



DONALD L. WOLFE  
Director of Public Works

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 300-4602  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 2007  
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield  
4555 West Avenue G  
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401**

## COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD  
CHAIRMAN

EVELYN A. JEROME  
VICE CHAIR

CLYDE G. BAILEY  
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS  
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO  
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE  
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
MEMBER

ROGER L. PERSONS  
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS  
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF  
MEMBER

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis C. Lord  
Vice Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander  
Secretary Clyde G. Bailey  
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase  
Commissioner Roger L. Persons  
Commissioner Clint Simmons

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner George G. Butts  
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono  
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall  
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

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

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division  
Mrs. Miriam Gomes Oprüşan, 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. Peter Albiez, Whiteman Airport Association  
Ms. Charlotte Hart, Fox Airfield Association  
Mr. Ken Kelly, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield  
Mr. Bill Logan, Whiteman Airport  
Mr. Tom Lowry, Aviation Division, Retired  
Mr. Clay Myers, U. S. Forest Service  
Mr. George Prewitt, Fox Airfield Association

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 9 a.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 October 24, 2007**

The minutes were amended to read the following changes: on page three, third paragraph, last sentence, "An ameriflight...", and on page nine, fifth paragraph, second sentence, "... prior to his contract involvement...". Commissioner Persons made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Jerome Alexander. The minutes were approved and adopted as amended.

**2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report**

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. The flight planning room was opened on November 1, 2007, and was well received by the airport users. County Fire Department helicopters are now based at the airport. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) brought portable trailers to the airport. The trailers will be installed upon permit approvals. Mr. Fox-Tuck informed the Commission that the Brackett Field Airport Association will host a Christmas Party on December 6, 2007.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the County fire-rescue helicopters will be at the airport on a permanent or temporary basis. Mr. Fox-Tuck expects them to be based there on a permanent basis; however, this has not yet been decided.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Morgan provided an update on the questions raised in the last Commission meeting regarding hangar inspections. He stated that 23 non-aviation hangars were converted to aviation use. Out of the 23 hangars, 5 were County hangars and 18 were third-party hangars. Mr. Morgan stated that he will follow up on 4 remaining hangars that are possibly being used for non-aviation purposes. One of the airport tenants has removed his historic hangar to accommodate a further hangar development. Mr. Morgan informed the Commission that a meeting to discuss the SunQuest relocation process was held on November 6, 2007. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander, Commissioner Wolf, Mr. Wardle, Ms. Joanne Kratzer, and Mr. Morgan attended the meeting. It was agreed that Ms. Kratzer will provide a document stating the facility requirements to

facilitate the process of finding potential and appropriate options to accommodate SunQuest flight school at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Morgan stated that the Challenge Air Event, held on November 3, 2007, was a fantastic event with great attendance including 75 volunteers, 116 challenged children, and approximately 200 adults. Mr. Morgan reported that a Grumman Yankee airplane made a hard landing on Runway 30, which resulted in no injuries or damage to the airport. A minor appliance fire was reported in a hangar. The Whiteman Airport Association will host a Christmas Party on December 13, 2007, in the terminal building and its next meeting will be held on January 17, 2008. A Stakeholder meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 24, 2008, in the terminal building.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander commented that the Challenge Air Event was a tremendous success and thanked Mr. Morgan for coordinating the event.

Commissioner Simmons asked if Mr. Morgan had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Bill Logan to discuss the issues raised in the last Commission meeting. Mr. Morgan stated that he is looking forward to bringing representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the State of California, Division of Aeronautics together to clarify Mr. Logan's issues.

Commissioner Simmons asked if there are plans to install a blast wall at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Richard Smith answered that the airport has K-rail, which is working well for the current traffic. He also mentioned that placing a steel blast fence is not in the future plans for the airport.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. The project to level the runway and taxiway edges has been completed. Mr. Marino stated that over 200 tons of dirt was used to complete the project. He also took the opportunity to thank Chairman Lord for helping to acquire the dirt. Two non-aviation tenants were replaced by aviation users. The south taxiway lights have been fixed. Lights were replaced in the terminal parking lot. A new sign implementing a voluntary curfew on traffic pattern practice was installed and reads "No Pattern Practice from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m." The sign is located at the end of runway 25L. Mr. Marino attended the Compton City Council Meeting on November 20, 2007, along with Chairman Lord, to discuss the helicopter noise issue at the airport. Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the airport will host a Holiday Party on December 20, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., in the terminal building.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the flight schools were notified about the new traffic pattern practice sign. Mr. Marino stated that he has informed all of the flight schools based at the airport and several flight schools at other airports.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about what, if any, steps are being taken to keep up the level of the taxiways and runway edges during the rainy season. Mr. Marino stated that the soil is very compact, but agreed that it would be worthwhile to look into ways of preventing soil erosion in the future.

Secretary Bailey asked if oil would prevent the soil from eroding. Mr. Marino stated that it might cause environmental issues with storm water runoff since the ground must be clean at all times.

Chairman Lord mentioned that the west gate light is inoperable. Mr. Smith said he will look into the issue.

