



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

October 24, 2012, Meeting

Whiteman Airport

12653 Osborne Street

Pacoima, CA 91331-2104

(818) 896-5271

### COMMISSIONERS

CLINTON SIMMONS  
CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD  
VICE CHAIRMAN

PETER AMUNDSON  
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS  
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO  
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE  
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF  
MEMBER

VACANT  
MEMBER

### IN ATTENDANCE

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

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

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

Mr. Richard L. Smith, 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. John Rhodes, Vista Aviation  
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association  
Mrs. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association  
Carmen Sainz, County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Chairman Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **A. September 19, 2012, Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Secretary Amundson, seconded by Commissioner Butts.

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

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

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that there were five vacant aircraft hangars at the airport.

Avgas fuel sales were up 5 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 37 percent, compared to the same month last year. The increase in Jet-A fuel sales was attributed to the increase in helicopter operations during local electrical transmission tower and power line repair work.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Irving announced the annual Chili Cook-Off, hosted by the Rotary Club, took place at the airport on October 20, 2012. He also noted the Chili Cook-Off and Fly-In events may be combined into one event in the future.

On Wednesday, October 24th, a local businessman and a delegation of Chinese government officials toured the airport and expressed interest in potentially operating a flight school at the airport for Chinese citizens.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Irving reported that Express Air, an aircraft charter company, has communicated interest in the former Federal Aviation Administration facility located at the airport.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff reported that the water main, which was repaired last month, has encountered another breakage, causing water to seep through the ramp asphalt. The water main was repaired again and is now working properly.

- **Projects**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the coyote and blue heron populations at the airport have significantly decreased as a result of the implementation of a wildlife management program.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported there were 38 vacant aircraft hangars at the airport. Of the occupied hangars, 48 hangars are being used for non-aviation purposes.

Jet-A fuel sales were up 117 percent and Avgas fuel sales were down 7 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Year-to-date, Jet-A fuel sales are up 17 percent, and Avgas fuel sales are down 13 percent.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff announced that the Brackett Airport Association meets at the airport on the first Thursday of every month and the Antique Custom Hot Rod Show is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

The next airport stakeholders meeting is scheduled to take place at the airport on November 1, 2012.

The Open House and Fly-In event is scheduled for November 18, 2012.

- **Miscellaneous**

On October 18th, a Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation occurred when a non-aviation tenant from Brackett Field Airport brought a tractor trailer onto the airport. The driver of the vehicle unintentionally entered a portion of the taxiway. Mr. Woodruff addressed the situation with the tenant who later gave her 30-day notice to vacate the airport.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Brooks reported that hangar inspections continued through October but he expects that they will be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that he has been stressing the importance of thorough airfield inspections with airport staff during their monthly safety meetings.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that the airports wildlife management efforts and techniques have resulted in a decreased bird population at the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Brooks reported that 98 percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and three aircraft hangars are vacant.

Jet-A and Avgas fuel sales slightly increased, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

El Monte Airport's Fly-In and Open House took place on September 23, 2012. Mr. Brooks noted that a sizeable crowd between 2,000 and 3,000 participants attended the event.

On October 17th, a group of home-schooled children were provided a tour of the airport. Two additional school groups are scheduled to visit and tour the airport during the month of November.

Mr. Brooks announced that the next Airport Association Fly-In and Static Display is scheduled to take place at the airport on Saturday, October 28th.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that Dennis J. Magoo Packer passed away on September 24, 2012. Mr. Packer dedicated a great deal of his time to assisting with various airport events. His efforts are greatly appreciated, and he will be missed.

Vice Chairman Lord and Commissioner Wolf thanked Mr. Brooks for a job-well-done in facilitating the El Monte Airport's Fly-In and Open House event.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera reported that airport staff are currently conducting hangar inspections which are expected to be completed by the end of October 2012.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera reported that the aircraft hangar that was damaged during an incident in August required additional repairs. The additional repairs were completed, and the hangar has been primed and will be painted by the end of the month.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Herrera reported that 99 percent of the aircraft hangars at the airport are occupied. Of the occupied hangars, 19 percent are used for non-aviation purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 39 percent, compared to the same month last year. The decrease may be attributed to the loss of a banner-towing operation at the airport, which recently relocated its activities to another airport.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Herrera announced that Excel Camp, a program that teaches high school students about various work environments, will be hosted by Chairman Simmons at the airport on Saturday, November 3rd.

Mr. Herrera noted that the airport will be hosting its annual Christmas party, which is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 14th. The event will include a Toys-for-Tots drive.

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that on November 6th, the airport will be utilized as a voting site for the upcoming presidential election.

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

Mr. Marino thanked John (Dusty) Rhodes for allowing the Commission to hold its meeting at the Vista Aviation facility.

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that hangar inspections are expected to continue through November.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the control tower stairs were treated with non-slip conformable tape to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) inspection standards.

Mr. Marino noted that the lights on the airport beacon were replaced and rewired and are now working properly.

On October 11th, the Avgas underground storage tank received its yearly vapor-recovery test. The tank passed the test and was cleared for another year.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the annual fire extinguisher recertification program is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 29th.

