

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES May 12, 2026

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Robert Barcellos
Wm. Cory Carvalho
Robert Motte

EXCUSED

Andrew Groppetti, Vice President

STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Tom Coleman, Coleman Farms

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, May 12, 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

a. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed to honor the passing of PHIL LARSON, former District One Supervisor, Farmer and Friend of the District.

7. MINUTES

a. REGULAR MEETING: APRIL 14, 2026

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

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

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

a. INTERIM WARRANTS: APRIL 15 – MAY 12, 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 and approval. M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / R.MOTTE) to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$1,324,030.52 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$166,231.10 by the following vote:

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

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

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

A listing of payroll checks and direct deposit totaling \$80,621.81 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending April, 2026, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

d. INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 2026

e. CASH POSITION REPORT: APRIL 30, 2026

f. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: APRIL 30, 2026

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9. 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: April, 2026 Water deliveries for the month of April were 4,892.96 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 8,639.80 acre-feet.
- ▶ Eastside Wellfield Water pumped from the Eastside wellfield fiscal year to date total is at 4,131 AF.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: May 11, 2026

PROJECTS

- ▶ James Bypass Staff continues work on the James Bypass Storage Recharge Project. Concrete pours scheduled this week. General Manager encouraged Directors to visit the project site. Staff has been documenting construction progress for District records and website updates.

AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA) – General Manager attended the Kings River Water Association Executive Committee meeting on April 21. It was reported that:
 - No flood flows are anticipated this year.
 - A coordinated river run is scheduled from May 15 through July 31 on the lower river.
- ▶ Fresno Irrigation District (FID) – The District transferred water to FID under 2024 agreement. Some objections were raised by another District. Staff stated the District is operation fully within Blue Book rules and received support from several river managers.
- ▶ Tranquillity Irrigation District – Staff reported that James and Tranquillity District discussions will resume next week, marking the first meeting since 2023. Directors were invited to attend.

EVENTS

- ▶ Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) – District staff attended the ACWA conference in Sacramento. The General Manager stated the conference was productive and successful, noting staff met with numerous District partners and explored potential future projects and partnerships with additional agencies and Districts.

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10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- ▶ Continued work on the James Bypass Project.
- ▶ Hyacinth cleanup and spraying.
- ▶ Pump maintenance activities continue.
- ▶ Safety meeting and training being completed.
- ▶ Pond weed control and copper applications for algae are underway.

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. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR FALLOW AND UNMAINTAINED PARCELS (05/12/2026) – The Board discussed ongoing issues with neglected parcels, including weed growth, trash accumulation, pest control, material blowing into District facilities and neighboring properties. District counsel confirmed that existing regulations address encroachments affecting District facilities. Counsel stated the Board may amend rules and regulations to expand enforcement authority if desired. Discussion included:

- Possible District-wide notices.
- Contacting Landowners directly.
- Referring neglected parcels to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
- Hiring contractors to disk or clean neglected parcels and billing property owners.
- Potential future administrative fee.

Board directed staff to execute the following:

1. Send a District-wide notice regarding property maintenance expectations.
2. Contact owners of identified neglected parcels.
3. Allow approximately one week for corrective action.
4. If no action is taken:
 - Notify the Agricultural Commissioner's Office
 - Arrange cleanup or discing
 - Bill the parcel owner for costs incurred.

No formal motion was required. NO ACTION taken.

- b. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-090-24S (15.98 ACRES), 030-090-28S (366.07 ACRES) (10/16/2012) – Mr. Coleman was present and addressed the Board, thanking the Board and District staff for their time and stating he was available to answer any questions regarding the matter. Item was deferred to Closed Session for discussion with legal counsel. NO ACTION was taken.

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- c. ANNUAL SALARY REVIEW: 2026 (03/10/2026) - General Manager, Manny Amorelli reported he and Directors Robert Barcellos and Robert Motte, serving as the ad hoc Salary/Benefit Committee met to develop recommendations to the Board regarding 2026 wage increases and/or benefit package modifications. The Committee recommended the Board consider approving aggregate salary increases not to exceed 3% District-wide.

M/S/C (R.CHANEY / W. CARVALHO) to APPROVE MERIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026, NOT TO EXCEED 3% DISTRICT-WIDE. (Individual increases may exceed 3% based on merit; however, the aggregate total of all adjustments may not exceed 3% District-wide.)

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

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

13. REPORT ITEMS

- a. REMOTE FLOW METER MONITORING (08/12/2025) – Staff reported the District is moving forward with telemetry installation through WildEye for remote monitoring on laterals C, H, and K. Installation is expected withing the next several weeks. Growers were advised via email that workers and equipment may be present at turnouts during installation.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:41 A.M.

DIRECTORS ATTENDING:

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

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Young Wooldridge, LLP
Alan Doud, Esq.

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

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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.

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

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

18. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54957 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- a. TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER
- b. TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:40 A.M.

19. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

General Manger Manny Amorelli stated NO REPORTABLE ACTIONS WERE TAKEN during Closed Session.

Following Closed Session deliberation, the following actions were taken in Open Session:

18. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54957 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- a. TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER
- b. TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT

M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / R.MOTTE) to APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SALARY INCREASES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026:

General Manager + \$5,000 a year
Superintendent + \$1,500 a year

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

EXCUSED: 1 (A.Groppetti)

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20. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (R.CHANEY / W.CARVALHO), to ADJOURN the meeting at 11:52 a.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., by the following vote:

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

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Mirian I. Esparza, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

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- 1 Interim Warrants, April 15 – May 12, 2026, \$1,324,030.52
 - 2 Accounts Payable, \$166,231.10
 - 3 Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending April, 2026, \$80,621.81 (net)