

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 30, 2006**

(APPROVED)

Chairman Clinton Simmons called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield, 4555 West Avenue G, Lancaster, CA 93536-8401.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Roger L. Persons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary Aron A. Wolf
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Evelyn A. Jerome

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. William H. Higley, Deputy Director, Administration
Mr. Ted A. Gustin, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. Richard L. Smith, Airport Project Coordinator, 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, Assistant Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

GUESTS

Mr. Brian Cunneen, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Sallie Cunningham, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Bill Logan, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Rut L. Logan, Whiteman Airport
Mr. George Prewitt, Fox Airport Association
Ms. Jane Prewitt, Fox Airport Association
Mr. Russell Watts, RAW Power Aviation

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION1. Minutes of the Meeting of June 28, 2006

The minutes were approved and adopted as written. Commissioner Bailey made the motion for approval, second by Commissioner Persons.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation (AAC) has invested in computer software to automate the fuel accounting processes. He also stated that Public Works has approved \$47,000 for upgrades to the fuel islands. Investments have been made in NATA's Safety First Aid Program. He also presented a press release announcing a new Pilot Training Reimbursement Program for all AAC employees.

Mr. Wardle reported on events at Whiteman Airport: He informed the Commission that a new airport manager has been selected and will start on October 2, 2006. He also said the Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS) is now operating. Sixty hangars have been inspected, and a sample of the hangar inspection form was presented to the Commissioners.

Chairman Simmons asked if there was a regular schedule for the Stakeholder meetings. Mr. Wardle responded that the meetings are occurring quarterly.

Commissioner Bailey asked if the Stakeholder meetings would be held in the same location. Mr. Wardle replied that the meetings would be rotated throughout the airports. Chairman Simmons encouraged the audience to attend the meetings.

Chairman Simmons asked what AAC was going to do about the results of the hangar inspections. Mr. Wardle said that after all the inspections have been conducted, they would act according to the lease agreements and proceed to investigate those that were not in compliance and take further action which may include replacing non-aviation users.

Commissioner Bailey asked if there were any plans to increase the number of hangars and tiedowns at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Wardle stated that there were several pending projects, including a Public Works project to install 70 tiedowns. He also stated that 10 hangars are currently under construction.

Mr. Wardle reported on events at El Monte Airport: Landscaping improvements were done to the entrance of the airport. New flags have been installed. Public Works made repairs to the ramp near one of the flight schools.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field: The departure procedure has been changed by the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT). The new procedure is available on the ATIS and will be published soon. The number of noise complaints has increased. The airplanes left by a former flight school should be removed soon. The airport office received a complaint that someone was painting a Cessna 421 inside a hangar. Arrangements have been made to accommodate overflow parking during the Los Angeles County Fair. Mr. Fox-Tuck informed the Commission that a new flight school has arrived at Brackett Field. The official announcement will be made after the business license is issued and insurance is obtained. Brackett management and the Los Angeles County Fire Department have been working together to install identification signs for buildings and hangars.

Commissioner Bailey asked if there will be a charge for the overflow parking area during the Los Angeles County Fair. Mr. Fox-Tuck said that there will be a charge.

Chairman Simmons asked if the ATCT has provided a card with the new departure procedure, so it can be posted. Mr. Fox-Tuck answered that the actual memorandum was posted and published in the airport newsletter.

Vice Chairman Lord asked about the impact the Los Angeles County Fair would cause to the airport. Mr. Fox-Tuck said the impact would be minimal.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport: In the last two months, five aviation tenants have arrived at the airport. Additionally, two non-aviation tenants have been served with a Notice to Quit. Some lights have been replaced. A new wind sock has been installed. A new table has been placed in the terminal building. New, No Parking signs have been installed on the north wall of the airport.

