

# JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

## MINUTES February 17, 2022

### ATTENDANCE

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#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606  
Wm. Cory Carvalho, President
- JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
Micah Combs, Vice-President  
Robert Motte  
Salvador Parra, Jr. (Arr.9:04 a.m.)  
Manny Amorelli, Executive Director

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#### INTERESTED PARTIES PRESENT:

- FRESNO COUNTY  
Bernard Jimenez, Public Works (Zoom)

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#### PUBLIC/CONSULTANTS PRESENT:

- JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
Walter Flores, Office Manager  
Donna Hanneman, Executive Assistant

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#### DIRECTORS EXCUSED:

None

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#### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ("James GSA") was held Thursday, February 17, 2022, in the Agency office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m., by President, Wm. Cory Carvalho. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

### II. RESOLUTION 2022-01 INITIALLY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361 (02/17/2022)

Adopting this resolution will allow the Board of Directors to conduct meetings via teleconference and/or remotely via the internet in conformity with Government Code section 5495.3(e) as amended by AB361 so long as a COVID19 state of emergency exists.

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / M.COMBS), to ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-01 as follows: (Att.1)

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

**EXCUSED:** 1 (S.Parra)

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### III. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

B. MEETING DATE CHANGE

It was noted for the record that the January 20, 2022, Regular Meeting was ADJOURNED to this date due to scheduling conflicts. Notice was posted in the lobby of the Agency Office.

C. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

D. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (FPPC §87105)

Directors were given an opportunity to identify a potential conflict-of-interest with items appearing on the Agenda; none were reported.

E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

President Wm. Cory Carvalho

Vice-President Sal Parra, Jr.

**AYES:** 5 (M.Combs, R.Motte, S.Parra, M.Amorelli, W.Carvalho)

F. AGENCY APPOINTMENTS

M/S/C (M.COMBS / R.MOTTE), to RE-APPOINT the following (no changes) by the following vote:

Executive Director Manny Amorelli

**AYES:** 5 (M.Combs, R.Motte, S.Parra, M.Amorelli, W.Carvalho)

G. KINGS RIVER GSA COORDINATION GROUP

M/S/C (M.COMBS / R.MOTTE), to RE-APPOINT the following (no changes) by the following vote:

Primary Representative Manny Amorelli

**AYES:** 5 (M.Combs, R.Motte, S.Parra, M.Amorelli, W.Carvalho)

### IV. MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: OCTOBER 21, 2021

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

**AYES:** 5 (S.Parra, R.Motte, M.Combs, M.Amorelli, W.Carvalho)

### V. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

None reported.

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- B. INTERIM WARRANTS: OCTOBER 22, 2021-FEBRUARY 17, 2022 (Att.2)  
M/S/C(R.MOTTE/M.COMBS), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants (bills paid) totaling \$11,972.07 by the following vote:  
AYES: 5 (R.Motte, M.Combs, S.Parra, M.Amorelli, W.Carvalho)
- C. CASH POSITION REPORT: JANUARY 31, 2021
- D. INCOME STATEMENT (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL) PERIOD ENDING: JANUARY 31, 2022
- E. QUARTERLY REPORT OF FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS-PERIOD ENDING: DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(Gov. Code §53646)

## VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report as follows.

- ▶ KINGS GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN GSA
  - Kings Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
    - Department of Water Resources (DWR) met with all seven GSAs two weeks ago to explore deficiencies in the GSP and potential remedies. The DWR indicated (1) pumping restrictions were not adequately addressed, (2) too much focus was placed on recharge and (3) subsidence was not adequately addressed. GSA modifications will be addressed basin-wide and the costs apportioned to each GSA.
    - Provost & Pritchard are working on contours and will report to the DWR.
    - Wells have been surveyed by Provost & Pritchard.
    - To date, there have been no allocations imposed by member GSAs.
  - The Kings GSA was awarded a \$7 million grant due to being classified as “severely overdrafted”. The seven member GSAs voted unanimously on how to apportion the funds to each. James is anticipating \$1 million.
  - Kings Basin Coordinating Committee
    - The seven member GSAs are cooperatively working toward a common goal.
    - The Committee will be meeting more frequently. Only one chance at achieving California DWR approval.

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▶ JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

- Policy: On-Farm Recharge - A resolution is being drafted outlining a policy for purchase of excess flood water to be used to flood permanent crops for recharge (not to be used for irrigation).
- Policy: Purchase of Surface Water for Recharge within the boundaries of the James Irrigation District and the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency is being formulated.

**VII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

None presented.

**VIII. REPORT ITEMS**

None.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

A. FISCAL BUDGET: MARCH 1, 2022-FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Drafts of the 2022-2023 Budget forecast were distributed/discussed.

M/S/C (M.COMBS / S.PARRA), to UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE/ADOPT 2022-2023 Budget as presented.

**AYES:** 5 (M.Combs, S.Parra, R.Motte, M.Amorelli, W.Carvalho)

Mr. Amorelli assured the Board that any changes will be brought to the Board for review.

B. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) (02/17/2022)

Mr. Amorelli encouraged the Board to offer any comments/suggestion they might have for forwarding to the Kings Basin Coordinating Committee for their consideration.

**Adjourned to Closed Session at 9:21 a.m.**

Attending:

*Wm. Cory Carvalho, President*

*Manny Amorelli, Executive Director*

*Micah Combs, Vice-President*

*Robert Motte, Director*

*Salvador Parra, Jr., Director*

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

2 CASES

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Reconvened in Open Session at 10:05 a.m.

**XI. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION**

No reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

**XII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (S.PARRA / R.MOTTE), to ADJOURN the meeting at 10:07 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022.

**AYES:** 5 (S.Parra, R.Motte, M.Combs, M.Amorelli, W.Carvalho)

**RECORDED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**

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Donna Y. Hanneman , Executive Assistant  
JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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Wm. Cory Carvalho, President  
JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

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Manny Amorelli, Executive Director  
JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution 2022-01 Initially Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings Under AB361, Adopted February 17, 2022
2. Accounts Payable / Interim Warrants: October 22, 2021-February 17, 2022, \$11,972.07