



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	Jamie Abbott
Wheeler North	Clifford Reinhart
James Sly	Carmela Gutierrez
Phyllis Trombi	Ursula Null
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 6:07 p.m. Councilmembers Wheeler North, Phyllis Trombi and Bob Davison were in attendance. Councilmember James Sly arrived after roll call.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Chair Barry Bardack led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

There were no public comments regarding non-agenda items.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Bob Davison moved to approve the March 18, 2026 minutes. Motion was seconded by Wheeler North; motion passed with Councilmember Trombi abstaining due to non-attendance at that meeting.

5. COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

There was no Council Chair Report.

6. AIRPORTS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Jamie Abbott presented updates on the following:

Agua Caliente-

- Mr. Abbott deferred remarks to Agenda Item 11.

Cajon Air Center-

- Ursula Null provided an update on the Cajon Air Center-
 - Project is moving along but with slight changes to the timeline.
 - Market study and economic impact study will not be received until early fall.
 - This will move the RFP date to November/December 2026. To allow for holidays, proposers will have extra time to prepare their proposals for review and selection.

Chair Bardack questioned the design of the project asking if the center area was going to remain open for staging emergency services. Ms. Null stated that the design from the engineers showed the center area was for a taxi lane. Mr. Bardack asked if the design could be presented at the next meeting. Ms. Null also stated that the website for the project is active and the design will be included on the site once it is ready. The website will also have contact emails for individuals to inquire about the project.

One public comment was received from an individual representing the Academy of Aviation. They are interested in expanding and bringing their organization to Gillespie. After hearing the comment, Chair Bardack invited them to attend a Gillespie Pilot's Association meeting.

7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Jamie Abbott presented the Financial Update based on the County of San Diego published and audited annual reports. The update covered 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. Mr. Abbott stated that staff are budgeting judiciously to ensure long-term solvency and prioritizing safety and efficient operations. County Airports are planning to continue investing in capital projects and grow revenue sources through increased commercial service at the Palomar location, the Cajon Air Center solicitation, and through timely collection of revenues across our properties.

8. REAL PROPERTY UPDATE

Carmela Gutierrez provided a brief outline of items completed the first quarter of 2026. This included resolved compliance issues, new leases and contracts.

9. AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATE

Assistant Airport Manager Clifford Reinhart presented the Airport Manager Update. The month of March had 16,800 operations. During that month, we received 127 noise complaints from seven households. This included 127 overnight operations, in which there were 23 complaints received. In April there were 17,503 operations with 134 noise complaints received from 10 households. Overnight operations totaled 365 of which nine complaints were received.

Mr. Reinhart informed Council of upcoming projects that will result in runway closures.

- Striping project (night work) June 8-10 and again June 16-18
- 9L/27R LED Lighting Replacement in July (dates pending)

Lastly, Mr. Reinhart reported on a Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation (VPD) caused by a minor riding a skateboard on the Vehicle Service Road, Taxiway D, and Runup area for Runway 9L/27R. This is the third VPD this year. The leasehold and responsible parties were issued a citation. Staff have implemented corrective action and believe the contributing factors to be mitigated. It is noteworthy to mention that during the investigation almost every VPD during 2025 into 2026 had a common contributing factor, this was expired driver training. Mr. Reinhart referenced the driver training program and the need to keep training current for safety purposes. Once recurrent training has been assigned, users may retake the training on their own at any time to remain in compliance.

Vice Chair North asked if there was data to show which users are out of compliance with training for the leaseholders to contact their tenants. Mr. Reinhart stated the method previously used was somewhat inefficient and antiquated, however staff have enhanced the tracking log to enable filtering, querying and tracking. Upon request this can be used to provide leaseholders with an easy method of overseeing persons under their leasehold enrolled in this system.

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

There were no recommendations.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A) GFDC Vision for Development

Vice Chair North presented an update on the GFDC "Vision for Development" outlining changes that were made to the original document based on public input received. After reviewing the final document, Councilmember Trombi moved to approve the following motion which was seconded by Councilmember Davison; motion passed:

"The GFDC Vision and Goals workgroup recommends the adoption of the 2026 GFDC Vision for Development of Gillespie Field"

- B) Re-Open and Maintain Agua Caliente

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

Mike Finkle of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) also provided an update on items discussed from the previous meeting regarding the letter of agreement with the County outlining repairs necessary to re-open the airport.

Chair Bardack gave a presentation on the original agreement between California State Parks and the County of San Diego regarding the maintenance and management of Agua Caliente Airport. This presentation also outlined ideas for rehab of the airport, and funding options.

Chair Bardack brought forward the following motion to be presented to the Board of Supervisors:

"Gillespie Field Development Council (GFDC) recommends that the County Board of Supervisors approve the complete reconstruction of Agua Caliente Airport Runway, Aircraft Run-up area and Aircraft Parking areas. Gillespie Field Development Council further recommends continued and improved support, repairs, improvements and maintenance of Agua Caliente Airport using Agua Caliente County Park surplus funds and using the AEF as necessary to make up for any Airport funding shortfalls. GFDC further recommends that at the end of the current Agreement with California Parks the Agreement be renewed for the same content and length of time. Gillespie Field Development Council Recommends that County create a system to ensure Park revenues at the Agua Caliente County Park & Airport are used to fund both the Park and Airport while keeping the Park fees affordable."

Motion was not brought to vote as Council felt this recommendation was outside of the scope of the GFDC.

Upon further discussion, Council concluded that sending a letter of support on the reopening, rehab, and maintenance of Agua Caliente would be appropriate.

Councilmember Trombi moved that the GFDC send a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors to reconstruct Agua Caliente Airport. Vice Chair North seconded; motion passed.

Jamie Abbott stated that he was briefing the Director of Public Works on this situation and is optimistic there will be a resolution.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Trombi asked Jamie Abbott if there was a brewery that was opening at the airport. Mr. Abbott replied that there was a proposal received from a company and it is currently under review. As the location is on the airport property, the FAA would need to determine if it is allowable.

Councilmember Trombi also asked if the Compass Rose was going to be removed. Cliff Reinhart stated that there were no immediate plans to remove it. However, it is currently for reference only, as the standards pertaining to maintenance have not been met, this includes surveying to compensate for magnetic drift. At the current time the compass rose has been taken out of the chart supplement. Additionally, staff have erected a sign Advising pilots that the compass rose is for reference only. Staff will be looking into the cost to refurbish and maintain per standards and will update the Council at the next meeting.

13. ADJOURN

Council Chair Barry Bardack adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting of the Gillespie Field Development Council will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2026, in City Council Chambers, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon.

By: 

Lorie Maniss, Office Support Specialist