



ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION
AIRPORT COMMISSION HEARING ROOM
3160 AIRWAY AVENUE
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

JOHN WAYNE
AIRPORT
ORANGE COUNTY

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
5:00 PM**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sal Tinajero, Chair, Second District
Susan Dvorak, Vice Chair, Fifth District
Kevin Elliott, Commissioner, First District
Bruce Junor, Commissioner, Third District
Brendan O'Reilly, Commissioner, Fourth District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT: Charlene Reynolds, Airport Director
Komal Kumar, Assistant Director
Mark Sanchez, Deputy County Counsel
Christine Nguyen, Deputy County Counsel
Amer Moujtahed, Deputy Airport Director of Operations & Maintenance
Virginia Roman, Project Manager, Maintenance
Charlene Del Mundo, Sr. Project Manager, Planning & Development
Jared Felder, Consultant, Planning & Development
Elizabeth Gallegos, ASR Manager

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Tinajero called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner O'Reilly led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On Vice Chair Dvorak's motion and Commissioner Elliott's second, the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2025, were approved by a unanimous vote.

2. AWARD CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES WITH SWINERTON BUILDERS (ASR 25-000434)

Recommended Action: Award a contract to Swinerton Builders for Construction Services to provide Airport Power Generation and Distribution Upgrades Phase 1, effective upon execution of all necessary signatures, to be completed within 1022 days of the effective date of the Notice to Proceed for a Total Contract Price of \$54,453,355; Authorize the Airport Director or designee to execute the contract with Swinerton Builders; and make CEQA findings.

Senior Project Manager Charlene Del Mundo presented Item #2 to the Airport Commission, providing an overview that included the recommended actions, the summary and scope of contract services, the project's benefits, and the solicitation method. Charlene stated that in April 2023, a two-step RFQ/RFP solicitation went out for a Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) delivery method, encompassing two separate contracts. The first contract was for pre-construction services. On December 19, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$14.2M for the pre-construction services. John Wayne Airport (JWA) is now proceeding with the project's second phase, which now includes the construction contract. JWA is recommending Swinerton Builders for the construction contract.

Charlene Del Mundo responded to questions from the Airport Commission regarding whether the item had previously been brought before them and stated that it was scheduled for December 6, 2023, but was canceled due to a lack of quorum. Charlene responded to questions regarding the contract

amounts, stating that the first contract was for \$14.2 million for pre-construction services, and the proposed \$55 million is for construction services, which is Phase 2 of the project.

In response to a question from the Commission, Airport Director Charlene Reynolds stated that the existing JWA power plant is nearing its operational life's end. To ensure greater energy independence, the Airport will generate its own power, while keeping Southern California Edison (SCE) as a backup provider. Reynolds explained that this shift will allow JWA to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and gain better control over its power supply. Rebuilding the power plant will be a major undertaking, expected to take place in multiple phases, with an estimated total cost of \$100 million.

JWA Consultant Jared Felder explained that Phase 1 of the project involves replacing the aging utility panels, which are at risk of failure, with new, reliable switchgear that supplies power to the Airport. This phase also includes preparations for future backup and battery storage capabilities, which will be implemented in Phases 2 and 3.

Airport Director Reynolds responded to questions about whether JWA has a co-generation plant, generates its own electricity, or relies entirely on Southern California Edison (SCE), confirming that the airport does have a co-generation plant powered by natural gas.

JWA Consultant Jared Felder further explained that although the Airport has a co-generation plant, it will continue to rely on SCE during Phase 1. He outlined the process of maintaining the existing utility panels in operation while the new switchgear is installed. Phases 2 and 3 will build upon the existing co-generation system, adding battery storage and additional generator capacity to ensure continued operations in the event of a full power failure. Felder also confirmed that Phase 1 is expected to take approximately three years to complete.

