL COMMENTS (07/16/2020) - Mr. Stadler reviewed a summarization of comment letters received in response to the seven Kings GSA groundwater sustainability plans ("GSPs") published on the DWR web portal which are currently under review by the DWR. The next step will be to implement the GSPs. Mr. Stadler hopes analysis of data will help determine what steps the James GSA can take to become proactive.

Discussed lack of rural residential well data which could be helpful in documenting the James GSA's efforts to protect residential wells. Mr. Stadler intends to be very protective of any information gleaned and will focus on this area within the next three months to include domestic wells, subsidence and subterranean flows. He expressed confidence that we are in a favorable position to address overdraft. It was generally agreed that the James GSA must retain as much Kings River flood water as possible as well as engage in projects, especially outside the James GSA, to help replenish the underground. Lawsuits will be inevitable unless parties are committed to a spirit of cooperation.

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VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. ADVISORY COMMITTEE (07/16/2020)

The James Groundwater Sustainability Agency Advisory Committee was initially formed to help advise during the development of the James Groundwater Sustainability Plan. As the Advisory Committee's roll has diminished and attendance has waned, Mr. Stadler recommended Committee be disbanded and an "Implementation Committee" be organized in the future. Upon recommendation of the Executive Director, M/S/C (S.STADLER / M.COMBS), to IMMEDIATELY DISBAND THE JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

AYES: S.Stadler, M.Combs, R.Motte, S.Parra, W.Carvalho (5)

B. CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE REVIEW (07/16/2020)

Upon recommendation of the Executive Director, M/S/C (M.COMBS / R.MOTTE), to RE-APPROVE CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE AS ADOPTED JUNE 12, 2018, UNDER RESOLUTION 2018-03 (no changes).

AYES: M.Combs, R.Motte, S.Parra, S.Stadler, W.Carvalho, (5)

The "2020 Local Agency Biennial Notice" is due August 3, 2020, and will be forwarded to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors so advising. (Gov. Code §87306.5)

Adjourned to Closed Session at 10:31 a.m.

Attending:

Wm. Cory Carvalho, President

Micah Combs, Vice-President

Robert Motte, Director

Salvador Parra, Jr., Director

Staff:

Steven Stadler, General Manager, Executive Director

Emanuele Amorelli, Office Manager

Donna Hanneman, Executive Assistant

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

2 CASES

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

A. AS DEFENDANT: 1 CASE

1. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY VS. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT; JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00507

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Reconvened in Open Session at 10:39 a.m.

XI. **REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Stadler stated no reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

XII. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (M.COMBS / S.STADLER), to ADJOURN the meeting at 10:40 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020.

AYES: M.Combs, S.Stadler, R.Motte, S.Parra, W.Carvalho (5)

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman , Executive Assistant
JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Wm. Cory Carvalho, President
JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Steven P. Stadler, P.E., Executive Director
JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Accounts Payable / Interim Warrants: February 21-July 16, 2020, \$25,665.60