Vice Chairman Lord brought up a motorcycle noise complaint sent to the Board of Supervisors and Compton City Council. Mr. Marino informed the Commission that he wrote a letter to the tenant, citing all the laws that apply to motor vehicle use. He also stated that a copy of the rules is provided to any motorcycle user who comes into the airport. Vice Chairman Lord addressed his concern about filling the 80/87 Octane tanks with Jet-A fuel. The ongoing issues pertaining to helicopter operations were also mentioned.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield: A temporary sign, indicating directions to the terminal building, has been installed at the entrance road of the airport. A sprinkler system was installed to prevent fugitive dust from a hangar development site. Staff has been working on cutting back the bamboo reeds that were identified by Caltrans as a safety issue. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) had a trailer towed away from the parking lot in the middle of the night. The person responsible for removing the trailer has not yet been identified. Hangar inspections and fire extinguisher recertifications will be performed in the next two weeks.

Chairman Simmons asked about the aviation museum operations. Mr. Irving responded that the museum is operating by appointments only, due to limited staff.

Commissioner Bailey asked for an update regarding remodeling of the terminal building to accommodate a pilot's lounge. Mr. Irving said that some furniture has been brought into the terminal, but the project has been put on hold due to some concerns raised by the Fire Department regarding the removal of a fire exit.

3. County - Project Administrator's Report

Mr. Ted Gustin introduced Mrs. Miriam Gomes Oprüşan as the new Staff Assistant to the Commission. Mr. Gustin stated that Mrs. Oprüşan will be attending the Commission meetings as well as supporting the Division on special projects.

Mr. Gustin informed the Commission that the letter to the Board of Supervisors for the Whiteman Master Plan project was filed and scheduled for the September 12 Board Agenda. Mr. Richard Smith provided an estimate of \$125,000 for the project. He also mentioned that Brackett Field and Fox Airport Master Plan Updates will be accomplished at later dates.

Mr. Gustin informed the Commission that he anticipated filing a Board letter for the September 19 Board Agenda for the transfer of 98 acres of land to the City of Lancaster. The City will use the land to construct a 13-foot-deep detention basin that will remove a significant portion of the airport from the existing flood plain and allow further development of the area.

Commissioner Bailey asked if the project would be done with Federal funds. Mr. Gustin said the project would not cost the County anything, besides the 98 acres that are being transferred to the City.

Commissioner Persons asked how the land was acquired by the County. Mr. Gustin responded that the land was originally acquired approximately 16 years ago through the County Treasurer and Tax Collector's office when they had tax-lien properties for sale.

Vice Chairman Lord requested updates on the runway painting project at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Smith stated that there were some documents pending from the design consultant, and the project will start as soon as all the documentation and approvals have been obtained. He also said the project should be completed by the end of December.

4. General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Items

There were no additional items for Fox Airfield.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Don Hagopian requested the Commission to include Sunquest Flight School and the Civil Air Patrol in the Master Plan process to find their future locations on the airport. He stated that they donate a lot of their time teaching kids and use a considerable amount of fuel every week. Mr. Gustin stated that the planning process could take two or three years. However, the relocation issue should be resolved before the completion of the Master Plan. Mr. Wardle stated that he and Mr. Gustin would make themselves available to discuss suggestions.

Ms. Sallie L. Cunningham expressed her concern about the lack of electricity in her hangar row at Whiteman Airport. She requested a freeze on the rent to make up for the lack of electricity. Mr. Gustin responded that he could not guarantee a positive response to her rent freeze request, but that it would be investigated.

Mr. Russell Watts expressed his concern about the ongoing development at Whiteman Airport and claimed that the hangar developments are taking up ramp space. He also stated that the tenants should be included in the planning process for airport development.

Mr. Jack Kenton expressed his concern that Compton/Woodley Airport might be getting Jet-A fuel. He also addressed his concern about the increase of helicopter activity on the airport. Mr. Kenton invited the Commissioners to attend the California Pilots Association's annual meeting in Santa Maria on October 7.

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

**Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at 7 p.m., at
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3599
(310) 631-8140**

Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Aron A. Wolf
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission