



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 24, 2009, MEETING
BRACKETT FIELD AIRPORT
1615 MCKINLEY AVENUE
LA VERNE, CA 91750-5837**

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Penelope Cornwall
Vice Chairman George G. Butts
Secretary Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Peter Amundson

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Diego Cadena, Deputy Director, Administration
Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. William Bird, Assistant Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. George Gomez, Staff Assistant, Aviation Division

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Sheldon Bresin, Brackett Airport Association
Mr. Jack Brian, Brian Ranch Airport
Ms. Felice Apodaca, Brian Ranch Airport
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association

Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman George Butts called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Jerome Alexander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. May 27, 2009, Minutes

The minutes were approved and adopted on a motion by Commissioner Simmons and seconded by Commissioner Jerome Alexander.

B. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport:

- The Whiteman Airport Association meeting was held on June 18, 2009. Kevin B. Flynn, a consultant from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., attended the meeting and answered questions from members of the association.
- A security and safety group meeting held on Thursday, June 11, 2009, was productive. Mr. Ed Smither recommended American Airports Corporation (AAC) facilitate the use of a T-hangar for aircraft maintenance.
- On June 6, 2009, thirty representatives of Pacoima Beautiful visited Whiteman Airport. A complete overview of the airport and upcoming projects was provided to all attendees.
- The American Heroes Air Show will be held on July 11, 2009, at Hansen Dam Recreation and Sports Complex. AAC will participate in this event.
- The Whiteman Airport Association will host a barbeque on July 12, 2009, at 11:30 a.m.
- Mr. Mark R. Madler, a reporter for the *Valley Business Journal*, wrote a positive article about Whiteman Airport on June 22, 2009.
- The airport currently has six-to-ten vacant hangars.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield:

- Reach Air Medical Services, is considering the use of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) building to fully operate from General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. AAC is currently working on a mutual agreement.
- Exodus Air Service will be moving a portion of its business to the west end of the airport and will occupy two of the new hangars to perform engine maintenance.
- A portion of the fence along 60th Street was replaced due to damages caused by an unidentified vehicle.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport:

- Based on a recommendation from the Runway Safety Action Team of the FAA, a punch-code door lock was installed to the walk-through gate at the terminal building with the intention of preventing children from accessing the operational area.
- Stadium lights were replaced throughout the airport to provide better visibility.
- Potential off-site locations for helicopter operations were discussed at the El Monte helicopter noise issues meeting held on June 6, 2009.
- On June 11, 2009, El Monte Airport hosted an airport tour for teachers, parents, and students from Legore Elementary School.

Chair Cornwall inquired about the status of leases at El Monte Airport. Mr. Herrera stated that the airport currently has eight hangar vacancies.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport:

- A new, big flow turbine was replaced on one of the fuel tanks, and the electrical work is scheduled to be complete by the end of this week.
- Tires were replaced on the fuel truck and the crash-fire-rescue truck.
- Last week, an unsafe activity by an airport user was recorded by the airport's security system. This video was forwarded to the FAA as requested on previous occasions.
- On July 18, 2009, at 1 p.m., Compton/Woodley Airport will host the airport Users group meeting in the administration building.
- The 16th Annual Air Fair event is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Commissioner Jerome Alexander asked if the unsafe activities were previously discussed with the airport user. Mr. Marino stated that these issues have been addressed on several occasions over the last few years.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport:

- Airport operations have been slow due to constant bad weather over the last few weeks.
- Grass mowing and weed clearing throughout the airport is an ongoing project during this time of the year.
- New trees were planted by the airport entrance.
- Brackett Field Airport is currently inviting all tenants to bring their fire extinguishers for inspection and recertification service.
- The airport's restaurant, Norm's Hangar, is promoting "Turbulent Taco Tuesdays". This event is held every Tuesday night with the participation of a live band.
- The current hangar vacancies are ten to twelve.

Commissioner Wolf asked if the vacancies at all airports are related to tenants moving to tie downs or to other airports. Mr. Fox-Tuck stated that the majority are moving out-of-state, due to taxes and aircraft sales.

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

The Commission was provided with copies of the expense and revenue report for the month of May, and Mr. Smith offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about Operational Service and Design Divisions expenses. Mr. Smith indicated that the \$14,382 for Operational Services represents the expenses for the signage project at El Monte Airport and facility maintenance throughout the year. The \$28,702 for Design Division represents expenses for the ongoing projects at El Monte Airport, Brackett Field Airport, and General Wm. J. Fox Airfield.

- Chapter 6 of the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update was received and is currently being reviewed. It will be posted on the Aviation Commission website later next month.
- Rumble strips were installed on Airpark Way and signage is currently being installed to discourage street racing.
- Bales Engineering Contractors, Inc. was contacted to schedule a meeting to discuss the project schedule and equipment sitting for the installation of the Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) at Brackett, Compton/Woodley, El Monte, and Whiteman airports.

- The Brackett Field lighting and signage relocation project is scheduled for advertisement on June 30. It will be a four-week solicitation process including a pre bid meeting tentatively scheduled for July 21, 2009, at 10 a.m.
- The pavement rehabilitation project at Compton/Woodley Airport is currently being advertised. The bid opening is July 14, 2009.

D. Brackett Field Airport additional items

No additional items for Brackett Field Airport.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Jack Brian spoke about Brian Ranch Airport, a private airport in LLano, 25 miles east of Palmdale. He also requested the support of the Commission to obtain a renewal for a conditional-use permit. Commissioner Chase made a motion instructing staff to prepare a letter of recommendation, seconded by Vice Chairman Butts.

Mr. Sheldon Bresin asked the Commission to clarify the annual rate adjustment. Mr. Smith stated that this year, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rent increase will be deferred until next year; at which time, a two-year calculation will be considered.

OTHER ITEMS

Secretary Cardono inquired about the City of Compton's property tax that is charged to the aircraft owners based at the airport.

Commissioner Lord recommended asking County Assessor's Office what the total amount revenue stream is from aircraft that are less than 35-years-old. Also, indicated that he may bring this argument to Compton's City Hall for discussion.

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Diego Cadena, Deputy Director of Public Works, who replaced Mr. William Higley.

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Kevin B. Flynn from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. as the consultant tasked with preparing minimum standards for the County airports. Mr. Flynn informed the Commission that he is gathering information and obtaining a general understanding of the airports concentrating first on Whiteman Airport. In addition, Mr. Flynn stated that he will be providing an initial draft of the project at the next Commission meeting.

IV. THE NEXT AVIATION COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON:

**Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 7 p.m.
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3599 (310) 631-8140**

Chair Penelope Cornwall adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo R. Cardono, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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