

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 07, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 3**

**SUBJECT: GILLESPIE FIELD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: TENTH  
AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND THE  
CITY OF EL CAJON CREATING THE GILLESPIE FIELD  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND RELATED CEQA FINDING  
(DISTRICT: 2)**

**OVERVIEW**

On March 19, 1974 (70), the Board approved the “Resolution Approving Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Between the County of San Diego and the City of El Cajon Creating an Agency to be Known as the Gillespie Field Development Council (GFDC),” The GFDC was developed to serve as an advisory board overseeing the implementation of the Airport Master Plan for Gillespie Field and supporting the creation of consistent priorities, policies, and standards to apply to development within the Gillespie Field area. Furthermore, the GFDC guides the development of Gillespie Field by making recommendations to County Airports staff, the Board, and the City of El Cajon Council providing advice in the areas of aviation, industrial, and economic development which has led to a more efficient development of the airport and increased business and economic activity in the area. The GFDC holds regular bi-monthly public meetings which also provides a forum for community involvement and stakeholder input. The JPA has been amended nine times to extend its term, which is currently set to expire on June 30, 2025.

The County of San Diego (County) Department of Public Works (DPW) operates eight airports including Gillespie Field, which is located within the municipal limits of the City of El Cajon and the City of Santee and is the oldest and largest County-owned airport. The airport is a valuable community resource, providing local services and business opportunities through a unique mixture of land uses including non-aviation industrial and aviation-supporting businesses.

Today’s request is to approve the “Tenth Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Between the County of San Diego and the City of El Cajon creating the Gillespie Field Development Council” (GFDC), which extends the term an additional 10 years until June 30, 2035 (Attachment A). This Amendment will enable the GFDC to continue to provide its expertise and guidance to County staff, the City of El Cajon, and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. The original term length for the GFDC was ten years with subsequent term lengths varying from 1-11 years. The basis for the proposed 10-year extension is to minimize administrative actions and streamline County business allowing County staff and GFDC to focus on airport development and economic activities. Part of this amendment process is for the GFDC to recommend approval of the extension along with approval by El Cajon City Council. As such, this Amendment was placed before the El Cajon City Council on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 for their consideration, and the City of El Cajon voted unanimously to approve the Tenth Amendment. The City of Santee is not a signatory on the agreement and not required to vote on the agreement.

Beyond the extension of the agreement term, there are no changes to the proposed terms and functions of the GFDC. If the Tenth Amendment is not signed by June 30, 2025, the GFDC dissolves as a Development Council reducing the coordinated effort to engage stakeholders, complete the final stages of land development at the airport, and strategically engage with experts to strengthen the economic development of the region.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that an amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3) because the activity is not a project as defined by Section 15378 of the state CEQA Guidelines.
2. Approve and authorize the Clerk of the Board to execute, upon receipt, the “Tenth Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Between the County of San Diego and the City of El Cajon Creating the Gillespie Field Development Council”.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego (County) owns and operates eight airports that provide essential air transportation hubs, emergency response facilities, and serve as regional economic engines. The County pursues delivery of these services in a fair and equitable manner and actively works to remove barriers by providing airport guests with general airport information in the County’s threshold languages, encouraging participation, and providing competitive opportunities for small businesses, businesses that traditionally have less working capital, and business owners and managers who may be socially and economically underserved.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This request to authorize the “Tenth Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Between the County of San Diego (County) and the City of El Cajon Creating the Gillespie Field Development Council” has regional economic and social sustainability benefits. The base monthly rent from business leases helps support economic and social sustainability by providing services for the region. The revenue that County of San Diego Airports (County Airports) continue to receive from current general and commercial aviation and charter operators will help operate, maintain, and improve the County Airport System consistent with the County sustainability goal of providing just and equitable access to County services and resources in support of sustainable communities.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

If today’s action is not approved, the JPA would expire on June 30, 2025, and may result in the dissolution of the GFDC, which supports the development of Gillespie Field and future economic development and revenue generating activities.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

Leases at airports benefit the local business community by creating jobs, increasing economic activity, providing business opportunities, and supporting infrastructure development. Leasing airport property attracts visitors, generates revenue, and helps small businesses grow, thus stimulating the local economy and improving the quality of life for residents. San Diego County Airports connect individuals

to jobs and local communities to the world. Revenue derived from airport leases allows the Department of Public Works to operate and maintain the eight County airports safely, efficiently, and cost-effectively. Today's action of authorizing the "Tenth Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Between the County of San Diego and the City of El Cajon Creating the Gillespie Field Development Council" promotes self-sufficiency by enhancing the economic viability of the County airport system.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)  
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter