



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

July 20, 2011, Meeting
Airport in the Sky
Santa Catalina, CA 90704
(626) 300-4602

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

Vice Chairman Clinton Simmons
Secretary Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Chairman Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Evelyn Jerome Alexander

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

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

CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY - AIRPORT SERVICES STAFF

Mrs. Ann Muscat, Catalina Island Conservancy President/CEO
Mr. Mel Dinkel, Catalina Island Conservancy Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Lenny Altherr, Catalina Island Conservancy Director of Facilities

GUESTS

Mr. Gabe Lopez, El Monte Airport
Members of the Rose Ellen Gardner Internship (REGI)
Mr. Austin Smith, El Monte Airport
Ms. Alexis Smith, El Monte Airport

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Dennis Lord called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. June 29, 2011, Minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner George Butts, seconded by Commissioner Penelope Cornwall.

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

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

Mr. Smith mentioned that the amount of expenditures listed under Construction Division represents primarily the expenses for the Compton Pavement Rehabilitation project completed early this year.

Mr. Smith updated the Commission on the following subjects:

- A letter from the Commission was sent to the Regional Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Western-Pacific Region, and to the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety regarding the retail development on Osborne Street adjacent to Whiteman Airport.

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

- The preliminary field surveying for the Airport Pavement Assessment project at Whiteman Airport commenced on July 11, 2011. After completion at Whiteman Airport, the consultant will begin field surveying at General William J. Fox Airfield. All data collected to date has been entered into a database, which will be used to establish a Pavement Condition Index and assign priority ratings for repair.
- The contractor for the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) project has begun testing the system at Whiteman Airport. Following the completion of the installation of the AWOS at Whiteman Airport, systems will be installed at El Monte Airport, Brackett Field, and Compton/Woodley Airport.
- On June 30, 2011, Aviation Division received two bids for the Brackett Field Slurry Seal Runway and North Taxiway project. The lowest bid was 37 percent lower than the Department of Public Works (Public Works)

engineer's estimate. Public Works Construction Division anticipates obtaining Board approval to award the project to the lowest bidder by September 2011.

- Construction Division also anticipates obtaining Board approval to award the project to the lowest bidder for the Slurry Seal Northwest Aircraft Parking Ramp project at Whiteman Airport.

C. Airport in the Sky Items

Mrs. Ann Muscat welcomed the Commission to Airport in the Sky (airport) and introduced Mr. Mel Dinkel, Catalina Island Conservancy (Conservancy) Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Lenny Altherr, Conservancy Director of Facilities; and Mr. Jorge O'Leary, Director of the airport. Mrs. Muscat shared with the Commission how the Conservancy is responsible for protecting numerous rare and endangered species found on Catalina Island (island) and nowhere else in the world. Conservation efforts, scientific research, and educational outreach persist while the island welcomes more than one million visitors a year.

Mr. Dinkel presented the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation of an overview, history, and operation status of the airport. Mr. Dinkel mentioned his appreciation to Supervisor Don Knabe and Mr. Smith for their support of the airport.

Over 20,000 people travel to the airport every year. Daily perishables, mail, and Federal Express and UPS services are transported to the island in a DC3 Commercial Aircraft. In addition, the airport hosts volunteer events like the Young Eagles. Commissioner Butts asked Mr. Dinkel to contact the Young Eagles, Chapters 96 and 7, for information on the next event, and they will be happy to participate.

Mr. Dinkel elaborated on how the airport started the process of developing an airport master plan with an FAA Airport Improvement Program grant sponsored by the City of Avalon and that the Conservancy is seeking another public sponsor of future grants for planning and construction projects.

Commissioner Wolf asked Mr. Dinkel what exactly the Conservancy is asking from the County as a sponsor. Mr. Dinkel humored that if the County has money to offer, they gladly will accept. He also stated that Aviation Division has the expertise managing FAA grants and airport improvement projects.

Mr. Smith added that the County-owned airports are financially stable, and that we have a good relationship with the FAA. Aviation Division currently has staff members primarily focusing on grants and construction administration.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Gabe Lopez expressed to the Commission the airport's importance to pilots, visitors, and residents of Catalina Island.

Other Items

Secretary Lord informed the Commission about a plane crash involving Mr. Jeff Thorton, pilot for Van Wagner and new business tenant at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Thorton survived the crash; however, he was severely burned and is being attended at a hospital near Palm Springs.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

**Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 7 p.m.
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
(310) 631-8140**

Secretary Lord adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. hoping for an early recovery for Mr. Jeff Thorton.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis C. Lord, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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