

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICO
AUTHORIZING LIMITED RAPID REFUELING OPERATIONS AT CHICO
REGIONAL AIRPORT AND ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO CHICO MUNICIPAL
CODE SECTION 11R.32.010**

WHEREAS, Northgate Aviation, the Fixed Base Operator at Chico Regional Airport, requested that the City consider amending its aircraft fueling regulations to permit limited rapid refueling operations, commonly referred to as "hot fueling," for certain time-critical aviation operations; and

WHEREAS, rapid refueling is an established aviation practice that allows qualified aircraft to be refueled while engines remain at idle under carefully controlled conditions and is utilized in military, aerial firefighting, emergency response, and medical evacuation operations to reduce aircraft turnaround times; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the existing prohibition on rapid refueling for routine general aviation operations while providing narrowly defined exceptions for authorized public safety and military operations will allow Chico Regional Airport to better support time-critical missions while maintaining appropriate safety protections; and

WHEREAS, the proposed exceptions would apply only to aircraft actively engaged in authorized military operations, state, federal, or local aerial firefighting operations, emergency response operations, or medical evacuation operations, with fueling conducted in accordance with applicable safety standards, FAA guidance, and military safety directives; and

WHEREAS, the Airport Commission reviewed the proposed amendment at its July 28, 2026 meeting and recommended that the matter be brought forward to the City Council, contingent upon staff consulting with the Chico Fire Department regarding the proposed operations and associated safety requirements; and

1 **WHEREAS**, staff subsequently consulted with representatives of the Chico Fire
2 Department regarding the proposed rapid refueling operations and associated safety
3 requirements, and the Fire Department expressed no safety concerns with the limited operations
4 contemplated by the proposed amendment, thereby satisfying the condition identified by the
5 Airport Commission.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, ORDERED AND FOUND** by the
7 City Council of the City of Chico, State of California, as follows:

- 8 1. The above recitals are true and correct and hereby incorporated herein as part of the
9 findings.
- 10 2. The City Council finds that allowing limited rapid refueling operations at Chico Regional
11 Airport for authorized military and emergency response operations will enhance the
12 Airport's ability to support regional emergency response, wildfire suppression, public
13 safety, and national defense missions.
- 14 3. The City Council supports maintaining the existing prohibition on fueling or defueling
15 aircraft while engines are operating for routine general aviation operations while
16 establishing limited exceptions for the authorized operations identified herein.
- 17 4. Section 11R.32.010 entitled "Fuel prohibitions" is hereby amended by adding
18 "exception" as follows:

19 11R.32.010 Fuel prohibitions.

20 No commercial aircraft shall be fueled or have fuel drained while an engine of said
21 aircraft is running or is being heated or while the aircraft is in a hangar or an enclosed
22 area.

23 **Exception.** Fueling with engines running ("hot fueling") may be permitted for aircraft
24 actively engaged in authorized military operation or public safety emergency response,
25 provided such operations are conducted in strict compliance with NFPA 407 safety
26 standards or applicable military safety directives.

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1 **THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION** was adopted by the Council of the City of Chico at its
2 meeting held on September 1, 2026 , by the following vote:

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4 AYES: **Goldstein, Hawley, O'Brien, van Overbeek, Winslow, Bennett, Reynolds**

5 NOES: **None**

6 ABSENT: **None**

7 ABSTAINED: **None**

8 DISQUALIFIED: **None**

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11 ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

12 
13 Deborah R. Presson, City Clerk

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15 Ryan Jones (Aug 26, 2026 16:20:59 PDT)
16 Ryan R. Jones, City Attorney*

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*Pursuant to The Charter of the
City of Chico, Section 906(E)