



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

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

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
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Peter Amundson

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner George G. Butts
Secretary Dennis Lord
Commissioner Evelyn A. Jerome
Chairman Angelo R. Cordono

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

GUESTS

Mr. Joe Biviano, Airport Tenant
Ms. Donna Knighton, President of the Fox Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. August 31, 2011, Minutes

Approval of the minutes was deferred for the next Commission meeting for lack of a quorum.

B. American Airports Corporation - Project Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission that the wood railing on the terminal building has been repaired. Mr. Wardle met with the Compton Air Fair organizers and agreed to allow the main gate to be used for public access for the event.

Mr. Scott Wardle reported on Brackett Field Airport events .

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) Airport staff continued its ongoing weed abatement program on the airport infield areas.
- 2) The hangar door track and wheel assembly were repaired on a hangar at the airport.
- 3) Airport staff started the process of repainting the parking spaces in the terminal building parking lot, which have been fading over time.
- 4) A pavement marking for an aircraft navigational aid was repainted.

- **Projects**

- 1) American Airports Corporation (AAC) is making arrangements for a contractor to complete necessary repairs to the fuel farm.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has signed a lease for a new hangar at the Airport and should be moving in this month. Mr. Richard Smith elaborated on Mr. Wardle's statement, saying that a limited Sheriff's detachment was moving out of Long Beach Airport and relocating to Brackett Field Airport under an interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- 2) Sunrise Pacific has commenced construction of one of its large steel hangars.
- 3) Mr. Wardle stated that there were currently 30 empty hangars at Brackett Field in response Vice Chairman Simmons' inquiry.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) Brackett Airport Association is holding its meetings at the airport on the first Thursday of every month. Static displays are held the third Saturday of each month.
- 2) The 99s meeting is scheduled for October 13, at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) Plans are being made to install pilot-controlled lighting at Whiteman Airport. This feature will allow pilots flying in after hours to actuate the airfield lighting from an aircraft. It is anticipated that the airport will save cost on energy with this new system.
- 2) Mr. Marino reported that the emergency batteries that provide back-up power to the control tower were replaced.
- 3) Staff has been repairing hangars and has also completed repairs to an airport access gate. The airport access gate was damaged when it was struck by a motorist.

- **Projects**

- 1) Notification letters were sent out to all tenants that may potentially be impacted by the slurry seal project anticipated to begin this month. The project will require the relocation of 75 aircraft.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) Sales of Avgas and Jet-A for 2011 to date were down slightly from the same period last year. Operations were down 5.5 percent for the same period.
- 2) Eighty-six percent of the hangars are occupied and 100 percent of the tie downs are occupied.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) The Aviation Explorers held a plane wash fundraiser event in September.
- 2) Last month, the Larger-than-Life charity had a fly-in event that provided helicopter rides for kids with cancer. The airport will host this event again next year.
- 3) A food drive for the MEND charity to help fight poverty in the San Fernando Valley will take place at the airport next month. Donations will be accepted at the next display day in October. Mr. Marino reported that MEND is the largest non-profit organization in the area.

Mr. Chris Brooks reported on El Monte Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

- 1) Mr. Brooks reported that follow-up work to the flooring and modifications to some light fixtures were accomplished in the terminal building.
- 2) Minor repairs were made to a public restroom, hangars and an airport access gate.
- 3) The Jet-A dispenser hose line was replaced at the fuel farm.
- 4) Twelve retroreflective taxiway edge markers were replaced.
- 5) A disease has been infecting oleander plants in the San Gabriel Valley over the last year. Mr. Brooks has undertaken a landscape inspection and maintenance program to identify and replace infected plants as needed.
- 6) Minor maintenance was performed on three airport vehicles.

- **Projects**

- 1) Notices went out to the tenants about the crack-sealing project coming up next month. Notices were also posted at all entrances to the airport and on the aircraft tied down on the apron area that will be affected by the project.

- **Development and Activities**

- 1) Ninety percent of the hangars are occupied. Operations were down only slightly from the same month last year.
- 2) Retail sales of both Jet-A and Avgas went up slightly since the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

- 1) The Retired Teachers Association mixer was held in the terminal building.
- 2) The fly-in static display and custom car show was held at the airport.
- 3) A safety meeting sponsored by AAC was held for airport staff and FBOs at the airport.
- 4) The El Monte Air Fair Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4th at the airport.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

1) Minor repairs were completed around the terminal building.

- **Projects**

1) Van Wagner assisted airport staff in installing bird abatement equipment in their commercial hangar.

- **Development and Activities**

1) Mr. Herrera reported that 100 percent of the hangars on the north side are occupied and that there are about 10 vacancies throughout the remainder of the airport. Mr. Wardle reiterated that it has taken eight months to accomplish their goal of renting out all of the north hangars.

2) Fuel sales were up 13 percent for the month of August compared to the same month last year. Mr. Herrera attributes this increase to Van Wagner's banner towing operations.

- **Meetings and Events**

1) The Compton Air Fair will be held at the airport on October 22, 2011.

