

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES August 17, 2026

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

EXCUSED

Robert Motte

STAFF PRESENT

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

LEGAL COUNSEL

YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

PUBLIC

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Jerry Gagnani, Gagnani Farms et al
Donnie Gagnani, Donnie Gagnani Farms
(Arr.10:19 a.m.)

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

Mike Karbassi, Council Member

CONSULTANTS

IRRIGATION TRAINING RESEARCH CENTER (ITRC)

Charles M. Burt, Ph. D. E. CID

SUMMERS ENGINEERING, INC

Jeff Gilkey, P.E.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Monday, August 17, 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.

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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.

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. **MEETING DATE CHANGE**

It was **NOTED FOR THE RECORD** that the August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting was **ADJOURNED** to this date. Notice was distributed by e-mail, posted on the District's website and in the office lobby.

7. **MINUTES**

a. **REGULAR MEETING: JULY 14, 2026**

M/S/C (A.GROPPETTI / WM.CARVALHO) to **APPROVE** as presented:

AYES: 4 (A.Groppetti,Wm.Carvalho,R.Barcellos,R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Motte)

8. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

a. **INTERIM WARRANTS: JULY 15 – AUGUST 17, 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/approval. **M/S/C (A.GROPPETTI / R.BARCELLOS)** to **RATIFY/APPROVE** Interim Warrants totaling \$897,049.98 and **APPROVE** payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$136,055 by the following vote:

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

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Motte)

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

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$93,102.88 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending July, 2026, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

d. **INCOME STATEMENTS (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL): PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2026**

e. **CASH POSITION REPORT: JULY 31, 2026**

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- f. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ACTIVITY REPORT: JULY 31, 2026
- g. ASSESSMENTS
 - i. Update re: sale of delinquent properties conducted August 5, 2026 as published in *The 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 the last meeting:

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: July, 2026 - Water deliveries for the month of July were 9,876.06 acre-feet. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 35,507.83 acre-feet.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: August 10, 2026
- ▶ East Side Wellfield YTD Usage: Approximately 10,400 acre-feet.
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
 - Allocations remain at 28% to South-of-Delta contractors.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of August 9, 2026, totaled 9,444 CFS days.

MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Golden Mussel – Staff continues monitoring the regional spread of Golden Mussels. No Golden Mussels have been identified within the District's system at this time. Staff will report any changes in conditions to the Board.

PROJECTS

- ▶ Main Canal – Staff continues coordinating with Summers Engineering and other project consultants on the Main Canal Improvement Project. Work during the month focused on evaluating project alternatives, system capacity, booster station improvements, and potential funding opportunities. A detail project presentation was provided later in the meeting under Action Items.
- ▶ Ag Monitor - The District continues meeting regularly with Ag Monitor representatives to review PG&E accounts, billing, and applicable energy credits. Coordination between Ag Monitor, District staff, and the Districts PG&E representative has improved communication and assisted with identifying billing discrepancies and potential savings. Ag Monitor is scheduled to provide the Board an update in future meeting.

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AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings Water Alliance – Staff participated in the Kings Water Alliance meeting, focusing on workforce development within the water industry. The regional efforts brings together water agencies throughout the Valley to discuss recruitment, outreach and opportunities to encourage greater interest in water – related careers. The District will continue participating as the program develops.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association – Staff participated in two James Irrigation and Tranquillity Irrigation (J&T) negotiation meetings during the month. Discussions remain ongoing regarding operational provisions and concerns raised by participating member units. A workshop was also held to review various scenarios and provide additional information to the member agencies. Staff will continue working with the participating agencies to clarify their concerns and identify potential solutions.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- ▶ Pump, Well and Electrical repairs.
- ▶ Wire theft- Staff continues monitoring incidents of wire theft. Activity has decreased compared to prior periods.
- ▶ Meter Repairs- District crews have largely caught up on meter repairs. Staff reported recurring damage to certain meter components, including stainless steel parts. Discussion focused on whether acidic chemicals or fertilizer products injected upstream of meters maybe causing corrosion.
- ▶ James Bypass Basin & Recharge Project – Construction continues on project. Most above-ground concrete work has been completed. Shotcrete work on the sidewall was expected to begin shortly.
- ▶ Canal Maintenance – Crew continues making herbicide applications as needed.

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.

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12. ACTION ITEMS

- a. ➤ MAIN CANAL PROJECT (10/26/2021) – Representative from Summers Engineering and the District's Consultant Dr. Burt provided a detailed presentation regarding the proposed Main Canal Improvement Project. The presentation reviewed previous concepts, estimated cost, system capacity, project phasing, grant funding and updated alternatives developed since the project was last presented to the Board. The proposed improvement is intended to increase the District's ability to move water through the Main Canal either direction, with a target capacity of approximately 260-270 cfs, while also improving operational flexibility, floodwater capture, and delivery to District recharge facilities and growers. The Board reviewed updated project cost and discussed the benefits of replacing aging infrastructure versus continuing to rehabilitate the existing booster stations. Consultants also discussed improvements previously proposed for Lateral C.

Following discussion, the Board directed staff and consultants to continue with project planning, additional surveying design development and emulation of available grant funding.

- b. ➤ BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING (08/17/2026) - M/S/C (R.CHANEY / W.CARVALHO) to CONVENE AS A BOARD OF EQUALIZATION on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, from the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to hear objections, if any, to the valuation, acreage, or any matter pertaining to the 2026-2027 District assessments. Notice will be published as prescribed by California Water Code §25550-25559 in *The San Joaquin-Tranquillity West Side Advance*.

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

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Motte)

- h. ➤ RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF BANKING SERVICES WITH COMMUNITY WEST BANK FOLLOWING THE MERGER OF THE UNITED SECURITY BANK, N.A. 08/17/2026 Att.4)

Staff presented a Draft Resolution authorizing continuation of banking services following the merger of United Security Bank into Community West Bank. Staff reported the change is administrative only.

(M/S/C R.CHANEY / W.CARVALHO), to APPROVE RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF BANKING SERVICES WITH COMMUNITY WEST BANK FOLLOWING THE MERGER OF THE UNITED SECURITY BANK, N.A as drafted.

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

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Motte)

13. REPORT ITEMS

- a. Notice of Election - Advise of publication in *The San JoaquinTranquillity West Side Advance*

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ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:57 A.M.

DIRECTORS ATTENDING:

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

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Young Wooldridge, LLP
Alan Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

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: 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 of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
Case No. 25-5137
- b. NORTH COAST RIVERS ALLIANCE V UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ET AL
United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
Case NO. 26-2457

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

- a. JAMES & TRANQUILLITY NEGOTIATIONS
- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Negotiating Parties: | <u>James Irrigation District:</u> General Manager/Designee
<u>Tranquillity Irrigation District:</u> Danny Wade
<u>Kings River Lower River Units:</u> Manager/Designee |
| Under Negotiation: | Price, terms and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions. |

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- 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
- f. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (07/14/2026)
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Angiola Water District
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

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.

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- 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.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:54 A.M.

18. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

General Manager, Manny Amorelli , stated no reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

19. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:55 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Mirian I. Esparza, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

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- 1 Interim Warrants, July 15 – August 17, 2026, \$897,049.98
 - 2 Accounts Payable, \$136,055
 - 3 Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending July, 2026, \$93,102.88 (net)
 - 4 Resolution 2026-02 Resolution: Authorizing the continuation of Banking services with Community West Bank following the merger of the United Security Bank, N.A