



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

June 27, 2012, Meeting  
Brackett Field Airport  
1615 McKinley Avenue  
La Verne, CA 91750-5846  
(909) 593-1395

### 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  
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

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. Ed Sause, President  
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. Sheldon Bresin, Brackett Airport Association  
Mr. Hal Clark, Brackett Airport Association  
Mr. John Margis, Brackett Airport Association  
Mr. Denny Marshall, Brackett Airport Association  
Ms. Carmen Sainz, Department of Regional Planning, County of Los Angeles  
Mr. Ed Sause, American Airports Corporation  
Mr. Winn Williams, Port Hangar Association

## **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. May 30, 2012, Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Secretary Amundson, seconded by Commissioner Cornwall.

#### **B. American Airports Corporation - Project Manager Report**

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

#### **Mr. Steve Irving reported on General William J. Fox Airfield items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that a new air conditioning system was installed in the terminal building and is operating well. He reported that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is performing a seismic retrofit of the control tower which is expected to be complete within a week and a half.

- **Projects**

Helicopter operators hired to perform work on local electrical transmission towers and power lines are basing operations at the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Airport hangar vacancies remain unchanged. Jet A fuel sales were flat and Avgas sales have increased compared to the same month last year. Mr. Irving stated that fuel sales increased as a result of a rise in tanker activity due to fires in the local area.

**Mr. Christopher Brooks reported on El Monte Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Brooks reported a good turnout for the annual fire extinguisher servicing event and will follow up with those who could not participate.

General maintenance was performed on several aircraft hangars and staff continued with their weed abatement efforts.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that major repairs are being made to the tractor which is expected to be back in operation soon.

- **Projects**

Mr. Brooks reported that the County's crack seal project is making progress. As part of the project, airport staff relocated over 40 aircraft.

Mr. Brooks noted that there has been a great deal of positive feedback received from the pilots regarding the new Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) at the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Brooks reported that 96 percent of the aircraft hangars at the airport are occupied. There were 11 vacant hangars in May compared to 32 vacant hangars the same month last year.

During the month of May, aircraft operations increased 10 percent over the prior month. Jet A sales increased 28 percent and Avgas sales increased 19 percent compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that the Antique Custom Hot Rod Show, which occurs the fourth Sunday of each month, was a sizeable event in May. The next show will be held on July 22, 2012.

- **Miscellaneous**

Three aircraft in distress alerts occurred during the month of May. Mr. Brooks announced that all resulted in non-events and none were reported.

Chairman Simmons inquired about fuel sales at El Monte Airport, which have increased each month. Mr. Brooks advised that the increase in sales has been attributed to a banner-tow operation which began its activities at the airport in 2012 and to the increase in jet and helicopter traffic.

**Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera reported that general maintenance was performed on the airport vehicles during the month of May, including replacing the tires on the ARFF truck.

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that annual testing was performed on the underground fuel tanks on June 14th. All fuel tanks were approved for another year.

On June 20th, Caltrans completed its annual inspection of the airport and Mr. Herrera reported that everything went well.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera stated that airport staff is in the process of painting hangar row R which is expected to be completed in 1 week.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Herrera reported that 99 percent of the aircraft hangars at the airport were occupied, 18 percent were being used for non-aviation purposes.

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that over the last year, fuel sales have decreased by 31 percent. Mr. Herrera stated that although he has seen a downward trend, June sales are looking better.

- **Meetings and Events**

The County of Los Angeles is holding their annual Hazardous Waste Round-Up. Surrounding residents can drop off their hazardous materials on July 7th for disposal.

Mr. Herrera announced Vice Chairman Lord's Fly-In and Model Expo event, which is scheduled to take place on August 5th at the airport. Mr. Herrera commented that the posters for the event look great and he encouraged everyone to participate.

- **Miscellaneous**

Chairman Simmons mentioned that he was contacted by a person who would like to rent a hangar at the Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Wardle informed Chairman Simmons that he would follow up with the individual and keep Chairman Simmons informed of his discussions.

Vice Chairman Lord asked Mr. Herrera when the hangar inspections were going to begin. Mr. Herrera replied that he expects hangar inspections will start at the beginning of the summer.

**Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that the installation of carpet in the administration building is complete. Mr. Marino also reported that necessary actions to repair the back vehicle access gates and gate motors were taken and that they are now working properly.

- **Projects**

The County's tiedown project is also complete. There are now 70 new tiedowns ready to be rented. However, the tiedowns are currently occupied by aircraft that were temporarily relocated as part of the County's current ramp slurry seal project.

The County's ramp slurry seal project is moving along well. It is expected that June 27th will be the third and final day of the slurry seal application. The placement of cold tar on the tiedowns and the installation of tiedown chains will follow.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Marino reported that Avgas sales were down 8.2 percent and Jet A sales were up 23.4 percent compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations year-to-date are down 7 percent from the prior year and 83 percent of the aircraft hangars on the airport are occupied.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is holding a Young Eagles event for special-needs children on Monday, July 2nd at 10 a.m. at the airport. Approximately 60 children are expected to participate.

The EAA will also be holding its annual BBQ on July 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the administration building.

**Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff reported that various repairs to the terminal building's structure, framing, and windows were recently completed.

Mr. Woodruff commended a member of his staff, Mr. Larry Heyne, for resolving a long-outstanding wiring and lighting issue in the public parking lot. All of the lights are working and the parking lot is now well lit.

Mr. Woodruff announced that an airport tenant, Mr. George Peterson, donated pictures of Brackett Field Airport dating from the 1940's to 1960's. Some of the pictures have been put up in the terminal building lounge area.

- **Projects**

The AWOS ceilometer was replaced due to inaccurate readings. The air traffic controllers are currently monitoring the new equipment and once it is determined to be working properly, it will be commissioned by the FAA.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported that there are 37 vacant aircraft hangars at the airport, which is two less than what was reported for last month. There are 46 aircraft hangars being used for non-aviation purposes.

For the month of May, Jet A sales were up 105 percent and Avgas sales were down 26 percent compared to the same month last year.

For the month of June, Jet A sales were down 30 percent and Avgas sales were down 6 percent compared to the same month last year.

Year-to-date, Jet A sales are up 1.5 percent and Avgas sales are flat.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff announced that the Brackett Airport Association meets on the first Thursday of every month and its Static Aircraft Display event is scheduled for the third Sunday of every month.

- **Miscellaneous**

The Commission was informed that on June 4th a Cessna 421 had a bird strike. No one onboard the aircraft was injured but the aircraft incurred approximately \$8,000 worth of damage.

On June 26th two separate aircraft bird-strike incidents occurred at the airport. No injuries or aircraft damage were reported. Mr. Woodruff is working with the FAA to explore potential wildlife management measures in an effort to prevent further similar incidents.

Commissioner Cornwall inquired about how Mr. Woodruff plans to fill the 37 vacant aircraft hangars. Mr. Woodruff advised the Commission that American Airports is developing a marketing plan for the County airports. Both Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Wardle agreed to provide the Commission with a copy of the plan when complete.

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the access system at the four main vehicle access gates, plus two others, were being replaced with a new enhanced wireless system. All existing cards will continue to work and the new gate access cards will be more user-friendly and allow more efficient management of the cards and gates.

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

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

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the revenue and expense report and offered to answer any questions. Chairman Simmons inquired about the Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division (GMED) charges, which show an increase. Mr. Smith advised the Chairman that the increase was due to projects at the Compton, Fox, Brackett, and El Monte airports. He also mentioned that GMED is working on obtaining reimbursement of the County's expenses from the State.

- **Water Resources Control Board**

The Water Resource Control Board approved the request to reduce reporting requirements regarding the soil vapor extraction at Compton/Woodley Airport from four times a year to two times a year. Mr. Smith reported that the cost of reporting is \$1,000 each instance.

Following rebound testing, Geotechnical Engineers will be approaching the State for recommendation on the project closure.

- **Assembly Bill 1466**

Mr. Smith reported that trailer bill, Assembly Bill 1466, proposes to transfer all gasoline excise taxes into the General Fund, and could result in reduced funding of the State's aeronautics fund, effective July 1, 2012. Mr. Smith expressed concern that the passing of the bill may result in less or no future State matching grant funding as has been the case the last time the aeronautics fund was affected.

- **U.S. Forest Service Lease at General William J. Fox Airfield**

Mr. Smith reported that the U.S. Forest Service's new lease was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors.

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

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a grant authorization letter will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors in the coming months for the North Side Heliport project at the airport. Mr. Smith stated that the as-needed design engineering firm C&S Companies was given a Notice to Proceed with the design element of the project on June 7th. He also noted that the project cost was negotiated with C&S Companies from the initial cost of \$140,000 down to approximately \$109,000, which is a 21 percent savings. Subsequent to the Board's approval, grant applications will be submitted.

Secretary Amundson inquired on the helicopter traffic demand for the new heliport at Brackett Field and whether or not any traffic would shift over from El Monte Airport. Mr. Smith advised that it was not expected to draw any traffic from El Monte since it is merely replacing a heliport that once existed at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Smith qualified the answer with some discussion and mentioned that there would be procedures in place for the facility.

Vice Chairman Lord asked whether Mr. Smith was aware of the controversy in the Los Angeles County area to reduce helicopter noise and overflights in the Hollywood hills and adjacent areas, as well as the proposed heliport at the Santa Fe Dam. Mr. Smith affirmed and a brief discussion followed.

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

Mr. Smith affirmed that the owners of the parcel of land for sale adjacent to the airport have accepted our purchase offer. The Department's Survey/Mapping & Property Management Division is now finalizing the purchase.

- **Aircraft Parking Ramp at Whiteman Airport**

Mr. Smith noted that the final acceptance of the Aircraft Parking Ramp Project occurred on June 21st. The project cost was approximately \$1.55 million.

D. **Annual Rental Rate Adjustments – Mr. Richard Smith**

Mr. Smith reported that American Airports has submitted their annual request to adjust the hangar rental rates at the County-owned airports. He also noted that he had worked with AAC to address vacancies of non-aviation uses, which have been a concern for management and airport tenants alike.

American Airports requests that hangar rental rents for aviation use be increased by 1.5 percent with the exception of the following changes:

- **Brackett Field Airport**

American Airports requests no change in the rents for hangar rows A, B, D, E, F, J, L, and RAN and to lower the monthly rent from \$290 per month to \$250 per month on L Row due to the vacancies in that particular row of portable hangars.

- **Compton Airport**

The airport is in the Torrance and Hawthorne Airport market. The airport rents are less than you can find at those other two airports mentioned. With only two end row vacancies, the airport still shows a good demand.

- **El Monte Airport**

American Airports requests no change in the rent for all hangar rows. There are several vacancies and non-aviation uses at the airport so it was determined that an increase was not suitable for the market.

- **General Wm. J. Fox Airfield**

Hangar units 500, 600, and 700 are the same size as hangar rows 300 and 400 and account for all 10 vacant units at the airport. American Airports requested the monthly rent be lowered from \$390 to \$354 per month to match rows 300 and 400 which are fully occupied.

- **Whiteman Airport**

Hangar units B, G, and H are portable hangars without power and American Airports requests to lower the monthly rent from \$390 to \$350 per month for those hangars.

In addition, Mr. Smith noted that American Airports has also requested to increase the non-aviation surcharge at the airports by 5 percent which would take it from 25 percent of the aviation rate up to 30 percent.

Commissioner Cardono suggested a 6.5 percent increase to the non-aviation surcharge based on supply and demand. Commissioner Cornwall agreed with Commissioner Cardono's suggestion. Chairman Simmons, Commissioners Cardono, and Cornwall suggested that Mr. Wardle relook at the proposal. Mr. Wardle affirmed that much-thought had been put into the proposal before submitting it for Commission review.

The recommendation of the proposed rental rate adjustments was approved on a motion by Vice Chairman Lord, seconded by Commissioner Butts. Commissioners Cornwall and Cardono voted nay for the rental rate adjustments requested by American Airports.

**E. Brackett Field Airport Items**

Mr. Smith noted that more hangars are to be scheduled for painting at the airport.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Williams, president of Portable Hangar Association, sought to inform the Commissioners that the association's lease was coming to an end. Mr. Williams mentioned that he would like American Airports to consider a lease extension or new lease. Both Vice Chairman Lord and Secretary Amundson encouraged Mr. Williams to continue negotiations with American Airports.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Vice Chairman Lord announced the Fly-in and Model Expo which will be held at Compton/Woodley Airport on August 5th. He encouraged everyone to attend and spread the word.

Mr. Smith re-introduced Staff Assistant Victoria Frausto and encouraged the regular attendees to sign the guest register to receive credit for attending the meeting.

Mr. Smith also encouraged participation in the Annual Customer Service Survey, which is coming to a close in July.

Commissioner Chase made an honorable mention Mr. Chuck Ross, his good friend and experienced pilot of 30 years, who recently passed away in an aviation accident.

Vice Chairman Lord made a motion to close the meeting in memory of Mr. Ross; Commissioner Holloway seconded.

**IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:**

**Wednesday, August 29, 2012, 7 p.m.  
Compton/Woodley Airport  
901 West Alondra Boulevard  
Compton, CA 90220-3528  
(310) 631-8140**

Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission