



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

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 AUGUST 29, 2007
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3599**

COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD
CHAIRMAN

EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER
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 George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Roger L. Persons
Commissioner Clint Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner 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
Mrs. Miriam Gomes Oprisan, 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. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Louis Bigelow, EAA Chapter 96
 Mr. Dave Bristol, Compton/Woodley Airport
 Mr. John Clausen, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Brian Cunneen, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Brett Godown, San Bernardino County Department of Airports
 Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
 Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport
 Mr. Ron Lisberg, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Bill Logan, Whiteman Airport
 Mr. Henry M. Roy, California Black Aviation
 Mr. Otis Walker, City of Compton Resident
 Ms. Kecia Woods, City of Compton Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lord 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 June 27, 2007

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

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission that an amendment to the contract with Argubright Construction was submitted to the County for approval of additional land for the aircraft storage hangar project at Whiteman Airport. El Monte Airport held a Marketing Community Meeting as a result of the airport users' request to improve the marketing of the airport. Mr. Wardle also reported that the power sweeper was off its normal schedule due to routine maintenance.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked how many sweepers are available at the airports and how long it will take to complete the maintenance. Mr. Wardle stated there is currently one power sweeper available and it is already back in service.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. An underground water leak located between the "L" and "M" hangar rows was

fixed. A section of fence was repaired along Santa Anita Avenue. CPR and First Aid training was conducted at the airport.

Chairman Lord informed the Commission the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at El Monte Airport is currently tracking helicopters to 300 feet above ground level (AGL).

Commissioner Simmons asked if the ATCT would be able to track the helicopters to 300 feet AGL without the transponder on. Mr. Richard Smith stated that aircraft must have a "Mode C" transponder for the tower to verify aircraft altitude.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Fire extinguishers were inspected and recertified. Amber reflective pavement markers were installed to assist pilots operating on the ground at night. The sign located at the main entrance was repainted. Mr. Morgan announced a planning meeting for the Challenge Air Event that will occur on September 6, 2007. Mr. Morgan thanked Whiteman Airport Association for the success of its annual barbecue held on July 14, 2007.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked if fire extinguishers are required in the County hangars. Mr. Wardle responded fire extinguishers are not required; however, American Airports Corporation (AAC) provides replacement and recertification of fire extinguishers to its tenants on a yearly basis. Mr. Wardle also added that he is considering installing fire extinguishers on the exterior of the hangar rows.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. Satellite television was installed in the pilots lounge. Construction of the helicopter parking pads located in front of Eagle Helicopters is complete. A second flight school has been at the airport for 4 months and continues increasing its student population. Repairs were made to the aircraft crash-fire-rescue vehicle that was transferred from Compton/Woodley Airport, as well as the 100LL refueler. The air conditioning unit at the fuel island is currently out of service, and it will be repaired soon. Some dead trees were removed throughout the airport. Efforts to reduce the ground squirrel population at the airport are being made. A southeast portion of the airport will be used to accommodate overflow parking during the Los Angeles County Fair. Mr. Fox-Tuck thanked the 99's for repainting the compass rose.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General William J. Fox Airfield. The aircraft hangar development located on the east side of the airport is complete. The WiFi antenna in the terminal building was temporarily out of service. The aircraft hangar development on the west side of the airport will include six additional hangars. The airport hosted the EAA Young Eagles Flight Rally on August 25-26, 2007.

Commissioner Bailey asked the reason why planes are leaving Van Nuys Airport. Mr. Irving speculated that the high rental rates at Van Nuys Airport are likely the cause of aircraft relocating to Fox Airfield.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. The north wall perimeter lighting project is near completion. The new procedures for helicopter operations at Compton/Woodley Airport will be presented to flight schools from Long Beach, Torrance Municipal, and Hawthorne Municipal Airports. Mr. Marino stated that the three-month trial period for the new traffic pattern procedures would begin in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is anticipated to provide assistance in terms of releasing the new helicopter procedures. Mr. Marino stated that the procedures will be published on the FAA's website, and along with him, members of the FAA Safety Team will be present during the presentations of the new procedures to flight schools and airport users.

Chairman Lord discussed the need for an Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) at Compton/Woodley Airport, considering that the airport does not have an ATCT. He added that the system could broadcast the new helicopter procedures.

Commissioner Cardono supported Chairman Lord's comments regarding the installation of an AWOS system at the airport.

