

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2006**

(APPROVED)

Chairman Clinton Simmons called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., at Compton/Woodley Airport, 901 West Alondra Boulevard, Compton, CA 90220-3599.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Evelyn A. Jerome
Commissioner Roger L. Persons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Curt Castagna
Secretary Aron A. Wolf

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

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Tomas Sullivan, Assistant Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Peter Albiez, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Sheldon Bresin, Brackett Airport Association
Mr. Hal Clark, Brackett Airport Association
Mr. Jerry Collier, Brackett Airport
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport Users Group; California Pilot's Association
Mr. Winn Williams, Port Hangar Association, Brackett Airport

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION1. Minutes of the Meeting of November 30, 2005

The minutes were approved and adopted as written. Commissioner Jerome made a motion for approval, second by Vice Chairman Lord.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation (AAC) has hired a local firm to conduct storm water training. AAC has ordered new furniture for Compton/Woodley, El Monte, and Brackett airports.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at Fox Field: The aircraft parking ramp project is on hold for warmer weather, so that a fuel and oil barrier may be applied to the aircraft tiedown spaces. The pilot's association held its annual Christmas dinner in December, and the Toys-for-Tots event was successful. There were two aircraft accidents since last Commission meeting, one of which had two fatalities. A television commercial aired that included the restaurant, Barnes Aviation, and AAC. The commercial will air for the next couple of months. Barnes Aviation had its 40th anniversary. Commissioner Bailey and the Honorable Frank Roberts, Mayor of the City of Lancaster, were among the more than 250 attendees.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport: Airport staff continues to work on airport beautification. The airports' end-of-month display was among the best in recent months. The Los Angeles County Fire Department held a safety seminar in cooperation with Cirrus Aircraft, regarding rescue operations of a disabled aircraft. The perimeter fencing project has begun and is proceeding rapidly. Mr. Gustin informed the Commission that the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Runway Safety Action Team had sent out their recommendations. The primary recommendation was to paint the majority of the paved in-field area green with large taxiways exiting the runway.

Mr. Thomas Sullivan reported on events at Whiteman Airport: The terminal has been repainted, and there has been some re-striping in the parking lot and minor landscape. A repair to a leaking fire line will be complete in the next couple of days. The airport hosted more than 100 people at its annual Christmas party.

Commissioner Jerome asked for information regarding a recent complaint over a film set near the wash rack. Mr. Sullivan explained that the crew inadvertently set up beyond the limits that were provided to them because the crew set up the site one day earlier than was agreed. It was noticed by airport management Monday morning. The site was coned off, and a site representative was assigned to manage the rest of the production. Mr. Sullivan emphasized that safety of operations is the primary concern.

Mr. Scott Wardle reported on events for Brackett Airport: A flight school at the airport has moved to a neighboring airport. Mr. Wardle noted that the flight school will be paying a higher rental rate than what they had originally agreed to pay for their current leasehold at Brackett Airport. AAC will be aggressively marketing the facility.

Chairman Simmons asked for further clarification of the flight school that had left, regarding its notification to AAC. Mr. Wardle stated that a deal had been reached with the flight school, and AAC was following through on its promise to paint the building. The painter contacted AAC and informed them that the building was empty. AAC has not received a formal notice from the flight school, and they were on a holdover on their previous agreement until the Board of Supervisors approved the new agreement that the flight school has agreed to and signed. Mr. Wardle added that the flight school left behind a lot of derelict aircraft and other debris on the leasehold but added that he had not seen inside the building yet.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport: The fence project is about 99 percent complete. A permanent solution to a gutter on the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) hangar is being researched. Three large shipping containers were acquired with the assistance of Vice Chairman Lord and were placed adjacent the EAA hangar to protect occupants until the bullet-proof material can be installed. A drunk driver crashed into a hangar and caused severe damage to the hangar and destroyed an aircraft stored in the hangar. The accident caused damage to two other aircraft, as well. The airport's Christmas party was held on December 15, 2005. The event also provided more than 40 gifts to the Toys-for-Tots Program. The airport has also been concentrating on weed abatement and hangar repairs.

