



Dean D. Efstathiou
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 APRIL 30, 2008
Whiteman Airport
12653 Osborne Street
Pacoima, CA 91331-2192**

COMMISSIONERS

EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER
CHAIR

PENELOPE CORNWALL
SECRETARY

CLYDE G. BAILEY
MEMBER

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

DENNIS C. LORD
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Commissioner Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo Cardono
Commissioner Bobby Chase
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clint Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Bobby Chase
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. Peter Albiez, Whiteman Airport Association
 Mr. Igaal Barak, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Roger Bourke, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Kim Caldwell, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. John Clausen, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Michael T. Daigle, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Patrick Di Leva, Aviation Division
 Mr. Frederick Espian, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
 Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
 Mr. Jerry Neglio, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Dough Rankir, Whiteman Airport Association
 Mr. Dusty Rhodes, Whiteman Airport Association
 Mr. Bill S., Whiteman Airport Association
 Mr. Ed Sause, American Airports Corporation
 Mr. Jack Tippie, Aviation Division Retiree

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jerome Alexander called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

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 March 26, 2008

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

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Chair Jerome Alexander thanked Whiteman Airport management for publishing a tribute to former Commissioner Roger L. Persons who passed away on April 4, 2008.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Fox-Tuck reported an incident that occurred on April 15, 2008, when a twin-engine Piper Apache aircraft crashed into a hillside after take off. Both the pilot and his passenger were air-lifted to a local hospital and are expected to make a full recovery. Five fire-fighting helicopters that are in support of the wildfire in the Foothills north of Sierra Madre are currently

utilizing the southeast corner of the airport. The annual fire-extinguisher recertification servicing will take place on May 12, 2008. The 2008 hangar inspections are in progress. The County tractor is in the shop for routine maintenance. Public Works Road Maintenance Division made some pavement repairs near the Pomona Police Department facility. The wash rack clarifier was serviced. The airport's primary crash-fire-rescue vehicle is back in service. The Collin's Foundation will host the Wings of Freedom Tour Event from May 6 to May 8, 2008, at the airport. Mr. Fox-Tuck announced that the Brackett Field Airport Pilots' Association will hold its annual barbecue on June 7, 2008.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. On April 12, 2008, a twin-engine Cessna 310 airplane crashed into two houses on the approach to the airport. Five people were injured, and all are expected to make a full recovery.

Commissioner Cardono commented that he landed at Compton/Woodley Airport a few minutes before the accident. Commissioner Cardono stated that he was at the scene within five minutes and said that the emergency response vehicles quickly responded to the scene.

Mr. Marino stated that the soil borings for the Pavement Rehabilitation Project were performed on April 7 and 8, 2008. The airport hosted a household hazardous waste and e-waste round up on April 19, 2008. Roof leaks at the EAA hangar have been repaired. Mr. Marino stated that in an effort to mitigate bird activity, bird spikes have been installed on target areas at the airport. A free phone was installed in the terminal building for pilot weather briefings.

Commissioner Lord thanked American Airports Corporation (AAC) and the County on behalf of the EAA for the installation of a ballistic wall in their hangar a couple of years ago. He added that the wall successfully stopped a bullet from entering the building.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. The Pavement Rehabilitation Project, Phase III has begun. An aircraft instrument repair shop has closed its activities, and another company based at the airport will occupy the area. Mr. Irving announced that the airport will host an Air Fair on September 20, 2008.

Commissioner Bailey asked if the individuals who cut the perimeter fence last month have been identified. Mr. Irving answered they have not.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. Improvements were made to the landscaping in front of the terminal building. The WiFi system has been serviced in an effort to extend free internet connection to

the tenants located close to the terminal building. The stadium lights were repaired. The annual fire extinguisher recertification is near completion. AE Consultants conducted survey work on April 15, 2008, in preparation for the Taxiway Development Project. Progress was made on the new hangar development located on the north side of the terminal building.

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that airport operations were somewhat affected by the wildfire in the foothills of north Sierra Madre when pilots were not allowed to practice in flight pattern for two days.

Commissioner Lord asked how far from the airport was the fire that affected the flight pattern. Mr. Herrera said that the fire was in the down wing leg, which resulted in a temporary flight restriction for safety reasons. Routine arrivals and departures were not affected.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked for an update on the helicopter noise complaints at El Monte Airport and asked if there is helicopter training operation at the airport. Mr. Herrera responded that the noise complaints have dropped significantly since the closure of Silver State Helicopters. Mr. Herrera stated that helicopter training is performed by a based flight school as well as flight schools from Van Nuys Airport.

Mr. Scott Wardle added that El Monte Airport had recently received a noise complaint originated from an aircraft based at Van Nuys Airport. The operator was unaware of the flight restrictions at the airport and apologized for the inconvenience caused. The operator also stated that flight instructors would be informed about the flight pattern at El Monte Airport to avoid similar incidents in the future.

