

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES July 16, 2025

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

PUBLIC

McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Don Cameron, Chairman
Marjorie Bookout, Landowner
Mark Pitman, Pitman Farms

EXCUSED

Riley Chaney, President

LEGAL COUNSEL

YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager
Mirian Esparza, Office Clerk

BKS LAW FIRM, PC / CLOSED SESSION

Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

LIGHTHOUSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS / CLOSED SESSION

Andy Lynch, (Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Wednesday, July 16, 2025, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., by Vice President, Andrew Groppetti. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President, Andrew Groppetti, led the meeting in reciting the 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.

- ▶ DON CAMERON, CHAIRMAN, McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (MAGSA), expressed coming in good faith with the hope of reaching a resolution, either publicly or through mediation. He emphasized that, as farmers, they are the ones experiencing the greatest losses and expressed hope that a resolution can be reached before the scheduled court hearing within the next three months.
- ▶ MARJORIE BOOKOUT, GROWER (MAGSA), voiced concerns about the financial burden imposed by the ongoing lawsuit. She is a small landowner and is struggling with cost. She expressed the hope that an agreement can be made.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. MEETING DATE CHANGE

It was **NOTED FOR THE RECORD** that the Tuesday, July 8, 2025 Regular Meeting was ADJOURNED to this date due to scheduling conflicts and notice distributed and posted as prescribed.

7. MINUTES

a. REGULAR MEETING: JULY 10, 2025

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

AYES: 4 (W.Carvalho, A.Groppetti, R.Barcellos, R.Motte)
EXCUSED: 1 (R.Chaney)

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: JUNE 11- JULY 16, 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 (A.GROPPETTI / W.CARVALHO) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$669,341.34 and Accounts Payable totaling \$100,817.12 by the following vote:

AYES: 4 (A.Groppetti, W.Carvalho, R.Barcellos, R.Motte)
EXCUSED: 1 (R.Chaney)

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- c. PAYROLL CERTIFICATION: PAY PERIODS ENDING JUNE, 2025 (Att.3)
A listing of payroll checks totaling \$90,512.76 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending June, 2025, was reviewed and certified by the Vice President, General Manager and Office Manager.
- d. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2025
- e. QUARTERLY REPORT OF FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS: JUNE 30, 2025 Gov. Code §53646
- f. CASH POSITION REPORT: JUNE 30, 2025
- g. SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT/NOTES PAYABLE: JUNE 30, 2025
- h. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: JUNE 30, 2025
- i. ASSESSMENTS
THE sale date for delinquent 2024-25 assessments has been set for Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Notice to be published in *The San Joaquin-Tranquillity West Side Advance*. (Water Code §26105)

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters since June 10, 2025, meeting:

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: June, 2025 - Water deliveries for the month of June were 11,206.29 acre-feet which is 1,228.74 acre-feet more than was delivered during June, 2025. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 28,354.61 acre-feet which is 7,291.02 acre-feet more than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: July 14, 2025
- ▶ Kings River Diversions - The District was able to work with Tranquillity Irrigation District to divert approximately 1,000 acre-feet of their Kings River Water at the James Weir.

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AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings Basin Coordination Group – Attended meeting on June 27th along with other GSA members as work continues on a groundwater allocation framework plan. MAGSA said they do not feel a need to join the discussion.
- ▶ Raisin City Water District - On July 9, Staff attended the LAFCo hearing regarding Raisin City Water District and their attempts to annex the White Area. The District voiced its protest and the Hearing was postponed until the next LAFCo meeting. Conversations with Raisin City Water District President leads staff to believe an agreement can be reached.

ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ Remote Meter Monitoring - Staff met with a representative from Wildeye who offers technology for electronic meter readings to be integrated with existing water billing programs. Details will be forthcoming.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- ▶ Typical operation and maintenance for this time of the year includes cleaning and organization of the District yard to maintain safety and efficiency.
- ▶ Ongoing efforts to maintain ditch banks.
- ▶ Control of weed and moss treatment
- ▶ Security enhancement on well sites.
- ▶ Grower workorders

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. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-090-24S (15.98 ACRES), 030-090-28S (366.07 ACRES) (10/16/2012)
Pursuant to the April 14, 2025, Regular Meeting with Thomas Coleman, the Board reevaluated his request for the District to provide a permanent water supply to severed parcels. No action taken. The Board requested this matter be placed on the Agenda each January when water availability may be known and a possible determination made on whether water can be provided to these parcels.

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13. REPORT ITEMS

a. FUTURE POWER RATES (07/16/2025)

PG&E has released proposed future power rate increases for the next five years. Staff will be presenting potential projects to help offset power costs.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT TIME 1:51 P.M.

Directors Attending:

Andrew Groppetti, Vice President

Robert Barcellos, Director

Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director

Robert Motte, Director

Legal Counsel

· Young Wooldridge, LLP

Alan Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

· BKS Law Firm, PC

Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

Staff Attending:

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Consultant

Andy Lynch, LightHouse (zoom)

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: 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)

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AS PLAINTIFF: 3 CASES

- a. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL V. JAMES VERBOON ET AL
Kings County Superior Court, Case No. 15 C0304

- b. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV417565

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

AS INTERVENOR: 1 CASE

- a. CITY OF FRESNO, ET AL V. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
United States Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-CV-01276-MCW

16. 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

- b. 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

- c. 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

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d. 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.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 2:31 P.M.

17. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

No reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session

18. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO), to ADJOURN the meeting at time 2:33 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: 4 (A.Groppetti, R.Barcellos, R.Motte, W.Carvalho)

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Chaney)

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Mirian I. Esparza, Clerk

Andrew Groppetti, Vice President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Interim Warrants: June 11 – July 16, 2025, \$669,341.34
2. Accounts Payable, \$100,817.12
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending June, 2025, \$90,512.76 (net)