



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

# 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  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

## 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*

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2007  
Brackett Field Airport  
1615 McKinley Avenue  
La Verne, CA 91750-5837**

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis C. Lord  
Vice Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander  
Commissioner George G. Butts  
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono  
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase  
Commissioner Roger L. Persons  
Commissioner Clint Simmons

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey  
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall  
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 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, 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. Steve Argubright, Argubright Construction  
Mr. Hal Clark, Brackett Airport Association  
Mr. Jack Kenton, Compton/Woodley Airport  
Mr. George Prewitt, Fox Airfield Association  
Mr. Edward Sause, American Airports Corporation  
Mr. Tom Sullivan, Argubright Construction

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION****1. Minutes of the Meeting of May 30, 2007**

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander 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 provided copies of a proposal that American Airports Corporation (AAC) submitted to the Director of Public Works. AAC proposed to invest \$5 million in capital improvements to the airports in exchange for an extension on their management contract with the County.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the proposed capital improvement projects were based upon the extension of the contract between AAC and the County.

Mr. Wardle stated the proposal suggests modifications to the existing contract to provide sufficient time to amortize the \$5 million investment by extending the contract to its original term of 30 years.

Commissioner Simmons asked what would happen if the contract was cancelled after the capital improvements had already started. Mr. Wardle answered the agreement would have specific language to protect both parties.

Commissioner Cardono commented that any effort to improve the County airports was welcome.

Mr. Wardle provided copies of the Hangar Inspections Report, and offered to answer questions.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked how many evictions were conducted during the hangar inspections. Mr. Wardle stated that the tenants whose hangars were found not in compliance with the hangar inspections were served with a Notice to Comply. He also noted there is one eviction in process with a lock-out date pending.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Morgan stated that the 2007 Airport User Survey results were presented during the stakeholder meeting. Fire extinguishers will be recertified from July 5 to July 17, 2007. Additional fire extinguishers will be placed at the end of the hangar rows. As a result of the airport users' request, Mr. Morgan intends to provide fire extinguisher training to the tenants as well as a demonstration of the aircraft rescue fire-fighting equipment. Mr. Morgan informed the Commission the Whiteman Airport Association Barbecue would be held on July 14, 2007, at 12 p.m.

Mr. Richard Smith noted that great progress, in terms of communication, has been made during the stakeholder meetings.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked if the stakeholder meetings would continue. Mr. Smith stated the quarterly stakeholder meetings are ongoing and will continue, but added that users at some airports have opted to make the meetings less frequent.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. The north wall perimeter lighting project is nearly complete. A County radio technician checked the pilot controlled lighting system, and it appears to be fully functional. The County delivered a new crash-fire-rescue vehicle. The aircraft tiedown location numbers and the transient parking spaces are being repainted. Openings in some of the hangars were closed off to prevent birds from nesting. Mr. Marino informed the Commission the position of Assistant Airport Manager is currently open, and he is accepting applications.

Mr. Marino presented to the Commissioners a proposal letter stating the new procedures for helicopter operations at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Commissioner Simmons asked why the traffic pattern altitude for helicopters is 600 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL) instead of 450 feet above MSL as discussed before with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mr. Marino answered that the FAA considered that the 450 feet above MSL altitude would cause considerable noise in the neighborhood; therefore, the FAA raised the traffic pattern altitude to 600 feet above MSL. Mr. Marino noted that the 600 feet above MSL is a normal traffic pattern altitude for helicopters, and also added that it will be a 400-foot separation from the fixed-wing aircraft, which the traffic pattern altitude is 1,000 feet above MSL.

Commissioner Simmons addressed some concerns regarding the close traffic pattern at the airport. Mr. Marino explained that the helicopters will be on the left side while the fixed-wing aircraft will be on the right side, which will avoid them crossing paths. He also said that the altitude patterns were recommended by the FAA Safety Team.

Commissioner Simmons also expressed some concerns regarding the pilot students and suggested informing the aircraft instructors about the new procedures. Mr. Marino stated that a channel of communication will be established between airport staff and flight schools in an effort to avoid any possible incidents resulting from miscommunication regarding the new traffic pattern at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Commissioner Cardono inquired how the new traffic pattern procedures at Compton/Woodley Airport will be released to the airport users. Mr. Marino answered that the FAA will post the new procedures on its website. Mr. Marino also stated that he will visit all the flight schools that come to the airport, and personally inform and discuss with them the new procedures.

Commissioner Cardono expressed some concerns regarding the helicopter operations at Compton/Woodley Airport. He added that Compton/Woodley Airport is surrounded by buildings and is a small airport without adequate space. Therefore, helicopter operations should be discouraged at the airport. Commissioner Cardono concluded by saying that another alternative would be the construction of a heliport at an alternate location.

Chairman Lord commented that El Monte Airport also has some issues with helicopter operations, and the possibility of building a heliport is being explored.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander recommended caution when discouraging any aviation activity at County airports.