Chairman Lord provided an update on the meeting with Compton City Council and stated that most of the activities that caused the complaints were related to late-night helicopter operations from the Sheriff Department and transitional north-to-south traffic crossing the airfield.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. The CAP brought portable trailers that were placed on the north-east corner of the terminal parking lot. Mr. Herrera provided an update on construction of hangars at the airport, stating that some paving has been accomplished and electrical conduit has been installed. The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association will hold its annual Christmas Party on December 8, 2007, at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Chase expressed concern regarding the extensive use of the pilot's lounge computers for non-aviation matters at El Monte Airport. He added that pilots should have preference when checking weather conditions and flight information. Mr. Herrera stated that he will address the issue with his staff.

Commissioner Simmons suggested installing software to prevent potential cyber criminal activity. Mr. Herrera answered there is a video surveillance camera installed in the pilots' lounge and it is monitored twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, as well as being recorded.

Mr. Wardle added that El Monte Airport continues facing some challenges presented by a member of the community regarding a noise issue. Mr. Wardle stated that the County and American Airports Corporation (AAC) have been working aggressively to search for solutions to resolve the issue. Mr. Smith mentioned that a constituent reported that on Thanksgiving Day one of his neighbors along Santa Anita Avenue was also having an issue with the flight pattern. Mr. Smith stated that a meeting will be held in the next few weeks to discuss the possibility of developing a recommended helicopter traffic pattern for El Monte Airport. Mr. Smith concluded by saying that AAC and the County

will continue working with the constituent in an effort to come to a compromise.

Chairman Lord took the opportunity to inform the Commission that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied the Aviation Commission's request to reopen the Santa Fe Dam helicopter operations area.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. Airport activity has increased in the last two weeks due to the wildfires. The International Flight Training Association has been practicing at the airport due to the foggy weather in Bakersfield. Construction of the aircraft hangars located on the east-end side of the airport has been completed, and the hangars are occupied by two jets. The aircraft hangar development located on the west side of the airport is in progress. A commercial video shoot was conducted at the airport for the Ford motor company.

Secretary Bailey asked if the groundwater recharge and reuse study, conducted by the City of Lancaster, could become an issue since the proposed collecting solar towers will be installed on the north side of the airport. Mr. Smith answered that the airport operations should not be impacted by the City's project.

Secretary Bailey remarked that United Airlines has carried 10,000 passengers from Palmdale Municipal Airport, which demonstrates a promising future in the Antelope Valley.

### 3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Smith provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for October 2007, and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the current projects at the County-owned airports. Board approval was received on November 13, 2007, to award the consultant services contract for the Comprehensive Drainage and Pavement Reconstruction Design Project at Compton/Woodley Airport. Public Works' Architectural Engineering Division is in the process of drafting the contract. The FAA acknowledged receipt of the final survey report for the proposed instrument approach procedures at Compton/Woodley Airport.

The purchase order for the power sweeper acquisition for El Monte Airport has been created and the vendor has a maximum of 190 days to deliver the equipment. Board of Supervisors approval to apply for FAA and California Aid to Airports Program Grants for upcoming Runway Safety Action Plan projects at Brackett and El Monte Airports is anticipated at the December 13 meeting.

Proposals were received for the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update. The Request for Proposal Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2007. The Committee will determine which consulting firm will best serve the County. The Committee will also determine if interviews will be conducted or not. The plans for the Airpark Way Entrance Improvements Project at Whiteman Airport should be finalized by the end of the month. The permit process will proceed with the City of Los Angeles upon receipt of the approved plans.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked what was the schedule for completion of the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update and if a contractor would be selected by the end of the year. Mr. Smith answered the contractor is given an 18-month period to complete the project and added that a contractor will be selected before the end of the year.

Public Works has met with a representative from Southern California Edison to discuss options for lighting the monument entrance sign at General Wm J. Fox Airfield. Due to the high cost to bring power to the site, solar lighting will be used. Therefore, the project scope and cost estimate must be adjusted to reflect the new cost. The design will also incorporate anti-theft provisions to prevent theft of solar equipment.

4. General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Items

No additional items for General Wm. J. Fox Airfield.

5. Election of Commission Officers for 2008

Secretary Bailey made the nominations for 2008 Officers of the Los Angeles County Aviation Commission as follows: Evelyn Jerome Alexander, Chair; Roger L. Persons, Vice Chairman; and Penelope Cornwall, Secretary.

On motion by Secretary Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Simmons, the nominations were unanimously approved.

6. Approval of the Commission Calendar for 2008

On motion by Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Vice Chair Jerome Alexander, the 2008 Los Angeles County Aviation Commission Calendar was unanimously approved.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Logan stated that he spoke with one of the aircraft hangar developers at Whiteman Airport and he was informed that the five-hangar project will accommodate aircraft with less than a 49-foot wingspan and less than 12,500 pounds. Mr. Logan also expressed some concern regarding the relocation of one of the flight schools based at Whiteman Airport.

Mr. George Prewitt stated that the collecting solar towers that will be used for the groundwater recharge reuse study will be 200 feet high. He obtained this information from the engineer in charge of the project. Mr. Prewitt announced the Fox Airfield Association Dinner will be held on December 8, 2007, in the terminal building.

### **THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVIATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON:**

**Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 10 a.m., at  
Brackett Field Airport  
1615 McKinley Avenue  
La Verne, CA 91750-5837  
(909) 593-1395**

Commissioner Persons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Secretary Bailey. Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

P:\avpub\ADMIN\Richard\Aviation Commission\MINUTES\MinutesNov2007.doc