Mr. Fox-Tuck reported on a helicopter forum that he attended on January 18, 2005. The forum provided an opportunity for airport operators and helicopter operators from all over the Los Angeles basin, in an effort to open lines of communication, to discuss some of the issues that are created by helicopter activity at the various airports.

3. County - Project Administrator's Report

Mr. Ted Gustin provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for December 2005 and offered to answer questions from the Commission.

On January 11, 2006, the Regional Planning Commission had its last round of discussions regarding the Agua Dulce Airport's proposed conditions for its permit. The new airport owner, Wayne Spears, was recently cited for operating two helicopters from the airport. Mr. Gustin explained that Mr. Spears seemed very sincere about clamping down on violators that are conducting low fly-bys and aerobatic flight. Mr. Gustin

provided the Commission with the current 39 provisions that Regional Planning put together and explained some of the provisions. Regional Planning is expected to approve the two modifications and final approval on the conditions on February 22, 2006. It is expected that Regional Planning's decision will be appealed to the Board of Supervisors which is the only appeal that the residents of Agua Dulce have. If the residents are still unsatisfied, the case will likely be appealed through the courts.

Commissioner Cardono asked if Mr. Gustin thought that the residents of Agua Dulce would take the issue beyond Regional Planning's decision. Mr. Gustin responded by stating that most people involved assume that concerned parties will continue their appeal to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Bailey asked whether or not there was anyone on the Planning Commission that has aviation experience. Mr. Gustin explained that Commissioner Hemsley has made the remark that he has flown into Agua Dulce, and that he seemed to be a strong proponent of keeping the airport open to the public. Commissioner Wayne Ru has indicated that he has been around airports.

Mr. Richard Smith reported on the status of current projects at County airports: Public Works' Design Division is working at Brackett Airport reviewing the project site for an upcoming slurry seal. Design Division will visit Fox Field and Whiteman Airport in the coming weeks for the same purpose.

The entrance to the El Monte Airport Air Traffic Control Tower will be relocated further toward the tower to allow tenants and their guests access to the parking lot.

We have received preliminary drawings and an engineering report from our design consultant for the Whiteman Airport parking ramp project. The project will yield approximately 70 new tiedown spaces.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he will attend a meeting with the FAA to review the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP). Mr. Smith explained that this meeting is intended to get capital projects programmed for Federal funding through 2011.

Chairman Simmons asked if there were any developments with Catalina Airport. Mr. Gustin responded that he had recently spoken with Anthony Garcia, FAA Western Region's Compliance Specialist, and he stated that the Island Conservancy and the City of Avalon have provided several documents to the FAA for review. It appears that the Conservancy wants to maintain control of the airport, which will prevent the airport from receiving Federal funding. The FAA does not appear to be comfortable with the level of control the airport sponsor (City of Avalon) will have.

Commissioner Bailey asked if constructing a runway at sea level would still be a consideration. Mr. Gustin responded, no, and added that the FAA rejected the idea approximately 16 years ago due to exorbitant cost over benefit received.

Commissioner Jerome asked about the status of the Automatic Terminal Information System (ATIS) for Whiteman Airport. Mr. Gustin stated that the ATIS would be ordered in March or April, and will be funded from the Aviation Enterprise Fund.

4. Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Vice Chairman Lord asked that the County and the Commission consider installing bollards near the bathrooms, at the end of the hangar rows that are close to Alondra Boulevard.

Vice Chairman Lord commented that he was pleased that the Committee that addressed the protection of occupants in the EAA hangar were able to come up with a solution so quickly and pointed out that it is important for people to understand that the County is responsive.

Vice Chairman Lord asked if there was a solution to the standing water along the drain line that parallels the taxiway. Mr. Gustin explained that there is a drainage upgrade programmed on the ACIP.

Vice Chairman Lord stated that he is working on a solution to provide telephone communications in the terminal building.

Vice Chairman Lord informed the Commission that he has heard that the windtee was out of service. Mr. Gustin explained that the wind tee is working, but a few tenants wanted to remove it.

C. **PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Jack Kenton suggested that the Airport Land Use Commission draw some realistic airport-influence area maps. He reported that he had heard some comments about a flight school at Brackett being hassled through the negotiation of its lease. He stated that he was in favor of the bollards by the restrooms at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Kenton suggested that work be done to improve drainage near the north side hangars and that electricity be installed. Mr. Kenton suggested that the rental rate for the north side hangars be reduced. He suggested that the runway be painted so that an instrument approach could be developed. He also suggested that the pavement edges be re-graded so that he can get his tail-wheel aircraft back onto the taxiway when he taxis off of it. Mr. Kenton recommended that the wind tee at Compton/Woodley Airport be removed.

Mr. Don Hagopian declined to address the Commission, stating that his concerns had been addressed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Winn Williams informed the Commission that he was having trouble resolving an ongoing issue with American Airports. He added that he was upset that AAC had not addressed his concern in an expedient manner.

Mr. Sheldon Bresin expressed concern over the future of Brackett Airport and for the businesses that remain behind. Mr. Bresin asked what the difference is between an aviation-use hangar and non-aviation-use hangars.

Chairman Simmons asked Mr. Bresin why he thought the businesses were leaving the airport. Mr. Bresin stated that it was due to pricing and the way AAC deals with its renters. They impose a price, and they don't negotiate. They don't honor their commitments, and he thinks that AAC is not operating in a contractually honest way.

Mr. Wardle commented on Mr. Williams' statement and added that the lease is the governing document, and if discrepancies are found with the renters activities, AAC will go back and look at the lease.

Mr. Wardle commented that he understands the flight school that left Brackett is paying \$2,000 more per month than what AAC had offered, and he can't conceive that they left strictly due to pricing of the facility. Mr. Wardle stated that he thinks AAC has worked something out with the maintenance facility and is currently negotiating a lease. Mr. Wardle stated that the commercial tenants are only being asked to pay what the hangar and tiedown tenants are being asked to pay.

Mr. Bresin responded that he was told that AAC was not only charging the maintenance facility for the tiedown area but also for the taxiway. He added that the maintenance facility used to be able to rent the tiedowns at a profit, but that AAC is now charging the same rate as the airport, which eliminates the businesses' ability to earn a profit.

Commissioner Jerome asked what the increased percentage rate was for non-aviation hangars. Mr. Gustin stated that it was 25 percent higher than an aviation-use hangar. Mr. Wardle stated that he would like to increase the rate for non-aviation-use hangars to discourage non-aviation users from coming to the airport.

Commissioner Jerome asked if we could revisit the rental rate percentage for non-aviation-use hangars. Mr. Gustin commented that he has received reports from tenants who have airplanes and wanted to rent a hangar, and they are told that there are none available. Mr. Gustin added that former airport managers have stated that they need to keep their revenues up, and there is no reason to give up the extra rent gained from the non-aviation renter. Mr. Gustin assured the Commission that AAC does not feel that way.

Commissioner Cardono commented that people need to understand that a lease is a binding document, and people need to live by what they agree to. He also

cautioned the audience that they should try to get the facts and pay less attention to rumors, citing that it only makes people angry.

Mr. Wardle offered to visit the next meeting of Brackett Airport Association and stated that he is committed to resolve some of the issues presented.

Other Items: Vice Chairman Lord informed the Commission that Supervisor Knabe asked the Commission to pass a resolution to support the retention of the C-17 Program at Long Beach.

Commissioner Cardono made a motion to direct staff to draft a letter in support of retaining the C-17 Program and that a letter be sent to Supervisor Knabe, the district Congressmen, the State Senators, the Mayor of Long Beach, and all other interested parties. Vice Chairman Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Simmons presented past Chairman Cardono with an award and a County flag, commemorating his unprecedented sixth term as Chairman of the Aviation Commission and for his services in 2005.

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

**Wednesday, February 22, 2006, at 10 a.m., at
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5837
(909) 593-1395**

Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Aron A. Wolf
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission