



GAIL FARBER  
Director of Public Works

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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Telephone: (626) 300-4602  
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### LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

June 29, 2011, Meeting  
Brackett Field Airport  
1615 McKinley Avenue  
La Verne, CA 91750-5846  
(909) 593-1395

### COMMISSIONERS

ANGELO R. CARDONO  
CHAIRMAN

CLINTON SIMMONS  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD  
SECRETARY

EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER  
MEMBER

PETER AMUNDSON  
MEMBER

GEORGE G. BUTTS  
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE  
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF  
MEMBER

### IN ATTENDANCE

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

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Penelope Cornwall

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

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division  
Mr. George Gomez, Staff Assistant, Aviation Division

### AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director  
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport  
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

### GUESTS

Mr. Jack Tippie, Retired Chief, Aviation Division  
Mr. Gil Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mrs. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association  
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association

Mr. John Margis, Brackett Field Airport Association  
Mr. Joe Cavanaugh

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Angelo Cardono called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

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

Secretary Dennis Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **A. May 25, 2011, Minutes**

The minutes were approved on a motion by Secretary Lord, seconded by Commissioner Jerome Alexander.

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

##### **Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport events**

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) Staff repaired 15 leaking hangar roofs and 4 doors.
- 2) On June 21, 2011, the airport's fuel farm passed its annual inspection and monitoring certification.
- 3) A runway end identification light (REIL) was replaced.
- 4) Staff continues their efforts to remove weeds from the safety areas.
- 5) Graffiti was removed from several banners and on curbs along Airpark Way and around the airport entrance.
- 6) The beacon light assembly was replaced on the airport's operations truck.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) On June 23, 2011, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will be airlifting supplies utilizing a Bell 407 helicopter to the top of the airport's hill as part of its soil study on the viability of the installation of a water tank. There will be no anticipated impacts to local residents, airport tenants, or airport operations.
- 2) Jet-A fuel sales for 2011 are down 3.8 percent, and Avgas fuel sales are down by 0.8 percent from the same period in 2010.
- 3) Airport year-to-date operations are down 4.2 percent from the same period in 2010.
- 4) Approximately 13 percent of the County of Los Angeles (County) hangars are vacant.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) On June 30, 2011, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles will be hosting a Flying Day event for children with special needs.
- 2) On Sunday, July 10, 2011, the Whiteman Airport Association will be hosting its annual barbeque event from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 3) The American Heroes Air Show will be held at the Hansen Dam recreational area on Saturday, July 16, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Miscellaneous**

On Saturday, June 4, 2011, a Super Cub aircraft owned and operated by Van Wagner Aerial Media experienced a problem releasing its banner and was forced to land with the banner still attached to the aircraft. During landing, the aircraft nosed over and suffered a prop strike. Airport staff was on the scene immediately. No injuries or damages to the airport were reported.

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

- The Annual Monitor Certification of the airport fuel station was completed, and there were no issues to report.
- The airport's generator was repaired, and it is back in service. Aviation Division is currently working on acquiring a replacement unit.
- On May 23 and 24, 2011, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) conducted airport inspections. No major issues were noted.
- The Fox Field Pilots Association group hosted a Resource Management and Human Factors meeting. The event was well attended and very informative.
- Longtime Antelope Valley businesswoman Ms. Shouling Barnes passed away on June 29, 2011, at the age of 82.

**Mr. Chris Brooks reported on El Monte Airport events**

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) Weed abatement throughout the airport is ongoing.
- 2) Cleaned and reaffixed the terminal building vent registers.
- 3) Replaced ballasts on exterior airport entry lights.

- 4) Repaired the terminal building public Wi-Fi system.
- 5) Replaced exterior light fixtures at Hangar Rows E and M.
- 6) Installed jet-A and 100LL fuels hazmat placards at the fuel farm.

- **Projects**

Meetings continue between Aviation Division, American Airports Corporation (AAC), and the City of El Monte representatives to discuss trimming/removing the trees at the Rio Vista Park, which are penetrating the 7:1 Transitional Surfaces as described in FAA Regulation, Part 77.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) The airport has 87 percent occupancy rate.
- 2) The airport sold 12,948 gallons of Avgas fuel and 2,947 gallons of Jet-A fuel in May 2011.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) An Antique and Custom Hot-Rod Show was held on July 23, 2011.
- 2) A Pilot Fly-In and Static Aircraft Display Day was held on July 24, 2011.
- 3) Angel Flight hosted a Plane Wash Charity event on July 26, 2011.

- **Miscellaneous**

Go Fast Hobby held its grand opening at the airport with prizes and a raffle.

On Thursday, June 23, 2011, at approximately 6:40 p.m., a Beechcraft Bonanza reported engine failure, west of the airport. The aircraft landed at a high rate of speed impacting the runway at the threshold line. The aircraft nose and right main landing gear collapsed. Airport staff extinguished a small fire, and the aircraft was quickly removed from the movement area at 9:30 p.m. No injuries or damages to the airport were reported.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) The airport's trash bins were painted.
- 2) Weed abatement continues throughout the airport.
- 3) The Annual Monitor Certification of the airport's fuel station was completed.

- **Projects**

- 1) The installation of a fence along the perimeter road on the east and west side of the airport was completed.
- 2) Painting of Hangar Row Q was completed.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) On July 10 through 15, 2011, the Tomorrow Aeronautical Museum, the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, and the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees will be hosting a FAA-sponsored Aviation Career Education Academy for approximately 20 students.
- 2) The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 will be hosting a Fly-In and Model Expo event on August 7, 2011, at Compton/Woodley Airport.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) Weed abatement is ongoing with a focus on keeping the runway/taxiway lights and signs clear of weeds.
- 2) Two concrete bollards were removed from the southeast ramp area.
- 3) Six faucets were replaced in the terminal building restrooms.
- 4) The starter was replaced on the airport's operations truck.
- 5) The 15-foot mower deck is down for maintenance, and new seals were ordered for the repair.
- 6) The airport's storm drains were stenciled with a "No dumping drains to ocean" and fish logo.
- 7) Airport management and the City of La Verne's Fire Department hosted an aircraft rescue and fire-fighting drill scheduled on June 15, 2011.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) The airport has 4,000 square feet of commercial space and 2,000 square feet of office space available for rent.
- 2) Wright Aviation held a grand opening barbeque event at its state-of-the-art facility at the airport.
- 3) The airport sold 12,000 gallons of Avgas fuel and 4,500 gallons of Jet-A fuel in May 2011.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Brackett Airport Association meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month in the airport pilot's lounge.

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

The Los Angeles County Aviation Commission (Commission) was provided with copies of the May 2011 Expense and Revenue Report, and Mr. Smith offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the expenses listed on Construction Payments under Services by Other Divisions. Mr. Smith stated that Construction Division works with Aviation Division on active projects. Additionally, Construction Division worked on the recently completed Compton Pavement Rehabilitation project, and some charges were carried over from that project.

Mr. Smith updated the Commission on the following subjects:

- Aviation Division is working with the Public Works' appraisers to look into the potential purchase of the retail development on Osborne Street adjacent to Whiteman Airport.
- Aviation Division hosted an Executive Edge Meeting for Public Works' management in which Mr. Smith had the opportunity to highlight the functions of the Division and the County-owned airports as well as their contributions to general aviation and the local residential and business communities.
- A special Commission meeting will be held at Catalina Island Airport on July 20, 2011, at 11 a.m.

In addition, Mr. Smith updated the Commission on the following capital improvement projects:

- The As-Needed Planning and Design and Engineering Evaluation Committee has reviewed and selected three as-needed planning and three as-needed design and engineering consultants.
- The preliminary field surveying for the Airport Pavement Assessment Project at Brackett Field Airport is complete.
- Bid opening for the Brackett Field Slurry Seal Runway and North Taxiway Project is scheduled for June 30, 2011.

- The consultant for the General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Master Plan Update is preparing the facility requirements and alternatives analysis, which will be submitted to Aviation Division for review and comments.
- The bid opening for the Slurry Seal Northwest Aircraft Parking Ramp Project at Whiteman Airport was held on June 28, 2011. Two bids were received, with the lowest bid in the amount of \$325,970.
- Aviation Division reviewed the draft copy of the Air Quality Report section of the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update, which was returned to the consultant to incorporate the suggested changes.

#### **D. Annual Rate Adjustment**

Mr. Smith presented to the Commission a copy of the letter submitted by Mr. Scott Stevenson, President of the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, contemplating an increase in hangar rents at El Monte Airport.

Mr. Smith presented to the Commission the proposed rate adjustments for hangars at the five County-owned airports.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that on April 14, 2011, AAC was notified of the 1.5 percent Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase to the Annual Minimum Payment per the contract between the County and AAC. AAC has proposed an increase in the hangar rental rates at the airports by the same 1.5 percent.

The Commission heard from members of the public regarding the annual rent increase.

Mr. Bill Logan expressed his concern on the rent increase adjustment. He mentioned that in the last few years, Whiteman Airport has lost various valuable business tenants, and now the current airport tenants have to pay for the last revenue.

Mr. Don Hagopian stated that the Whiteman Airport occupancy rate has changed, the State economy has not recovered, and pilots are selling their aircraft due to the increased cost of flying. Due to the proposed rent increase, it will make it even harder for pilots to continue flying. In addition, on behalf of the 450 members of the Whiteman Airport Association, he asked the Commission to consider not raising the rent.

Mr. Gil Viramontes asked the Commission to consider all factors of the big vacancy rate numbers and the percentage of aviation and nonaviation tenants at the County-owned airports before making a recommendation to the Board regarding the annual rent adjustment.

On a motion by Commissioner Chase and seconded by Commissioner Amundson, the Commission unanimously concurred with the recommended rental rate increase of 1.5 percent.

**E. Brackett Field Airport Additional Items**

No additional items were mentioned.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

No further public comments were presented.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Secretary Lord informed the Commission that on Sunday, August 7, 2011, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., EAA Chapter 96 will be hosting a public Fly-in and Model Expo event at Compton/Woodley Airport to introduce aviation to young people promoting general aviation.

**IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 20, 2011, 11 a.m.  
Airport in the Sky  
Santa Catalina, CA 90704  
(626) 300-4602**

Chairman Cardono adjourned the meeting in memory of longtime Antelope Valley businesswoman Ms. Shouling Barnes at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis C. Lord, Secretary  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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