

CONTACT: Nicole Hall | O: 619.400.2859 | M: 858.531.2863 | E: nhall@san.org

Airport Authority Procurement Team Earns National Award for 17th Consecutive Year

**Recognition Highlights Commitment to Transparency, Innovation and Responsible
Stewardship of Public Funds**

SAN DIEGO, CA — July 22, 2026 – The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority's Procurement Department has once again been recognized for excellence, earning the 2026 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement® (AEP) award from the National Procurement Institute, Inc. (NPI). The honor marks the Airport Authority's 17th consecutive year receiving the national distinction.

The AEP award recognizes public agencies that demonstrate outstanding leadership and best practices in public procurement, including innovation, transparency, professionalism, productivity and the effective use of technology to deliver greater value to the communities they serve.

"Receiving this recognition for the 17th consecutive year reflects our unwavering commitment to responsible stewardship of airport resources and continuous improvement," said Atif Saeed, President and CEO of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. "Our Procurement team plays a vital role in promoting competitive contracting opportunities managed with integrity, efficiency, and transparency. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and this well-deserved national recognition."

The Airport Authority was one of 59 California public agencies recognized with the 2026 AEP award. Nationwide, 251 organizations received the distinction, including cities, counties, special districts, school districts, higher education institutions, and state and provincial agencies.

The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement program encourages public procurement organizations to adopt industry best practices and pursue continuous organizational improvement. Award recipients are evaluated on rigorous criteria that measure innovation, professional development, e-procurement, leadership, and organizational performance.

In addition to the National Procurement Institute, the AEP program is sponsored by the Airport Procurement Group (APG), the California Association of Public Procurement Officials (CAPPO), Canadian Public Procurement Council (CPPC), Florida Association of Public Procurement Officials (FAPPO), Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP), NIGP: The Institute for Public Procurement, and the Texas Public Purchasing Association (TxPPA).

The program is supported by AXIA Cooperative, GOVMVMT, NCPP – The Professional Association for Cooperative Procurement, OMNIA Partners, Pavilion, Strategic Government Resources (SGR), Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC), and the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC).

For more information on San Diego International Airport, please click [here](#).

ABOUT SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SAN)

Owned and operated by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, San Diego International Airport (SAN) is one of the region's most important civic assets, serving more than 25 million passengers each year as the community's gateway to the world and contributing nearly \$12 billion annually to the local economy. Conveniently located minutes from Downtown San Diego, SAN is the busiest single-runway airport in North America and the third-largest airport in California, with service to nearly 90 destinations around the globe, including 11 nonstops to Europe, Latin America, Canada, and Asia. In 2025, the Authority opened the first phase of the new Terminal 1, a more efficient facility recently recognized as one of the most beautiful airport terminals in the world. When the new Terminal 1 is fully completed in 2028, it will have generated more than \$4.5 billion for San Diego's economy and created more than 25,000 jobs, paying a total of \$2 billion in wages to local workers. The Authority's continued investment in the airport experience strengthens San Diego's global competitiveness while delivering lasting value for the community.

###