



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, September 18, 2025

Chairperson Kaiser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 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 Larry Cohen were present, which represented a quorum.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Clayton Lackey

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the community expressed concerns about noise, especially the volume in the morning, the flight pattern, aircraft being noisy when making touch and goes, and the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP). Community members asked why it took so long to be able to coordinate with FAA to come to an agreement for the roundtable.

Mr. Baldus from Palomar Airport Association (PAA), played a video of the Youth Aviation Event that had a great turnout with over 200 volunteers on September 13, 2025.

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APPROVE MINUTES FOR MAY 2025 MEETING

The PAAC members reviewed the minutes for the May meeting.

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

APPROVE MINUTES FOR JULY 2025 MEETING

The PAAC members reviewed the minutes for the July 2025 meeting.

Mr. Kurdian moved the minutes to be approved with the caveat that Lackey abstention vs recusal be addressed, Mr. Krausz seconded. Motion was approved, 6 members in favor: Cliff Kaiser, Shirley Anderson, Armen Kurdian, Garry Greening, Howard Krausz and Kevin Karpé, 2 abstain: Larry Cohen, and Gordon Nesbitt, 1 absent member: Clayton Lackey.

Chair Kaiser asked staff to listen to minutes and verify what Mr. Lackey said, and lead by County Counsel make proper changes to the meeting minutes.

The committee received comments and answered questions from the public.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman Kaiser advised that County Board of Supervisors requires this committee and others to produce an annual report about what has occurred over the year, and it is due in December, approval from this committee is needed to submit the report to the County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Kaiser mentioned that the annual report covers motion items and said that at the November meeting he will approve the annual report.

The PAAC members reviewed the draft annual report.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – J. ABBOTT

Mr. Abbott mentioned he has 3 different topics to cover. The first item he announced, the date for the FAA webinar, will be on Oct 22nd from 5pm-7pm. Mr. Abbott advised everyone to submit questions in advance. Mr. Abbott said that the link to sign up has been posted on our website. Mr. Abbott noted that it is a 2-hour meeting with focus on questions that were asked by the community in advance and that the FAA will be hosting and organizing the meeting, the

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County has a supporting role. Mr. Kurdian asked for a point of clarification, explaining the process from the time this was requested and the steps that were taken. Mr. Abbott explained that our first in person meeting with FAA, D3, and D5 was January of 2025, also factored into workloads and noted the County reached out prior to that formal kick-off meeting, and highlighted the flow of the meeting. Mr. Pasumarthi acknowledged questions from the PAAC committee members and noted that requests from public officials are required to go through the Economic Development Government Affairs (EDGA) office, and needs coordination between cities, county and elected officials, everyone worked together to make this happen. Mr. Pasumarthi said it took time in the background and the Congressman's office to direct FAA to hold the meeting.

Mr. Abbott gave an update on the Airport Enterprise Fund (AEF) and mentioned that there are 7 airports that belong to the County. Mr. Abbott commented that Palomar Airport does not receive support from General Fund or any County fund and that the Federal grants support capital projects. Mr. Abbott noted that the AEF comes from rents and leases, grants and allocations, passenger facility charges, customs fees, fuel flowage, royalties and sales, parking revenue, permits, interest earned, landing fees and tie down fees. Large capital projects are paid for by AEF and Federal funds. Mr. Abbott showed a graph of the overview of the AEF budget. Mr. Abbott noted that the FAA requires airports to be self-sustaining and to set rates to help accomplish that goal. The County has a healthy AEF and has been able to encourage innovation in aviation leaseholds by keeping rates lower. Industrial lease rates are required to be fair market value. Mr. Abbott noted that we also conservatively budget revenues and expect those to be higher this year at Palomar than what was budgeted.

Mr. Abbott explained the functions of the airport leasing and mentioned that they meet with stakeholders often. Mr. Abbott highlighted that stakeholders approached the County because of the desire to re-invest in leaseholds. Mr. Abbott reviewed the stakeholder process and the coordination with the FAA to increase lease terms and noted the overview of leasing function. Mr. Abbott explained aviation vs industrial leases and mentioned the requirements for sustainability for additional terms. Mr. Abbott said the lease changes tend to lead to increases in property values and reassessment to see how these leases benefit the County.

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

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

Mr. Abbott commented that Carlsbad Jet Center has two leases, this item is coming back out of fairness to the PAAC to help clarify the discussion. Mr. Abbott delivered all the items related to the lease and recommended the following Motion for approval "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"

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Mr. Cohen 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” Mr. Kurdian seconded. Motion was approved with 5 votes in favor: Mr. Kurdian, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Nesbitt, Mr. Kaiser and Mr. Karpé, 2 opposed: Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Greening, 1 abstain: Mr. Krausz, 1 absent: Mr. Lackey.

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

VNAP Subcommittee Update- Mr. Greening

Mr. Greening updated the committee and the public about VNAP subcommittee. Mr. Greening requested admin support to assist taking minutes. Mr. Abbott agreed to send admin support. Mr. Greening noted that their goal is to assist in improving reporting and response process. Mr. Greening mentioned that they are concerned that there is no full-time person for noise, Mr. Otto clarified that there is a person who is full-time but is also assigned to do other job duties, but the assistant airport manager as well as himself also responds to calls, or emails receive from the community. Mr. Greening mentioned that the community wants the alignment of prop hours and asked when this is going to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Mr. Abbott noted that we are continuing the appropriate path with County Counsel. Mr. Pasumarthi noted that the process requires us to work with County Counsel, and that we will have to ask if this is required to go to BOS. Mr. Pasumarthi informed that County Counsel is an advising body to us, there could be situations where there could be policy decisions or legal matter. If the recommendation is not to go to the Board, Airport staff will review with PAAC. County Counsel screens items going to the BOS from a legal perspective.

Mr. Greening received comments from the PAAC committee members and the community.

STAFF REPORT – J. Otto

Mr. Otto noted that American Airlines are doing well and have a growth in their operations.

Mr. Otto updated that he asked FAA to formally look at the data and determine if the magnetic heading runway redesignation is required. FAA said it is not required at this time; answer was based on information from 2-3 years ago. Mr. Otto said that request was submitted for re-evaluation, but we do not have a timeline, they only mentioned that it can take up to 3 years.

Mr. Kurdian commented the magnetic maps are updated every five years, and once when that is done, a form for request can be submitted.

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Mr. Otto advised that on October 23, 2025, Palomar Airport will have the Triennial Exercise and commented that it is a drill, starting at 9am, and the runway will be closed for 15 minutes.

Mr. Otto gave an update regarding Federal Grants received in the last 5 years. In 2022-2023 funds were received and used for a new fire truck and in 2023-2024 funds were amended for the fire truck.

MANAGING MEETING DURATION- C. Kaiser

Chairperson Kaiser noted that meetings are too long, and discussion should be made to have a goal to keep a meeting for no longer than 2 hours. Mr. Kaiser said everyone should consider what and how much they want to talk about an agenda item and the impact it will have. Mr. Kaiser suggested that if there are any community members' comments, forms should be submitted before the meeting starts, Mr. Kaiser said that the other option can be meeting 8 times a year instead of 6. Mr. Kaiser suggested everyone come up with own ideas to make this meeting more efficient and have a formal discussion at our next meeting with the first suggestion of speakers' slips to be submitted at the beginning of the meeting.

AIRPORT MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT- M. REINER

Chairperson Kaiser tabled this item.

Report for August 2025:

- Monthly Airline Passengers: 6, 848
- Annual Airline Passengers: 42, 098
- Monthly Take-Offs and Landings: 16, 812
- Annual Take-Offs and Landings: 116, 431
- Monthly Complaints: 798
- Annual Complaints: 3,153
- Community Noise Complaints by Quadrant: Southwest: 21; Southeast: 2; Northwest: 44; Northeast: 10.
- Jet Flights during quiet hours (2200-0700): 94
- Propeller Flights during quiet hours (0000-0600): 15

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA CONT.

None

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

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Mr. Kurdian corrected himself and said that USGS is who publishes the maps.

SET AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING – November 20, 2025

No items were requested

ADJOURN

Mr. Cohen moved the meeting to be adjourned; Mr. Karpé seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

By: 
Yadira Aguilar, Administrative Secretary I