

# JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

## MINUTES December 5, 2023

### ATTENDANCE

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President  
Micah Combs, Vice-President  
Wm. Cory Carvalho  
Robert Motte

#### EXCUSED

Robert Barcellos

#### ABSENT

None

#### STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager  
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager  
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent  
Donna Hanneman, Secretary

#### PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606  
Gerald W. Kinnunen, President
- LANDOWNERS / GROWERS  
None
- McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
Matt Hurley, General Manager

#### LEGAL COUNSEL

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP  
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT (“District”) was held Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 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.

### II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### A. MEETING DATE CHANGE

It was noted for the record that the December 7, 2023, meeting was rescheduled to this date due to scheduling conflicts and notice posted as prescribed.

#### B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were offered.

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C. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

M/S/C (M.COMBS / W.CARVALHO), to CORRECT the Agenda as follows (**correction redlined**):

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. ► Interim Warrants: November 15-December 5 7, 2023

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

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Barcellos)

D. 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. REORGANIZATION

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

President: Riley Chaney

Vice-President: Micah H. Combs

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

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Barcellos)

B. AGENCY APPOINTMENTS

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO) to RE-APPOINT the following representatives as indicated (no changes):

1. James Irrigation District

(1) Treasurer/Assessor-Collector: Manny Amorelli

(2) Secretary: Donna Hanneman

2. James Irrigation District Retirement Plan/Deferred Compensation Plan

(1) Trustee: Micah Combs

(2) Trustee: Robert Motte

(3) Trustee: Manny Amorelli

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3. James Groundwater Sustainability Agency
  - (1) Director: Robert Motte
  - (2) Director: Micah Combs
  - (3) Director: Salvador Parra, Jr.
  - (4) Executive Director: Manny Amorelli
  
4. San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, District 5
  - (1) Director: Manny Amorelli
  - (2) Alternate Director: Riley Chaney
  
5. Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
  - (1) Director: Manny Amorelli
  - (2) Alternate Director: Robert Motte
  
6. Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority (aka: Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority)
  - (1) Director: Robert Barcellos
  - (2) Alternate Director: Manny Amorelli
  
7. Kings Basin Water Authority
  - (1) Director: Manny Amorelli
  - (2) Alternate Director: Robert Motte
  
8. Power & Water Resources Pooling Authority (PWRPA)
  - (1) Director: Manny Amorelli
  - (2) Alternate Director: Wm. Cory Carvalho
  
9. Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA)
  - (1) Director: Riley Chaney
  - (2) Alternate Director: Manny Amorelli

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

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Barcellos)

## IV. MINUTES

### A. REGULAR MEETING: NOVEMBER 14, 2023

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / R.CHANEY), to APPROVE as written by the following vote:

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

EXCUSED: 1 (R.Barcellos)

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## V. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

### A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Interim Warrants: November 15-December 5, 2023 (Att.1)

Interim Warrants (bills paid) with supporting invoices were presented for review/approval. M/S/C (M.COMBS / W.CARVALHO), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$479,429.43 by the following vote:

**AYES:** 4 (M.Combs, W.Carvalho, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

**EXCUSED:** 1 (R.Barcellos)

2. Accounts Payable

Not available. Due to the rescheduling of today's meeting, payment of Accounts Payable will be issued as Interim Warrants and reported next meeting.

3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending November, 2023 (Att.2)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$78,660.78 (net) issued to employees and Board members was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

4. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending November 30, 2023

5. Cash Position Report: November 30, 2023

6. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: November 30, 2023

## VI. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters for the month of November, 2023, as follows:

### OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: November, 2023 - Water deliveries for the month of November were 1,300 acre-feet which is 327 acre-feet more than was delivered during November, 2022. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 43,872 acre-feet which is 10,677 acre-feet less than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association
  - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of December 3, 2023, totaled 1,413 CFS-days.

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## MAINTENANCE

- ▶ James Weir - Following recent flood releases, a professional utility location service was engaged to utilize ground-penetrating radar to identify any hollow spots that might have developed. None were found.

## AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings Basin Coordinating Committee met November 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussed various projects. Continuing to gather data.

## EVENTS

- ▶ Association of California Water Agencies - Mr. Amorelli attended the Fall Conference in Indian Wells from November 28-30, 2023.
- ▶ Mid-Pacific Water Users Conference - Mr. Amorelli plans to attend the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual conference January 24-26, 2024, in Reno, Nevada. Board members were encouraged to attend.

## **VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported staff has been involved in the following activities.

- ▶ James Weir repairs, cobble, boards replaced
- ▶ Irrigation meter repairs
- ▶ Pre-emergent Weed Control
- ▶ Mowing
- ▶ Grower requisitions
- ▶ Irrigation deliveries

## **VIII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

None were presented.

## **IX. ACTION ITEMS**

### A. CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE: HEAVY EQUIPMENT (11/14/2023)

Discussed purchase of replacement backhoe for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Reviewed quotes for new backhoes from Quinn Cat (New, Caterpillar-\$162,664) and Sequoia Equipment (New, Case 590SN-\$170,447). As the District has two other Case backhoes and in the interest of maintaining uniform parts inventory and safety/staff familiarity with operation of the units, M/S/C (R.CHANEY / R.MOTTE) to APPROVE PURCHASE OF ONE, NEW CASE 590SN BACKHOE FROM SEQUOIA EQUIPMENT AT \$170,447:

**AYES:** 4 (R.Chaney, R.Motte, W.Carvalho, M.Combs)

**EXCUSED:** 1 (R.Barcellos)

Staff was directed to sell the old unit privately (do not use as a trade-in).

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## X. REPORT ITEMS

### A. MID-PACIFIC REGION WATER USERS' CONFERENCE: JANUARY 24-26, 2024, RENO, NEVADA

Mr. Amorelli discussed his plans to attend this annual conference and encouraged Board members to attend as well.

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

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President  
Micah Combs, Vice-President  
Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director  
Robert Motte, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Legal Counsel

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

## XI. 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):

4 CASES

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

### A. AS DEFENDANT: 2 CASES

1. NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, ET AL, V HAALAND, ET AL  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California  
Case No. 1:5-CV-01207LJO-GSA

2. 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. AS PLAINTIFF: 3 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

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3. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY - Fresno County Superior Court, Case No. 23CECG00749

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

## **XIII. 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. 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 (06/22/2021)

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

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

E. FRESNO COUNTY APN 030-111-48S (66.64 ACRES), APN 030-111-49S (39 ACRES)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
Landowner

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transaction.

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F. TERRANOVA RANCH, INC. (05/16/2023)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee  
Terranova Ranch, Inc.: Don Cameron

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

**RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:45 A.M.**

## **XIV. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION** Gov. Code 54957.1

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

## **XV. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:46 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

**RECORDED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

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Donna Y. Hanneman, Secretary

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Riley Chaney, President

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Manny Amorelli, General Manager

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Interim Warrants: November 15-December 5, 2023, \$479,429.43
2. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending November, 2023, \$78,660.78 (net)