Gillespie Field Development Council - Council Annual Report 2026

This report was prepared in accordance with the 1974 Joint Powers Agreement, as amended, between the County of San Diego and the City of El Cajon establishing the Gillespie Field Development Council (GFDC). This report covers activities for the calendar year 2026, which included seven GFDC meetings.

Findings and Recommendations

January 21, 2026

- Election of 2026 GFDC Chair and Vice Chair
- Contracted Airport Management–
    - Contracted management services for Ramona, Fallbrook, Ocotillo and Borrego Airports were terminated; County Airports regained full-time management.

March 18, 2026

- Cajon Air Center-
    - Phase 1 of RFP is expected to have a summer release date.
- GFDC Vision for Development-
    - First draft version of the Vision for Development was presented to the Council by Vice Chair Wheeler North; Second version and possible adoption will be presented at the May meeting.

May 20, 2026

- Financial Update was presented covering Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25 of the Airport Enterprise Fund. The reports for each fiscal year outlined both Operating Revenues and Operating Expenses. The reports also summarized the Net Position at the end of each fiscal year, which included Net Position Change.
- GFDC Vision for Development
    - Final version of the GFDC Vision for Development was presented for adoption by the Council. Presentation included changes based on public input. Motion Passed.

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- Council requested that staff re-open and maintain Agua Caliente Airport, which was closed earlier in the year. Subject remains under advisement.

July 15, 2026

- Asst. Airport Manager Clifford Reinhart gave a presentation on the condition of the compass rose along with the following recommendation from staff:
    - Without the ability to certify the compass rose and ensure accuracy, staff is recommending the compass rose be removed
    - The recommendation is based on lack of certification and survey data, not meeting Standards and Recommendations, and implemented temporary mediation.
- Council requested to keep the compass rose in its decommissioned state instead of removing it, while also requesting a re-evaluation of risk and mitigation.

September 16, 2026

- Proposed Update to the Conflict of Interest Code. Council Chair Bardack proposed the motion to update the Conflict of Interest Code for the GFDC pertaining to the filing of the Statement of Economic Interest forms (Form 700). Motion Passed.

- Update to the Schedule of Rates and Charges and Use Control Policy for County of San Diego Airports. Presentation was given on the proposed Update to the Schedule of Rates and Charges and Use Control Policy for the County of San Diego Airports. Motion Passed.

- Real Property reported that a proposed restaurant and brewery on an airport leasehold had been denied due to land use restrictions on airport property.

- Discussion still on going over the decommissioning of the Compass Rose.

- Board of Supervisors directed Airports staff to conduct stakeholder engagement regarding Agua Caliente Airport and report back in 60 days.

October 21, 2026

- Special meeting was held to address community concerns regarding Agua Caliente Airport and proposed Restaurant and Brewery in Airport Hangar.

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- Staff is currently launching a public stakeholder survey regarding Agua Caliente as well as a public meeting to receive questions and comments. Council and public voiced concern over the survey.

- Owner of the proposed brewery and restaurant requested that a land use change request be submitted to the FAA regarding the use of the airport hangar. Staff will continue discussions, then determine whether the proposal meets the criteria for FAA submission.

November 18, 2026

- GFDC Annual Report to Board of Supervisors.

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