



PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

McClellan Palomar Airport ♦ 2192 Palomar Airport Road ♦ Carlsbad, CA 92011 ♦ (760) 431-4646

Vacant
General Public

Shirley Anderson
Vice Chair

Clifford Kaiser
Chairperson

Howard Krausz
General Public

Clayton Lackey
Industry Representative

Gordon Nesbitt
Oceanside Representative

Armen Kurdian
Vista Representative

Gary Greening
Carlsbad Representative

Kevin Karpé
San Marcos Representative

December 22, 2026

TO: Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Chair
Supervisor Palomar Aguirre, Chair Pro Tem.
Supervisor Monica Montgomery, Vice Chair
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Clifford Kaiser, Chairperson
Palomar Airport Advisory Committee

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2026.

Enclosed is an annual report prepared by the Palomar Airport Advisory Committee (PAAC) which contains a summary of actions and recommendations for the calendar year 2026. This report was prepared in accordance with Article XL, § 738 of the Administrative Code of the County of San Diego.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (760) 310-7408 or Jamie Abbott, Director of Airports, at (619) 956-4800.

Respectfully,

Clifford Kaiser, Chairman
Palomar Airport Advisory Committee

Attachment: Palomar Airport Advisory Committee – Annual Committee Report 2026

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2026

This report was prepared in accordance with Article XL, § 738 of the Administrative Code of the County of San Diego. This report covers activities for the calendar year 2026, which included 8 PAAC meetings.

Findings and Recommendations

January 15, 2026

- Chairperson Cliff Kaiser and Vice Chairperson Shirley Anderson were elected to their positions.
- PAAC committee members and County staff discussed PAAC member recusal policy. Mr. Abbott clarified that County Counsel's guidance under GC 87105 of the Public Resources Code requires only certain officials, such as County Supervisors, to leave the room during conflicts, and this requirement does not apply to PAAC members. He noted that PAAC could choose to adopt its own recusal rule if desired. Chairperson Kaiser moved to adopt no formal recusal policy, meaning members could vote on any issue. Mr. Kurdian proposed an amendment requiring members to declare any information that could indicate a potential association with a matter. Mr. Nesbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor: Armen Kurdian, Clayton Lackey, Gordon Nesbitt, Cliff Kaiser, 2 opposed Shirley Anderson, Gary Greening, and 2 members absent Kevin Karpé, and Howard Krausz.
- PAAC committee members and County staff discussed managing meeting duration. Chairperson Kaiser moved meeting duration to two hours to be approved, Mr. Greening seconded. Motion was approved with 5 votes in favor: Armen Kurdian, Clayton Lackey, Gordon Nesbitt, Garry Greening and Cliff Kaiser. 1 opposed: Shirley Anderson. 2 absent: Kevin Karpé and Howard Krausz.

March 19, 2026

- Mr. Abbott updated on a proposed new lease agreement with American Airlines that would expand service at Palomar Airport. Proposed Schedule Highlights: Four daily departures and four daily arrivals between Palomar Airport and Phoenix Sky Harbor. Aircraft type remains the Embraer E175 with 76 seats. Two aircraft would remain overnight after the final arrivals. Mr. Abbott read the recommended motion for the Palomar Airport Advisory Committee to advise the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Director of Airports to execute the lease. After discussion and public comments, the committee voted, 3 in favor: Cliff Kaiser, Clayton Lackey, and Kevin Karpé, 3 opposed Shirley Anderson, Howard Krausz, and Garry Greening, 2 members absent Armen Kurdian, and Gordon Nesbitt, and 1 vacant seat.

May 21, 2026

- The committee discussed whether to increase the number of PAAC meetings. Members noted that the schedule had been reduced from ten meetings per year, and several expressed that meetings more frequently could improve communication and

community engagement. The committee agreed that no meetings would be held in July or December. A motion was introduced to increase the meeting schedule to ten meetings per year (excluding July and December) and to post the staff report and monthly performance report online rather than include them on every agenda.

June 18, 2026

- The Palomar Airport Advisory Committee (PAAC) approved updates to its Rules of Procedure, confirming a change previously voted on to increase meeting frequency. The only modification adopted was to shift from meetings every other month to holding ten meetings per year, with no meetings scheduled in July or December. During the agenda discussion, committee members also noted interest in conducting a broader review of the Rules of Procedure and considering additional amendments at future meetings. The motion to adopt the updated Rules of Procedure was made by Gordon Nesbitt and seconded by Armen Kurdian. Motion passed with 5 votes in favor: Armen Kurdian, Gordon Nesbitt, Shirley Anderson, Garry Greening, and Cliff Kaiser, 1 vote opposed Howard Krausz, and 2 members absent Kevin Karpé and Clayton Lackey.

August 20, 2026

- Chairperson Kaiser and PAAC members reviewed the proposed revisions to the Rules and Procedures, previously presented to the committee. Noting both previously reviewed items and new proposed edits from Mr. Krausz. Page 2: PAAC committee discussed language addressing the outcome when a motion fails because of a tie vote, agreeing the item should be eligible for reconsideration at a future meeting rather than being treated as an automatic outcome. The committee recommended removal of the last two sentences of that paragraph. Mr. Kurdian moved to approve the revised Rules of Procedures, incorporating the single change made on page 2 and all items highlighted in yellow as part of the official document; Mr. Kaiser seconded. Motion passed with 6 votes in favor. Cliff Kaiser, Shirley Anderson, Armen Kurdian, Gordon Nesbitt, Kevin Karpé and Howard Krausz, and 2 absent members, Garry Greening and Clayton Lackey. Staff noted that once signed, the revised Rules of Procedure will be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board for filing.

September 17, 2026

Pending

October 15, 2026

Pending

November 19, 2026

Pending

Additional Activities

The PAAC meetings serve as a public forum for attendees to express comments and ask questions about airport operations. Much of the public comment is regarding aircraft noise concerns, flight paths and VNAP. Public comments allow the PAAC and Airport staff to inform residents about airport operations and explore the opportunities to address their concerns.

The PAAC also supports the Fly Friendly program in several ways. A significant component of that program is education. The PAAC also works closely with airport users and pilot communities, including the Palomar Airport Association. PAAC Members and Airport Staff frequently attend the Palomar Airport Association meetings to provide airport updates and information regarding the Fly Friendly Program. Staff work closely with the community and pilots to educate including developing educational videos, holding individual discussions with deviations from VNAP hours, tracking and investigating noise complaints, and increasing transparency on airport operations through an online dashboard.

Informative presentations were provided to committee members and attendees during the PAAC meetings in 2026. Airport Monthly Performance Report can be found on the PAAC website.

In January, Mr. Greening gave an update on the VNAP subcommittee. He mentioned that the priority areas to work on are strengthening quiet hours compliance, pilot incentive program, and changing signage for pilot awareness. Potential transparency goals include updating the website and providing outreach materials.

Mr. Lackey presented a pilot incentives program suggestion. Presentation included how to develop programs to educate pilots, collect data, recognize high achievers, and reveal low performers. Mr. Lackey also provided examples of how other airports handle pilot incentives.

In March, Mr. Abbott announced that Cathe Johnson was appointed Airport Manager at Palomar Airport, and that Ramona appointed a new Airport manager, Meadow Chase, with Keegan Robilotta serving as Assistant Airport Manager.

Chairperson Kaiser introduced the VNAP Subcommittee. They spent nine months conducting a comprehensive review of the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP) at McClellan Palomar Airport (CRQ). The subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Gary Greening, included pilots, community residents, and aviation professionals. Mrs. Anderson moved to approve the VNAP Subcommittee action items for staff consideration, Mr. Greening seconded. Motion was approved with 6 votes in favor: Cliff Kaiser, Shirley Anderson, Clayton Lackey, Garry Greening, Howard Krausz and Kevin Karpé, 2 absent members, Armen Kurdian and Gordon Nesbitt.

In May, Ms. Milani, the Program Manager for Closed Landfills, explained that her team oversees closed landfills and burn sites, including the areas adjacent to and within Palomar Airport. She provided an overview of the hydroseeding plan, ongoing slope monitoring, concerns regarding slope integrity, and the upcoming maintenance activities.

These planned efforts include completing the procurement process, conducting reseeding, and continuing to monitor and repair the slope as needed.

In June, Mr. Baldus president of Palomar Association announced that Youth Aviation Day is schedule for September 12, 2026, from 10am-3pm.

In August, Mr. Karpé explained that Runway 24 westbound departures currently use a 245-degree obstacle departure heading and emphasized that instrument flight procedures are created through a lengthy, multi-step FAA process rather than by the County. He expressed interest in having the FAA evaluate changes to the initial climb and consider adding an altitude waypoint to direct departures over less residential areas. He noted that any procedure changes would require a formal feasibility request through the FAA's TERPS Gateway, which involves airspace and obstacle evaluation, environmental review, and flight-check validation. He also mentioned that a private firm could alternatively be hired to coordinate procedure design directly with the FAA.

In September, Pending

In October, Pending

In November, Pending

The Palomar Airport Advisory Committee is proud to have served the County Board of Supervisors and the residents of North County in 2026.

Committee Members and Terms of Office

Palomar Airport Advisory Committee Terms of Office			
Committee Member	Committee Title	Year Appointed	Term Expires and Nominating Authority
Clifford Kaiser	Chairman- General Public	01/25/2011 09/24/2013 02/03/2015 03/13/2019 05/21/2024	01/05/2015 01/05/2015 01/07/2019 01/02/2023 01/04/2027
Shirley Anderson	Vice Chairman- General Public	09/26/2023	01/08/2029
Gary Greening	Carlsbad Representative	05/21/2024 01/07/2025	01/06/2025 01/08/2029
Vacant	General Public		
Howard Krausz	General Public	05/21/2024 01/07/2025	01/06/2025 01/08/2029
Clayton Lackey	Industry Representative	06/25/2024 01/28/2025	01/06/2025 01/08/2029
Gordon Nesbitt	Oceanside Representative	10/27/2015 03/12/2019	01/07/2019 01/02/2023

		05/21/2024	01/04/2027
Armen Kurdian	Vista Representative	09/26/2023	01/04/2027
Kevin Karpé	San Marcos Representative	03/12/2019 05/21/2024	01/02/2023 01/04/2027

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