



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

June 30, 2010, MEETING

**Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5837
(909) 593-1395**

COMMISSIONERS

GEORGE G. BUTTS
CHAIRMAN

ANGELO R. CARDONO
VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLINTON SIMMONS
SECRETARY

EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER
MEMBER

PETER AMUNDSON
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER

DENNIS C. LORD
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman George G. Butts
Vice Chairman Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf
Commissioner Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Secretary Clinton Simmons

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Diego Cadena, Deputy Director, Administration
Mr. Richard L. Smith, Division Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. George Gomez, Staff Assistant, Aviation Division

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

GUESTS

Mrs. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Sheldon Bresin, Brackett Field Airport Association
Mr. John Margis, Brackett Field Airport

Mr. Robert Miars, Brackett Field Airport Association
Mr. Jack Tippie, former Aviation Division Chief
Mr. Fred Demetz, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Gary Wilt, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Richard Morgan, El Monte Airport

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Butts called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wolf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. May 26, 2010, Minutes

Commissioner Dennis Lord commented that during last month's discussion of the annual rental rate increase, public comment actually took place during the agenda item prior to the vote. In addition, Commissioner Dennis Lord wanted the minutes to reflect that Mr. Dan Riley is not a tenant at Compton/Woodley Airport, but rather is a partner of his in shared aircraft.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Cardono and seconded by Commissioner Chase, the May 26, 2010 minutes were approved as amended.

B. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport:

- Construction of the five commercial hangars adjacent to the U.S. Marshals' hangar is expected to be complete within the next 30 days.
- The Whiteman Airport Association meeting was held on June 17, 2010. No meeting is scheduled for July 2010.
- The annual airport summer barbeque is scheduled for July 11, 2010, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be sponsored by American Airports Corporation (AAC).
- On July 24, 2010, AAC will sponsor an information booth at the American Heroes Air Show to be held at the Hansen Dam recreation area in Lakeview Terrace, California.
- On June 22, 2010, a Beechcraft Dutchess based at Santa Monica Airport was landing on Runway 12 at Whiteman Airport when its left landing gear collapsed and the propeller struck the left engine. The runway remained

open while the air traffic control tower closed only a portion of the taxiway. After the aircraft was removed and the taxiway inspected, the entire taxiway was reopened.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield:

- Reach Air Medical Services is no longer operating from General Wm. J. Fox Airfield due to insufficient business contracts to maintain the operations of its helicopter ambulance services.
- Boeing Corporation increased its daily operations out of General Wm. J. Fox Airfield with incoming and outgoing flights from Seattle and Arizona.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport:

- Phase 2 of the Compton/Woodley Airport pavement rehabilitation project is expected to be complete by July 7, 2010. The items remaining for this phase are the installation of tiedown anchors and striping. Phase 3 of the project is scheduled to begin on July 12, 2010.
- A small electrical project was completed in the terminal building. All electrical outlets were rewired and replaced.
- The beacon lights were replaced on the airport's fuel truck, and the belts to the trackless mower were also replaced.
- The annual replacement of the fuel filters of the airport's fuel truck and Fuel Island are complete and working properly.
- On July 11, 2010, the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) will host the Aviation Career Education (ACE) Program Annual Graduation Ceremony in the airport's terminal building.
- On June 22, 2010, the famous Hawker Siddeley-125 departed from Compton/Woodley Airport after complying with various safety prerequisites from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Airport personnel and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department staff were present at the time of departure to respond in case of an emergency.

Commissioner Lord stated that airport tenants appreciate that Phase 2 of the project will be complete in 11 weeks, which is under the estimated 12-week target time. Commissioner Lord also mentioned that he has been receiving good comments about the progress of the project and that tenants are pleased to be returning to their hangars.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport:

- On June 1, 2010, the annual load test on the airport's generator was completed. The generator and all systems work properly in case of an emergency.
- Additional No Trespassing signs were installed along the west side of the airport fence parallel to the San Gabriel Wash, and a Please Keep Gate Closed sign was installed at the fixed base operator's (FBO) walk through gates.
- On June 23, 2010, the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association and Allen Johnson hosted a seminar on landings called the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. No future meetings are scheduled for this summer. The new seminar series will resume in the fall of 2010.
- El Monte Airport anticipates the new Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) equipment will be installed in the fall of 2010.
- An onsite preconstruction meeting was held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, for the runaway and taxiway slurry seal project. The project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport:

- Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck announced that the airport's gate located at the north side was repaired.
- Ballard Aviation Flight School has been in the process of reworking its organization chart, and during this time its doors have been closed and some aircraft have been relocated. Brackett Field Airport staff are working with the flight school and is hoping they will reopen soon.
- The airport's fuel island paint project is complete with a retro Chevron look similar to the fuel Island at General Wm. J. Fox Field.
- Electrical problems on hangar Row H resulted in a power outage on half of the row for about three to four days. The problem resulted from a new tenant doing unauthorized electrical work. When airport personnel became aware of the situation, the problem was resolved and power was restored.
- Annual fire extinguisher recharging is scheduled for July 6, 2010.
- On June 20, 2010, the Brackett Airport Association in conjunction with the airport's monthly Antique Aircraft Display hosted a great barbecue event.

Mr. Fox-Tuck announced that his last day as Brackett Field Airport Manager will be July 12, 2010. He took a few moments to thank the Brackett Airport Association, Aviation Division, AAC, and Scott Wardle for the opportunity to serve as Airport Manager. He thanked the Aviation Commissioners for their professionalism and commitment to improve and maintain general aviation in the County of Los Angeles. In addition, Mr. Fox-Tuck stated that he was very happy with the fantastic group of tenants and airport users of Bracket Field Airport.

C. County Contract Administrator's Report – Mr. Richard Smith

The Commission was provided copies of the May 2010 expense and revenue report, and Mr. Smith offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that occasionally the report shows negative numbers, which are grant reimbursements to be collected from the State and Federal government for projects in the Aviation Enterprise Fund.

- During a Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update kickoff meeting with the environmental consultant, key items were discussed such as scope of work, schedule, and general questions about the project. An initial study and mitigated negative declaration for the development alternatives is anticipated to be complete in six months or less.
- The General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Master Plan is also moving along. The inventory chapter is posted on the Commission web site. Public Works anticipates that it will receive the forecasting from the consultants in the next few weeks. Once Public Works completes the review, the forecast will be posted on the web site.
- On Monday, June 28, 2010, the Aviation Division met with the U.S. Forestry Service to discuss a \$2.7 million expansion on its facility at Fox Field. The Aviation Division assisted them in completing their CEQA analysis.
- The annual rental rate adjustment for the aircraft hangars is scheduled for the July 20, 2010, Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.
- On June 29, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the contract with AAC to exercise an option for an additional 5-year extension.

Commissioner Chase asked if a copy of the amended contract with AAC is available for review. Mr. Smith stated that an electronic copy will be posted for download on the Board of Supervisors' website.

- Equipment for the installation of the AWOS project was delivered. The Aviation Division is finalizing a construction start date with the contractor

and County inspector. Whiteman Airport will receive the first installation followed by Compton/Woodley, El Monte, and Brackett airports.

- An on-site preconstruction meeting for the Brackett Field slurry seal and taxiway project was held today. Bids are due to Public Works on July 13, 2010.
- Construction of the Whiteman Airport aircraft parking ramp is scheduled to start in the fall of 2010 upon approval from the Board of Supervisors.
- Public Works' Architectural Engineering Division has requested a Request for Proposals from the Job Order Contract (JOC) for the Entrance Improvements project at Whiteman Airport. Bid proposals were received this week and are being reviewed.

D. California Assembly Bill 48

Commissioner Lord provided the Commission with an extended narrative describing how the inclusion of aviation flight training in AB 48 will become a financial and bureaucratic disaster for the State's flight schools, flight instructors, and general aviation. Mr. Lord commented that flight schools are in disagreement to fees of \$5,000 for each application, \$1,000 per branch site and \$3,000 per renewals and they believe that these fees are unreasonable and unnecessary for general aviation and its associated businesses.

