



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

February 27, 2013, Meeting  
Compton/Woodley Airport  
901 West Alondra Boulevard  
Compton, CA 90220-3528  
(310) 631-8140

### COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD  
CHAIRMAN

PETER AMUNDSON  
VICE CHAIRMAN

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS  
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO  
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE  
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS  
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF  
MEMBER

VACANT  
MEMBER

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis C. Lord  
Vice Chairman Peter M. Amundson  
Commissioner George G. Butts  
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase  
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall  
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary Harvey A. Holloway  
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono  
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

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

Mr. Richard Smith, Division Chief, Aviation Division  
Ms. Victoria Frausto, Staff Assistant

### AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director  
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport  
Mr. Chris Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport  
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield  
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport  
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport

### GUESTS

Mr. Jack Kenton, California Pilots Association

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Jack Kenton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

#### **A. January 30, 2013, Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Vice Chairman Amundson, seconded by Commissioner Simmons.

#### **B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report**

##### **Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff reported that general airfield maintenance was performed during February, which included replacing the taxiway lights.

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that a technician from All Weather, Inc. recently made some adjustments to the Automated Weather Observing System ceilometer to improve its reporting accuracy.

- **Projects**

Mr. Woodruff reported that some of the runway and taxiway sign panels have sustained sun damage and will be replaced.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported that 12 percent of the aircraft hangars are vacant and 50 of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

Mr. Woodruff reported that year-to-date, 7,400 gallons of Jet-A fuel and 15,400 gallons of Avgas fuel were sold, compared to 5,600 gallons and 14,000 gallons respectively in 2012.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the United Flying Octogenarians will host a meeting at the airport on March 19, 2013, at 11 a.m.

The Brackett Airport Association meets on the first Thursday of every month and will have its third Sunday Aircraft Display Day at 10 a.m until 2 p.m.

The San Gabriel Valley 99s meet at the airport on the second Thursday of every month.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Woodruff stated that a pilot recently reported a flat tire after landing his aircraft on the runway. Airport staff responded to the incident and removed the aircraft from the runway; the pilot landed safely and no significant damage was reported.

**Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that herbicide was recently applied to the airport's safety areas to ensure that they are kept clear of plants and vegetation.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the Automated Weather Observing System was repaired and is now fully functional.

Mr. Marino continued to meet with the operators of the aviation businesses on the airport to provide them with copies of the Minimum Standards.

On February 28th, airport staff is scheduled to attend a CPR training class that is held twice a year at the airport.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the restaurant renovation is coming along well. The drywall installation is nearing completion and the installation of counter tops, carpet, and new painting will begin soon.

Vice Chairman Amundson asked if any vendors had been interviewed to operate the restaurant facility. Mr. Marino replied that he has shown the facility to a few prospective vendors. Mr. Wardle added that, although several vendors had expressed interest in the facility, none of them have submitted a proposal in response to the request for proposals. Mr. Wardle noted that once the renovation is complete, he expects that there will be more interest from potential vendors.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the Wildlife Hazard Assessment Program kick-off meeting took place at the airport on February 19th. Biologists will be observing wildlife on and surrounding the airport twice a

month and will offer their recommendations for potential mitigation measures at the end of the year.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Marino stated that year-to-date aircraft operations are down 16.8 percent from the same period during the previous year, and that 75 percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied. Seven occupied hangars are being used for non-aviation purposes.

Mr. Marino reported that Avgas fuel sales were down 32 percent; and Jet-A fuel sales were up 40.75 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Marino reported that the Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting at the airport on February 21st. The next meeting will be held on March 21st.

Mr. Marino reported that on February 23rd and 24th, the Civil Air Patrol held training sessions at the airport and expects to hold another session in April.

### **Mr. Christopher Brooks reported on El Monte Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Brooks reported that he will meet with commercial aviation tenants and provide them with copies of the Minimum Standards.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that the first Wildlife Hazard Assessment observation has been completed. The next observation is scheduled for February 27th.

Mr. Brooks reported that airport staff recently applied herbicide to the infield areas as part of their weed abatement program.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that during the month of February, five aircraft hangar roofs were repaired for damage caused by rainfall.

Mr. Brooks reported that a consultant from Cal/OSHA provided airport staff with various recommendations on how to improve airport safety.

Mr. Brooks reported that three of the airport's golf cart batteries have been replaced.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that the Riverview Road landscaping project is in progress. Approximately 200 dead and/or dying oleander plants were recently removed which will be replaced with 220 disease-resistant shrubs. A drip-line irrigation system will also be installed.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Brooks reported that 99.6 percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, with one hangar vacant. Of the occupied hangars, 29 percent are used for non-aviation activity.

Mr. Brooks reported that aircraft operations were up 14 percent in January, compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Brooks reported that Jet-A fuel sales were down 10 percent and Avgas fuel sales were up 14 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Commissioner Cornwall asked what contributed to the high occupancy rate at El Monte Airport. Mr. Brooks attributed it to the quality of the storage spaces and word-of-mouth marketing by airport tenants.

- **Meetings and Events**

In February, El Monte Airport hosted two Head Start program airport tours and is scheduled to host another on March 9, 2013.

The airport's Fly-In and Static Display event is scheduled for March 24, 2013.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that, after landing, an aircraft recently spun around on the runway due to heavy crosswinds. Airport staff performed a runway inspection following the incident. There were no injuries or damage to the aircraft or airport property.

**Mr. Steve Irving reported on General Wm. J. Fox Airfield items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving reported that the U.S. Forestry Service will begin a new night operations program and will base additional aircraft at the airport.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the Wildlife Hazard Assessment Program at the airport has begun. Biologists have made some observations and reported that everything is looking good thus far.

Mr. Irving reported that a new tenant whose company overhauls flight controls for large aircraft has expressed interest in renting a segment of the fire house space.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Irving said that both Avgas and Jet-A fuel sales were flat compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that there are four vacant aircraft hangars at the airport, compared to six hangars reported last month.

**Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera reported that general airfield maintenance was performed during February, including the repair of two damaged taxiway lights.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera reported that the northeast vehicle access gate is still inoperable as a result of an underground wiring problem. The parts for the repair were ordered and are being delivered.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that there is a vacant aircraft hangar and three end-rooms available for rent at the airport. The aircraft hangar is expected to be rented soon.

Mr. Herrera reported that fuel sales were down 37 percent in January. Mr. Wardle added that the raw price of 100LL fuel has increased by 50 cents.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Herrera noted that a taxiway sign was damaged. A new sign has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in the coming weeks.

Chairman Lord asked if there was any video footage of the taxiway sign being damaged. Mr. Herrera replied that there is, and that the incident is currently being investigated.

Chairman Lord also asked if the aircraft hangars encountered water leaks during the rainy season. Mr. Herrera replied that no leaks have been reported.

### C. **County Aviation Division Report – Mr. Richard Smith**

- **Expense and Revenue Report for January 2013**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the expense and revenue report and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons asked why there is an increase in Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division charges when Compton Soil Remediation Project is coming to a close.

Mr. Smith replied that charges will continue to accrue for site work until the project is closed. Although Public Works staff has petitioned for closure of the project, they are continuing to work with the State of California to receive authorization to close the project. Additionally, the State has agreed to decrease the number of water samplings to two per year, which will contribute to a large decrease in cost. Reimbursements for the project are anticipated but have not yet been received.

- **Clean Water Parcel Tax**

During the January Commission meeting, Vice Chairman Amundson asked if the County airports will be affected by a clean water parcel tax. Mr. Smith indicated that if it had passed, the tax would have doubled the airports property tax.

- **Federal Aviation Administration Budget Sequestration**

Mr. Smith noted that the Federal Aviation Administration's mandatory budget cuts will affect numerous airport owners, including the County.

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with a letter from the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Ray LaHood, naming possible airport traffic control towers that are subject to closure, including those at four of the County-owned airports. Mr. Smith expressed his concern for the possible closures of the airport traffic control towers, particularly at Whiteman Airport because of its proximity to Burbank airport. Mr. Smith noted that he has been working with American Association of Airport Executives and the U.S. Contract Tower Association concerning the possible closures. Mr. Smith also noted that an expansion of the contract tower program is a better alternative, as it would save the Federal government \$1.5 million per year in operating costs for each converted tower.

- **Noise Relief Act**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that on February 4, 2013 Congressman Schiff resubmitted the Noise Relief Act Bill. The Noise Relief Act pertaining to parts of the San Fernando Valley is proposing that

designated flight paths and altitude restrictions for helicopters are established to minimize helicopter overflights and the associated noise impacts on the residents in the area.

- **Congressional Redistricting**

Mr. Smith reported that Congresswoman Grace Napolitano was elected to the 32nd U.S. Congressional District and now represents El Monte and Brackett Field airports. Mr. Smith provided her staff Joe Sheehy and Perla Hernandez a tour of El Monte airport and discussed the proposed impact of the contract tower program. In the future, Mr. Sheehy would like to arrange for an airport tour by Congresswoman Napolitano.

- **Minimum Standards**

Aviation Division staff met with the airport managers to discuss the implementation of the Minimum Standards and Permits at the County-owned airports. Airport managers are now meeting with the airport businesses to review the Minimum Standards and obtain permits from them. A couple of permits have already been issued. A fee schedule associated with the Minimum Standards and Permits is currently being developed and may be implemented later this year.

- **Brackett Field Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan**

Mr. Smith reported that the County of Los Angeles' Department of Regional Planning has provided a proposal for the Airport Land-Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). Mr. Smith also received a copy of the ALUCP narrative report, which he offered to provide the Commission upon their request.

- **Economic Impact**

Mr. Smith reported that an as-needed consulting firm is collecting information for the completion of an Economic Impact Study for each of the County-owned airports. A summary for each airport, along with a system-wide summary, is scheduled to be completed by June 2013.

- **North Side Helipads at Brackett Field Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that 70 percent of the preliminary design work is complete. The design engineering firm, C&S Companies, expects to have 100 percent of the design work completed in the next month and a half.



- **Airport Pavement Rehabilitation at El Monte Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that AE Consulting, Inc., has submitted their preliminary engineer's report for review and comments to the County. The material will be reviewed during the next few weeks and submitted back to the consulting firm. Seventy percent of the draft final preliminary plans are expected to be completed by May 2013.

**D. Compton/Woodley Airport Items**

No additional items.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Jack Kenton mentioned to the Commission that there is a bump at the end of the taxiway at Compton/Woodley Airport. He also noted that the Automated Weather Observing System information for the airport is not available via radio frequency or meteorological reports.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

Commissioner Simmons mentioned that police departments will utilize unmanned aircraft equipped with cameras for surveillance. He is concerned that the aircraft will be entering traffic patterns near airports, which could become hazardous. He also noted that the FAA is looking for feedback regarding this matter. Mr. Smith responded that he will look into it and obtain an update on the Federal Aviation Administration's Notice of Proposed Rule Making for the issue.

Chairman Lord mentioned to the Commission that the plants established along Compton/Woodley Airport's fencing approximately five years ago have not grown much despite the efforts of airport staff. Chairman Lord expressed his disappointment because the plants could aid in the prevention of graffiti and the overall aesthetics of the airport. Mr. Smith said he would research alternatives.

Chairman Lord asked Mr. Herrera how much graffiti abatement is performed at the airport. Mr. Herrera said it was not a large amount and that when graffiti is reported the City typically takes care of it within a day.

Chairman Lord noted that the Commission was provided with a memo to remind them to refrain from "replying all" to e-mail correspondence, as it can be construed as ex-parte communication in violation of California's Brown Act. Chairman Lord also mentioned that they should look out for their Form 700 that was sent to each Commissioner via e-mail.

**IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at 10 a.m.  
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield  
4555 West Avenue G  
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401  
(631) 940-1709**

Commissioner Simmons motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Cornwall seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis C. Lord, Chairman  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission