



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 THE GILLESPIE FIELD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL JULY 15, 2026

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u>
Barry Bardack	Clifford Reinhart
Phyllis Trombi	Carmela Gutierrez
Bob Davison	Lorie Maniss

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

1. ROLL CALL

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Chair Barry Bardack led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

There were several comments received regarding the closure of Agua Caliente Airport, the condition of Borrego Valley Airport, and County Airports leadership.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Bob Davison moved to approve the May 20, 2026 minutes. Motion was seconded by Phyllis Trombi; motion passed.

5. COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

There was no Council Chair Report. Chair Bardack informed the council that he was changing the order of the agenda and moving the Airport Manager Update to Item 7.

6. AIRPORTS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Jamie Abbott was not in attendance. On his behalf, Assistant Airport Manager Clifford Reinhart provided the following brief update on the status of Agua Caliente Airport:

- Coordination between County Airports, State Parks, County Parks continue
- Focus right now is "can the County either acquire Agua Caliente or enter into a long-term lease"
 - State Parks is investigating the possibility, will take a few months
- This is critical to whether or not we would consider investing AEF dollars
- Meanwhile, internal County leadership conversation continues

7. AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATE

Assistant Airport Manager Clifford Reinhart presented the Airport Manager Update. The month of May had 16,950 operations. During that month, we received 187 noise complaints from two households. This included 306 overnight operations, in which there were 11 complaints received. In June there were 18,126 operations with 265 noise complaints received from five households. Overnight operations totaled 346 of which 28 complaints were received.

Mr. Reinhart gave an in depth presentation on the condition of the Compass Rose along with a recommendation from staff:

- Without the ability to certify the compass rose and ensure accuracy, staff is recommending the compass rose be removed

This recommendation is based on the following:

- Certification-
 - Lack of certification and survey data
- Not meeting Standards and Recommendations-
 - Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5300-13B 6.9.1.1 & 6.9.1.2 (Standards for Compass Rose Calibration Pad)
- The Airport has implemented temporary mediation

Currently staff have taken the following temporary corrective actions:

- Removed the compass rose from Chart Supplement publication (discontinue advertisement of a certified compass rose)
- Installation of a sign indicating the Compass Rose as decommissioned

Chair Bardack asked if there were any other viable locations to accommodate the Compass Rose. Mr. Reinhart showed a map of the airport and suggested that the Standards for Compass Rose Calibration Pad in conjunction with part 77 imaginary surfaces preclude relocation. He went on to explain that the Compass Rose is not compatible with the Design suggested by the airport layout plan and that any such change in the interest of the Compass Rose would significantly reduce the desired development. After comments were heard from Council and the public regarding the proposed removal, Council expressed the desire to keep the compass rose in its decommissioned state instead of removal. Towards this endeavor the Assistant Airport Manager was directed to reevaluate the risk and mitigation, consult with stakeholders and determine feasibility. Mr. Reinhart agreed and stated he would bring findings to the next meeting.

Mr. Reinhart completed his presentation with an update on the LED project originally scheduled for July 20th. The project has been postponed to late September, early October. This is due to the contractor's supply of assets being delayed. In addition, it has been determined that lighting for RWY 9L/27R will be unavailable both day and night during this project.

8. REAL PROPERTY UPDATE

Carmela Gutierrez began her update by acknowledging the Borrego concerns that were brought before the Council and stated that they will be reviewed with Jamie Abbott. Ms. Gutierrez informed the Council that a Board of Supervisors motion will

be coming to the Council at the September meeting for Golden State Aviation new 50 Year Lease agreement late fall or early winter. Staff are currently working on 30 leases in the Gillespie Field Industrial Park that are due for rent adjustments. That motion will be brought to the September meeting and will be going before the Board of Supervisors as well.

Ms. Gutierrez ended the update by announcing that the Real Property department recently hired a new Sr. Real Property Agent to fill the current vacancy.

Councilmember Davison asked if there was any update on the proposed brewery and restaurant that is being proposed on the airport. Ms. Gutierrez stated that management is still reviewing the application and is currently waiting for further review and guidance from the FAA and their response.

Chair Bardack asked for a copy of the email request to the FAA. Ms. Gutierrez said that she would request that from the Director.

Councilmembers voiced concerns about the legality of using that specific property for a brewery/restaurant and not aeronautical use.

Councilmember Trombi stated that staff should provide information to the proposer regarding whether a restaurant with brewery can be on that property. If not, then another use for the property can be pursued.

Council requested that a clear answer be provided at the next meeting whether this establishment is allowed to move forward on airport property.

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

Council requested an update on the following items at the next meeting:

- Agua Caliente Airport
- Borrego Airport
- Compass Rose
- Proposed Brewery/Restaurant
- AEF Profit Discrepancy

10. OLD BUSINESS

One public comment was received in favor of the County re-opening Agua Caliente Airport.

Chair Bardack followed up on an action from the May meeting stating that a letter of support be sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding the re-opening and

management of Agua Caliente Airport. Mr. Bardack informed the Council that the letter was not sent to the Board, but instead sent to Marisa Barrie, Director of Public Works. This change of recipient was advised by staff at Supervisor Joel Anderson's office. The letter of support will be included with another Board Letter regarding Agua Caliente that his office is working on.

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

12. ADJOURN

Council Chair Barry Bardack adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Gillespie Field Development Council will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, September 16, 2026, in City Council Chambers, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon.

By: 

Lorie Maniss, Office Support Specialist

