

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

## MINUTES December 9, 2025

### 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  
Donna Hanneman, Secretary  
Mirian Esparza, Office Clerk

#### PUBLIC

##### RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606

Gerald W. Kinnunen, President

##### McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (MAGSA)

Matthew Hurley, General Manager

##### WATER WISE

Ethan Hansen

#### LEGAL COUNSEL

##### YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

Brett A. Stroud, Esq. (Zoom)

##### LIGHTHOUSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS / CLOSED SESSION

Andy Lynch, (Zoom)

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 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

President Riley Chaney led the meeting in reciting the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

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## 3. REORGANIZATION: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO) to RE-ELECT the following slate of officers (no changes):

PRESIDENT: Riley Chaney

VICE PRESIDENT: Andrew Groppetti

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

## 4. AGENCY APPOINTMENTS

M/S/C (A.GROPPETTI / R.MOTTE) to APPOINT the following as indicated:

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

### a. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Treasurer / Assessor-Collector: Manny Amorelli

Secretary: Mirian Esparza, effective March 2, 2026 or upon vacancy

### b. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT RETIREMENT PLAN & DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN (3)

Trustee: Robert Motte

Trustee: Andrew Groppetti

Trustee: Manny Amorelli

### c. JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES (4)

Director Wm. Cory Carvalho

Director Robert Motte

Director Salvador Parra, Jr.

Executive Director Manny Amorelli

### d. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION (KRWA)

Director: Manny Amorelli

Alternate Director: Robert Motte

### e. KINGS RIVER WATERSHED COALITION AUTHORITY (AKA: UPPER KINGS BASIN INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY)

Director: Robert Barcellos

Alternate Director: Manny Amorelli

### f. KINGS BASIN WATER AUTHORITY (KBWA)

Director: Manny Amorelli

Alternate Director: Robert Motte

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- g. POWER & WATER RESOURCES POOLING AUTHORITY (PWRPA)  
Director: Manny Amorelli  
Alternate Director: Wm. Cory Carvalho
  
- h. SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY, DISTRICT 5  
Director: Manny Amorelli  
Alternate Director: Riley Chaney
  
- i. ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY (ACWA JPIA)  
Director: Riley Chaney  
Alternate Director: Manny Amorelli

## 5. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

## 6. 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.

## 7. 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.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

None

## 9. MINUTES

- a. REGULAR MEETING: NOVEMBER 11, 2025  
M/S/C (A.GROPPETI / R.MOTTE), to APPROVE as presented:  
**AYES:** 5 (A.Groppetti,R.Motte,R.Barcellos,W.Carvalho,R.Chaney)
  
- b. SPECIAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 24, 2025  
Not available for review and approval at this Meeting and will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval at the next Regular meeting.
  
- c. ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 24, 2025  
Not available for review and approval at this Meeting and will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval at the next Regular meeting.

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## 10. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: NOVEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 9, 2025 (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 (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$450,801.41 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$132,018.95 by the following vote:

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

c. PAYROLL CERTIFICATION: PAY PERIODS ENDING NOVEMBER, 2025 (Att.3)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$85,750.66 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending November, 2025, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

d. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2025

e. CASH POSITION REPORT: NOVEMBER 30, 2025

f. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: NOVEMBER 30, 2025

## 11. 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: November, 2025 - Water deliveries for the month of November were 784.67 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 55,643.85 acre-feet.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: December 8, 2025
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
  - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of December, 2025, totaled 10,108 CFS days.

### AGENCIES

- ▶ Reclamation District No. 1606 (RD 1606) – On November 25, held a Special Meeting to take action on MAGSA settlement agreement.

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## EVENTS

- ▶ Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) – December 2-4 Staff attended the ACWA Fall Conference noting it was a productive opportunity to meet with existing District partners and strengthen working relationships. Gather information relevant to future Districts planning, Grant opportunities and operational efficiencies.

## 12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported he and field staff have been working on

- ▶ Winter Meter Maintenance and Annual District Maintenance.

## 13. 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.

## 14. ACTION ITEMS

- a. DISTRICT BENEFITS (11/11/2025) - The Board reviewed and discussed the District's current employee leave policies. Board Members and staff reported general satisfaction with the existing policies.

## 15. REPORT ITEMS

- a. REMOTE FLOW METER MONITORING (08/12/2025) – Staff reported that the District's remote flow meter monitoring pilot program is currently active. Integration with the Storm accounting system is underway. Staff anticipates full system integration and operation functionality sometime in the first quarter 2026.
- b. SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING & EDUCATION (11/11/2025) – Sexual Harassment Prevention training has been scheduled for January 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m. The training will be conducted at the District's office and will be open to Board Members. Lunch will be provided.
- c. MID-PACIFIC REGION WATER USERS' CONFERENCE: JANUARY 28-30, 2026, RENO, NEVADA (12/09/2025)  
Mr. Amorelli will be attending Water Conference. Board members interested should notify staff.

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## ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:36 A.M.

### DIRECTORS ATTENDING:

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

### STAFF ATTENDING:

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

### CONSULTANTS:

Lighthouse Public Affairs, LLC  
Andy Lynch (Zoom)

### LEGAL COUNSEL:

Young Wooldridge, LLP  
Alan Doud, Esq. (Zoom)  
Brett A. Stroud, Esq. (Zoom)

## 16. 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

## 17. 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, Eastern District of California  
Case No. 1:20-CV-00706 DAD-EPG
- b. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY V. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 24CECG03049 (08/13/2024)

AS PLAINTIFF: 2 CASES

- a. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV417565
- b. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY & LANDOWNERS WITHIN MAGSA'S BOUNDARIES  
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 24CV447516

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**18. 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 & 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 & 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  
To Be Determined  
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

d. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (04/19/2018)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

**RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:10 A.M.**

**16. 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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## 17. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (A.GROPPETTI / W.CARVALHO), to ADJOURN the meeting at 11:11 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., by the following vote:

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

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Mirian I. Esparza, Office Clerk

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Riley Chaney, President

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Manny Amorelli, General Manager

## ATTACHMENTS:

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- 1 Interim Warrants: November 12- December 9, 2025, \$450,801.41
  - 2 Accounts Payable, \$132,018.95
  - 3 Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending November, 2025, \$85,750.66 (net)