Mr. Richard Smith provided an update on the noise complaints regarding the repetitive helicopter training activities raised several months ago by a local resident. Mr. Smith met with Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, and his staff, along with the constituent to discuss the noise issues. The Supervisors agreed to send a letter to Congressman David Dreier as well as FAA leadership, in an effort to bring more attention to the helicopter training activity issues in Southern California. Mr. Smith also added that he will arrange a field trip with at least one helicopter operator to find a suitable location for helicopter training.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Hangar inspections are in progress and there are no safety or compliance violations at this time. Lighting fixtures in the administration building are being retro-fitted. Annual fire extinguisher servicing will take place in July. Mr. Morgan provided an update on the hangar development at the airport and provided a list with hangar specifications and pricing. Mr. Morgan is planning to have an open house in the near future in an effort to make the

local residents become more acquainted about the benefits the airport can offer to its local community. The Whiteman Airport community lost a long term tenant, Mr. Malcolm Neal who passed away on April 5, 2008. Mr. Morgan stated that Whiteman Airport was represented in the Aviation Career Day at Van Nuys Airport, which was a very productive event with over 1,500 high school students attending. Mr. Morgan announced an Air Rally, sponsored by the Whiteman Airport Association, will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008. The first planning meeting to discuss the Challenge Air Event – 2008 Edition will be held on May 29, 2008, at 4 p.m., in the terminal building. The next Whiteman Airport Pilots' Association meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2008. Mr. Morgan finished his report with a presentation of a trailer for an aviation reality show filmed at Whiteman Airport.

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Richard Smith provided the Commission with copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for March 2008 and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Butts questioned the amount of spending on services provided by County Counsel. Mr. Richard Smith responded that County Counsel expenses pertain to the leasing activities through AAC as well as the AAC proposal for a contract extension.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that 1,300 Airport Customer Service Survey forms were mailed out to the airport tenants, with a 25 percent response rate back, which is in line with prior years. The feedback received from the tenants contained many constructive comments. Mr. Smith stated that he has read every survey, and discussed specific concerns that needed immediate attention directly with the airport managers. Mr. Smith also thanked the airport managers for following up on some of the specific issues that have come up so far. Mr. Smith informed the Commission the survey period will be extended until May 10, 2008, and the results will be presented during the May meeting of the Aviation Commission at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield.

Mr. Smith also mentioned that Commissioner Bailey requested to arrange a quick field trip for the Commissioners around General Wm. J. Fox Airfield on May 28, 2008.

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

A draft of the Scope of Work for Bracket Field Airport's Runway Safety Action Plan Project was provided to the consultant. The consultant is preparing an initial cost proposal.

The pavement borings and survey work are complete for the design portion of the Pavement Rehabilitation Project at Compton/Woodley Airport. The total cost of the project design was \$400,000.

An acceptance inspection for the new power sweeper for El Monte Airport was performed on March 27, 2008. The unit will be delivered in May.

AE Consultants have completed the initial survey work and assessment for the Taxiway Development Project at El Monte Airport. Preliminary design is expected in late May or early June.

The contractor for the Monument Entrance Sign Project at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield has informed the County that the concrete form liners are on back order, which will further delay the project.

Board of Supervisors' authorization to award consultant services contract for the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update is expected May 13, 2008. An independent fee estimate is required by the FAA in order to award a consultant contract.

Chair Jerome Alexander inquired about the schedule for completion of the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update. Mr. Smith responded that this is a 12 to 18 month process. Mr. Smith also added that close contact will be established with the Whiteman Airport Association, along with Mr. Morgan in an effort to get the Whiteman Airport community involved in the process.

A meeting with a consultant for the development of Minimum Standards for Aeronautical Activities at the County-owned airports is scheduled for May 9, 2008.

4. Whiteman Airport Additional Items

No additional items for Whiteman Airport.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Don Hagopian expressed his sympathy for the passing of Commissioner Persons. Mr. Hagopian announced the Whiteman Airport Association's Annual Barbecue will be held on July 13, 2008, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. He also announced an Air Rally will be held at Whiteman Airport on May 10, 2008. Mr. Hagopian stated that an email will be sent to the Whiteman Airport Association's members encouraging their participation in the 2008 Airport Customer Service Survey.

Mr. Frederick Espian thanked Mr. Morgan for his efforts managing Whiteman Airport. Mr. Espian expressed his concerns regarding the fuel prices, and suggested that the County-owned airports be managed by a Board of Directors comprised of airport pilots.

Commissioner Cardono responded that having a contractor running the County-owned airports has been very beneficial for both County and airport users in the last 25 years. Commissioner Cardono stated that the Commission is advisory to the Board of Supervisors and pointed out that many people approach the Board of Supervisors to express their concerns for the airports. The Commission represents the flying community and supports efforts to keep the airports open and running. Commissioner Cardono also stated that many County services are managed by private enterprise that proved to be more cost efficient.

Chair Jerome Alexander acknowledged Mr. Espian's comments and stated that all members of the Commission are pilots who volunteer to be part of the Aviation Commission, and their commitment is to present the airports as a valuable resource to the pilots and the local community. Chair Jerome Alexander also reiterated Commissioner Cardono's comments that the Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors that relies on the Commission to deal with the airport matters like frequent requests from constituents to close the airports due to noise issues. Chair Jerome Alexander suggested Mr. Espian to participate in the annual Airport Customer Service Survey and express his concerns.

Commissioner Lord mentioned that a similar request from a group of pilots from one of the airports was made in the past. Such request gained attention from the media and went all the way to the FAA who concluded there were no major issues with the operation of the airport. However, a local newspaper suggested that the community should decide the best use of the airport, which places the airport at risk. Commissioner Lord suggested caution when special interest groups approach a decision-making group with requests that might lead to a non beneficial decision about the airports. Commissioner Lord added that the Commission supports all the efforts to keep the airports open and running.

Mr. Peter Albiez requested the Commission not to support the implementation of a mandatory night-time curfew at the Bob Hope Airport proposed by the City of Burbank.

Mr. Roger Bourke suggested airports provide field trips to elementary students who could benefit in the future from their experiences of being exposed to aviation activities.

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

**Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at 7 p.m., at
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

Commissioner Lord made a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Commissioner Persons, seconded by Commissioner Butts. Chair Jerome Alexander adjourned the meeting in memory of Commissioner Persons at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Penelope Cornwall
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

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