- **Miscellaneous**

1) A vehicle collided with the airport perimeter fence last month. There were no injuries and damages to the fence were repaired.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

1) Efforts to replace the older airfield back-up power generator are moving forward. County inspectors have already visited the site to evaluate the scope of work.

2) Repairs to the fuel farm continue, however it remains fully operational.

3) Fire tanker aircraft activity was minimal this year. There were fewer wildfires this season and it is evident in the reduced number of wildfire-related aircraft operations.

- **Development and Activities**

1) There are currently six vacant hangars at the airport.

- **Meetings and Events**

1) The annual Wings and Wheels Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Lancaster Rotary Club will be held at the airport on October 29th. The location for this event will be the east end hangars.

2) Last month's Air Fair was a success, with about 20 aircraft on display.

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

- **Expense and Revenue Report for August**

Copies of the report were distributed to the Commission. Vice Chairman Simmons questioned a Survey/Mapping and Property Management Division expense and an increase in the contract management expense.

In response, Mr. Smith explained that Survey/Mapping was consulted to assess the building development adjacent to Whiteman Airport. The contract management expenses were staff labor charges for monitoring the operations at the five County-owned airports.

- **Slurry Seal Project at El Monte and Brackett Airports**

Vice Chairman Simmons expressed his concern about the timing of the projects since the rainy season is approaching.

Mr. Smith shared with the Commission that the Aviation Division's actions regarding capital projects is predicated upon the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) grant project award schedule. The Aviation Division is obligated to apply for grants based on actual construction estimates. This means that a selection process must begin by putting out a public notice, opening bids, and selecting the preferred contractor, all of which is done through a competitive process. After the bid process is complete, the grant application is sent to the FAA. If time constraints are not met, a couple of problems can arise. As a rule, bid estimates are only guaranteed by the contractor for 90 days. A longer guarantee is possible, but this generally causes the cost to increase.

- **Announcement regarding airport staff member, Mr. George Gomez**

Mr. Smith announced that Mr. George Gomez has taken a promotional opportunity within the Department of Public Works and will be moving to the Environmental Programs Division. This will be his last Commission Meeting. Mr. Smith expressed his gratitude for all the help Mr. Gomez has provided to the Division, not only for the long hours he has put in to organize and prepare the Commission meetings, but for the many other key administrative support functions he performed as well.

Mr. Smith announced Mr. Aaron Walsh will serve as the interim staff to the Commission.

- **Capital Projects Update**

- 1) Mr. Smith received information that the developer of the commercial building on Osborne Street has accelerated his project and has entered into a lease with the fast food chain Subway. Mr. Smith reported that if the Aviation Division were to continue to pursue the

possible purchase of the property that, at a minimum, the division would have to cover Subway's franchise costs and may also have to cover relocation expenses for the business. The County is currently evaluating all of its options to acquire the property.

- 2) The Minimum Standards documents are nearing completion. A tenant meeting was held at El Monte Airport yesterday to gather feedback and answer questions. All comments submitted to the Aviation Division as a result of the meeting will be incorporated into the existing draft before it is finalized. Meetings are scheduled for Brackett and Compton Airports early next month. To date, there have been no controversial or significant issues that have arisen out of the minimum standards development process.
- 3) The Aviation Division is working on a special project with AAC to replace all of the hangar lights at Compton/Woodley Airport. The Aviation Division is currently exploring potential rebates with Southern California Edison for implementing energy efficient lighting throughout the airport.
- 4) Last month, Mr. Smith reported that Caltrans Division of Aeronautics informed the Aviation Division during its last inspection of the airport that it shall appropriately address the excessive height of several trees at the Rio Vista Park adjacent to the airport. Negotiations with the City of El Monte are continuing and the current solution will be to install obstruction lighting at the park.
- 5) The Airport Pavement Assessment project is nearing completion. Work for General William J. Fox Airfield is still in progress.
- 6) The Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) at Whiteman and El Monte airports are nearing completion, and the official commissioning for the systems at the two airports is anticipated for the end of October.
- 7) The problem with water intrusion behind the "A" row hangars at Compton/Woodley Airport has been corrected.
- 8) The timing for the upcoming slurry seal and ramp paving projects at Whiteman has been established to ensure that there will be no significant impact to airport operations.
- 9) The public review period for the Master Plan Update at Whiteman Airport has concluded, and the three comments submitted have been addressed. The only steps remaining are to finalize the master plan update and incorporate the comments into the plan for submittal to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr Joe Biviano told the Commission that his hangar door was not functioning. Mr. Scott Wardle assured Mr. Biviano that his hangar would be repaired.

Ms. Donna Knighton, President of the Fox Airport Association, expressed concern about the higher cost of fuel at General William J. Fox Airfield. She asked if there was any plan to bring the prices down. Mr. Wardle responded by referring to the fuel survey contained in the meeting packet showing how the pricing at the County airports compares to other local airports. Mr. Wardle reported that their pricing methodology is the same and that the price is a function of what AAC buys the fuel for. He said that they are not doing anything differently from the way they have done it in the past.

IV. OTHER ITEMS

None.

V. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

**Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 7 p.m.
Whiteman Airport
12653 Osborne Street
Pacoima, CA 91331-2192
(818) 896-5271**

Vice Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Vice Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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