



DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Aviation

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
www.ladpw.org

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2006
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3599**

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Secretary Aron A. Wolf
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Evelyn A. Jerome

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner Roger L. Persons

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 Oprişan, 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. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Jackie B. Crusor, California Black Aviation Association
Mr. Henry M. Roy, California Black Aviation Association
Mr. Ron Lisberg, California Redtails

CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Cardono led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

1. Minutes of the Meeting of August 30, 2006

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

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield: He informed the Commission that Fox Airfield sold 300,000 gallons of fuel in September. The hangar inspections are 85 percent complete. Lease agreements for large developments are in the final stage. Mr. Wardle recognized Fox Airfield staff for the extraordinary work done in support of U.S. Forestry Services' efforts to fight the Day Fire.

Commissioner Cardono asked if the amount of fuel sold at Fox Airfield was a record. Mr. Ted Gustin said it was.

Mr. Wardle reported on events at Whiteman Airport: Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the new airport manager will start on October 2, 2006. Hangar inspections are in progress. American Airports Corporation (AAC) will provide a report to Public Works and the Aviation Commission with the findings as soon as the inspections are complete. Mr. Wardle anticipated the completion date for the 10 new hangars would be the beginning of November 2006. Fuel prices at all the airports have been reduced.

Chairman Simmons asked if AAC continues to meet with the community to discuss the noise issues. Mr. Wardle said they usually meet on Saturdays. He also mentioned that a significant number of people attended the last meeting, and the primary complaint was related to engine run-ups at night. Chairman Simmons emphasized the importance of attending those meetings in order to prevent future complaints.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport: The hangar inspections are 70 percent complete. Due to the temporary closure of Cable Airport's runway, 20 aircraft were based at Brackett Field Airport for one week. Mr. Fox-Tuck met with the Brackett Field Airport Association on September 7, 2006. According to Mr. Fox-Tuck, users seemed to be satisfied with the airport services. Aircraft noise complaints were down in September, with the exception of a low-altitude, high-speed pass reported on September 8, 2006. A propeller struck the pavement near the new hangars and caused damage to the asphalt. The area has

been isolated for aircraft traffic until the appropriate repairs are made. The nursery has been given a Notice to Vacate a large parcel on the east side of the control tower to make room for future development. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements have been made. Bird activity has increased at the airport, and Mr. Fox-Tuck is looking for solutions to solve the problem. Major lighting repairs will be made to the airport. New furniture and a new TV will be purchased for the pilot's lounge.

Chairman Simmons offered some suggestions to minimize the pigeon problems.

Commissioner Jerome asked for an update regarding the private development on the southeast corner of the airport. Mr. Gustin responded that the environmental process is nearly complete. He also informed the Commission that the lease for the parcel and the Mitigated Negative Declaration should be filed in December for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport: Hangar inspections are 85 percent complete. El Monte Airport hosted a CPR and First-Aid training for new hires and current employees. The fuel accounting system has been updated, and it should be fully operational by November 2006. Mr. Wardle added that the new system will run live and provide more efficient reports and accounting.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport: The airport hosted an Air Fair on September 23, 2006, organized by the California Black Aviation Association (CBAA), and the community participated and enjoyed the event. Mr. Wardle recognized CBAA and airport staff for the work performed during the Air Fair. Mr. Marino stated that 154 hangars were inspected. A new sign was installed at the end of the "L" row hangars to direct the pilots to the airport services. Mr. Marino informed the Commission that an aviation user has moved into a T-hangar, totaling seven new aviation tenants at the airport. A power outage occurred on September 3.

Secretary Wolf asked what caused the power outage. Mr. Marino stated that according to Southern California Edison, a small surge in the electrical system caused the power outage. Mr. Wardle also added that an electrician inspected the transformers, and everything seemed to be working correctly.

Secretary Wolf asked how many non-aviation tenants moved out and how many vacant hangars were available. Mr. Marino responded that seven non-aviation tenants moved out, and currently, the airport has no vacant hangars.

Commissioner Jerome asked how many non-aviation tenants are still at the airport. Mr. Marino said there are between 15 to 20. Mr. Wardle continued by saying that he will provide a report, after the hangar inspections are completed, with the exact number of non-aviation tenants.

Chairman Simmons inquired if the hangars will remain vacant after non-aviation tenants move out. Mr. Marino responded that the vacant hangars will be occupied by aviation users as soon as non-aviation users move out.

3. County - Project Administrator's Report

Mr. Gustin presented the monthly expense and revenue report. Mr. Gustin stated Public Works has approved \$49,000 for upgrades to the self-serve system at the fuel islands. He informed the Commission that the hangar appraisals completed for Brackett Field and El Monte Airport cost \$15,000. On September 11, 2006, Public Works responded to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) concern regarding the County's granting to AAC exclusive rights to sell fuel and revenue diversion. Mr. Gustin stated that a draft with the minimum standards for fuel vending operations will be presented to the Commission for review at the October meeting. In addition, the language of existing lease agreements will be modified by a blanket amendment in order to clarify that AAC does not have exclusive rights to sell fuel, and also to avoid any possible misinterpretation. All new leases will reflect this change. He also mentioned that Public Works Internal Audit Group will perform a comprehensive audit of AAC's records to verify the accuracy of the reports provided on the revenue collected from the operation of the five County airports.

Secretary Wolf asked how old the fuel system was and why they could not replace the damaged parts instead of purchasing a new system. Mr. Gustin said the current system was seven years old. Mr. Wardle explained that the system used in the fuel islands is very similar to computer hardware, in that it becomes obsolete after a few years, which makes its replacement necessary.

Commissioner Cardono expressed concern regarding the negative editorial about El Monte Airport and Brackett Field Airport recently released in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. Mr. Gustin stated that a response letter to the Editor was published. Commissioner Cardono proposed contacting people who are interested in aviation to sponsor an advertisement and publish the response letter again, and that the letter should focus on positive aspects of the airports. Mr. Gustin mentioned that the San Gabriel Valley Tribune had published positive articles about the airports in the past. Commissioner Cardono stated that there is a strong demand for aviation, as illustrated by the new hangars at Fox Airfield and the seven new aviation tenants at Compton/Woodley Airport.

In summary, Commissioner Cardono pointed out the importance of releasing positive news about the airports and how crucial they are to the community.

Chairman Simmons agreed with Commissioner Cardono in putting efforts together to enhance the airports' image. Mr. Wardle also agreed with Commissioner Cardono and made himself available to assist with the efforts of publishing positive news about the airports. Vice Chairman Lord supported Commissioner Cardono's comments.

Mr. Richard Smith provided updates on the current projects at the County airports. The perimeter lighting circuit will be repaired and the south runway will be painted to accommodate GPS approaches at Compton/Woodley Airport. The runway at Whiteman Airport will be closed from October 31, 2006, to November 2, 2006, for repairs. A pre-construction meeting for the slurry seal projects at Brackett Field and Fox Airfield will be held on September 28, 2006, and the start dates will be provided at the next Commission meeting. A Request for Qualifications for the Whiteman Airport Master Plan will be advertised by the end of the year. Whiteman Airport's intermediate hold line will be changed to a standard non-movement area boundary line as recommended by the FAA's Runway Safety Action Team. The taxiway development at El Monte Airport is scheduled for FY 2007-08. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a new airport power sweeper will be requested as part of the taxiway project.

Chairman Simmons asked if extra arrangements will be made in case the weather changes during the time the runway is repaired at Whiteman Airport. He also asked if the airport will have a permanent sweeper. Mr. Smith answered that a notice will be released to the tenants, businesses, and airport users, in case of a weather change. Mr. Smith said that Whiteman Airport already has a small sweeper. Mr. Gustin added that the new sweeper will be available for all five airports.

Vice Chairman Lord asked what time of the year Federal funds are available for Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Smith responded that the FY 2007-08 projects were already submitted to the FAA, and he should hear something around the end of November 2006.

4. Compton/Woodley Airport Items

No additional items for Compton/Woodley Airport.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Henry M. Roy expressed his appreciation for the support received from the Commission during the Air Fair at Compton/Woodley Airport. Chairman

Simmons asked if the Air Fair could be advertised earlier next year. Mr. Roy answered that he will consider an earlier date for advertising.

Mr. Ron Lisberg informed the Commission of a small depression in the south runway at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Jackie B. Crusor requested to use Compton/Woodley Airport for a Walkathon. He said the event would be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with the airport closed. Mr. Gustin stated that closing the airport could be an issue with the FAA. Vice Chairman Lord suggested that Mr. Crusor submit a formal proposal requesting permission for the event.

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

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006, at 7 p.m., at
El Monte Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1697
(626) 448-6129**

Commissioner Cardono adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Aron A. Wolf
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

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