Commissioner Simmons pointed out that the old ATCT from El Monte Airport was once brought to Compton/Woodley Airport, but it was never installed because some pilots had the desire to fly at an uncontrolled field. Commissioner Simmons also suggested making another attempt to bring an ATCT to Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Marino continued his report and stated that new water heaters were installed in the "F" row restrooms and in the terminal building. A new bench was installed outside the terminal building. The tie-down rates were reduced to \$49 per month, which resulted in an increase in tied-down tenants at the airport. The 14th Annual Compton Air Fair will be held on September 22, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The City of Compton Fire Department held a Fire Safety Seminar on August 25, 2007. Mr. Marino stated that he has been working with the Fire Department to develop an emergency plan to prepare staff in case of an emergency situation occurs at the airport.

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Ted Gustin provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for July 2007, and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Gustin informed the Commission that the Ford Theatre Foundation and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission will host a performance of the Swedish classical ensemble "Camerata Nordica" on September 27, 2007, at 8 p.m., at John Anson Ford Amphitheatre. All County commissioners were invited to attend the event.

Mr. Smith provided updates on the current projects at the County airports. A \$200,000 grant received from the FAA was executed for the Pavement Rehabilitation Design Project at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Commissioner Cardono asked if the \$200,000 dollar grant would be specifically used for the design of the Pavement Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Smith explained that the grant is allocated for the project design only, and added that a comprehensive drainage study will also be conducted for the entire airport.

Commissioner Cardono asked for an estimated start date for the Pavement Rehabilitation Design Project. Mr. Smith answered that the consultant provided a preliminary schedule and estimated a time range of six to seven months to complete the design portion of the project.

The FAA grant for the acquisition of a power sweeper for El Monte Airport was received on August 6, 2007, and the purchase process is in progress.

The bids for the Pavement Rehabilitation Project, Phase III for General Wm. J. Fox Airfield were opened on August 14, 2007. The lowest bidder was Granite Construction that also completed the Pavement Rehabilitation Project, Phase II. Granite Construction's bid was \$1,368,892, and the FAA grant received for the project is \$1,677,725.

The Monument Entrance Sign project at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield is pending and construction will begin as soon as a job order contractor becomes available.

The request for proposals for the Airport Master Plan (AMP) Update for Whiteman Airport has been reviewed by the FAA, and Division staff are addressing the FAA's recommended changes.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked if the airport community will have the opportunity to give its input on the AMP Update before it is approved. Mr. Smith answered yes.

Chairman Lord provided a brief update on Assembly Bill (AB) No. 700, which would require the State Air Resources Board to complete a study of air pollution caused by jets and turbo-prop airplanes idling on the ground at Santa Monica Airport. A committee will be assembled and will be comprised of no more than twenty members, which will include representation from pilots' associations, fixed base operators, a

representative of the Los Angeles World Airports, and others in the community. The Committee will evaluate all relevant and appropriate studies and data regarding the airport.

4. Federal Bill S. 1300

Chairman Lord conducted a discussion regarding Federal Bill S. 1300 that, if passed, would implement a \$25 fee per flight for some general aviation users. Chairman Lord suggested drafting a letter to Senator Barbara Boxer in opposition to this Bill, and bringing it before the Commission for approval.

5. Brian Ranch Airport

Chairman Lord presented a letter stating the Commission's support for the renewal of the conditional use permit for Brian Ranch Airport. Commissioner Chase stated that the airport is a facility designated for recreational aviation, supporting ultralight, light sport, and single engine aircraft.

On motion by Commissioner Chase, seconded by Commissioner Butts, the letter was unanimously approved.

6. Angel Flight West

Chairman Lord informed the Commission that Angel Flight West requested a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Angel Flight West and the County of Los Angeles regarding the use of the County airports during emergencies or disaster-recovery efforts. Copies of the MOU were provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Simmons commented that the County airports are open to any agency that provides disaster-response services, and asked if Angel Flight West was requesting priority at the airports.

Chairman Lord stated that the language in the MOU is pretty generic and contemplates the same access to the County airports that would be provided to any other agency in the event of a major disaster.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander inquired if Angel Flight West has an agreement with any other government entity that operates airports in the United States. Chairman Lord said that he was not aware of a similar agreement.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked in what circumstances Angel Flight West could be exempted from grounding, should the national airspace system be shut down again. Mr. Gustin said that only the Federal government could grant such an exception.

