



Gillespie Field Development Council



A Joint Powers Agreement Between the City of El Cajon and County of San Diego
Airport Administration Building ♦ 1960 Joe Crosson Drive ♦ El Cajon, California 92020-1236 ♦ (619) 956-4800

Barry Bardack
Council Chair

Wheeler North
Vice Chair

James Sly
Councilmember

Phyllis Trombi
Councilmember

Bob Davison
Councilmember

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2026
DRAFT – SUBJECT TO GFDC
APPROVAL MARCH 18, 2026**

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>
Barry Bardack	Jamie Abbott
Bob Davison	Clifford Reinhart
James Sly	Ursla Null
Wheeler North	Lorie Maniss

For others present, attendee log is available in the Airports Administration Building.

1. ROLL CALL

Council Chair Bob Davison called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Barry Bardack, Wheeler North and James Sly were in attendance. Councilmember Phyllis Trombi was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Chair Bob Davison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

There was one comment regarding topic outside of airports; dismissed

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Wheeler North moved to approve the November 19, 2025 minutes. Motion was seconded by Barry Bardack; motion passed.

5. COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

The election was held to install the 2026 Chair and Vice Chair to the GFDC. Councilmember Wheeler North nominated Vice Chair Barry Bardack to serve as Chair. Bob Davison seconded the motion. Bob Davison nominated Wheeler North to serve as Vice Chair. Barry Bardack seconded the motion. Both motions passed. Barry Bardack took over as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

6. AIRPORTS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Jamie Abbott presented updates on the following:

FAA Webinar-

- Date has been rescheduled for January 22nd from 5pm-7pm

Airport System Updates-

- Agua Caliente Closure
 - County Airports requested the State to evaluate the County's request to close the airport. On April 24, 2025 the State revoked the operating permit therefore closing the airport.
 - Through an MOA between State parks and County parks, County Airports helped operate the state-owned airport.
 - County Airports received \$10,000 per year from the State for maintenance.
 - Between 2016-2023, \$1.4 million had been spent from the Airport Enterprise Fund to rehabilitate and repair Agua Caliente's runway.
 - The State has no capacity now or in the foreseeable future to provide funds for the rehabilitation of the runway.
 - Parties interested in more information regarding the airport are encouraged to contact the State Parks Department.

Contracted Services-

- Contracted Management for East County Airports/Desert Airports
 - After evaluation, DPW decided to terminate the contracted services for the Ramona, Fallbrook, Ocotillo and Borrego Airports.
 - Services will be moved in house and managed by County Airports.
 - Meadow Chase has been hired as the new Airport Manager for these airports and staff are currently in the process of interviewing supporting positions for her team.

Cajon Air Center-

- Ursula Null provided an update on the Cajon Air Center
 - Phase I is currently underway; staff is working on the market analysis and identifying infrastructure needs.

Council Chair Barry Bardack asked if the design had remained the same as the original proposal that was presented to the Council. Ms. Null confirmed that the design had not changed.

There was one public comment received regarding the usage of the 70 Acres of the Cajon Air Center project.

One comment was received regarding items that are currently being stored on the airport that are rusting and creating a possible stormwater issue.

Chairperson Bardack asked Asst. Airport Manager Cliff Reinhart if he was aware of this issue. Mr. Reinhart stated that staff were aware and are taking the appropriate measures with this leaseholder.

There were multiple public comments received regarding the closure of Agua Caliente Airport. The emphasis of these comments were regarding the lack of communication on the closure of the airport and the need to keep it open.

Chairperson Bardack requested the need to bring items to the GFDC that are being funded by the AEF. Jamie Abbott responded to this with the suggestion of a total Airports Advisory Committee instead of the individual groups to allow for more representation for the smaller County airports. This lack of representation is part of the breakdown in communication. Mr. Abbott also suggested using the GPA meetings as a forum to provide updates on the smaller airports. He concluded by saying he would research other avenues to possibly reopen Agua Caliente.

7. REAL PROPERTY UPDATE

There was no Real Property Update, however, Jamie Abbott advised the Council that the 50-year leases had been signed.

8. AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATE

Assistant Airport Manager Clifford Reinhart presented the Airport Manager Update. The month of November had 15,909 operations. During that month, we received 138 noise complaints from four households. This included 121 overnight operations, in which there were five complaints received. In December there were 15,025 operations with 94 noise complaints received from seven households. Overnight operations totaled 136 of which 4 complaints were received.

Total operations for 2025 totaled 193,816 with 3,196 of those conducted overnight. This is a five percent increase from the previous year.

Mr. Reinhart provided an update on the 5th Grade Cajon Valley Union School District field trip that took place on December 10th. There were approximately 100 attendees overall. A portion of the east transient ramp was closed off for static displays. Groundside, the students were rotated through stations wherein speakers presented different aspects of aviation. Staff received very positive feedback regarding the students' experience and the professional manner in which the tour was conducted. Mr. Reinhart expressed great thanks to the airport groups that assisted with this event.

Mr. Reinhart presented an update on the runway 17/35 and vehicles service road rehabilitation project. The design has almost been completed. The design is expected to go before the Board of Supervisors on January 28th to obtain funding and receive permission to advertise and award the project. From there the goal is to go out for bid a month from now (end of February), Commence the project in fall 2026.

Mr. Reinhart brought to the Council's attention three Runway Incursions and Vehicle Pedestrian Deviations that took place between October and December of 2025.

- Pedestrian deviation and incursion; caused by a pedestrian that unlawfully gained access to the airport.
- Vehicle deviation and runway incursion; caused by an Amazon delivery vehicle who obtained access by using a gate code provided by a sublessee.
- Vehicle deviation and runway incursion; caused by a fuel truck driver not following instructions from the ATCT.

All incidents were investigated and corrective actions were taken. Staff feels confident that the continuation of the Vehicle Service Road will help to mitigate vehicle deviations in the future along with the Driver Training program.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COUNCIL FOR ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING FUTURE GILLESPIE FIELD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Chair Bardack requested an update on the status of Agua Caliente. Jamie Abbott stated that he would include that under the Airport Director Update.

10. OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair Wheeler North updated the Council on the GFDC “Vision for Development”. Members of the GFDC, GPA and County staff have been in discussion. Also, appointees from both the City of Santee and El Cajon as well as the East County Economic Development Council have been included. The group will continue to meet biweekly and possibly have a draft version to present at the March GFDC meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

12. ADJOURN

Council Chair Barry Bardack adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Gillespie Field Development Council will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2026, in City Council Chambers, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon.

By: _____
Lorie Maniss, Office Support Specialist