Mr. Marino announced that he hired an additional full-time employee.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Marino reported that year-to-date aircraft operations are down 8.54 percent from the previous year, and 75 percent of the aircraft hangars at the airport are occupied. Of the occupied hangars, six are being used for non-aviation purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are down 8.75 percent and Jet-A fuel sales are up 40.9 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that on October 19th, the organization, Larger than Life, provided children battling cancer the opportunity to ride in an R-44 helicopter. Approximately 50 children participated in the event.

Mr. Marino announced that the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 will be holding a Young Eagles event on Saturday, October 27th at the airport.

Mr. Marino also noted that on Sunday, December 9th, the airport's Open House will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Mr. Smith thanked John (Dusty) Rhodes for allowing the Commission to hold its meeting at the Vista Aviation facility and invited Mr. Rhodes to say a few words. Mr. Rhodes welcomed everyone to his facility and offered to host future Commission meetings at Vista Aviation.

- **Expense and Revenue Report for September 2012**

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

- **El Monte Airport Fly-In and Open House**

Mr. Smith congratulated Christopher Brooks and his team on the success of the Fly-In and Open House event which took place on September 23, 2012.

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

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a request for authorization to apply for and accept a Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program grant for the proposed Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 13, 2012.

- **Minimum Standards**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that on November 13, 2012, the Minimum Standards and Permits will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Upon approval, Mr. Smith and Mr. Wardle will identify and address all commercial operators at the airport who are in compliance and non-compliance with the standards.

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

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with a diagram of the North Side Helipad Project. Mr. Smith noted that the FAA was provided photographs of the U.S. Forest Services' sky crane helicopters utilizing the proposed site of the helipad project during its recent firefighting activities.

- **Airport Card Access Control System at Brackett Field Airport**

Mr. Smith reported that all four of Brackett Field Airport's card access control gates are running on the new Brivo System. The County's security officer from the Information Technology Division reviewed all of the system's security measures and is satisfied with the new Brivo System.

- **Restrooms at El Monte Airport**

Mr. Smith noted that the public restrooms by the wash rack at El Monte Airport are due for replacement. The County's Aviation Division is currently researching different options.

- **City of La Verne**

Mr. Smith reported that his staff and the airport manager for Brackett Field Airport recently met with the City of La Verne's Planning Department representatives who reported that the University of La Verne will be developing an athletic complex north of the airport within in the next three months. It was also reported that an industrial park is in the works to be developed in the same vicinity north of the airport but no start date has been provided for the construction.

- **Runway Closure at Brackett Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission about an upcoming runway closure at Brackett Field Airport to complete a pavement repair and striping project. The runway will not be closed at night. However, the project will take approximately four days and the runway is anticipated to be closed during each day between 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to facilitate the work.

- **Compton/Woodley Soil Remediation**

Mr. Smith reported that the State provided preliminary guidance indicating no significant re-occurrence of soil contaminants. The Department of Public Works' Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division will be submitting a scope of work for recommending project closure.

Vice Chairman Lord inquired on the depth of the water samples in relation to the aquifer which he understands is at approximately 500 ft. below the surface. Mr. Smith replied that the deepest monitoring wells are between 20 and 40 feet.

- **Runway Safety Action Team at El Monte Airport**

The annual Local Runway Safety Action Team (LRSAT), which is comprised of Aviation Division staff, airport management, air traffic control and other FAA representatives, recently held a meeting at the airport. This year's discussion topics included the airport's vehicle/pedestrian deviations and action items to enhance safety at the airport. One of the action items discussed included raising the western perimeter fence, which is the only portion of the perimeter fence less than 6 feet high. The group also recommended hosting an FAA Wings Pilot Proficiency Program event at the airport to address general issues in the region, as well as vehicle/pedestrian deviations.

- **Restaurant Vacancy at Whiteman Airport**

The Request for Proposals to occupy the restaurant facility at Whiteman Airport has been finalized and will be released in the coming weeks. Construction of improvements to the facility will also be underway soon.

Chairman Simmons proposed that restrooms be built inside of the building. Mr. Wardle replied that he has received estimates to add to the restrooms and that it would double the cost of the current reconstruction.

**D. Whiteman Airport Items**

During the last rain storm, water flowing off of the County Fire Department's property flooded the airport entrance at Osborne Street and Airpark Way. Public Works' Survey/Mapping & Property Management Division is currently working to change the flow of water runoff to prevent similar flooding.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Carmen Sainz from the County of Los Angeles' Department of Regional Planning reported that Brackett Field Airport received funding from Caltrans to hire consultants to prepare an airport land use compatibility plan. Consulting firm Mead and Hunt was selected for the work. Ms. Sainz also noted that stakeholders meetings will be held next year.

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

**Wednesday, November 28, 2012, at 10 a.m.  
El Monte Airport  
4233 Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731-1670  
(626) 448-6129**

Vice Chairman Lord moved to adjourn the meeting in memory of Mr. Dennis J. Magoo Packer. Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission