



# 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, November 20, 2025**

Chairperson Kaiser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Larry Cohen resigned.

### **COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Present were Murali Pasumarthi, Jamie Abbott, Cathe Johnson, Mark Reiner, Ursula Null and Jazmine Lagunas.

Agenda was changed; item 10 was moved to be discussed before item 6.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Members of the community expressed concerns about noise, low flights, increase in commercial flights, safety, and are requesting the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP) be enforced.

### **APPROVE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING**

The PAAC members reviewed the minutes for the September meeting and discussed the minutes. Mr. Kurdian requested the following change under staff report "Mr. Kurdian commented the

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magnetic maps are updated every five years, and once when that is done, a request can be submitted”

Mr. Kurdian moved the minutes to be approved, Mr. Karpé seconded. Minutes were approved with 7 votes in favor from Cliff Kaiser, Shirley Anderson, Armen Kurdian, Howard Krausz, Garry Greening, Gordon Nesbitt, and Kevin Karpé. 1 abstain: Clayton Lackey. 1 resigned member: Larry Cohen.

## **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT-** C. Kaiser

Chairperson Kaiser advised that County Board of Supervisors (BOS) requires all advisory committees to produce an annual report and that it was reviewed at the last PAAC meeting. Mr. Kaiser stated there are 5 of the 6 meetings summarized in this report. Mr. Kaiser moved to have the Chair finalize and sign report after the meeting, ensuring any important items from this meeting have been reflected.

Mr. Karpé moved the motion to be approved for Chairperson Kaiser to sign the Annual Report as completed after November’s meeting. Mr. Nesbitt seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

There were no questions or comments from the committee members or from the public.

## **DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – J. Abbott

Mr. Abbott announced that the FAA is actively working on a date to reschedule the FAA public information webinar, as it was previously postponed due to the government shutdown. Mr. Abbott said that no action is needed by people who signed up previously, all questions are captured and kept, the link will stay the same, more information will be provided at the next PAAC meeting.

Mr. Abbott commented that Airport staff are committed to evaluating the VNAP recommendations thoroughly and in conjunction with the sub-committee, as these recommendations are taken up to our leadership, including County Counsel to evaluate. County Counsel advised Airport Staff that VNAP recommendations implementation is a staff delegated action and is not required to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Nesbitt stated if the committee makes a recommendation, there are times that the Board of Supervisors don’t know about it. Mr. Pasumarthi responded, explaining that staff have delegated authority given by the BOS, he provided several examples of delegated authorities. The committee can make

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recommendations; it is then for staff to implement recommendations. He then clarified, if there's an issue from the committee or staff level perspective then those items would be brought forward to BOS. Mr. Nesbitt asked if staff disagreed, then an item goes to BOS? Mr. Pasumarthi replied YES.

Mrs. Anderson asked a separate question about VNAP hours as listed in the Fly Friendly Flyer. Staff committed to looking into the Fly Friendly flyer hours and ensuring that these align with current recommendations.

Mr. Kaiser stated his disagreement with the staff recommendation to have VNAP hours considered by the sub-committee and asked that County Counsel come to a meeting and discuss this item. Mr. Abbott noted we are supportive of changing hours and would like to seek broader input to ensure compliance and will implement the sub-committee recommendations where possible. Mr. Kaiser noted that he does not want the staff making decisions regarding VNAP hours but instead the BOS. Mr. Pasumarthi asked for clarification specifically whether the committee wanted us to go back to County Counsel. Mr. Karpé commented that the motion in July included language that this item be sent to the BOS. Mr. Kaiser mentioned that he agrees that staff delegation is acceptable and asked the committee to be clear about all future motions. Mr. Pasumarthi committed to support the committee.

Mr. Abbott received comments and answered questions from the committee. There were no questions or comments from the public.

## **PAAC MEMBER RECUSAL POLICY -C. Kaiser**

Chairperson Kaiser brought forth a discussion to standardize PAAC member recusal procedure and a supporting motion on the item. County Counsel has advised that County staff and individual members that it is not required by law for a PAAC member to leave the room after recusing themselves from an agenda item, leave or otherwise. Ms. Anderson noted that the BOS and other elected officials have formal recusal requirements. The Chair stated that PAAC members are volunteers, subject to different requirements and they are not required to follow the Brown Act.

Mrs. Anderson noted concerns about financial benefit from leases, Brown Act, and conflict of interest. Mr. Krausz seconded this concern and noted the Brown Act training videos provided to PAAC members highlight the appearance of a conflict of interest that is an ethical situation. Mr. Lackey noted he did as County Counsel advised, he recused himself from voting but did not leave the room per that advice.

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Mr. Kaiser noted that today the action is simply for the committee to decide whether to require removal requirements as we are not required as an advisory committee to do so. Mrs. Anderson asked why it is in the training if it is not required, Mr. Pasumarthi, noted that there are multiple advisory committees being trained through that video some with other requirements and said that advisory committees help the BOS and staff make decisions based on collective input from all stakeholders so decisions can be made from all facets of the issue.

Mr. Karpé moved the item to be tabled for next meeting in January; Mr. Nesbitt Seconded. Motion passed, 6 votes in favor from Shirley Anderson, Armen Kurdian, Garry Greening, Clayton Lackey, Gordon Nesbitt, and Kevin Karpé. 2 opposed: Cliff Kaiser and Howard Krausz. Chairperson Kaiser suggested for County staff to provide a formal report that outlines what was discussed with him and educating the committee of different recusal restrictions.

Chairperson Kaiser received comments and answered questions from the committee; there were no questions or comments from the public.

## **UNITED AIRLINES LEASE-** J. Abbott

Mr. Abbott Mr. Abbott presented United Airlines lease agreement. The County is responsible for infrastructure for general and commercial services at the Airport. Palomar is in compliance with FAA Part 139 standards; certification of aircraft and air traffic operations are handled by the FAA. United Airlines will be providing two flights per day to San Francisco International and Denver Colorado, utilizing an Embraer 175. They will be flying within VNAP hours (7:30am/9:50pm). Lease agreement: 5-year lease, starting March 1, 2026-Feb. 28, 2026. Office space 479 SF, ticket counters one and two, with position one, two and three. Passenger terminal-nonexclusive use, boarding counter in the passenger holding room, parking facilities, aircraft ramp space. Annual Revenue \$1,056,322, one year fee waiver proposal \$517,600.

Mr. Abbott read the recommended motion "Palomar Airport Advisory Committee recommends to the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Director of Airports to execute a lease with United Airlines."

Mr. Nesbitt requested a letter that was received from City of Carlsbad to be read. Mr. Kaiser read the City of Carlsbad letter in full. Mr. Kaiser said he had received and responded to this letter. Mr. Kaiser noted his concern with the errors in the letter and noted that this item is not the issue on the agenda, the issue is the lease. Mr. Nesbitt said we should not vote or collect public input until County Counsel has weighed in on this matter. Mr. Kaiser emphasized that this motion has nothing to do with the lawsuit. Mr. Abbott informed the committee that the BOS will be hearing this item on December 10<sup>th</sup> and will be taking an action. Mr. Karpé reiterated the letter from the Mayor's office and requested to have County Counsel come to advise them. Mr. Pasumarthi confirmed with the committee that County Counsel has clearly stated and clarified that the action today has no bearing on the lease approval and that the County will not discuss any matters related to the current

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lawsuit. Mr. Abbott clarified that all FAA reviews all commercial operations and ensures compliance with the FAA Part 121 requirements.

Mr. Krausz motioned to table the vote for next meeting in January; Mr. Nesbitt Seconded. Motion passed, 5 votes in favor: Shirley Anderson, Garry Greening, Gordon Nesbitt, Howard Krausz and Kevin Karpé. 3 opposed: Cliff Kaiser, Armen Kurdian and Clayton Lackey. 1 resigned member: Larry Cohen. The Chair reaffirmed that the BOS will be hearing and taking an action this item on December 10<sup>th</sup> and that the Committee essentially will be taking a “no action” with the vote.

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

## **STAFF REPORT – This item was Tabled**

### **VNAP Subcommittee Update-** G. Greening

Mr. Greening updated the committee and the public about VNAP subcommittee. Mr. Greening reviewed committee efforts and recommendations. Some of the improvements that they are working on are VNAP Frequently asked questions (FAQ), updates to the websites, streamlining the VNAP compliance procedures and how to get a response easier. Mr. Greening also said they want to change some of the signage. Mr. Greening said they listen to the community and try to make changes according to the needs of the community. Mr. Greening mentioned some obstacles and ways to help. Mr. Greening said Jazmine has been helpful and is working on a draft to make changes to the VNAP flyer. The VNAP Sub-committee would like to add CNEL to the noise reports that are presented at the PAAC meetings to help determine impact of CNEL events. Mr. Greening noted that some airports have CNEL contours as well.

Chairperson Kaiser suggested everyone take a 5-minute break.

### **MANAGING MEETING DURATION-** C. Kaiser

Chairperson Kaiser mentioned he had discussion with staff about possible solutions to keep the meeting to 2 hours. Mr. Kaiser asked committee members to look at recommendations and consider them for next meetings. Item was tabled to next meeting.

### **AIRPORT MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT-** M. REINER

Chairperson Kaiser tabled this item.

Report for October 2025:

→ Monthly Airline Passengers: 6, 315

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- ➔ Annual Airline Passengers: 55, 168
- ➔ Monthly Take-Offs and Landings: 14, 881
- ➔ Annual Take-Offs and Landings: 146,104
- ➔ Monthly Complaints: 362
- ➔ Annual Complaints: 3,276
- ➔ Community Noise Complaints by Quadrant: Southwest:19 ; Southeast: 1; Northwest: 42 ; Northeast:6 .
- ➔ Jet Flights during quiet hours (2200-0700): 88
- ➔ Propeller Flights during quiet hours (0000-0600): 185

## **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA CONT.**

None

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Anderson thanked Mr. Kaiser for sending an email regarding committee chair and vice chair selection taking place at the next meeting in January 2026.

Mr. Greening asked how operations are counted. Mr. Reiner explained how each one is counted.

Mr. Karpé noted community concerns about low-flying planes, noted approaches should be checked periodically and asked when last one was. Mr. Reiner responded that the ILS was checked every few months and was recently completed. Mr. Reiner said that any low-flying pilot would be reported to Airport/ATCT.

Mr. Krausz commented that 2 hours is reasonable for meetings with 5-minute break halfway through.

Mr. Kaiser requested for us to display phone numbers for FAA safety concerns and other noise contacts on screen when there are no presentations.

## **SET AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING** – January 15, 2026

Mr. Kurdian requested to hear more about the EMAS (Engineered Materials Arresting System). Mr. Abbott advised he thinks it was about 15 million at the last estimate but will bring that information to the next meeting.

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Mr. Karpé wants a status update on the lawsuit. Mr. Kaiser said that if the BOS moves forward to hearing the PAAC input will not be considered.

Mr. Pasumarthi noted that all lawsuits are on zoom and can be watched. Mr. Karpé requested County Counsel to come to brief the PAAC members and community about it.

## **ADJOURN**

Mrs. Anderson moved the meeting to be adjourned; Mr. Nesbitt seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

By:   
Yadira Aguilar, Administrative Secretary I