The following is the action taken by the Orange County Airport Commission: On Commissioner Elliott's motion and Commissioner Junor's second, Item No. 2 was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVE ☒ OTHER ☐ DENIED ☐

Unanimous (1) Elliott: Y (2) Tinajero: Y (3) Junor: Y (4) O'Reilly: Y (5) Dvorak: Y

Vote Key: Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; X=Excused

3. APPROVE SUBORDINATE FOR JOB ORDER CONTRACT ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES (ASR 25-000523)

Recommended Action: Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to execute the Subordinate Contract with The Gordian Group, Inc. for Job Order Contracting Administrative and Support Services, effective September 26, 2025, through June 30, 2026, with the maximum compensation determined by a percentage of the value of work performed under future Board of Supervisors-approved Job Order Contracts.

Deputy Airport Director of Operations & Maintenance, Amer Moujtahed, presented Item #3 to the Airport Commission. He provided an overview of the recommended action, including the proposed contract term and amount. Amer also introduced the Airport's new Job Order Contracting (JOC) program, which was established following the transition of Airport Maintenance services from OC Public Works back to JWA. He outlined the benefits of the JOC program and explained the solicitation method used to implement it.

Amer responded to questions from the Airport Commission regarding the one-year term limitation of JOC contracts, noting that in the future, the Airport may consider adopting a "best value" approach,

which would allow for contract terms of up to three years. He also explained that the current contract will be for less than one year, as it is co-terminous with the existing Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) with The Gordian Group, Inc. (Gordian), previously established by the County of Orange. Looking ahead, Amer stated that the Airport plans to establish its own independent contract. Amer further explained that JOC contracts are only applicable when a repair project is identified, and that Gordian has developed a pre-priced catalog covering a wide range of public works projects, which streamlines the procurement process.

The following is the action taken by the Orange County Airport Commission: On Commissioner O'Reilly's motion and Chair Tinajero's second, Item No. 3 was approved 4-1; Commissioner Junor voted no.

APPROVE ☒

OTHER ☐

DENIED ☐

Unanimous (1) Elliott: Y (2) Tinajero: Y (3) Junor: N (4) O'Reilly: Y (5) Dvorak: Y

Vote Key: Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; X=Excused

- 4. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (Board)** Airport Director Charlene Reynolds reported that since the last Airport Commission meeting, the Board approved the Biometric Verification Services License Agreement with CLEAR. The item was amended to require the Airport to return to the Board with a performance update after completion of the pilot program, before any extension of the contract beyond its initial one-year term.

Additionally, the Bond Financing and related documents for Clay Lacy Aviation, Inc. has been continued multiple times.

Director Reynolds also responded to Commissioner Junor's inquiry regarding the increase in Clay Lacy's costs.

5. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

- B. AIRPORT DIRECTOR COMMENTS –** Airport Director Charlene Reynolds announced that John Wayne Airport has been ranked #1 among Large Airports in North America for Customer Satisfaction by J.D. Power for the second consecutive year.

Airport Director Reynolds also briefed the Commission on recent legislative developments, noting that a bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to end the diversion of a portion of the airline passenger security fee. This fee, originally intended to fund the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), has been partially redirected to the U.S. Treasury under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. Unless extended by Congress, this diversion is set to expire in 2027.

In addition, Director Reynolds shared that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has launched a new pilot program to support the advancement and integration of electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft into the national airspace system.

- C. AIRPORT COMMISSION COMMENTS –** Vice Chair Dvorak inquired whether JWA has experienced a decline in Canadian travel and what trends might be expected moving forward. Airport Director Charlene Reynolds responded that JWA has indeed seen a decrease in Canadian passenger traffic, which is expected to continue. She noted that some flights have been reduced

and that Air Canada has been impacted by a labor strike. Industry reports indicate that airports across North America are experiencing varying levels of decline in Canadian travel, which is likely to persist into next year.

Vice Chair Dvorak also asked about the use of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 at JWA. Director Reynolds confirmed that Southwest Airlines has increased its use of the MAX 8 aircraft and emphasized that the Airport continues to advocate for the use of newer-generation, quieter aircraft.

Commissioner O'Reilly shared that the City of Fullerton has partnered with Wisk Aero to explore future opportunities for infrastructure development to support autonomous air taxi operations at Fullerton Municipal Airport.

Commissioner Elliott congratulated JWA on its recent recognition by J.D. Power and commended the Airport staff for their hard work. He also invited everyone to attend the upcoming Pacific Airshow, scheduled for October 3, 4, and 5.

6. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING The meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.