



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 FEBRUARY 27, 2008  
Compton/Woodley Airport  
901 West Alondra Boulevard  
Compton, CA 90220-3599**

## COMMISSIONERS

**EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER**  
*CHAIR*

**ROGER L. PERSONS**  
*VICE CHAIRMAN*

**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 Bobby Chase  
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord  
Commissioner Clint Simmons

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary Penelope Cornwall  
Vice Chairman Roger L. Persons  
Commissioner Angelo Cardono  
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. William H. Higley, Deputy Director, Administration  
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. Robert Cullinan, Compton/Woodley Airport  
Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport  
Mr. Brendan O'Reilly, Aviation Division  
Mr. Jack Tippie, Aviation Division Retired

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION****1. Minutes of the Meeting of January 30, 2008**

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

**2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report**

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission that, he believes, aviation fuel prices may reach \$5 dollars a gallon this year at the County-owned airports due to the recent increases in the price of crude oil.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Filming for an aviation reality show has begun at the airport. Follow up hangar inspections are in progress. Mr. Morgan stated that third-party lessors continue to report airport tenants that are not in compliance. Mr. Morgan provided an update on the Vista aircraft hangar development at the airport; the developer anticipates having both the administration building and the maintenance hangar ready to occupy by August 2008. A hangar development is being planned to be constructed by the Marshall hangar. Mr. Morgan announced that the next Whiteman Airport Association meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008. Meeting attendees should include two of the local air traffic controllers. Mr. Morgan informed the Commission that Whiteman Airport may experience an increase in demand for aircraft hangars due to a hangar development project for large corporate jets at Van Nuys Airport that may displace some of their tenants.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Fox-Tuck reported an incident that occurred on February 7, 2008, involving a Seneca aircraft from a flight school based at El Monte Airport. The nose gear of the aircraft collapsed during landing, which caused the closure of the runway for about an hour. No injuries were reported, and there was no damage to the runway.

Mr. Fox-Tuck provided an update on the aircraft hangar development on the southeast corner of the airport, stating that trenching has begun and supply lines for the fire hydrants are being installed. Water leaks have been repaired in some of the hangars. The County tractor has received its

300-hour service. Airport staff is currently sealing gaps on the hangar doors located on both the north and south sides of the airport in an effort to restrict pigeon entrance.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Field Airfield. Work is currently being done to remove bamboo that was blocking the taxiway lights on the west side of the airport. The U.S. Department of Forestry is conducting simulated training with 18 King Air aircraft at the airport. New hand held radios and shoulder mount microphones were purchased in an effort to eliminate missed radio calls and improve customer service at the airport. The Fox Field Pilots' Association held a safety meeting at the airport. The Antelope Valley 99's will be holding its Annual Poker Run on March 9, 2008.

Commissioner Bailey asked if the lease of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) building at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield has been finalized. Mr. Wardle stated that the FAA will send a copy of the lease renewal for County review. He also added that the FAA indicated that they likely will not occupy the building for the entire year.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. The fuel island was painted and new spill kits were installed. New signage has been installed to provide better visibility to transient aircraft traffic. A bike rack was installed in front of the terminal building. Mr. Herrera thanked the San Gabriel Valley Pilots' Association along with Dr. Phillips for hosting a Safety Seminar at the airport.

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that Mr. Richard Smith, Mr. Wardle, and he met with the City Manager of the City of El Monte and his Assistant, on February 13, to discuss noise issues at the airport.

Mr. Smith noted that the meeting with the City Manager and his Assistant was an attempt to enable the City to respond to their constituents in a more effective manner in terms of directing the noise complaints to the appropriate agencies. As part of the conversation, Mr. Smith discussed the County initiatives in exploring alternate helicopter training facilities. Correspondence with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the reopening of the helicopter landing area at Santa Fe Dam was also discussed.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. Minor repairs continue to be made to the airport terminal building. Historic airport photos are being displayed in the terminal building. Survey for the Pavement Reconstruction Design Project has begun and will continue for the next two weeks. The annual fire extinguisher recertification will be held on March 18, 2008. Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the airport has experienced a drop in operations due to the closure of Silver

State Helicopters in early February 2008. Mr. Marino estimated that Silver State Helicopters accounted for about 50 percent of the helicopter traffic at the airport. Mr. Marino announced that two children from Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum are planning to solo seven different aircraft on March 15, 2008.

