



PALOMA AGUIRRE
CHAIR PRO TEM
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM

DATE: **October 21, 2025**

07

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

APPROVE OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRAVEL FOR COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO REPRESENTATIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JAPAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE US-JAPAN PROGRAM ON HEALTHY AND RESILIENT AGING (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

In accordance with San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) Policy D-7, *Out-of-County Business and Related Guidelines and Processes*, and Administrative Code section 470(h), this is a request to approve out-of-country travel for the Chair Pro Tem, San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) to participate in the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) one-week learning tour in Japan.

JCIE, in partnership with AARP, invited County policymakers, leadership and community partners to join the tour, scheduled for this winter, based on the County's recognized leadership in implementing the Aging Roadmap and advancing age-friendly initiatives. The goal of the tour is to foster collaboration and information-sharing across regions to address common issues facing aging societies and creating age-friendly environments. The tour will focus on shared challenges facing aging societies, with a special emphasis on social isolation as well as disaster preparedness and response, which align with the County's Aging Roadmap priorities.

Furthermore, in-person attendance is essential, as it will allow County representatives to participate in site visits, engage with Japanese policymakers, researchers and service providers, and gain first-hand insights into innovative, age-friendly practices that cannot be fully replicated through virtual participation. This opportunity is offered at no cost to the County, with JCIE covering airfare, accommodations, and related program expenses.

Today's action requests the Board authorize out-of-country travel, in accordance with Board Policy D-7, *Out-of-County Business and Related Guidelines and Processes*, and Administrative Code section 470(h), for the Chair Pro Tem of the Board to participate in the JCIE one-week learning tour in Japan this winter.

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RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIR PRO TEM PALOMA AGUIRRE

Per Administrative Code section 470(h), authorize Chair Pro Tem of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors out-of-country travel to Japan to participate in the Japan Center for International Exchange one-week learning tour scheduled for November 29 through December 6, 2025.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Continuing to support those most disproportionately affected by social isolation, disasters, and emergencies is a priority for the County of San Diego (County). Building on ongoing cross-departmental and community collaboration, and the priorities outlined in the Aging Roadmap, County staff continue to seek innovative ways to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Participation in this one-week learning tour will benefit older adults, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and their families by facilitating the exchange of knowledge on successes, challenges, and lessons learned related to disaster preparedness and response, and reducing social isolation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Approving today's recommendation for out-of-country travel to Japan for the Chair Pro Tem of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to participate in the Japan Center for International Exchange one-week learning tour supports the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services, and Sustainability Goal #4 to promote health and well-being. This learning tour provides a unique opportunity for County leaders to strengthen strategies and expand knowledge that will support older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and their families, particularly in the areas of disasters preparedness, emergency response, and reducing social isolation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the proposed action. Travel expenses, including airfare, accommodations, and related program expenses will be covered by the Japan Center for International Exchange. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

According to population estimates from San Diego Association of Governments, of the nearly 3.3 million people currently residing in San Diego County, approximately 710,000 are adults aged 60 years and older. By 2029, this number is expected to increase to more than 824,500.

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In 2016, the County of San Diego (County) joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, affirming its commitment to creating livable communities for people of all ages. Building on this foundation, the County developed the Aging Roadmap at the direction of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) on September 24, 2019 (4). The Aging Roadmap is a comprehensive framework for policies, programs, and initiatives that equitably support the needs and leverage the contributions of the growing population of older adults in the region.

As presented to the Board on September 30, 2025 (2), two of the 10 priority areas within the Aging Roadmap, Social Participation and Preparedness, focus on vital priorities for older adults, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and their families. Social Participation focuses on a range of social and community engagement opportunities for older adults that promote active living, reducing isolation, and providing enriching experiences across all age groups and generations. Preparedness focuses on preparing older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and people with other access and functional needs for safety during times of disaster and emergencies.

Recognizing the County's comprehensive approach and innovative work within the Aging Roadmap and age-friendly programs, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), in partnership with AARP, invited County policymakers, leadership, and local community partners to participate in a week-long learning tour scheduled for this winter. The goal of the tour is to foster collaboration and information-sharing on addressing common issues facing aging societies with particular focus on disaster preparedness and response as well as social isolation. These efforts align with Aging Roadmap priorities. Additionally, this opportunity will be sponsored by JCIE at no cost to the County, with all travel, lodging, and program costs covered by JCIE.

Japan provides a unique setting for this exchange. According to the JCIE, more than 28% of residents in Japan are aged 65 or older, making it one of the most rapidly aging regions in the Asia-Pacific. Recognizing parallels with the United States, JCIE created the US-Japan Healthy & Resilient Aging program to foster collaboration on aging issues and engage policymakers, service providers, and researchers in dialogues that generate innovative, sustainable solutions and spark future collaboration.

The one-week tour will include meetings with Japanese policymakers, local leaders, service providers, and researchers, as well as site visits to communities implementing forward-thinking, age-friendly practices. These site visits will allow County representatives to observe community-based approaches first-hand, build stronger peer-to-peer relationships, and engage in deeper, more productive discussions that would not be possible in a virtual format. Therefore, in-person attendance is critical. The JCIE has emphasized that in-person participation is essential to maximize the value of this exchange and strengthen long-term collaboration between San Diego County and Japanese counterparts.

Participating in this tour will provide invaluable insights and best practices that can inform and enhance the County's ongoing efforts to create age-friendly programs, services, and systems. As a next step, JCIE will coordinate a return visit in 2026, during which a delegation of Japanese leaders will travel to San Diego County. County staff will support site visit planning and

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coordination for the delegation, further strengthening international collaboration and creating an opportunity to showcase the County's age-friendly initiatives.

Today's action requests the Board authorize out-of-country travel, in accordance with Board Policy D-7, *Out-of-County Business and Related Guidelines and Processes*, and Administrative Code section 470(h), for the Chair Pro Tem of the Board to attend the JCIE one-week learning tour in Japan.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action supports the County of San Diego's 2025-30 Strategic Plan Initiatives of Sustainability (Resiliency), Equity (Health), and Community (Quality of Life) by enhancing knowledge and mitigation strategies related to disaster preparedness and response, and social isolation in support of older adults and persons with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paloma Aguirre', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PALOMA AGUIRRE
Supervisor, First District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A