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Acting 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
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2008
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3599**

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Vice Chair Penelope Cornwall
Secretary George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby Chase
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clint Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Mrs. Miriam Gomes Oprüsan, Staff Assistant, Aviation Division

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association

Mr. Kenneth J. Kall, Compton/Woodley Airport
Ms. Lori M. Kall, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Ron Lisberg, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Frank Profit
Mr. Henry Roy, Compton/Woodley Airport

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jerome Alexander called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

1. Minutes of the Meeting of June 25, 2008

Commissioner Lord made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Butts. The minutes were approved and adopted as written.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle stated that fuel prices are down 30 cents per gallon and more price decreases are expected at the fuel pumps as soon as the higher price inventory in the tanks is depleted.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Morgan provided an update on the aircraft hangar development at the airport. Foundations for the larger hangars have been poured and construction of the main building and parking lot are in progress. Another six new aircraft hangars are expected to be completed in the next three months by the Airpark Way and Orbital Way intersection. Mr. Morgan informed the Commission that Whiteman Airport has nine aircraft tiedowns available for lease and all aircraft hangars are occupied by aviation users.

Annual fire extinguisher servicing is currently in progress. The pilots lounge has been repainted and will be updated with new seating and a television. The flight planning area will be enhanced with a speed dial telephone and a new computer with internet access to better facilitate flight planning. A new hose reel will be purchased and securely fastened to the ground. A step ladder for use at the wash rack will be purchased as well. A comprehensive assessment of airport lighting is being done in an effort to enhance security at the airport. Airport management is looking for vendors to remove and replace inoperative hangar lights on an

80-foot-high pole. Mr. Morgan stated that a pilot; while he was repairing his helicopter, his dog was taken by someone exiting the front gate. Mr. Morgan stated that Mr. Craig Shultze, a based tenant at Whiteman Airport, was awarded the "Gold Lindy Award" for work on his Lancair-320.

On July 13, 2008, the Whiteman Airport Association held its annual barbecue with over 250 attendees. The Association also held its monthly meeting on July 17, 2008, with guest speaker Mr. Charles Norman Stevens, a World War II veteran. The next Association meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2008. Mr. Morgan along with the Airport Associations' Board Members have met with the local schools regarding the airport's Open House event. The event is likely to take place in November 2008, but an exact date has not been set. The next planning meeting to discuss the Challenge Air Event is scheduled for September 23, 2008, at 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the event, which will be held in October 2008.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General William J. Fox Airfield. The Fox Field Pilots Association will sponsor a fly-in event on September 20, 2008. The restaurant owner has submitted a proposal to airport management to lease the vacated Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) building adjacent to the terminal building. Paving of the Pavement Rehabilitation Project, Phase III is complete, and the new asphalt is curing before striping begins. The fuel island is being upgraded with improved cabinetry, along with other improvements. Mr. Irving informed the Commission that currently there are no names on the aircraft hangar waiting list, and there are two hangars available for lease at the airport.

Chair Jerome Alexander inquired about the number of airport operations that were flown in support of aerial fire-fighting. Mr. Irving answered that there has not been much fire activity in the Antelope Valley, so the airport operations have been at normal levels.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Fox-Tuck provided an update on the aircraft hangar development on the southeast side of the airport. Soil testing results have been approved and concrete foundations will be poured in the next few weeks. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

Fifty aircraft hangars reverted to the County after a 25-year lease agreement expired. The hangar rents for the reverted hangars will be adjusted to the County's rate, which might reflect a reduction from the current rental rates. The majority of these hangars are occupied by aviation users. Some improvements are planned which will include security lights, repairs to the restrooms, and new fire extinguishers. Airport operations have increased by 10,000 operations per month, for the

last five months. The majority of the increase is attributed to the flight schools based on the field.

On August 17, 2008, an incident involving a taxiing aircraft and a parked fuel truck resulted in damage to the aircraft. There were no injuries. Mr. Fox-Tuck reported on a large wildfire one-half mile south of the airport. The fire occurred on August 19, 2008. The Los Angeles County Fire Department helicopter based at Brackett Field Airport responded, along with the City of Los Angeles Fire Department helicopter. The two agencies, together with ground support from the City of La Verne Fire Department were able to extinguish the fire in about 45 minutes.

A tenant who was performing aircraft maintenance in an unauthorized area was served with a notice to vacate his hangar. The tenant was moved to a different location on the airport where his activities will not disturb other tenants.

The air conditioning compressor on the County tractor is inoperable and expected to return to service soon. The alternator and batteries were replaced in the AVGAS fuel truck.

Mr. Fox-Tuck announced that the airport hosts an Antique Aircraft Show every third Sunday of the month.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. The FAA tower agreement was renewed on June 28, 2008. A preconstruction meeting was held on July 28, 2008, in preparation for the installation of perimeter fencing around the air traffic control tower (ATCT) and parking area. Progress has been made on the new aircraft hangar development located on the north side of the terminal building.

On July 30, 2008, the airport hosted a field trip for the El Monte Adult Parenting Group. CPR training for American Airports Corporation (AAC) staff was held on August 6, 2008. All airport staff members are CPR and First Aid certified.

Mr. Herrera provided an update on helicopter noise at the airport. In an effort to mitigate aircraft noise issues at the airport, letters are being sent out to all airport operators with suggestions as to how to be a friendly pilot to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Commissioner Simmons inquired if the noise complaints are originated from based aircraft or itinerant traffic. Mr. Herrera answered by stating that most of the complaints have been a result of aircraft noise caused by itinerant helicopter operators.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked if the letters are being sent out only to based aircraft operators. Mr. Herrera stated that the letters are being sent to all aircraft operators that use the airport.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. A second new hose reel was installed at the fuel island. Repairs have been made to the gate along Central Avenue, and the gate software was upgraded. The gate at Willmington Avenue is currently inoperable due to mechanical issues, and a new motor has been ordered. The windsock located on the east side of the airport will be replaced soon. The restrooms located on the "N" row will be upgraded with new flooring and new fixtures. The Airport User's Group meeting was held on July 12, 2008. One of the items brought up during the meeting was the creation of a committee to market the airport to other users in the community. Six new airplanes were placed on tiedowns since June 2008, and a few more potential tenants were added to the aircraft hangar waiting list. Mr. Marino commented that airport operations are down; however, the airport is still experiencing a high demand for aircraft hangars. He added that extensive efforts are being made to accommodate new airport tenants as hangars become available.

Commissioner Simmons inquired what efforts are being made in order to advertise low cost tiedowns to other airport communities. Mr. Marino answered that a direct mailer is being sent to aviation users at different airports. The possibility of placing advertising ads in local aviation magazines is being explored as well.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that on September 15, 2008, the County will begin trenching for the installation of a soil remediation system. This work will require the closure of the fuel self service island for two weeks. During this time, fueling service will be provided by the fuel truck. Appropriate notification will be sent to all airport users.

Mr. Smith added that the Soil Remediation Project will be a 2-year long project and that the fuel island closures during the two-week period were unavoidable. While planning for this project, every effort was made to have minimal impact to operations at the airport.

Mr. Marino announced that the Compton Air Fair will be held on September 27, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked how often hangar inspections will be conducted at the County-owned airports. Mr. Wardle answered that AAC has been discussing the frequency of hangar inspection with the County. Mr. Wardle stated that hangar inspections are an ongoing project; he added that AAC is looking into the possibility of amending the airport

management contract to specify that aircraft hangar inspections be performed every two years. Discussions are still taking place, and AAC is willing to accept any time frame requested by the County.

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Richard Smith informed the Commission that the Expense and Revenue Report for July 2008 was not provided due to the implementation of a new County-wide Financial Accounting Software Program. Reports should be available next month.

The annual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System report has been submitted for all County-owned airports.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the Los Angeles International Airport's noise variance has expired, and that they have submitted an application to the State to issue a new variance. Attorneys from the County and the cities of El Segundo and Inglewood recently met to discuss a course of action for the variance proceedings.

A developer approached the County to obtain agency approval to construct new aircraft hangars at Agua Dulce Airport under their special use permit.

Regarding the Airport Improvement Plan (AIP), Mr. Smith stated that Congress authorized an extension of the FAA's spending authority, which had an initial deadline of June 30, 2008. Two County projects were delayed one year as a result of the shortened deadline to execute an AIP Grant Agreement. By the time the FAA notified the County that their spending authority was authorized through the end of August 2008, insufficient time remained to advertise the projects and obtain construction estimates necessary to apply for additional AIP funding.

Commissioner Lord commented he was invited by Congresswoman Ms. Laura Richardson, to join her in the Congressional Black Caucus. Commissioner Lord said he will meet with Ms. Richardson to discuss some of the issues in the 37th District and would also like to request her support as far as the AIP funds are concerned. Mr. Smith stated that any support is welcomed and appreciated.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the search for alternate helicopter training sites in the County. Mr. Smith stated that there are two potential sites in the San Gabriel Valley for helicopter training. The first is the previously discussed Santa Fe Dam, which is not receiving support due to its current use as a recreational facility. A second site was identified north of the 210 freeway and east of the 605 freeway. Both sites are owned by

the US Army Corps of Engineers. Another possible option is the Hansen Dam Area; however, County Flood Control District has some concerns regarding the safety of their operations. The next meeting to discuss alternate helicopter training sites is scheduled for September 18, 2008, at El Monte Airport.

Mr. Smith provided updates on the current projects at the County-owned airports.

Board authorization to award the Design contract for the Lighting and Signage Relocation Project at Brackett Field Airport was obtained on August 5, 2008. The contract is ready for review by the consultant.

Plans were received for the Pavement Rehabilitation, Design Project at Compton/Woodley Airport. Some of the proposed drainage recommendations were reviewed to address the unique drainage characteristics at the airport. The design is about 50 percent complete.

Preliminary design of the Taxiway Development Project at El Monte Airport is being reviewed by the FAA and Caltrans.

The Pavement Rehabilitation, Phase III Project at General William J. Fox Airfield will be complete upon finishing coal-tar sealant and final striping. Grant financing has been reviewed and leftover funds will be used to restripe additional taxilanes on the west side of the airport. The Monument Entrance Sign Project had some unexpected delays due to cosmetic issues. Remedies to correct the problems were discussed and a proposal is forthcoming from the contractor as to how the issues will be resolved.

A permit approval package was sent to the City of Los Angeles on August 19, 2008, for the Airpark Way Entrance Improvements Project at Whiteman Airport. Once the permit is obtained from the City a County approved job order contractor can begin the work.

Five proposals have been received so far for the Minimum Standards for Commercial Aeronautical Activities Project to be implemented at all five County-owned airports. The deadline to submit proposals is September 10, 2008. Interviews for selecting a consultant will be scheduled shortly thereafter.

The first Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update tenant meeting will be held on September 9, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the terminal building. This meeting will consist of a presentation that will highlight the Master Plan process and tenants will have a chance to meet the consultants. The second meeting will be conducted after the consultant finishes collecting

all the inventory data. The second meeting has been scheduled, as the inventory and data collection will take several months.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the consultants will bring to the meeting an actual proposal for the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update or ideas from previous projects that could be adapted to the new project. Mr. Smith answered that several meetings between the County and the consultants were conducted to discuss the main concerns such as the location of a new terminal building facility, access roads, and airport development. Mr. Smith stated that the contractor's plan contemplates all the airport needs. He also added that progress updates will be posted on the Public Works' website for public view.

4. Compton/Woodley Airport Additional Items

No additional items for Compton/Woodley Airport.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Frank Profit expressed concern regarding the aircraft hangar waiting list at Compton/Woodley Airport. He stated that he has been trying to rent a hangar since 2003 with no success.

Chair Jerome Alexander apologized for the inconvenience that Mr. Profit had experienced and said that it sounds like there was probably a communication problem between Mr. Profit and airport management. She suggested Mr. Profit contact Mr. Wardle or Mr. Smith after the meeting to clarify this issue.

Mr. Jack Kenton expressed some concerns regarding the security lighting at the airport. He also asked for an update on the status of the GPS approach study by the FAA. Mr. Kenton thanked Mr. Marino for working on improvements in the "N" row toilet.

Commissioner Lord answered that following up on the GPS acquisition may be very challenging due to the relocation of FAA staff formerly assigned to the Regional Headquarters in Los Angeles.

Mr. Henry Roy suggested having a temporary ATCT at the airport and recommended that the County install cable TV in all the airport hangars. Mr. Roy also expressed concern regarding the upcoming construction near the fuel island that may conflict with the Compton Air Fair activities.

Mr. Marino stated that construction near the fuel island will be complete before the Air Fair begins. He also added the construction will occupy a very small space that was not previously used by the Air Fair.

Commissioner Simmons suggested starting the construction project near the fuel island after the Air Fair, so long as there is no penalty for delaying the project's start date.

Mr. Smith stated that this project will cause very little impact to the airport operations. The biggest impact will be digging of the trenches and putting the pipes in the ground. Mr. Smith said that the project will be completed before the Air Fair begins.

Mr. Don Hagopian expressed concern regarding the Whiteman Airport Master Plan update meeting. He suggested rescheduling the meeting at a later time to give airport tenants the opportunity to participate and provide their input. Mr. Hagopian also suggested that the County release meeting dates to the Airport Association who can further disseminate the information among its members. Mr. Smith explained that the first meeting is not intended to gather comments from the public, but to provide some information about the project.

Mr. Hagopian also expressed concern regarding the safety of a helicopter training area at the Hansen Dam. Mr. Hagopian also stated that the Air Explorers have returned to Whiteman Airport.

Mr. Ron Lisberg expressed concern regarding the annual aircraft rental increases and the security lights at Whiteman Airport. He also mentioned that the airport is rarely swept.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the taxiway lighting at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Morgan answered that some improvements have been made regarding the taxiway lighting and acknowledged that there is still room for improvement. Mr. Morgan added that the runway and taxiways are routinely swept, and that a sweeping schedule is available.

Commissioner Lord commented that Compton/Woodley Airport also has some lighting problems. The issues have been addressed to airport management who has been working to solve the problems. He also added that the power sweeper is constantly working in all areas of the airport. Commissioner Lord finalized by announcing an Aerospace Exhibition and Job Fair that will be held November 15 and November 16, 2008, at the Long Beach Airport. The event will be sponsored by the Wings Over Long Beach Foundation.

D. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVIATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON:

**Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 7 p.m., at
El Monte Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1697
(626) 448-6129**

Chair Jerome Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary George G. Butts
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

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