



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

August 31, 2011, Meeting
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220
(310) 631-8140

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
Secretary Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Evelyn A. Jerome

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Aron A. Wolf
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
Mr. Aaron Walsh, Airport Project Coordinator

AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Chris Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley 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, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Kenny Lyon, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Gary Golson, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Daryl Cullins, Compton/Woodley Airport/California Black Aviation Association

Mr. Xavier Marshall, Compton Airport

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. July 20, 2011, Minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by Vice Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Butts.

B. American Airports Corporation - Project Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle announced that the airports' hangar vacancy rate has been on the rise with Compton/Woodley Airport being the exception.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) Repairs to multiple hangars were made, which included fixing broken doors and replacing weather stripping.
- 2) A large tree branch had fallen off in the terminal parking lot. The tree was evaluated by an arborist and determined to be dead so it was removed. Replacement trees are being evaluated.
- 3) One of the airport rescue and firefighting trucks had the window opener replaced.
- 4) The computer in the pilots lounge had the software replaced after a virus was found.
- 5) The memory was upgraded in the airport's access gate system computer.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) Commercial space is filling up. A new commercial tenant, Sonic Exhaust, is now occupying a 6,000 square foot hangar.
- 2) Argubright Construction is building new hangars as part of the Sunrise Pacific commercial development.
- 3) There was one vehicle pedestrian deviation reported. The subject was confronted and information was relayed to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

- 4) One alarm sounded for an aircraft in distress. The event was a non-incident.
 - 5) One of the airport's tenants passed away in a plane crash that occurred in Burley, Idaho, in August, 2011.
- **Meetings and Events**
 - 1) The FAA Safety Team - Wings meeting is to be held at the airport on September 6, 2011.
 - 2) Brackett Airport Association is holding their meetings at the airport on the first Thursday of every month.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**
 - 1) The fuel pit area, bollards around the airport entrance gates, and the pavement signs on all of the storm drains were repainted.
 - 2) Stormwater Pollution Prevention training was completed for airport staff in August.
 - 3) A faulty sensor was replaced in the Jet A Underground Storage Tank.
 - 4) Overhead lighting was repaired and trees were trimmed at the south end of Airpark Way. Also, the entry gate had a faulty ground loop replaced.
 - 5) Two lights that illuminate the helicopter parking area were replaced.
 - 6) Two new airport operations employees were hired in August. Both have aviation professional and educational backgrounds.
 - 7) Airport management and the City of Pacoima's Fire Department will host an aircraft rescue and fire-fighting drill scheduled for June 15, 2011.
- **Projects**
 - 1) A new water backflow device is being installed for the airport's 12-inch fire line.
 - 2) Notices will be going out next week to inform the tenants that they may be affected by the upcoming slurry project and the widening of Airpark Way.
- **Development and Activities**
 - 1) Airport Operations were reported to be down by 5.7 percent compared to the same period last year. Jet A sales were also down 5.7 percent while Avgas sales were down only less than one percent.
 - 2) There is a waiting list for aircraft tie-downs, but there is no list for hangars. The hangar occupancy rate was reported at 84 percent.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) A mural was unveiled near City Hall on July 26, 2011, that nicely depicts the airport.
- 2) Mr. Marino attended the recent Civil Air Patrol meeting.
- 3) Mr. Marino met with Los Angeles City Fire Department personnel and is coordinating practice drills for the airport's first responders.
- 4) The American Heroes Air Show will be rescheduled.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) The FAA's Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) visited the airport and made an assessment. The final report has now been received and showed some recommendations but no surprises. The RSAT visit occurred back in May.
- 2) The majority of the aircraft firefighting fleet did not arrive at the airport. Only one P-2 aircraft showed up just the other day. So far it has been a slow fire season.
- 3) The City of Lancaster and a charter company met with representatives of American Airports Corporation (AAC) and the County of Los Angeles (County) to explore the possibility of scheduled aircraft operations from the airport to Las Vegas.

Mr. Scott Wardle also commented on this topic, explaining that research was being conducted into the cost of obtaining security screening personnel. Mr. Wardle went on to say that this operator seemed to have the experience and the right formula to make this type of endeavor a success.

- 4) The 100LL Underground Storage Tank is still being examined for ongoing sensor issues. Mr. Wardle reassured the Los Angeles County Aviation Commission (Commission) that the UST has a functioning sensor. However, efforts are being made to locate an additional sensor, which may have to be replaced and/or relocated.

- **Meetings and Events**

The annual Air Fair and a pancake breakfast will be held at the airport on September 10, 2011.

Mr. Chris Brooks reported on El Monte Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) The flooring in the terminal building is being rehabilitated.

- 2) Light fixtures are being replaced on the hangar rows. Hangar row restrooms are also being upgraded to include a replacement hot water heater in the "A" row north.
- 3) The fuel farm has new placards for Jet A and Avgas. Everything has been color coded at the fuel farm to lessen the possibility of misidentifying fuels.
- 4) Weed abatement throughout the airport is ongoing. New plants are going into the airport's landscaping and maintenance is being performed on the sprinkler system.
- 5) Light maintenance and cleaning was conducted on the airport's vehicles.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) The hangar occupancy rate is 89 percent. Operations were up in June by more than a thousand compared to the same month last year.
- 2) Retail sales of Jet A went up 46 percent since the same time last year. The increase in additional fuel sales is due to two aircraft that have been moved recently to the airport, a Citation jet and Pilatus turbo-prop.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) The Pilot Fly-In and Static Aircraft Display will be held at the airport on the fourth Sunday of every month.
- 2) The Antique and Custom Hot-Rod Show are to be held at the airport on August 23 and 27, 2011.
- 3) Two school tours of the airport occurred last month. The Montessori School sent a large collage of pictures as a thank you.
- 4) The El Monte Air Fair Committee will be meeting at the airport tomorrow night.

- **Miscellaneous**

- 1) One airplane had a prop strike. The aircraft was damaged, but there was no injury to the pilot.
- 2) Commissioner Chase stated that the flooring in the terminal building can be easily damaged. He alluded to the construction materials being less than adequate for the foot traffic and activities that occur in the building.

- 3) Commissioner Chase commended Airport Manager, Chris Brooks, on the weed abatement program and particularly on being able to keep the airport fence weed free.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

The bollards around the entrance gates, the waste oil repository, and the restrooms in the terminal building were repainted.

- **Projects**

A water pump at the wash rack was installed per stormwater requirements.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) 90 percent of the hangars on the north side have been rented.
- 2) Fuel sales for July 2011 were up 20 percent from the same month last year. Mr. Herrera attributed the increase in sales to transient traffic and the Van Wagner banner towing business et.al, moving their operations to the airport.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) In regards to the Experimental Aircraft Association Air Expo, Mr. Herrera deferred to Commissioner Lord's presentation later in the meeting.
- 2) The Compton Air Fair will be held at the airport on October 22, 2011.

- **Miscellaneous**

A Piper Comanche landed gear up. There were no injuries to the occupants and the runway was reopened 35 minutes after the incident.

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

- **Expense and Revenue Report for July**

Copies of the report were distributed to the Commission.

- **Minimum Standards**

- 1) The tenant meetings for the minimum standards at Whiteman Airport and General William J. Fox Airfield are complete.
- 2) Tenant interviews are underway at El Monte Airport with the remaining airports to follow.
- 3) The framework for the commercial operator and self-fueling permits is in place but a formal fee schedule is still being developed.

- **Trees at the Rio Vista Park adjacent to El Monte Airport**
 - 1) The State has given notice that the airport can be shut down for night operations after November 1st if the trees at the Rio Vista Park adjacent to the airport, which are currently 60-70 feet high and penetrate the FAR Part 77 Transitional Surface, are not trimmed or removed.
 - 2) To date, the City of El Monte has not demonstrated willingness to trim and/or remove the trees. Obstruction lighting may be an option, which the County has researched.
 - 3) Though a nighttime closure is not imminent, Mr. Smith emphasized that it is a real possibility if it is not appropriately addressed in a timely manner. Mr. Smith cited examples of the State's enforcement of similar issues including the Rancho Murrieta Airport.

- **Catalina Airport Meeting Reviewed**

Chairman Cardono asked about what kind of partnership was being sought by the Conservancy who is operating the Catalina Airport. Mr. Smith said that the FAA has to include Catalina in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems as a first step; then discussions about how to ensure compliance with future grant assurances can take place.

- **Compton/Woodley Airport Approach Procedure**

Mr. Smith indicated that the FAA has stated that they would like to publish about 300 new Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) approaches a year. The State's consultant has been conducting surveys for LPV approaches at all the airports – including Compton/Woodley Airport – under the Federal grant they received. Compton/Woodley Airport is about 8 months away from having its Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance approach approved.

- **Compton/Woodley Airport Additional Items**

The stairs between the Fixed Base Operator that have been a problem are going to be replaced. A project will be undertaken to have them replaced instead of continuing to keep the current design maintained.

- **Capital Projects Update**
 - 1) All of the field assessments for the Pavement Assessment Project are done with the exception of General William J. Fox Airfield (Fox Airfield). This was about a \$300k contract funded primarily through FAA grant funds. The data has been compiled and Aviation Division is getting closer to determining the pavement condition indexes for each airport. These will be used to determine what kind of projects Aviation Division can do in the future. Fox Airfield's assessment and final report are estimated to be completed in October 2011.
 - 2) The Automated Weather Observation System equipment has been installed at Whiteman and El Monte Airports. Installation of the

equipment is anticipated for Brackett Airport on September 19th and subsequently at Compton/Woodley Airport the first week of October. All Weather, Inc. will be going out to Whiteman Airport on the 12th and 13th of September and to El Monte Airport on the 14th and 15th of September to commission the new systems.

- 3) The County is in the process of awarding the contract for the north Runway/Taxiway Slurry Seal Project at Brackett Airport. The project will not affect the airport's primary runway.
- 4) Aviation Division will be receiving the final chapters of the Master Plan update at Fox Airfield for its review. A Technical Advisory Meeting is set for October 11th at the airport.
- 5) The Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update and mitigated negative declaration are out for public comment. Comments are due by September 22, 2011.

D. Compton/Woodley Airport Items:

A presentation was given by Secretary Lord regarding the Experimental Aircraft Association Fly-in and Model Expo that occurred on August 7, 2011. Commissioner Lord thanked all the sponsors for the event and named the County, AAC, California Black Aviation Association, Van Wagner Aerial Media, and everyone else who supported the show.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Daryl Cullins, President of the California Black Aviation Association (CBAA), advised the Commission of the upcoming 18th annual Compton Air Fair to be held on October 22, 2011, at the airport and asked for the Commission's assistance in resolving an issue related to access to the event. The Commission recommended that negotiations between the CBAA and AAC should be continued to come to a resolution of the issue.

Mr. Jack Kenton addressed the Commission about the following items:

- Stated his position that there have been no instances of traffic problems at Long Beach Airport and that the proposal to implement Class C airspace at Long Beach Airport should be discouraged. He urged the Commission to support this position.
- Asked that the County forgo rent increases as other costs have been going up in addition to vacancies being reported in the hangars at the airports.
- Presented the idea of selling 87 octane fuels for aircraft capable of using it, which offers a cheaper alternative. He also mentioned that there are some undulations in the taxiway connectors at the airport.

Mr. Gary Golson addressed the Commission about the deteriorated state of the wooden entrance ramp and railing at the terminal building. He also pointed out that security lights needed to be replaced.

IV. OTHER ITEMS

Commissioner Lord reminded the audience that it was 25 years ago today that the midair collision occurred over Cerritos and wanted to close the meeting in remembrance of those lost in the incident.

V. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

**Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 7 p.m.
General William J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

Chairman Cardono adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis C. Lord, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

GG:

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