No action was taken on this item, and it was continued to the next meeting.

7. Compton/Woodley Airport items

No additional items for Compton/Woodley Airport.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Brett Godown of the San Bernardino County Airports invited the Commission and the public to attend the Apple Valley Airport Open House, Fly-in, and Great Desert Air Race of 2007 that will be held on October 13, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Bill Logan informed the Commission that a meeting was held on August 15, 2007, to discuss his concerns regarding the runway length at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Jason Morgan and Mr. David T. Voelker, FAA Flight Standards, along with Mr. Logan attended the meeting. Mr. Logan provided a copy of the meeting minutes and stated that when he voiced his concerns, Mr. Voelker stated that it was the pilot's responsibility to ascertain the safe runway length. Mr. Logan expressed his opinion that the full length of the runway cannot be used in a safe manner.

Mr. Wardle thanked Mr. Logan for calling the meeting regarding runway safety at Whiteman Airport, and added that the FAA provided positive recommendations to enhance runway safety at the airport.

Mr. Logan requested an opportunity for the Whiteman Airport Association to provide its input on the AMP Update for Whiteman Airport.

Mr. Logan informed the Commission he is trying to establish a connection with disaster response agencies such as Police and Fire Department and have private pilots available in the event of a major disaster.

Commissioner Butts suggested Mr. Logan contact the Fire Department, which is generally the lead agency during major disasters. Commissioner Butts also provided information regarding the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a group of volunteer emergency workers trained by the Fire Department in disaster preparedness.

Mr. Don Hagopian requested an opportunity for the Whiteman Airport Association to provide its input on the proposal made by AAC to invest in capital improvements at Whiteman Airport. He also shared some pictures of the Whiteman Airport Association Annual Barbecue held on July 14, 2007.

Mr. Jack Kenton expressed his support to extend the contract between the County and AAC. Mr. Kenton invited the Commission to attend the California Pilots Association's annual meeting to be held on October 6, 2007, at the Embassy Suites South on the west side of LAX.

Ms. Kecia Woods expressed concern for the helicopter noise around Compton/Woodley Airport and suggested the Commission select a representative from the Community to act as a liaison to work together and search for solutions to solve the noise issue that has been affecting her neighborhood. She recognized the progress that has been made and pointed out the importance of the community knowing that something has been done on their behalf.

Commissioner Simmons asked what time of the day the noise was more prevalent. Ms. Woods said it was usually around 7 a.m.

Commissioner Simmons asked Mr. Marino about the activity schedule of the flight schools. Mr. Marino stated that the flight school schedule is usually from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. However, some students might start earlier before they begin their regular work schedule.

Mr. Wardle provided the airport operations' phone number for community members to contact airport staff, and encouraged community members to report noise disturbances. Mr. Wardle stated that the airport will keep a noise complaint log, and he will also look into the possibility of changing the training hours on the weekends.

Chairman Lord commented that El Monte Airport has similar issues regarding helicopter noise, and there is a possibility of reopening a helicopter landing pad located in the Santa Fe Dam.

Commissioner Simmons suggested drafting a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers encouraging the reopening of the helicopter operations area in the Santa Fe Dam.

On a motion by Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Butts, the Commission unanimously approved writing a letter supporting the reopening of the helicopter operations area in the Santa Fe Dam.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander thanked Ms. Woods for bringing her concerns before the Commission, and stated that the Commission will make every effort to address the problem. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander said that safety is the main concern at the airport, and explained that the noise issues cannot be completely eliminated. She added that having a liaison present at the Commission meetings is a great opportunity to open a dialogue with the community members along with pilots that have concerns as well.

Chairman Lord explained that County airports receive federal funding, and are required to be open to the public twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. At the same time the airports need to meet those obligations, it is also necessary to seek a balance between the community and the airport.

Mr. Henry Roy expressed some concerns regarding the first response in the event of an airplane crash at Compton Woodley Airport. Mr. Marino stated that airport staff is trained as first responders. In the event of a crash, airport operations personnel are instructed to immediately call 911. Airport staff will respond with the aircraft crash-fire-rescue vehicle, and an individual will be at the entrance gate to provide immediate access to the Fire Department.

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

**Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at 7 p.m., at
El Monte Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1697
(626) 448-6129**

Commissioner Cardono made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Persons. Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

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