Mr. Wardle added that during the last stakeholder meeting at Compton/Woodley Airport some airport users commented on the Letter of Agreement regarding the new procedures for helicopter operations at Compton/Woodley Airport. Tenants also requested some additional attention be paid to the public restrooms. Mr. Wardle stated that he suggested the airport users put their comments in writing for further consideration, and added that some restroom fixtures will be upgraded in the near future.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked if the airport recorded less noise complaints since Silver State Helicopter ended its activities. Mr. Marino answered that no complaints have been registered in the last two months. However, Mr. Marino commented that the gap in helicopter activity is temporary and will likely be replaced soon by another operator.

Commissioner Lord stated that the Assistant City Manager of the City of Compton shared with him that an airport tenant from Compton/Woodley Airport mentioned that the closure of Silver State Helicopters should reduce the noise impact at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Commissioner Lord also provided an update on the discussions regarding the noise issue at Compton/Woodley Airport. He informed the Commission that an email from Supervisor Burke's Office was sent to the City of Compton requesting more details about the noise issue.

### 3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Smith provided the annual Statements of Economic Interests - Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700 and the annual letters of support for the FAA contract tower program for 2009.

Mr. Smith provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for January 2008 and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a formal proposal was received for a web-based application designed to track noise and flight information such as departure and takeoffs. The software is password-protected and can be accessed from any web browser by airport users and the public in general. Although the software can be beneficial, Mr. Smith cautioned that full implementation of such application is quite costly and is not eligible for State or Federal funding. The project is estimated at \$50,000

to build the websites and it ranges from \$45,000 to \$50,000 a year to maintain it. Mr. Smith recommended not entertaining the proposal at this point due to uncertainty of stable funding.

Mr. Smith stated the request for proposal to develop Minimum Standards for Commercial Aeronautical Activities at County-owned airports has been reviewed and is scheduled to be advertised in March 2008. Chair Jerome Alexander asked about the time frame of the project. Mr. Smith responded 120 days.

The Brackett Field Runway Safety Action Plan Project to relocate the signage on the north side of the airport and the pavement markings between the runways is scheduled for Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The design portion of the project will be accomplished in Federal FY 2008.

The Comprehensive Drainage and Pavement Reconstruction Design Project at Compton/Woodley Airport has initiated with the survey team.

The power sweeper for El Monte Airport will be delivered in April 2008. The Taxiway Development Project at El Monte Airport is moving forward. Board of Supervisors approval to award the design contract is expected for March 11, 2008. Mr. Smith explained that the project may not be completed this year due to the fact that the deadline to accept Federal grants for this year was shortened by two months.

Construction of the Monument Sign at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield is expected to begin on February 28, 2008.

The Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update fee proposal was successfully negotiated to \$178,000 from an original estimate of \$209,000. The current estimate is still \$36,000 above the FAA grant award. The FAA will award a second-phase grant to cover the additional costs over the original grant award of \$142,500.

The Airpark Way Entrance Improvement Project at Whiteman Airport is facing some challenges with the City of Los Angeles that is requesting \$30,000 in permit fees and changes in the existing plans to match the City's format. Negotiations are being conducted with the City in order to come to a compromise.

4. Compton/Woodley Airport Additional Items

No additional items for Compton/Woodley Airport.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Jack Kenton suggested painting a 50-foot line around the airport terminal building in an effort to keep helicopters at a safe distance from the terminal building. He also asked for a follow up on the fencing reinforcement project along Alondra Boulevard. Mr. Kenton announced that the EEA Young Eagles event will be held on March 8, 2008, at Compton/Woodley Airport.

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

**Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at 10 a.m., at  
El Monte Airport  
4233 Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731-1697  
(626) 448-6129**

Commissioner Butts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. Chair Jerome Alexander adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Penelope Cornwall  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

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