Commissioner Chase asked if the FAA has inquired about the legality of flying helicopters at a 600 above MSL altitude over populated areas. Mr. Ted Gustin explained that helicopters have no minimum altitude as long as they are operated in a safe manner.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. The hangar development on the east side of the airport is near complete. Mr. Irving reported that a small incident occurred on June 26, 2007, when a vehicle hit the fence on Avenue F. No major damages were reported. The California Department of Transportation conducted the Airport Safety Data Program – 5010 Inspection. The stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2007, in the terminal building. The Pilot's Association will hold a safety meeting on July 9, 2007, at 7p.m.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. The air conditioning units were serviced in an effort to avoid any problems during the summer season. A water heater was installed to supply hot water in the restrooms located in the "A" row hangars. The California Department

of Transportation conducted the Airport Safety Data Program – 5010 Inspection. The airport received a new aircraft-crash-fire rescue vehicle.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander commented on the response from the California Department of Transportation regarding the City of El Monte's Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the El Monte Transit Village Specific Plan Project. The proposal is for the redevelopment of an approximate 6.5-acre site that will include the following mix of land uses: up to 1,850 residences, 491,000 square feet of commercial retail, a 42,000-square-foot conference center, 500,000 square feet of professional and business offices, a 70,000-square-foot theater and entertainment complex, a 20,000-square-foot child development center, and a 200-room hotel. The project site is located approximately 2,270 feet southwest of the El Monte Airport, directly beneath the extended runway centerline.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander addressed some concerns regarding the proximity of the development to the airport. She also pointed out that a child development center should not be built near the airport. She emphasized that children should not be placed under a flight path.

Mr. Gustin noted that the child development center was not part of the initial project, but it was encouraged by the First Supervisorial District. Mr. Gustin also commented that the State's response addresses concerns regarding the safety around the airport boundaries, which is the most critical issue.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander requested drafting a letter to the City of El Monte addressing the Commission's position regarding the safety issues that the El Monte Transit Village Specific Plan Project may cause to the community. On motion by Vice Chair Jerome Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Butts, the Commission unanimously approved the request. Vice Chair Jerome volunteered to draft the letter.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Fox-Tuck reported that on June 23, 2007, some criminal activity was observed on the south side of the airport. The Sheriff Deputies responded to the scene and pursued a vehicle. The pursuit ended when the vehicle went off the road on the west side of the fence between the airport property and the Puddingstone Lake. The fence was damaged and it will be repaired. Mr. Fox-Tuck stated that hoses were replaced in the wash rack and the portable restrooms were painted. The US Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Board conducted an audit at the airport, and the California Department of Transportation conducted the Airport Safety Data Program – 5010 Inspection. Mr. Fox-Tuck stated that a flight-planning room will soon be available for pilots at the airport. The Los Angeles County Fire Department is looking forward to base a helicopter at Brackett Field Airport. The 99's will be at the airport on

July 7, 2007. Mr. Fox-Tuck thanked Mr. and Mrs. Marshall for hosting the Antique Aircraft Event every third Sunday of the month at the airport.

Chairman Lord stated that the Minimum Standards for Commercial Aeronautical Activities (MSCAA) Subcommittee members are currently meeting on a regular basis. The MSCAA Subcommittee completed the following items: General Requirements and Standards; Fixed Base Operator – Full Service; Noncommercial Self – Fueling Permittee; Aircraft Rental/Flight Training; and Aircraft Maintenance Operator. Those items will be reviewed by County Counsel. Following the review; the above-mentioned items will be brought before the Commission and posted on Public Works' website.

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

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

Mr. Smith provided updates on the current projects at the County airports. The final design plans and specifications for the Pavement Rehabilitation Project, Phase III at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield are complete, and the bid process is in progress. Funding has been approved by the FAA, and the formal grant application will be filed this week.

4. Brackett Field Airport Items

Mr. Steve Argubright presented drawings of a new development on the southeast corner of the airport. He explained some of the planned facilities, which will include the construction of hangars, tiedowns, a taxiway, a courtyard, parking, and office spaces.

Commissioner Simmons inquired if safety and security will be integrated into the flight operations areas or if they will be separated, since the project also contemplates office buildings and other public facilities. Mr. Argubright answered the offices will not be available to the general public, only to the aviation users. He also added that the public use facilities will be located outside the fence and will not have immediate access to the airport.

Chairman Lord asked if the addition of trees and medians was being considered, since the parking lot designated area is quite large. Mr. Argubright said that some medians will be incorporated into the parking lot.

Chairman Lord asked for an update on the construction permits, and if an EIR was completed. Mr. Argubright stated that he will submit the project to the City of La Verne for review, and the building permits will be requested from the County. Mr. Gustin added that the Negative

Declaration document was prepared, and the project received a finding of no significant impact.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked when the project will be concluded. Mr. Argubright expects construction to begin in January or February 2008, and it will take approximately 16 months to complete.

5. Assembly Bill No. 700

Chairman Lord discussed 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 the Santa Monica Airport.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander suggested publishing information about AB 700 on the AAC newsletter in an effort to inform the airport tenants.

On motion by Commissioner Butts, seconded by Commissioner Cardono, the Commission unanimously approved writing a letter in opposition to AB 700. The letter will be addressed to the Honorable Ted Lieu, California State Capitol; the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; and appropriate legislators.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Jack Kenton suggested Public Works and the Commission contact the Board of Supervisors to use their offices to communicate with the cities in the Los Angeles County about the need to have all the airports share in the operation and training of helicopters. Mr. Kenton expressed some concerns regarding the proposed traffic pattern at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Kenton noted the edges of the runway and the taxiways should be leveled.

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

**Wednesday, August 29, 2007, at 7 p.m., at  
Compton/Woodley Airport  
901 West Alondra Boulevard  
Compton, CA 90220-3599  
(310) 631-8140**

Commissioner Persons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Cardono. Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

P:\avpub\ADMIN\Richard\Aviation Commission\MINUTES\MinutesJun2007.doc