

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES June 22, 2021

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Jeremy Hughes, Vice-President
Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Barcellos, Assessor
Micah Combs, Director

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606

Gerald W. Kinnunen, President

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

None

EXCUSED

None

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

ABSENT

None

• WATER WISE

Sarah Woolf

Kristi Robinson (Zoom: 10:02-11:37 a.m.)

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Walter Flores, Office Manager
Donna Hanneman, Executive Assistant
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent

LEGAL COUNSEL

• BARTKIEWICZ KRONICK & SHANAHAN / CLOSED SESSION

Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom: 11:41 a.m.-12:05 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT was held Tuesday, June 22, 2021, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

This meeting was conducted in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 virus pandemic. Members of the public were encouraged to access the meeting via internet/Zoom or use the call-in number to allow them to fully participate in the meeting without having to be present.

II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

B. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

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C. 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.

III. **WORKSHOP: McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY / AQUATERRA WATER BANK**

Matt Hurley, General Manager of the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, conducted an information workshop on their plans to construct the Aquaterra Water Bank. Salient points of his PowerPoint presentation (Att.1) follow.

- ▶ MAGSA is moving forward with their groundwater banking project. Mr. Hurley stated he has been pleased with the interest that has been expressed in conversations with State water contractors as well as Westlands Water District. He feels this is a “positive opportunity” and encouraged Tranquillity and James Irrigation districts to investigate and maximize their opportunities within MAGSA, as well.
- ▶ He noted the James ID cement-lined canals on McMullin Grade and Lassen Avenue are the only conveyance facilities within MAGSA.
- ▶ MAGSA’s location is strategically located between the San Joaquin and Kings rivers.
- ▶ Primary focus will be in developing on-farm recharge agreements (or in-lieu).
- ▶ Phase I costs would be supported by senior banking partners under “pay-for-play”/permanent rights arrangements which will pay for construction of conveyance infrastructure.
- ▶ Mr. Hurley indicated MAGSA would like to work with Reclamation District No. 1606 on the construction of a weir aligned with American Avenue which could double their ability to take flood flows.
- ▶ His goal is to keep MAGSA farms intact without fallowing acreage and gain control over water leaving their GSA. Conceptually, he indicated James ID could be allocated 50,000 acre-feet in a banking account with James ID pumping credited to the account. This would remove the District’s extractions from MAGSA overdraft allocations. Also, their intent is to oversee operation of the District’s McMullin & Lassen Avenue well fields as well as the James ID McMullin Grade and Lassen Avenue cement-lined canals as empowered by SGMA statutes.
- ▶ All wells within MAGSA are slated for electronic metering that will be linked to a data management system within the next three years. MAGSA will pay for SCADA/telemetry now.

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ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 11:37 A.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President
Jeremy Hughes, Vice-President
Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Barcellos, Assessor-Collector
Micah Combs, Director

Consultants:

• Water Wise
Sarah Woolf

Legal Counsel

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

• Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom: 11:41 a.m.-12:05 p.m.)

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

4 CASES

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

A. AS DEFENDANT: 3 CASES

1. NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, ET AL, V BERNHARDT, ET AL
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
Case No. 1:5-CV-01207LJO-GSA
2. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY VS. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT;
JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00507
3. 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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B. AS PLAINTIFF: 4 CASES

1. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL V. JAMES VERBOON ET AL
Kings County Superior Court, Case No. 15 C0304
2. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT VS. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 19CECG00769
3. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00688

ALTHOUGH LISTED ON THE AGENDA, THE FOLLOWING MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

4. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-370-32s
Eminent Domain proceedings for District wellsite on property owned by the Frank V. Motte Testamentary Trust

C. AS INTERVENOR: 1 CASE

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

VI. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.8 - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

A. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (06/22/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
McMullin Groundwater Sustainability Agency:
General Manager/Designee

Under Negotiation: Discuss possible water supply transactions.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 12:05 P.M.

VII. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

No reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

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VIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:06 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Executive Assistant

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. PowerPoint Presentation: Aquaterra Water Bank, McMullin Area GSA, Fresno County, June 22, 2021