



Dean D. Efstathiou  
Acting 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  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 29, 2008  
Whiteman Airport  
12653 Osborne Street  
Pacoima, CA 91731-1697**

## COMMISSIONERS

**EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER**  
CHAIR

**PENELOPE CORNWALL**  
VICE CHAIR

**GEORGE G. BUTTS**  
SECRETARY

**ANGELO R. CARDONO**  
MEMBER

**BOBBY E. CHASE**  
MEMBER

**DENNIS C. LORD**  
MEMBER

**CLINTON SIMMONS**  
MEMBER

**ARON A. WOLF**  
MEMBER

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander  
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono  
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase  
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord  
Commissioner Clinton Simmons  
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice Chair Penelope Cornwall  
Secretary George G. Butts

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division  
Mrs. Miriam Gomes Opişan, Staff Assistant, Aviation Division  
Mr. Patrick M. Di Leva, Airport Project Coordinator, Aviation Division

### AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

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

### GUESTS

Mr. Jeremy H. Bishop, Whiteman Airport Association  
Mr. Bob Cappiello, Whiteman Airport  
Mr. John Clausen, Whiteman Airport

**GUESTS (Cont.)**

Mr. Ron Ellison, Whiteman Airport  
 Mr. Matt Espiau, Whiteman Airport  
 Ms. Jeanne Fenimore, Whiteman Airport  
 Mr. Karl Florine, Whiteman Airport  
 Ms. Lonna Gibson, Challenge Air  
 Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association  
 Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association  
 Mr. Bob Kiring, Civil Air Patrol – Los Angeles  
 Mr. Ron Lisberg, Whiteman Airport  
 Mr. Dan Miller, Whiteman Airport  
 Mr. Jerry Neglio, Whiteman Airport Association  
 Mr. Tim Quinn, Whiteman Airport Association  
 Mr. David Snyder, Whiteman Airport Association  
 Mr. Dennis Twohy, Whiteman Airport  
 Mr. Steve Vlastic, Whiteman Airport

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jerome Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**1. Minutes of the Meeting of September 24, 2008

Commissioner Wolf made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The minutes were approved and adopted as written.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle reported that fuel prices are declining, and once high-cost fuel inventory is depleted, the airports will continue to reduce the price.

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

Mr. Fox-Tuck stated two month-to-month non-aviation tenants were notified that there are aircraft owners now desiring these hangars. Two eviction notifications were mailed. He said a survey team was at the airport for the upcoming County's Runway Safety Action Plan Project. The restaurant manager at Brackett Field Airport removed a large RV parked outside of the restaurant. The main plumbing lines need to be replaced at the restaurant. Airport staff anticipated completing all the plumbing by the first week of November. The new hangar development in the southeast corner of the airfield is progressing, and framing of the foundations has started.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked Mr. Fox-Tuck to clarify the number of hangars being developed. He replied that there are two phases of the project. The first phase will have 25 hangars, and the second phase will have 10 larger hangars.

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

This year's Compton/Woodley Airport Air Fair, was held on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. More aircraft participated this year, and Mr. Marino thanked all participants and coordinators of the event including the EAA Young Eagles, which flew over 90 children.

The County's soil remediation project located near the fuel island has begun. The County has also installed new wireless security cameras system throughout the airport.

On Thursday, October 9, 2008, Mr. Marino and Mr. Richard Smith met with Councilwoman Arceneaux and city officials to discuss airport beautification projects.

New window locks were installed in the north pilot's lounge, and new door handles and locks were installed in the terminal building. A new valve was replaced on the used oil containment tray, and bird spikes were installed on a variety of hangars throughout the airport.

Mr. James Wansley, a long-term tenant of the airport, passed away recently.

Commissioner Simmons asked how the eviction process of non-aviation users is progressing. Mr. Marino replied there is only one non-aviation tenant on the south side of the airport, and the eviction was completed two weeks ago. The hangar will be filled with an airplane shortly.

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

Phase III of the County's pavement rehabilitation project is complete and tenants have been moving back to their parking spaces. The airport participated in the Salute to Youth Event held on September 26, 2008, at Palmdale Plant 42. The airport shared a table with Los Angeles World Airports, and there were over 2,000 children at the event receiving information on aviation careers. The new "Musical Highway" that plays a song as you drive over the designated area was relocated on Avenue G near Fox Airfield in the left lane heading westbound. Airport staff cleaned out the storm drains in preparation of the rainy season. Mr. Irving said 14 aerial fire-fighting aircraft were on the ramp at one time due to high winds in the valleys and mountains.

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

The County has installed new flooring in the terminal building and should be completed by November 7, 2008. On October 23, 2008, Mr. Herrera met

with American Airports Corporation (AAC) stormwater consultant to prepare the airport for the upcoming rainy season. Landscaping improvements are being made in the Air Traffic Control Tower parking lot and along Riverview Avenue. Mr. Herrera submitted an update to the airport facility directory for the changes to the traffic pattern operations. Construction of the new executive hangars continues, and hangar doors will be installed soon.

Mr. Scott Wardle commented on the new flooring project at El Monte Airport and thanked the County for this project.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked what type of flooring is installed at El Monte Airport. Mr. Richard Smith replied the flooring is 100 percent rubber and is similar to flooring found in baggage claim areas at other airports. The new flooring requires less maintenance and is virtually stain proof.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport:

Mr. Morgan said Whiteman Airport was affected by the recent local fires, and the airport supported California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection contracted personnel as they set up a base of operation for four days. During those fires, a temporary flight restriction within three miles of Hansen Dam and up to 7,000 feet was implemented. Air traffic was slow due to this restriction, except for the helicopter activity fighting the fires and the news media.

The new hangar development for Vista Aviation is progressing well and the hangar doors were installed. The developer anticipates receiving the certificate of occupancy soon. Six new aircraft hangars located by Airpark Way and Orbital Way intersection will be completed soon. The Whiteman Airport Tenant Association met on October 16, 2008, and the next meeting will be on November 20th. Mr. Morgan explained briefly about the Challenge Air Event held on October 18, 2008. He was proud the event was held at Whiteman Airport and stated that American Airports Corporation donated funds and offered participating pilots fuel vouchers.

Mr. Morgan and AAC were recently recognized by the Kitty Hawk Squadron of the Air Explorers Group from North Hollywood for providing recent support.

Repairs were done to the underground fuel tanks at the fuel island. The self-service fuel dispensers were closed down for one week during this project. Fuel was offered at the discounted rate during this period.

The pilots lounge was upgraded with new seating, flight planning areas, cable TV, and a direct phone line.

Mr. Morgan announced a study by Caltrans to perform a survey of Whiteman Airport, Compton/Woodley Airport, and Brackett Field Airport to possibly evaluate a Lateral Precision Vertical Guidance Approach (LPV).

Mr. Morgan noted that one County hangar is vacant and possibly another hangar will be vacant shortly as well as two tie-down spaces.

Mr. Morgan said the new Air Traffic Control Manager is Mr. Hugh Kelly.

Commissioner Chase commented on the LPV installation and said he has practiced this type of landing approach on a simulator. He stated it will be a wonderful addition to the airport system.

Chair Jerome Alexander commented that four out of five airports have reported activities for children and the importance of having the youth of today's society be aware of aviation as a career, hobby, and sport.

Mr. Scott Wardle added he recently received some phone calls of empty T-hangars at Van Nuys Airport and wanted to share this information with the public because of the assumption of Van Nuys Airport having no vacancies.

### 3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Richard Smith bid farewell to his staff assistant, Mrs. Miriam Gomes Oprışan as she will be leaving the Aviation Division on a promotion to the County's Probation Department. He expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation of all her efforts and contribution to the Aviation Division and Commission. He also announced that Mr. Patrick Di Leva will serve as the interim Commission liaison to fill Mrs. Oprisan's position.

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for July through September and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Smith explained the ongoing El Monte Airport working group for the increased helicopter training activities in the San Gabriel Valley. He has been working with the offices of Supervisors Antonovich and Molina to develop a plan to address helicopter training activity at the airport. Last year, the Aviation Division approached the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reopen two helicopter landing pads at the Santa Fe Dam area. A new location was recently discovered that is east of the 605 Freeway, 210 Freeway interchange on the north side of the 210 Freeway, adjacent to the San Gabriel River.

An official draft copy letter was provided to each Commissioner regarding the Santa Fe Dam helicopter activity. Commissioner Lord made a motion to approve the letter, seconded by Commissioner Chase. The letter was approved and adopted as written.

Mr. Smith discussed a proposal to add vegetation to the Rio Hondo Wash. The issue is both road and aircraft noise funnels up the channel, and it impacts residents living along the wash.

Chair Jerome Alexander commented that the residents with complaints are about a quarter-mile away from El Monte Airport. The Rio Hondo Wash is literally in their backyard, and the noise bounces off the concrete walls and into their yards. She noted that adding vegetation to the area would help absorb the noise.

Commissioner Chase commented that the Rio Hondo Wash in the fall and spring times has a very large flock of migrating birds, which could be a safety hazard for any aircraft.

Mr. Smith noted that Van Nuys Airport is one of the four County-designated noise problem airports, and the County monitors each airport's compliance with state noise standards. Van Nuys Airport has plans to eliminate some of the noisier aircraft. On October 2, Van Nuys Airport released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which was quickly followed five days later by a workshop to discuss the draft EIR. A second workshop is scheduled on November 5 at 3 p.m. The comment period for this workshop was extended to December 1.

Mr. Smith provided an update on capital projects and reported on the installation of an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS), which will be installed at four of the five County airports. The AWOS project will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda for November 18, 2008.

Aviation Division is still negotiating with Aviation Management Consulting Group for the minimum standards project. If an agreement can not be reached, the County will move forward with the next proposer.

Mr. Smith reported on the Compton/Woodley pavement rehabilitation project and noted the County's geotechnical engineers have concerns about the design. An alternative to the design is planned, and a new design option is anticipated from the consultant in a few weeks.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked Mr. Smith if he could explain the Whiteman Master Plan schedule progress. Mr. Smith stated that the first of three tenant meetings was held a month ago. The consultant is in the process of inventory and data collection, and the next tenant meeting will be scheduled after the consultant completes this step.

#### 4. Whiteman Airport Additional Items

Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Lonna Gibson, West-Cost Director of Challenge Air. Ms. Gibson explained more about Challenge Air and stated the goal of the event is to inspire children with disabilities and serious illnesses about aviation. 116 children with special needs attended and each child was able to fly with volunteer pilots over Magic Mountain amusement park. Each child received Young Eagles certificates, T-Shirts, and gold eagle wings. Ms. Gibson noted there was a lot of media support and the Daily News reported the activities. Over 100 volunteers assisted at the event, and she thanked everyone for making this event a success.

Commissioner Lord commented on the Challenge Air Event and noted his participation on other similar events, and he wanted Ms. Gibson to know that the event at Whiteman Airport was a special day. He described a flight experience with a child and how it was as meaningful for the parents to receive a break as it was for the special-needs child.

Commissioner Wolf commented he would like to become involved with Challenge Air since his own son has special needs.

Chair Jerome Alexander mentioned how wonderful the Challenge Air event was and how emotional it was to see the special-needs children participate.

### **C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Ron Lisberg asked how many Commissioners are on the panel. He commented on Mr. Wardle's report regarding the processes of fuel inventory and pricing.

Mr. Wardle clarified that each airport has about two months of fuel inventory. He further explained fuel is purchased when there is sufficient space in the storage tanks.

Mr. Lisberg asked for an update on the preparation for the upcoming storm season and if there is a plan to eliminate hangar flooding. He also asked Mr. Morgan what preventable measures are established to stop the flooding of hangars. Mr. Jason Morgan commented each airport is using the same consultant firm to prepare for the upcoming storm season. The consultant company performs routine inspections and makes recommendations to the airport manager. Mr. Morgan said that tenants over the years constructed barriers around their hangar, which causes the water to dam in adjacent hangars.

Commissioner Cardono commented on his water-flooding experience at Compton/Woodley Airport several years and how he placed a drip pan under his aircraft to capture the leaking oil. He suggested replacing all the portable hangars to permanent facilities.

Chair Jerome Alexander stated that the airport's concern is the quality of the water flowing throughout the airport; however, the tenant's concern is the quality of the items a person keeps in the hangars. She asked if tenants are allowed to place sand bags near their hangar. Mr. Smith said sand bags will cause water to flow to the next hangar. Commissioner Wolf asked if it is reasonable to have a plan to mitigate all the hangars before the day comes when they transfer to a permanent hangar. Mr. Smith replied that the only mitigation measure while currently having portable hangars is to remove the damming material that has been installed by the tenants.

Mr. Steve Vlasic noted that some of the Ventura County airports are having the same hangar flooding problems. Ventura County allowed the tenants to install plastic materials on the asphalt, and then pour concrete on top which raised the hangars up two to four inches. Also Ventura County built trenches in front of the hangar rows and installed a fiberglass basin, which led the water away.

Mr. Matt Espiau commented on current fuel prices at other airports in California. He said that AAC is charging pilots higher fuel prices compared to other airports in the area. He stated as fuel prices rise, there will be a decline in young and older pilots. Mr. Espiau also noted that hangar prices are rising as home prices have been dropping, and he is concerned young aviators will be discouraged to fly because of the high cost.

Commissioner Simmons commented if the airports could reduce the price now and make up the difference when the airports receive fuel from the supplier.

Commissioner Lord commented that not only fuel prices rise, but other living expenses also rise. He recalls last year a delayed affect of fuel prices rising, and everyone was aware that once the supply declines, the prices would rise. He also commented on the water issue in the hangars about having a detailed master plan of the land to properly drain the airports. He stated AAC raises their price to absorb their increased cost of doing business with the County.

Mr. Matt Espiau asked if AAC can explain their cost per fuel load and profit.

Chair Jerome Alexander explained that the airports are operated by a private management company even though the airports are a public use area. Consequently, the Commission is not privileged to the companies profit data.

Commissioner Cardono commented if the airports are turned back over to the County, then it will be difficult for the airports to receive funds from the County's general fund for improvement projects. By privatizing the airports, approximately \$2 million was available this year, which is used for a variety of improvements.

Commissioner Chase asked if the fuel prices rise again, will the lower fuel price still be applicable since the airports purchased the fuel at a lower cost. Mr. Wardle explained the airports receive fuel loads as storage is available and the price at the fuel pump would be based on the cost of fuel when it is purchased.

Commissioner Wolf asked if the fuel could be purchased at partial loads. Mr. Wardle stated they cannot receive partial loads. Commissioner Wolf asked how the fuel prices are set from American Airports and also what the County charges as a flowage fee. Mr. Smith explained the County receives a 30-cent flowage fee for every gallon of fuel sold. Commissioner Wolf asked if the flowage fee is a tax. Mr. Smith stated it is a fee used to cover the cost of the fuel equipment and is deposited into the Aviation Enterprise Fund. Commissioner Wolf suggested having this information available on the internet to help defuse the controversy.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked Mr. Wardle to explain how many gallons of fuel are on reserve at each airport. Mr. Wardle answered that each airport has approximately two months of fuel supply.

Mr. Karl Florine commented there have been four recent car accidents on Airpark Way. Mr. Florine suggested there should be speed bumps along the road or some other type of speed control along Airpark Way.



Commissioner Simmons commented if Airpark Way is a safety problem, then this issue should be addressed immediately. Mr. Smith commented that speed bumps are easy to install and stated that he will do some research.

Mr. Don Hagopian expressed concern regarding construction of new T-Hangars. Mr. Hagopian stated he does not think Whiteman Airport needs all permanent hangars because the same size hangars will not likely be installed.

Commissioner Cardono stated there are two vacancies on the Commission panel and announced if anyone is interested to please apply. Chair Jerome Alexander commented that Supervisorial District 5 has the openings.

Commissioner Lord mentioned he is the president and CEO of Wings Over Long Beach Foundation. He added that an upcoming aerospace exhibition and job fair is scheduled for November 15-16, 2008, at the Long Beach Airport. Attendees will be treated to static displays of military and civilian aircraft, as well as interactive experiences with pilots, space professionals, flight schools, and airlines.

Commissioner Lord asked to close the meeting in memory of Mr. James Wansley, a long-term tenant at Compton/Woodley Airport, who passed away at the beginning of the week.

**D. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVIATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON:**

**Wednesday, November 26, 2008, 9 a.m., at  
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield  
4555 West Avenue G  
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401  
(661) 940-1709**

Chair Jerome Alexander adjourned the meeting in memory of Mr. James Wansley at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary George G. Butts  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

PMD

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