Commissioner Lord recommended that the Commission write a letter in support of Assembly Bill 1889 (AB 1889). AB 1889 is a cleanup bill for AB 48 as it relates to flight schools being exempt and also an opportunity to have public hearings to discuss and find the proper solution to preserve the industry.

Commissioner Bobby Chase made a motion to write a letter supporting AB 1889, which was seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Jerome Alexander. Commissioner Lord will provide the draft.

E. Brackett Field Additional Items

No additional items were reported.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Jack Kenton commented about the new pavement at Compton/Woodley Airport. He stated that when taxiing onto the runway coming from the north side, the pavement seems very normal, but taxiing up from the south side, the short taxiway from the ramp to the runway seems to be uneven. He recommends putting new pavement on the connections to the runway. Mr. Kenton also mentioned that he continues to look forward to seeing lights on top of the building tower and a new instrument approach system to be installed at the airport.

Mr. Robert Miars shared with the Commission the following improvement items needed at Bracket Field Airport:

- Repair the estimated 100,000 square feet of cracked pavement at the movement and nonmovement parking area.
- Clear the northeast helipad area with a minimum of a 50 foot radius.
- Clear weeds at the runway/taxiway lights signs.
- Inspect the hangar electrical panels.
- Repair the restrooms located at the northwest side of the airport.

Mr. Miars also suggested having the Fire authorities perform an airport inspection to control the amount of nonaviation tenants having their hangars full of combustible materials.

Mr. Gary Wilt spoke on behalf of various tenants of Bracket Field Airport and informed the Commission that they have been pleased with Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck and his team. He also asked that Mr. Cyle Woodruff be considered as the new airport manager since he worked closely with Mr. Fox-Tuck.

Mr. Sheldon Bresin inquired on the result of this year's proposed rent increase. Chairman Butts stated that Public Works intends to request Board approval of a 2.71 percent rental increase on aircraft storage hangars at the five County-owned airports. If approved, the new rental rates will become effective August 1, 2010.

Mr. Richard Morgan expressed his frustration with the high-speed, low-approach issues at El Monte Airport. He stated that on several occasions he raised these issues at the Commission meetings without a final solution. Vice Chairman Cardono proposed a motion to write a letter addressing the Control Tower Chief of El Monte Airport requesting that ATCT personnel not allow high-speed, low passes below 500 feet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jerome Alexander.

Mr. Fred Demetz disagreed with this year's rent increase and questioned how the Commission justifies this year's rent increase due to the economic constraints, such as organizations being driven out from national airports and aircraft manufacturers laying off employees. Commissioner Wolf stated that the Commission does not have much influence over the Airport Management Contract between the County and AAC, which is where the increase is derived.

Mr. Don Hagopian stated that in February 2010 the Whiteman Airport Association wrote a letter to the Commission asking to eliminate the rent increase for 2010. He suggested reconsidering and deferring the rent increase for another year.

Mrs. Shellie Hagopian suggested to the Commission that they contact each Supervisor asking them not to raise the rent on AAC, so that AAC does not have to raise the rent on airport tenants. Commissioner Jerome Alexander stated that the County is contractually entitled to increase every year the monthly contract minimum payment to AAC based on the Consumer Price Index.

Commissioner Lord commented that at a previous meeting, a tenant from General Wm. J. Fox Airfield spoke eloquently about how there is 17.9 percent unemployment in the Antelope Valley, and he asked specifically for an exemption from the increase for General Wm. J. Fox Field. Commissioner Lord stated that his question for the tenant was how to explain to the tenants of other airports why they should do something for General Wm. J. Fox Airfield and not for the other four County-owned airports.

IV. NEXT AVIATION COMMISSION MEETING:

**Wednesday, August 25, 2010, 7 p.m.
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3599
(310) 631-8140**

Chairman George Butts adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Clinton Simmons, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

GG:

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