



GAIL FARBER
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

August 29, 2012, Meeting
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140

COMMISSIONERS

CLINTON SIMMONS
CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD
VICE CHAIRMAN

PETER AMUNDSON
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

VACANT
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Secretary Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Ms. Victoria Frausto, Staff Assistant

AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Chris Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Henry Roy

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. June 27, 2012, Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Vice Chairman Lord, seconded by Commissioner Cardono.

B. American Airports Corporation - Project Manager Report

Mr. Wardle deferred to the individual airport managers for their reports.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff reported that a breakage occurred in the water main causing water to seep through the ramp asphalt. The water main was repaired and is now working properly.

- **Projects**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the sewer lines at Brackett Field Airport are scheduled to be replaced on August 30th. Chairman Simmons asked if the sewer lines had experienced problems in the past. Mr. Woodruff confirmed and noted that the contractor attributed the problems to the misalignment of pipes due to broken joints which obstructed flow through the lines.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported that there were 41 vacant aircraft hangars at the airport. Of the occupied hangars, 46 hangars are being used for non-aviation purposes.

For the month of July, both Jet A fuel and Avgas fuel sales were down 11 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Year-to-date, Jet A fuel sales are up 6.5 percent and Avgas fuel sales are down 13 percent.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff reported that the Annual Local Runway Safety Action Team meeting took place on August 28th at the airport. At the meeting, representatives of the FAA, Airport Traffic Control Tower, American Airports, County, and airport tenants met to discuss airport and air traffic safety issues.

Mr. Woodruff announced that the Brackett Airport Association meets on the first Thursday of every month and that the Antique Custom Hot Rod Show occurs the 3rd Sunday of each month.

- **Miscellaneous**

Brackett Field Airport staff continues to research appropriate wildlife management measures to reduce the number of coyote, birds, and gophers at the airport.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on General Wm. J. Fox Airfield items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving reported that airport staff relocated the chain link fence that was in front of the entrance sign, making the sign more visible from Avenue J. Mr. Irving also noted they are looking into providing additional signage for some of the businesses at the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Irving reported that there are 12 vacant aircraft hangars at the airport.

During the month of July, Avgas fuel sales increased 40 percent, and Jet A fuel sales increased 21 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Irving announced that the airport will host its Annual Airfield Open House on September 1, 2012.

The airport's Annual Chili Cook Off will take place in front of the airport terminal building on October 20, 2012.

- **Miscellaneous**

Chairman Simmons inquired about the Lancaster Sheriff's Departments use of Cessna 172's. Mr. Irving stated that the Cessna 172 is equipped with a camera that is constantly recording and controlled by deputies on

the ground. Pilots will fly the airplanes approximately 10 hours per day on autopilot. Mr. Irving also noted that they are flying out of Fox Airfield.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that Mr. Ozzy Levi, a former tenant at the airport for over 40 years, had passed away. He had a distinguished background in aviation and will be missed.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that the air conditioning system for the Airport Traffic Control Tower recently broke down. The compressor was replaced and the system is now working properly.

Mr. Marino noted that general vehicle maintenance was performed on the airport's crash fire rescue truck. Whiteman Airport staff also replaced the fuel hoses on one of the Jet A fuel trucks and at the self-serve fuel station.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the County's ramp area slurry seal project is complete and tenants are moving back to their tiedowns.

The County's tiedown area project is also complete. The airport now has 70 new tiedowns. Since the tiedowns were completed, four new airplanes are now based at the airport and are utilizing the new tiedowns.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Marino reported that year-to-date Avgas fuel sales are down 10 percent, and Jet A fuel sales are up 38.7 percent.

Year-to-date, aircraft operations are down 7.2 percent from the previous year and 82 percent of the aircraft hangars at the airport are occupied. Of the occupied hangars, five are being used for non-aviation purposes.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Marino reported that the Whiteman Airport Association held its Annual Summer BBQ at the airport on July 8th. Mr. Marino noted that approximately 100 people participated in the event.

The San Fernando Valley 99s held an aviation badge day for the Girl Scouts at the airport on August 18th. This was the second year that the event took place at Whiteman Airport.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Marino reported that on July 5th, Messrs. Harry Bell and Michael Boolean passed away in an aircraft accident in Ventura County. Mr. Bell was very active in his community and Mr. Boolean was a flight instructor at Whiteman Airport. Both Mr. Bell and Mr. Boolean will be missed.

On August 25th, two people were injured in a plane crash half-a-mile away from Whiteman Airport, and both are recovering.

Mr. Christopher Brooks reported on El Monte Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Brooks reported that the administrative office was reorganized and now includes a customer service desk.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that airport staff has held monthly safety meetings to review efforts and techniques to eliminate the potential for bird strikes and to monitor the field to prevent potential accidents from occurring.

Mr. Brooks reported that he met with the El Monte Police Department for a security review. Both parties shared their concerns and collaborated on ideas to make the airport more secure and safe.

Mr. Brooks noted that hangar inspections will continue through August, although the majority of them were completed in June.

Mr. Brooks reported a water leak in the airport terminal over the kitchen area of the restaurant. The leak was repaired and business continued unaffected.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that further repairs were made to aircraft hangar vents during the month of July.

- **Development and Activities**

During the month of July, there were 14 vacant aircraft hangars at the airport.

Mr. Brooks reported aircraft operations were up 11 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Year-to-date, Jet A fuel sales slightly increased and Avgas fuel sales were flat compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission of the Airport Association's Fly-In and Static Display, which is held the fourth Sunday of each month.

Mr. Brooks announced that the airport's Fly-In and Open House is scheduled to take place on September 23, 2012.

- **Miscellaneous**

On August 9th, two individuals jumped the perimeter fence and entered airport property at Lower Azusa Road. The individuals were escorted out, a police report was filed, and the individuals were later released.

Mr. Brooks reported a recent bird strike that caused the pilot to abort take off and taxi off the runway. The aircraft was damaged; however, the pilot was unharmed.

Mr. Raphael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

General maintenance was performed on the airport operations vehicles, including changing the tires on the crash fire rescue truck.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera reported that the aircraft hangars on row R have been painted.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Herrera reported that 99 percent of the aircraft hangars at the airport are occupied. Of the occupied hangars, 19 percent are used for non-aviation purposes.

June Avgas fuel sales were down 9 percent and July Avgas fuel sales were down 40 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The County of Los Angeles held its Annual Hazardous Waste Round-up on July 7, 2012.

The Young Eagles ACE Camp was held on July 13th; approximately 230 children attended the event.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 96 Fly-In and Model Expo was held on August 5th. Mr. Herrera thanked Vice Chairman Lord for putting the event together.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Herrera reported that on July 28th an Ercoupe bounced on the runway when landing and veered off, hitting an aircraft hangar. The pilot suffered minor lacerations. Vice Chairman Lord inquired on the status of the damaged hangar. Mr. Herrera replied that they received a quote for repairs and that the pilot was insured.

Chairman Simmons mentioned he experienced some difficulties with Compton/Woodley Airport's Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) phone line. Mr. Herrera noted that they have been in contact with All Weather, Inc., who has sent technicians to filter the phone lines to correct the problem.

Chairman Simmons noted that Santa Monica City Council is encouraging flight training activities to be conducted at other local area airports rather than at Santa Monica Airport. Vice Chairman Lord added that the City of Santa Monica recently contacted the City of Torrance and offered to pay a fee for allowing Santa Monica based flight training businesses to utilize their airport. However, Chairman Lord noted that Torrance does not want Santa Monica to displace its aircraft noise upon its residents. None of the County's airports have been contacted. A brief discussion followed regarding the future of Santa Monica Airport.

C. **County Contract Administrator's Report – Mr. Richard Smith**

- **Expense and Revenue Report for July 2012**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the revenue and expense report and offered to answer any questions.

- **City of El Monte**

Mr. Smith reported that located just outside the El Monte Airport fence line in the City of El Monte are numerous trees considered to be obstructions to air navigation. Following discussions among representatives of the County, FAA, and the City of El Monte, the City agreed to move forward with a recommendation to replace the trees over 3 years. The replacement trees will have shorter mature heights so they will not become obstructions in the future.

- **County of Los Angeles' Department of Regional Planning**

The County's Department of Regional Planning received bids from multiple consultants regarding the project to draft a Land Use Plan for Brackett Field Airport. The name of the selected consulting firm will be released following the execution of the contract.

- **Property Acquisition Adjacent to General William J. Fox Airfield**

Mr. Smith reported that the parcel of land to be purchased by the County adjacent to Fox Airfield will soon be entering into escrow. He also noted that a meeting with the Board of Supervisors will be scheduled following escrow instructions.

- **Compton Airport**

Mr. Smith reported that rebound testing for the soil remediation project is going well and that the Department of Public Works' Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division engineers are preparing to approach the State's Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics for a recommendation on the project closure.

Mr. Smith noted that the hangar painting at Compton/Woodley Airport has been completed. He also noted that all of the hangar lights have been replaced with more energy efficient fixtures.

- **Aircraft Hangars at Brackett Field Airport**

Mr. Smith reported that estimates have been received regarding the upcoming repairs of aircraft hangars at Brackett Field Airport

- **Aircraft Parking Ramp at Whiteman Airport**

Mr. Smith reported that at a recent Southwest Chapter of American Association of Airport Executives conference meeting, an FAA official discussed the reduced availability of Airport Improvement Program funding, which is anticipated to continue. Mr. Smith noted that the competition to receive grant funding is fierce, and that we should focus now on design-based projects, which are of higher priority to the FAA.

- **As-Needed Planning & Design Engineering Consultant Services**

Mr. Smith listed the various Aviation Division design and planning projects for County Fiscal Year 2012-13.

- **North Side Heliport at Brackett Field Airport**

Mr. Smith reported that as-needed consulting firm, C&S Companies, is working on the helipad project at Brackett Field Airport and has provided the County with a draft design report.

- **Airport Card Access Control System at Brackett Field Airport**

The contractor installing the new gate card access system at Brackett Field Airport has experienced minor delays due to technical difficulties. However, last week the user database from the old gate card access system was successfully transferred to the new Brivo System. The contractor expects to have the system fully operational in a couple of weeks. If the new system is successful at Brackett Field Airport, we will be converting the systems at the other County-owned airports to the Brivo System as well.

D. Customer Service Survey

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with the results of the 2012 Customer Service Survey. There were 354 survey responses received and the overall average score for all airports was 3.62 out of 5 points possible, with five being the highest in overall satisfaction. The County has set a goal of 3.5, which was surpassed in the 2012 Survey.

E. Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that they received a noise complaint from a local resident, Mr. Otis Walker, on August 27th regarding helicopter noise during the day.

Vice Chairman Lord noted that the wind tee at the airport must be changed manually and that potential inaccuracies of the indicator may be a liability.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Roy informed the Commission that he is pleased with the new AWOS at Compton/Woodley Airport. However, he would like to recommend that the Commission keep the wind tee for pilots who still use it.

Mr. Roy also mentioned that the 2012 Annual Air Fair at Compton/Woodley Airport has been cancelled.

OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Smith presented the transportation core service video that appears on the County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works web site at www.dpw.lacounty.gov/landing/transportation.cfm?action=video.

Vice Chairman Lord presented a video from the second Annual EAA Chapter 96 Fly-In and Model Expo, which was held on August 5th. Planning for a third annual event is in the process.

Commissioner Cornwall handed out flyers to the Commission on behalf of airport tenant, Mr. Gabe Lopez, regarding the potential name change of El Monte Airport. She also requested that it become an agenda item at an upcoming Commission meeting.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at 7 p.m.
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

Commissioner Cardono moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Butts seconded the motion. Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission