



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

September 19, 2012, Meeting

General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

4555 West Avenue G

Lancaster, CA 93536-8401

(661) 940-1709

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

Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Secretary Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall

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. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport

GUESTS

Mr. George Prewitt, Fox Airport Association
Mr. Robert A. Stambovsky, Fox Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Amundson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. August 29, 2012, Minutes

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

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle reported on Compton/Woodley Airport items

Mr. Wardle reported on Compton/Woodley Airport in Rafael Herrera's absence.

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Wardle reported that general maintenance was performed to the crash fire rescue truck and that the vehicle repairs allowed the opportunity for hands on training of airport staff.

- **Projects**

Mr. Wardle reported that the aircraft hangar that was damaged during the aircraft incident that was reported last month has been repaired.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Wardle 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.

Avgas fuel sales for August were down 40 percent, compared to the same month last year. The decrease is attributed to a banner-tow operation which has relocated its services to another airport.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Wardle announced that Excel Camp, a program that teaches high school students about various work environments, will be hosted by Chairman Simmons on Saturday, November 3rd.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that hangar inspections are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 17th, and are expected to take 2 weeks to complete.

Mr. Marino also noted that the annual fire extinguisher recertification is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 29th.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that two transient aircraft parking rows were added during the County's tiedown project. Whiteman Airport now has a total of 20 transient aircraft parking spaces.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Marino reported that year-to-date aircraft operations are down 7.7 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.

Avgas fuel sales are down 10.3 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 40.95 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Commissioner Wolf asked the reason for the increase of Jet-A fuel sales. Mr. Marino attributed the increase to helicopter traffic and also noted that the National Broadcasting Company is now based at Whiteman Airport.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Marino announced that the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 will be holding a Young Eagles event on Saturday, September 22nd at the airport.

Mr. Marino also noted that the Whiteman Airport Association meets at the airport the third Thursday of every month.

Mr. Christopher Brooks reported on El Monte Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Brooks reported that hangar inspections continued through August, during which 40 hangar inspections were completed.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that airport staff is continuing its wild life management efforts to prevent potential related incidents from occurring.

Mr. Brooks also reported that general maintenance was performed on the airport vehicles and terminal building.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Brooks reported that during August, there were nine vacant aircraft hangars, compared to 27 vacant aircraft hangars during the same month last year. Mr. Brooks also noted that 26 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

Jet-A fuel sales slightly increased, and Avgas fuel sales increased 14 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Brooks announced the Airport Association's Fly-In and Static Display, which is scheduled to take place at the airport on Saturday, August 25th.

El Monte Airport's Fly-In and Open House took place at the airport on September 23, 2012.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that in October, he will be hosting a pre-school tour, which occurs at the airport every 4 months.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that during a banner-towing operation at the airport on September 14th, the banner got caught in the tail wheel of the aircraft. Fortunately, the pilot landed safely, and no one was harmed.

Mr. Brooks reported that on September 16th, a Diamond Star aircraft lost its nose wheel on runway 19. The aircraft landed successfully but incurred some damage. However, the runway was not damaged.

Mr. Brooks also reported that on September 18th, a vehicle swerved into the perimeter fence causing substantial damage to the fence. The fence is scheduled to be repaired by August 20th.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff reported that three aerial firefighting skycrane helicopters based their operations at Brackett Field Airport during the recent Williams Fire.

- **Projects**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the airport will implement its formal Wild Life Management Program for the airport on Friday, September 21, 2012.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported that there were 38 vacant aircraft hangars at the airport. Of the occupied hangars, 48 hangars are being used for non-aviation purposes.

For the month of August, Jet-A fuel sales were up 49 percent, and Avgas fuel sales were down 1.5 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Year-to-date, Jet-A fuel sales are up 12 percent and Avgas fuel sales are down 13 percent.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff reported they are preparing to host an airport stakeholders meeting, which is expected to take place at the airport in October.

Mr. Woodruff announced they are organizing an Open House and Fly-In event to be held at the airport. The date for the event is tentatively scheduled for November 18th.

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

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Woodruff congratulated operations coordinator Mr. Benjamin Lipson for recently passing his Certified Flight Instructor exam.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving reported that both of the airport's Jet-A fuel trucks broke down and are not serviceable. Mr. Irving noted that another truck was transported from Northern California to the airport which allowed the airport to continue Jet fuel operations. Mr. Irving is looking into whether the other two trucks are repairable.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that there were six vacant aircraft hangars at the airport, and no aircraft hangars were being used for non-aviation purposes.

Mr. Irving reported that Avgas fuel sales were flat, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 50 percent, compared to the same month last year. The increase in Jet-A fuel was attributed to the increase in helicopter operations during local electrical transmission tower and power line repair work.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Irving announced that the annual Chili Cook Off, hosted by the Rotary Club, will take place in front of the airport terminal building on October 20, 2012.

Mr. Irving noted the airport hosted its annual Airfield Open House at the airport on September 1, 2012.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Irving reported that a student pilot experienced engine failure after departing the airport. The student managed to land the aircraft on the runway with no injuries and only minor damage to the aircraft.

C. County Aviation Division Report – Mr. Richard Smith

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

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

- **Rocky's Restaurant at Whiteman Airport**

Mr. Smith reported that he and Mr. Marino recently met with the owner of Rocky's Restaurant, who returned the keys to the restaurant to Mr. Marino during the meeting. Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Wardle and Mr. Marino have

been meeting with contractors and receiving quotes for making repairs to and upgrading the restaurant facility at the airport.

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

Mr. Smith reported that the as-needed consulting firm, C&S Companies, is working on the helipad project at Brackett Field Airport and has provided the County with a preliminary design which includes facilities that can accommodate current and forecasted demand. Mr. Smith noted that changes to the earlier design included the addition of a third, smaller, helipad in front of the airport traffic control tower for training purposes.

- **Budget for Fiscal Year 2013/14**

Mr. Smith reported that for Fiscal Year 2013-14, he would like to include a capital fixed asset request for new crash, fire, rescue vehicles for a couple of the County airports.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Mr. Gordon Bricken, the County's Noise Monitoring Consultant, has sent a written request to cancel his contract. Mr. Smith noted that the noise monitoring section of the revenue and expense report may reflect no revenue income as a result of Mr. Bricken's cancellation of his contract. A solicitation of bids may be released in the next 6 months.

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

Mr. Smith reported that the parcel of land adjacent to General Wm. J. Fox Airfield will soon be entering into escrow. The Department of Public Works' Survey/Mapping & Property Management Division is drafting a board letter and preparing to finalize the purchase.

- **General William J. Fox Airfield Master Plans**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he met with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the General William J. Fox Airfield Master Plan, and it was well received. An official request was submitted to the FAA for consideration of the program. Mr. Smith noted, he expects to meet with the FAA in the upcoming months to continue discussions.

D. General WM. J. Fox Airfield Items

Mr. Wardle stated that the new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system installed in the terminal building was a success and pointed out that the room temperature remained cool throughout the Aviation Commission meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. George Prewitt, member of Fox Airport Association, informed the Commission that the California Pilots Association 2012 Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in October at Mohave Air and Space Port. Mr. Prewitt also inquired about the status of Rocky's Restaurant at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Smith replied that Rocky's is closed and will reopen after the facility is remodeled.

Mr. Robert Stambovsky expressed his concern to the Commission that fuel prices and fuel flowage fees at the County airports are too high and pilots are purchasing fuel elsewhere as a result. Vice Chairman Lord encouraged Mr. Stambovsky to speak with Mr. Smith and the Commissioners regarding his concerns after the meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Smith announced that Vice Chairman Lord will be retiring from Southern California Gas Company on October 19th. Vice Chairman Lord noted that a Celebration Reception will take place at the Western Museum of Flight on October 27th.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at 7 p.m.
Whiteman Airport
Vista Aviation
10000 Airpark Way
Pacoima, CA 91331-2104
(818) 896-5271**

Vice Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting in memory of Mr. Ozzy Levi at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission