



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  
September 30, 2020, at 7 p.m.**

## COMMISSIONERS

**DENNIS C. LORD**  
CHAIRMAN

**HARVEY HOLLOWAY**  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

**GABRIEL PEREZ**  
SECRETARY

**PETER AMUNDSON**  
MEMBER

**RYAN ANTOON**  
MEMBER

**CURT CASTAGNA**  
MEMBER

**FOROUZAN GOLSHANI**  
MEMBER

**JEFF MORT**  
MEMBER

**CHRISTINA PASCUCCI**  
MEMBER

**CLINTON SIMMONS**  
MEMBER

### IN VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis Lord  
Vice-Chairman Harvey Holloway  
Secretary Gabriel Perez  
Commissioner Ryan Antoon  
Commissioner Curt Castagna  
Commissioner Forouzan Golshani  
Commissioner Jeff Mort  
Commissioner Christina Pascucci  
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Peter Amundson

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

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

### AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION – AIRPORT SERVICES STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director  
Mr. Pete Lonceteaux, 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 guest were able to listen live via telephone or participate by joining the meeting through the WebEx application.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Chairman Dennis Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **A. Minutes**

The minutes for the February 26, 2020, meeting was unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Curt Castagna and seconded by Vice-Chairman Harvey Holloway.

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

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission on the fuel sales from March through August 2020 current lease updates and the impact of Covid-19 taking place at the five County airports.

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

Removal of trash, installation of new stadium lights, and weed abatement is complete at the airport.

Mr. Curioso informed the Commission that the Covid-19 Testing Center located on the southside of the airport continues to operate and staff at the airport continue to follow Covid-19 guidelines.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Vintage Airplane and Auto Display was held on July 26 and August 23, 2020, at the airport. No visitors were allowed on the ramp.

Mr. Curioso informed the Commission that meetings at the airport are postponed until further notice.

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 5 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 4 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 75 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 5 percent and water consumption were down 32 percent as compared to the same month last year.

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

In August 2020 an aircraft landed in the construction area of the runway. The Federal Aviation Administration issued a pilot deviation. No action was required.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission of the multi-agency exercise that was held to simulate a military aircraft crashing at Fox Airfield and measured the response times for all agencies that responded.

The runway reconstruction project is approaching the final stages. The project is expected to be complete by the end of October 2020.

The 2020 Air Show was cancelled and plans for the October 2021 Air Show are in progress.

The Antelope Valley College continues with their construction. Expected completion, end of October 2020.

Commissioner Ryan Antoon would like a copy of the final report of the multi-agency exercise that took place at the airport. Mr. Irving will provide the final report for distribution.

Commissioner Jeff Mort inquired on the lighting situation at the time when the pilot deviation took place. Mr. Irving provided additional details on the incident.

Ninety-eight percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and one hangar is utilized for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations were down 1 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 31 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 64 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 5 percent and water consumption was up 20 percent as compared to the same month last year.

### **Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items**

The water main rupture that took place during the pavement construction project and the water supply break at Los Angeles County Sheriff hangar were repaired.

The renovations to the terminal conference room, janitorial closet, and hangar restrooms are complete.

The Pavement Rehabilitation Project continues at the airport.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission on the economic impact taking place at the airport due to Covid-19.

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 public.

Eighty-one percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and 30 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations at the airport were down 4.6 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 31 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 28 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 3.7 percent and water consumption was down 19 percent as compared to the same month last year.

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

Four water main breaks and leaks were discovered and repaired throughout the airport.

Repairs to the ballast on the beacon, the two sink holes by C row Hangars, and ramp are complete.

The Precision Approach Path Indicator fixtures were repaired and are in service.

Installation of a new lock at the terminal walk-in gate and battery replacement to the gate on Airpark Way are complete.

The Civil Air Patrol hold 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 every Sunday and closed to the public.

Ninety-eight percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and 7 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 8 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 1 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 13 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 4.3 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was up 8.4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

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

A ground water leak was discovered at the airport. No repairs were necessary, the leak was due to excess rainwater.

Mr. Diaz thanked the County for the 10-foot fence line replacement on the north side of the airport by the residential area.

New soil and trees were added by the sound wall and weed abatement throughout the airport continues.

On February 25, 2020, a distracted tenant crashed into a hangar. Damage to the hangar was covered by the driver's insurance.

The Salute to Black Aviation Pioneers event was held on February 29, 2020, in the terminal building.

Commissioner Simmons inquired on the fuel cost at Compton Airport for the past three years. Mr. Wardle will provide a response once he gathers the data.

On October 17, 2020, Compton/Woodley Airport will host their annual Household Hazardous/Electronic Waste Round Up event.

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 up 33 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 8 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was up 18 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 August 2020 Expense and Revenue Report.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the impacts of Covid-19 on airport operations and elaborated on the highest performing Covid-19 testing center in San Gabriel Valley.

A memo was sent to the Commission that introduced the proposed insourcing plan and how Covid-19 has affected the proposed plan. Mr. Smith explained some of the proposed plan details, such as the hiring process, the hiring freeze, and the workaround which includes new service contracts.

Commissioner Castagna inquired about what will occur with the service contracts once the hiring freeze ends. Mr. Smith stated that the contracts are year-to-year.

Commissioner Antoon asked if this would take effect in March 2021. Mr. Smith confirmed and explained the contract process. He also stated that the plan is to hire as many existing employees as possible.

Mr. Smith spoke to the Commission on the Rent and Fee Study that was presented at the February 2020 Aviation Commission meeting. He stated that a Part 13 Complaint was filed thereafter and the Aviation Division provided a response to the complaint on September 29, 2020. In addition, the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association provided their comments on the Rent and Fee Study via e-mail and the e-mail was shared with the Commission.

Chairman Lord stated that the comparable aspects at Long Beach and Santa Ana Airport were tiedowns and not hangars. Mr. Smith agreed.

Commissioner Castagna expressed his interpretation and mentioned the following; the two appraisers possibly follow the same process and are driven by the overall budget of the airports. Secondly, the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association's comments were geared toward the process instead of the outcome of the report.

Mr. Smith provided a summary of the capital projects taking place at all five County-owned airports.

A copy of the 5-year Federal Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) and 10-year State Capital Improvement Plan was shared with the Commission and explained by Mr. Smith. He also addressed Commissioner Castagna's question regarding the year-to-date budget report and the ending balance.

Commissioner Castagna clarified that when an airport takes Federal grants, there is a minimum life expectancy and maintenance on the project is expected.

Commissioner Castagna requested a comparison of the budget relative to the Capital Improvement Plan.

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

Mr. Steven Watson, Whiteman Airport tenant, shared with the Commission his comments and question on the policy for aviation tenants taking over a non-aviation hangar. Mr. Wardle provided an explanation to Mr. Watson's question.

Mr. David Lunt, Whiteman Airport tenant, shared his concern with the Commission on a restriction placed by the Federal Aviation Administration. Mr. Smith offered to have a conversation after the meeting and Commissioner Antoon requested to be included.

Dr. Haney, Aviation First, shared his comments with the Commission on the e-mail titled Rates and Fee Study, comments from the Aircraft Owner's & Pilot Association, and the Part 13 Complaint filed.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, shared his comments and concerns on the County hiring freeze.

Commissioner Castagna requested a copy of the letter that was sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Michael Williamson, Whiteman Airport, asked Mr. Smith to be included in the conversation with Mr. Lunt and Commissioner Antoon.

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

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 10 a.m.**

Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabriel Perez, Secretary  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

RLS:cmd