



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
AVIATION COMMISSION  
Virtual Meeting  
February 24, 2021, at 10 a.m.**

## COMMISSIONERS

**HARVEY HOLLOWAY**  
CHAIRMAN

**GABRIEL PEREZ**  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

**CURT CASTAGNA**  
SECRETARY

**PETER AMUNDSON**  
MEMBER

**RYAN ANTOON**  
MEMBER

**FOROUZAN GOLSHANI**  
MEMBER

**DENNIS C. LORD**  
MEMBER

**JEFF MORT**  
MEMBER

**CHRISTINA PASCUCCI**  
MEMBER

**CLINTON SIMMONS**  
MEMBER

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Harvey Holloway  
Commissioner Peter Amundson  
Commissioner Ryan Antoon  
Commissioner Forouzan Golshani  
Commissioner Dennis Lord  
Commissioner Jeff Mort  
Commissioner Christina Pascucci  
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

### **OFFICIALLY EXCUSED**

Secretary Curt Castagna  
Vice-Chairman Gabriel Perez

### **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF**

Mr. Richard Smith, Chief, Aviation Division  
Mrs. Claudia Delgado, Staff Assistant

### **AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION – AIRPORT SERVICES STAFF**

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director  
Mr. Pete Lonctaux, Manager, Brackett Field Airport  
Mr. Carlos Diaz, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport  
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield  
Mr. Enrique Curioso, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport  
Mr. James Miller, Manager, Whiteman Airport

### **GUESTS**

Attending guests were able to listen live via telephone or participate by joining the meeting through the WebEx application.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Harvey Holloway called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Jeff Mort led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **A. Minutes**

The minutes for the January 27, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Jeff Mort and seconded by Commissioner Peter Amundson.

#### **B. American Airports Corporation – Contract Manager Report**

Mr. Wardle updated the Commission on the automated answering system and the dedicated noise complaint line that were installed at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Storage trailers previously owned by Compton Unified School District were sold and will be removed from Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Wardle provided an update on the maintenance hangar at San Gabriel Valley Airport and existing leases.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that Mr. Steve Irving accepted employment elsewhere and recognized Mr. Irving for his contributions at Fox Airfield.

#### **Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items**

Precision Approach Path Indicator at Runway 26L and taxiway lighting outages were repaired.

The Pavement Rehabilitation Project continues at the airport and the Airport Traffic Control Tower resumed its regular hours of operation.

The Brackett Airmen Association meetings are suspended until further notice. Display day is held on the third Sunday of every month and is closed to the general public.

Eighty-one percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and 28 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations at the airport were down 5.4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 24.3 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 41 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 4.3 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 86.3 percent as compared to the same month last year.

### **Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items**

Public Works' Fleet Division inventoried and inspected all County vehicles at the airport.

A Notice to Airmen was posted on Friday, February 26, 2021, notifying airport users that Runway 25R will be closed for weed abatement.

Various repairs were made to hangars throughout the airport.

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that the City of Compton would like to use the airport as a Covid-19 Testing Site and a Food Drive on March 20, 2021.

Commissioner Lord requested from Mr. Diaz clarification on the Marketing Fund Report. Mr. Diaz provided an explanation and the report will be corrected.

Commissioner Simmons asked Mr. Diaz about the remaining Marketing Funds for Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Diaz and Commissioner Lord provided clarification.

Commissioner Pascucci commended the airport for the recent Food Drive event and suggested that remaining Marketing Funds be utilized for additional food drives.

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and 35 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage.

Avgas fuel sales were down 4.6 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 0.1 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 59 percent as compared to the same month last year.

### **Mr. Steve Irving Reported on General William J. Fox Airfield Items**

Light bulbs throughout the airport were replaced and new charging systems were installed at all airport entry gates.

Plans for the October 2021 Air Show are in progress. The Air Show is scheduled for October 23rd and 24th in 2021.

Mr. Steve Irving said his farewells and thanked the Commission for their continuous support.

Chairman Holloway and fellow Commissioners thanked Mr. Irving for his professionalism and dedication to the airport.

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and one hangar is utilized for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations were up 4.92 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 214.7 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 42.3 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 1 percent as compared to the same month last year.

### **Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items**

Weed abatement on the taxiway and runway is in progress and trees were trimmed throughout the south parking lot.

The airport maintenance hangar and maintenance yard were thoroughly cleaned.

Mr. Curioso informed the Commission that forty-eight noise complaints were received in the month of January 2021 and clarified that forty-seven of those complaints were from one resident.

Commissioner Golshani asked Mr. Curioso to elaborate on the forty-seven complaints from the one resident. Mr. Curioso and Mr. Wardle elaborated on the continuous complaints received from this resident.

Commissioner Amundson expressed his appreciation in having the restaurant open as well as the noticeable activity at the airport.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Vintage Airplane and Auto Display was held at the airport and no visitors were allowed on the ramp. All meetings at the airport are postponed until further notice.

Commissioner Pascucci asked Mr. Curioso if there is an action plan in place for the remaining Marketing Fund. Mr. Curioso stated that he will be meeting with the airport association to plan a Food Drive at the airport.

Ninety-four percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and 24 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations at the airport were down 15 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 16 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 950 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 7 percent and water consumption were up 22 percent as compared to the same month last year.

## **Mr. James Miller Reported on Whiteman Airport Items**

A water backflow device behind the old terminal building was replaced.

The fuel sensors for the Underground Storage Tanks were replaced and repairs to the runway end identifier lights are in progress.

Mr. Miller informed the Commission that the airport continues to support the local nonprofit, Meet Each Need with Dignity by providing storage for their non-perishable food items.

Commissioner Antoon stated that the Food Drive Event at Whiteman Airport will take place on March 16, 2021, and thanked Commission Pascucci for her support of this event.

Commissioner Amundson informed Mr. Miller that he has a storage facility that can be used, if needed, to store food for airport events.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the event taking place on March 16, 2021, will be paid with grant funding allocated to pay events such as this one, and reiterated that the airport is available for community events.

Mr. Miller informed the Commission that plans for the Annual Whiteman Open House has commenced. Tentative date for the event is September 25, 2021.

The Civil Air Patrol holds their virtual meetings every Monday and Wednesday and the Whiteman Airport Association meetings are suspended until further notice.

The Whiteman Airport Association Display day is held the second Sunday of the month.

Ninety-eight percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and 8 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 13 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 8.5 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 2.1 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 1.4 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was up 41 percent as compared to the same month last year.

### **C. County Aviation Division Report – Mr. Richard Smith Reported on the Following Items:**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission copies of the January 2021 Expense and Revenue Report.

Mr. Smith updated the Commission on various airport contracts that are needed to transition into County operations.

Commissioner Simmons asked Mr. Smith to elaborate on the personnel that will be available after hours once County begins to operate the airports. Mr. Smith stated that one security will be patrolling the airport after hours and elaborated on the protocols that the private security company is required to uphold. Mr. Smith will share a copy of the protocols and Scope of Work of the Security contract with the Commission.

Commissioner Antoon asked if there is an Emergency Action Response Plan available. Mr. Smith informed that the Emergency Action Response Plan is being developed in collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee that is being formed.

The County has selected its new staff and is in the process of notifying those candidates.

Commissioner Simmons asked Mr. Smith if the airport contracts have been posted on the website. Mr. Smith provided an update on the various contracts and mentioned that the Fuel Concession Request for Proposal would be advertised on February 25, 2021.

Supervisory District 3 and Councilwoman Rodriguez' office held their first meeting as response to the tragic accident in November 2020. One of the outcomes from that meeting was to conduct an air quality sampling. The County is working with a consultant to finalize a quote. The second item was a Master Plan Update.

Chairman Holloway asked Mr. Smith where the air sampling would be taken. Mr. Smith informed that he would provide that information once the collection sites are identified.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the permit for the Los Angeles Air Show that will be held at General William J. Fox Airfield is being reviewed by outside Counsel. He also thanked Mr. Irving for his years of service, dedication, and wished him well in his new endeavors.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

The following speakers expressed their support for the closure of Whiteman Airport and requested for a call-in option during Commission meetings for the public.

Andres Ramirez, Pacoima Beautiful  
Felipe Escobar, Pacoima Beautiful  
Veronica Padilla, Pacoima Beautiful  
Kristy Pace, Sherman Oaks Resident  
Kim Neistadt, Climate Reality Project  
Kathy Shaeffer, Climate Reality Project  
Diana Weynand, Climate Reality Project

Commissioner Antoon stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming meeting with Pacoima Beautiful.

Commissioner Pascucci thanked Ms. Kristy Pace for her heart felt comments and mentioned that general aviation airport serves as an emergency response for the community.

Mr. Justin Sterling, La Verne resident, shared his recommendation for improvements to the Aviation website and thanked the Commission for the improvements to the Noise Abatement link on the Aviation website.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association commented on the need for after hours personnel at the airport to be County employees, County airport hiring process, and he thanked Mr. Irving for his services at Fox Airfield.

**III. NEXT VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:**

**Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 10 a.m.**

Chairman Holloway adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Castagna, Secretary  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

RS:cmd