



PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

McClellan-Palomar Airport • 2192 Palomar Airport Road • Carlsbad, California 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

MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Chairperson Kaiser called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Kaiser, Shirley Anderson, Gordon Nesbitt, Gary Greening, Howard Krausz, Kevin Karpé, and Clayton Lackey were present, which represented a quorum.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Armen Kurdian

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Jamie Abbott, Cathe Johnson, Ursula Null, Jamie Milani, Erin Bechtol, and Yadira Aguilar

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. White expressed concerns about threats directed at him, his family, and other pilots. He also played a recording of the threats.

Community members voiced outrage over aircraft noise, the noise-complaint process, airline lease approvals, and the increase in commercial flights.

Chairperson Kaiser received comments and answered questions from the committee and from the public.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR MARCH 2026 MEETING

The PAAC members reviewed the minutes for the March 2026 meeting and discussed the minutes.

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Mr. Kaiser stated one correction is needed on the agenda: the month should be March instead of May.

Mr. Kaiser noted that the reference to Mr. Kurdian's vacancy should be removed, as he has not officially resigned.

Mrs. Anderson moved to approve the minutes with the removal of the vacancy note. Mr. Karpé seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 6 votes in favor, 1 abstain and 1 member absent.

Agenda Item was moved up: The Landfill slope presentation.

LANDFILL SLOPES – J. Milani

Ms. Milani introduced herself as the Program Manager for Closed Landfills, which is responsible for oversight closed landfills and burn sites including the area adjacent to and part of Palomar Airport. She discussed the hydroseeding plan, slope monitoring, concerns about slope integrity, and the upcoming planned maintenance, which includes completing a procurement process, reseeding, and continuing to track and repair the slope as needed.

Mrs. Anderson asked whether Unit 2 was the site that previously contained the Western Aviation fuel tank. County staff confirmed that the tank has been removed. She then asked about the leak, and Ms. Milani explained that information about the spill is available to the public on the State website, noting that there is no fuel tank in this unit.

Mrs. Anderson also expressed concern about dirt being stirred up by aircraft startups and drifting toward the mall. Mr. Kaiser noted that this is a recurring issue caused by normal ground settlement, and Ms. Milani agreed. Mrs. Anderson further mentioned issues with a tie-down becoming immobile and the need to repair the blacktop in Unit 3. Ms. Milani stated that repairs will be addressed as needed.

VNAP SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE- G. Greening

Mr. Greening reported that the County accepted all the proposals presented by the VNAP subcommittee in March 2026 at the previous PAAC meeting. Ms. Johnson outlined she received comments from pilots on the subcommittee that several points and corrections which were shown in their final draft did not make it to the presentation of the VNAP recommendations and clarified that the final draft is under review. She explained that revisions, including addressing the noted omissions, must be completed before the materials can

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be submitted for County line of business review and then FAA review. She also stated that the County is reviewing all recommendations and evaluating staffing and budget considerations.

Mrs. Anderson asked why there was a recommendation to remove the heading. Greening explained that this issue was raised at the subcommittee meeting and noted that county staff were present for that discussion. Mrs. Anderson stated that she hopes to retain the 250-degree heading, noting that it is listed in the FAA VNAP as the preferred heading. Mrs. Anderson expressed concern regarding the runway designation and magnetic heading, that there had been support for this previously. Ms. Johnson explained the 250 heading is not a result of the runway designation, the departure direction from ATC is already issued as 250. Mrs. Anderson asked when the runway designation could be changed. Ms. Johnson replied that if it is determined to require a change, the project could be planned to align with the EMAS project when the runway is closed. Mr. Abbott stated that the EMAS project is scheduled within the next 2–3 years and is an important safety initiative. Mr. Karpé proposed sending a letter to airman.

Comments and questions from the public:

Mr. Betro noted safety concerns, and concerns with outdated SIDs.

Mrs. Syage referenced the PRA 2024 request concerning the EMAS project. She then read a letter from the FAA addressed to Mr. Abbott. Mrs. Syage also requested that the 250-degree departure path be reviewed and tightened to help minimize noise impacts.

Mr. Abbott noted that Part 150 is being discussed with leadership and that no final decisions have been determined.

MEETING FREQUENCY- C. Kaiser

Mr. Kaiser noted that previously they met ten times a year for PAAC meetings and that the schedule changed in 2019. He asked whether the meeting frequency should be increased. Mr. Nesbitt and Mrs. Anderson agreed, stating that meeting more often could improve communication. Mr. Greening added that doing so could have a positive impact on the community. Mr. Karpé expressed concerns, saying that even with more frequent meetings the agenda would remain the same and that aviation matters progress slowly, so he did not see a clear benefit. Mr. Nesbitt suggested removing certain agenda items and addressing them only at every other meeting, and Mr. Krausz agreed. Mr. Kaiser also noted that no meetings would be held in July or December. Mr. Lackey commented that having a variety of agenda items was a good idea and increased frequency benefits the community.

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Mr. Nesbitt moved to approve increasing the meeting frequency to ten meetings per year instead of six, with no meetings held in July or December. Mr. Kaiser added that the staff report and monthly performance report will be posted on the website in advance but will not be included on the agenda unless they require discussion. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 votes in favor, 1 abstention, and 1 member absent.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – J. ABBOTT

Mr. Abbott presented and reviewed finances from the month of March. Mr. Abbott noted that County Budget has been released and that he encourages everyone to view the budget and provide input prior to the June hearing. He advised that for Airports, we anticipate continuing planned projects, pending FAA support, and focusing on existing services and safety to support our communities. He stated more information could be found on our website: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/openbudget/en/home.html>

Mr. Abbott outlined the AEF functions and revenue. Mr. Abbott said that as reviewed in previous presentations, Airport funding is derived from several key sources:

- Rents & Leases – Commercial and General Aviation, As well as Industrial
- Grants & Allocations
- Fuel Flowage Royalties & Sales
- Parking Revenue
- Passenger Facility Charges (PFC)
- Customs Fees
- Permits/Misc.
- Interest Earned
- Landing Fees
- Tie down Fees

Expenses:

- The AEF is a single fund that pays costs across all seven airports.
- All revenues are kept in this fund, and all expenses are paid through it.
- Operating an airport and maintaining safe infrastructure are two critical aspects of managing this system.
- County pays for these key functions through the AEF mostly using the Industrial lease rents which are around \$7M annually.

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- As an operator we have utilized our industrial park, business park, aviation leases, and other revenue to be able to safely operate and maintain our Airport system without the use of taxpayer revenue from the General Fund.

Revenue

- Revenue from each of our facilities is collected into the AEF.
- While there is no stand-alone budget for Palomar that relies on these sources as the sole funding available, you can see that a significant amount of revenue is generated at this facility.
- These numbers will continue to grow with additional fees collected and increased entitlement funding.

A key source of our funding is airport aviation, industrial, and business leases with most of the revenue derived from industrial lease rents. Mr. Abbott reviewed the annual audited reports outlining the overall health, continued growth, and restricted and unrestricted net position of the AEF. Mr. Abbott reviewed the revenue and operational expenses related to the Palomar facility that contribute to and are funded through the AEF. Expenses at Palomar totaled \$7.8M. Revenue generated at Palomar totaled \$5.4M. All funds generated by a single facility are collected into the AEF and distributed across the system where needed. All expenses are paid through the AEF as well.

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

STAFF REPORT – C. Johnson

Ms. Johnson noted that the PAAC Subcommittee Recommendations are under line of business review, with County Airports already implementing several improvements such as:

- Revamping the Airports website to improve accessibility and enhance community communication.
- Adjusting process flows to streamline noise complaint intake including adding existing staff to support complaint responses.
- Supporting Noise Office with data preparation (updating FAQs, Dashboard and supporting Performance Reports).
- Visibility of website change may be delayed as the County is migrating to a new platform, the changes will be viewable once the new site goes live.

Ms. Johnson noted that to ensure noise reports are received and included in the tabulation presented to the PAAC, there are 3 methods the County has approved for submission of noise concerns: Internet, Letter, or Phone.

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Ms. Johnson received comments and answered questions from the committee and from the public.

AIRPORT MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT- C. Johnson

Item table for next PAAC meeting.

Ms. Johnson provided information on FAA Airplane Desing Group (ADG) usage.

Report for April 2026:

- Monthly Airline Passengers: 7, 310
- Annual Airline Passengers: 24, 795
- Monthly Take-Offs and Landings: 14, 983
- Annual Take-Offs and Landings: 58, 065
- Monthly Complaints: 138
- Annual Complaints: 868
- Community Noise Complaints by Quadrant: Southwest:24; Southeast:6; Northwest:10; Northeast:10.
- Jet Flights during quiet hours (2200-0700): 99
- Propeller Flights during quiet hours (0000-0600): 17

Mr. Kaiser requested new reporting format and wants CIII with American Airlines (AA) and United Airlines (UA) pulled out. Ms. Johnson stated the numbers used are from the FAA, and as such cannot pull out specific operators, estimations can be made based upon scheduled flights.

Ms. Johnson received comments and answered questions from the committee and from the public.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Anderson expressed concern about increasingly negative community decorum, including during PAAC meetings. She stated that she has previously experienced what she described as harassment and intimidation. She also reported an April incident involving an Airport Operational Vehicle near her home and said she was informed by the admin secretary that both she and Mark Reiner were in the vehicle. Mrs. Anderson stated that the incident did not meet her expectations for decorum.

Mr. Krausz wants bigger and color copies of documents and presentations provided.

SET AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING – June 18, 2026 (if available)

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Mr. Karpé discussed the east bound departure procedure, noting the FAA can take 2-3 years to amend flight procedures. He asked for an agenda item requesting an amendment to the east bound departure procedure to be added to the agenda and he will bring information regarding the process.

Mr. Kaiser asked the PAAC admin secretary to check if room is available for PAAC meeting on June 18, 2026.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kaiser moved the meeting to be adjourned; Mr. Lackey seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

By: 
Yadira Aguilar, Administrative Secretary I