



PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Larry Cohen
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

MINUTES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Chairperson Kaiser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Kaiser, Shirley Anderson, Armen Kurdian, Clayton Lackey, Howard Krausz and Garry Greening were present, which represented a quorum.

Gordon Nesbitt arrived while the meeting was in progress.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Karpé, and Larry Cohen

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Present were Jamie Abbott, Carmela Gutierrez, John Otto, Mark Reiner, Ursula Null and Yadira Aguilar.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Gonsalves from Palomar Airport Association (PAA), announced the Annual Youth Aviation event on Saturday September 13, 2024, from 9am-12pm at Palomar Airport. Mr. Gonsalves thanked Carlsbad Jet Center for helping to host the event. The event can handle about 400 people, and they can RSVP by email to Paaeventsplus@gmail.com.

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Members of the community expressed concerns about noise, especially at night, and concerns about not being able to sleep due to aircraft flying during the night, and the pilots not following the flight pattern.

Mr. Kurdian commented that the committee approved a recommendation to make changes to VNAP.

Chairperson Kaiser received comments and answered questions from the public. Chairperson Kaiser commented that the County has been addressing concerns for years and County is within FAA guidelines and reminded everyone that the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP) is voluntary and that students are required to practice for proficiency.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR MAY 2025 MEETING

The PAAC members reviewed the minutes for the May meeting.

Mrs. Anderson commented that the location of the noise monitors was not addressed in minutes and requested information to be added. Staff will add the following information to the May meeting minutes on page 4: Mrs. Anderson mentioned that there is multiple noise mics listed on the website and requested a follow-up as to why and how monitor selections were made and why the city of Vista did not receive one after a site was chosen.

Meeting minutes for May 2025 were tabled for review next meeting.

Approve new 50-year lease with Palomar Road 2006, LLC (CJC) – C. Gutierrez and J. Abbott

Mrs. Gutierrez presented to the PAAC members and public information regarding proposed amendment of two new 50-year leases with Palomar Airport Road 2006 LLC, formerly known as Carlsbad Jet Center, at McClellan-Palomar Airport. Mrs. Gutierrez presented the recommended motion item: *“Palomar Airport Advisory Committee recommends that the County Board of Supervisors approve the proposed two new 50-year leases with Palomar Airport Road 2006 LLC”*

Mr. Kurdian moved to approve the recommended motion “Palomar Airport Advisory Committee recommends that the County Board of Supervisors approve the proposed two new 50-year leases with Palomar Airport Road 2006 LLC” Chairperson Kaiser seconded. Motion was not approved, 2 yay from Mr. Kurdian and Chairperson Kaiser, 1 opposed Mrs. Anderson, 2 abstain, Mr. Greening and Mr. Krausz, 1 recusal from Mr. Lackey, and 3 absent Mr. Nesbitt, Mr. Karpé and Mr. Cohen.

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Mrs. Syage requested that Mr. Lackey leave the room, however Mr. Lackey did not leave the dais as he mentioned he was previously informed that he did not have to leave. Per Tom Bosworth, the requirement at GC 87105 of the PRC that a public official leave the room only applies to certain specified officials, such as members of the Board of Supervisors of the County, which does not include PAAC members.

Mrs. Gutierrez and Mr. Abbott received comments and answered questions from committee members and from the public.

VNAP Subcommittee Update- Mr. Greening

Chairperson Kaiser advised that the VNAP sub-committee is formed by 9 members. 3 committee members, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Greening and Mr. Lackey. 3 pilots and 3 community members.

Mr. Greening advised that the purpose of the sub-committee is to provide analytical review of VNAP and relevance in addressing community concerns. The 3 pilots selected are Robert Anderson, Alan Baldus, and Garry Garretson. The 3 community members selected are Cathy Gillin, Keith Nolde and Sam Ward. Mr. Greening said that the committee members will provide a report and updates to the PAAC with noise reduction strategies and will request these go to appropriate authorities for approval. Members who were accepted have been notified. The VNAP sub-committee plans to meet twice a month for 1 hour.

Chairperson Kaiser noted that there were 20 applicants for the sub-committee and thanked them for applying.

Mrs. Anderson noted that the committee reviewed the applications, 12 of the 20 were pilots and that made the selection difficult. Mrs. Anderson noted the County selected 2 of the pilot applicants.

Mr. Kurdian asked if non-members can attend the meetings? Mrs. Anderson said that it had not happened before but did not know. Chairperson Kaiser asked staff to verify if others can attend the meetings, staff said that we will verify if it follows the Brown Act. Chairperson Kaiser would like to know if the public is invited and if the agenda should be published.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – J. ABBOTT

Mr. Abbott updated the PAAC committee and the public about the County budget financial fiscal year starts July 1. Mr. Abbott advised that Financial Services would start to gather the end of the year numbers soon. Mr. Abbott commented that he would like to bring a member of the financial services team to one of the PAAC meetings at the beginning of next year to bring a report.

Chairperson Kaiser would like to understand how much Palomar contributes to the AEF? Airport

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General Fund compared to what they put in. Mr. Abbott said at the end of year we will report on the end of year (EOY) budget with this info.

Mr. Abbott announced the FAA roundtable will be Oct 22nd from 5pm-7pm. Mr. Abbott mentioned that the FAA logistics meeting will be next week, and that FAA has the lead on this project.

Mr. Kurdian asked if there was a policy dictating how this would be run by FAA. Mr. Abbott noted he was not sure if there was a policy but that this is how the FAA engages with the public. Mr. Abbott noted that this was handled the same way at John Wayne and Long Beach and it's their mechanism to engage with the community.

Mr. Abbott wanted to give an update per a request about Part 150 study, he said it is a study done in conjunction with FAA guidance to evaluate environmental impacts on the community that includes contour maps. Once completed you make recommendations on how you'd like to mitigate for the FAA to evaluate. Mr. Abbott advised that the last time it was done at Palomar was in 2006.

Mrs. Anderson added that the study allows for a look at noise impacted area with infill and increased air traffic she mentioned that the studies are from 2006. Mr. Otto noted that the details and contours were updated in the Master plan in 2021.

Mr. Abbott noted the noise contour maps were updated in 2021 and that the Airport Land Use Commission helped advocate for airports and community for compatibility to determine the best land use.

Chairperson Kaiser asked how we could pay for it. Mr. Abbott noted the FAA would not fund it, it would come out of AEF and be around \$1M.

Mr. Abbott received comments and answered questions from the committee and from the public.

STAFF REPORT – J. Otto

Mr. Otto updated that the Western Aviation fuel tank is being reviewed, officially submitted the removal plan. We will know if the plan is approved by mid-August. Mr. Kurdian asked if there is a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) requirement? Mr. Otto said not for the removal,

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but would need one for putting a tank in. Mrs. Anderson asked if these same tanks would go back in? Mr. Otto said his understanding is that they will use new tanks.

Chairperson Kaiser asked when the County officially requested the meeting with FAA. Mr. Otto said that the delay was partly due to the internal process for approval, as soon as it was approved, the request was sent to FAA. Mr. Otto emphasized that he would ask again about an in-person meeting at the planning meeting. Mr. Kurdian asked about the internal process. Mr. Abbott described the internal process that is needed and the coordination it takes.

Mr. Otto did a status brief on Airport and FAA equipment he showed a map with equipment such as lights and signage at the airport and explained what belongs to the county and what belongs to the FAA. Mrs. Anderson noted that the runway heading change was a previous VNAP item. Mr. Otto said this would not have been at Palomar because that was requested and denied because it was not needed at this time.

Mr. Kurdian educated the audience on magnetic fields. He noted the impact would be huge, but it requires a lot to be able to change it. He noted requirements to change.

Mr. Kaiser asked who made the official decisions. Mr. Otto noted that they reached out to the Airport District Office, the certification inspector, and they made the decision. Mr. Otto said it would take at least 2 years for the redesign by Air Traffic Staff.

Chairperson Kaiser emphasized that this should be in process now and requested staff to start this. Mr. Otto confirmed that these conversations are occurring, but nothing has been approved for change. Mr. Kurdian suggested that the change might be small, he suspects it won't change until a particular level is reached.

Ms. Syage requested staff to report on FAA funds received in 2024.

Mr. Otto received comments and answered questions from the committee and from the public.

AIRPORT MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT- M. REINE Report for June 2025:

- Monthly Airline Passengers: 6,018
- Annual Airline Passengers: 28,269
- Monthly Take-Offs and Landings: 11,227
- Annual Take-Offs and Landings: 82,387
- Monthly Complaints: 352
- Annual Complaints: 1,937

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- Community Noise Complaints by Quadrant: Southwest:26; Southeast:2; Northwest:9; Northeast:7;
- Jet Flights during quiet hours (2200-0700): 103
- Propeller Flights during quiet hours (0000-0600): 9

Mr. Reiner advised that the new noise mic will be placed off Locker Ave.

Mrs. Anderson asked if there was any consideration given to the city of Vista. Mr. Otto said it was during initial siting and that other sites were considered but a larger need was in Carlsbad.

Mr. Reiner received and answered comments and questions from the committee members and the public.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA CONT.

Chairperson Kaiser requested to make the agenda clear that this item is only if there is not enough time, more than 5 different speakers, on agenda item #2 to speak.

Mrs. Arnold commented that they heard more planes flight by the Southwest quadrant, she asked what is the max decibel that is allowed. Mr. Kurdian advised that aircraft design addresses noise levels and that there may be singular events but does not reflect the normalized levels. Aircraft has to demonstrate levels before they get certified.

Mr. Armento commented that something needs to be done to help pilots follow VNAP. Chairperson Kaiser reminded the community that VNAP is voluntary.

Mr. Otto shared that in 1990 congress passed the Noise Capacity Act. Congress took the ability to regulate away from airports and Palomar did not have those restrictions in 1990. Change would need to be congressional, as he has told committee members. Mr. Otto said we will do what we can, but it will all be voluntary.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairperson Kaiser shared his positive personal experience with American Airlines (AA) and JXS.

Mr. Lackey offered information on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), a different type of jet fuel that CJC is planning to use. Mr. Lackey said they are working to bring in more sustainable fuel options and trying to offset those costs. Mr. Lackey said he is excited to be part of the VNAP sub-committee and that they need and want to be good partners with the community as that is

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part of their business approach. Mr. Lackey mentioned they also educate the pilots and will continue to do so.

Mr. Kurdian asked for an update on his request for the last 3-year budget reports. Mr. Abbott said he will talk to someone from the financials team, and in January will have a comprehensive report but will see if we can get something sooner.

Mrs. Anderson is grateful that the subcommittee is up and running and thanked everyone who applied.

Mr. Krausz commented that he feels things are improving.

SET AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING – September 18, 2025

Mr. Kaiser requested a report on the \$852K allotment from FAA how spent or allocated and staff decision on changing night hours previously requested for VNAP.

Mrs. Anderson requested a quarterly report on American Airlines as is the only commercial service.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kurdian moved the meeting to be adjourned; Mr. Nesbitt seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

By: 
Yadira Aguilar, Administrative Secretary I