



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

August 26, 2015, Meeting
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140

COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
CHAIRMAN

PENELOPE CORNWALL
VICE CHAIR

GEORGE G. BUTTS
SECRETARY

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

MARC CARREL
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

DENNIS C. LORD
MEMBER

PETER M. AMUNDSON
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Harvey A. Holloway
Secretary George G. Butts
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Marc Carrel
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice Chair Penelope Cornwall

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Patrick V. DeChellis, Deputy Director
Mr. Richard Smith, Aviation Division Chief
Mrs. Claudia Delgado, Staff Assistant

AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Alvaro Escobedo, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Bob E. Chase, former Aviation Commissioner
Mr. Tehmon Edwards, Compton/Woodley Airport guest
Mr. Henry M. Roy, Compton/Woodley Airport tenant
Mr. Peris Meeks, Compton/Woodley Airport guest
Mr. Robert Ray, Compton resident

Continued...

Mr. Enkone Goodlow, Compton/Woodley Airport guest
Mr. Gary G. Golson, Compton/Woodley Airport tenant
Mr. Robert L. Scott, Sky Ads, Compton/Woodley Airport

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dennis Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the June 24, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Secretary Butts, seconded by Commissioner Amundson.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation (AAC) found a few commercial businesses operating out of several hangars at Whiteman Airport and informed that the hangars in question are being vacated. He also informed that the new battery operated lawnmower will be arriving to Brackett Field Airport in the near future as part of a pilot program.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino reported that hangar inspections for third-party leaseholds are complete and County hangar inspections will take place October 7 through October 9, 2015.

- **Management and Maintenance**

The bollards that protect the fire hydrates along the tie-down rows were painted, and a roofing company was at the airport to repair and patch hangar roofs on U and T rows.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that he met with Mr. William Ray, the new tower manager, who will be leading the Runway Safety Action Team Meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2015.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino updated the Commission on the installation of the propane tank at the new terminal building and informed that the concrete had to be redone since the initial concrete that was laid was not acceptable for the installation of the propane tank.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-eight percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 10 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are up 4.6 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are flat, year to date.

Aircraft operations are down 2.3 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Whiteman Airport Association hosted its annual barbecue and antique aircraft display on July 12, 2015.

The Civil Air Patrol held an exercise at the airport on August 7 through August 9, 2015, and various airplanes participated along with approximately 40 Civil Air Patrol members.

The Whiteman Airport Association will hold its monthly meeting in the airport administration building on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

The Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) will host their Young Eagles event at the airport along with the annual Whiteman Airport Open House, which will be held on September 26, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mr. Steve Irving Reported on General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Items

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the fuel building, bollards, and the structure that stores equipment were repainted.

New flooring will be installed in the restroom located in the Internal Services Department building.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the Milestone Flight Museum at the airport has vacated the premises, and he informed that only a few museum aircraft remain at the airport.

The Fox Airfield Association will host its annual fly-in on September 26, 2015. The Lancaster Rotary Annual Cook-off will be held on October 31, 2015, at 9 a.m.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales are up 5 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are down 30 percent, year to date. There are 4 vacant hangars, and no hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

Aircraft operations on the airport were flat, compared to the same month last year.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the amount of items that still remain in the museum. Mr. Irving provided information on the remaining items.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that all 9 restroom facilities and the fuel island were repainted.

Mulch and borders were added to all trees surrounding the terminal building.

On August 27, 2015, four employees will complete the recertification procedure and the First Aid/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation class.

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that there is a new tower manager, Mr. Eric Chavez. Mr. Escobedo informed that he and Mr. Smith met with Mr. Chavez to discuss upcoming construction projects.

- **Projects**

The Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project is scheduled to begin in November or December 2015. This project is expected to be completed in approximately 180 days. Mr. Escobedo reported that he is working on layout plans to keep the airport functioning properly during construction.

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that Billion Air Aviation, Inc., completed their secondary containment area. They are currently waiting for the delivery of the fuel tanks for installation.

- **Development and Activities**

In June, Avgas fuel sales were down 25 percent and Jet A fuel sales were flat. In July, Avgas fuel sales were down 38 percent and Jet A fuel sales were down 9 percent, compared to last year.

Ninety-two percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 28 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Airport operations are up 13 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Civil Air Patrol meets every Thursday at the airport, and the Radio Control League hosts its meetings every second Tuesday of the month.

On August 22, 2015, a Poker Fun Fly-in event was held at Whittier Narrows Park for the Wounded Warriors Project.

The San Gabriel Valley Association meets and hosts its Antique Display Day at the airport on the fourth Sunday of every month.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that due to several hangar break-ins on the south end of the airport, he has altered the regular duties to the graveyard worker to allow him to focus primarily on patrolling the airport and conducting perimeter checks. In addition, Mr. Escobedo is working with Sergeant Luna from El Monte Police Department to have more patrolling from the local police officers.

Commissioner Amundson inquired on the date when the official name change of the airport will take place. Mr. Smith informed that the name change is scheduled for Board of Supervisors approval on September 1, 2015.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the hydro booster on the rescue one vehicle was replaced due to an oil leak.

A tenant reported problems with his hangar door. Airport staff responded, and the door was repaired the same day.

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that he ordered new replacement directional sign panels per a recommendation from the Runway Safety Action Team.

- **Projects**

The County and AAC will be renovating the restrooms in the terminal building. Mr. Woodruff is soliciting estimates from prospective contractors.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-one percent of the aircraft hangars on the airport are occupied. Thirty-two percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were up 6 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 10 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 23 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Brackett Airport Association meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. and hosts its Display Day on the third Sunday of every month.

The San Gabriel Valley 99s meets at the airport on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the fatal accident that occurred in Riverside on July 28, 2015, involved a tenant and aircraft that were based at Brackett Airport.

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that he has accepted a position with San Bernardino County, and he thanked everyone for the 8 years with AAC and the County.

Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera reported to the Commission that the old Underground Storage Tank project was complete and mentioned that some asphalt repairs were completed between the R row EAA hangars and the adjacent parking lot.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera reported to the Commission that all airport access gates are functioning correctly, and all old gate cards are now obsolete.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 29 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were up 2 percent in the month of June and down 5 percent in the month of July, compared to the same month last year.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Herrera reported to the Commission that on August 9, 2015, there was a fatal accident on the runway at Compton/Woodley Airport. He also reported that the runway was closed for the duration of the day and was reopened at 3:30 a.m.

On Thursday, August 20, 2015, a vehicle traveling west bound on Alondra Boulevard lost control and crashed into the fence close to the paint booth, and he reported that the gate was repaired.

On Saturday, September 26, 2015, the EAA's Plane and Model Fly-in Expo will take place at the airport from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mr. Herrera and Commissioner Lord also shared the link for the aviation4fun.com website.

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

- **June and July 2015 Expense and Revenue Reports**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the June and July 2015 expense and revenue reports and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons expressed his concern with the expenses that continue from Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division. Mr. Smith summarized the expenses for the year pertaining to Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division and mentioned that the Division will continue to see expenditures throughout the year as the Division uses Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division services on various projects and tasks at all the airports. In addition, Mr. Smith mentioned that the County has received an official letter from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board confirming the completion of the Underground Storage Tank Program at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he and Public Works Director, Mrs. Gail Farber, had the opportunity to provide a tour of Brackett Field Airport to Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. He also mentioned that Congresswoman Napolitano is a strong transportation advocate who in the past has addressed general aviation transportation issues.

As President of the Southwest Chapter of American Association of Airport Executives, Mr. Smith was invited to attend an Aviation Roundtable with Congresswoman Julia Brownley. He also mentioned that this is a great opportunity for general aviation to gain exposure in our industry.

NextGen is a project that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been working on for many years, and it includes the Metroplex Region, in which airspace was redesigned. This encompasses the time based flow management of improving traffic flow in complex airspace. Mr. Smith offered additional briefing on the process to those commissioners who are interested.

Commissioner Simmons mentioned the dangers of having drones flying around the airport perimeters. A discussion between a guest and the Commissioners took place regarding the dangers and current situation when flying drones. Mr. Smith offered to provide information on regulations that are currently in place by the FAA.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Barnes Aviation will be celebrating their 75th year in business and their 50th year at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. The event will take place on Sunday, October 11, 2015, and offered an invitation to those Commissioners who would like to attend.

On July 25, 2015, Commissioner Lord was presented with a Major Achievement Award from the Experimental Aircraft Association at the annual Chapter Leaders Breakfast.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that all the asphalt patch work is complete in the groundwater and vapor monitoring wells at Compton/Woodley Airport.

- **Runway and Taxiway Rehabilitation at Compton/Woodley Airport**

The design phase for the runway and taxiway rehabilitation will cost approximately \$425,000. C&S Companies submitted the Modification to Standards to Washington, D.C. to see if the County can receive FAA funding.

- **Resolution to Change the Name of El Monte Airport to San Gabriel Valley Airport**

The resolution for the official name change of the airport is going for Board of Supervisors approval on September 1, 2015, and after this process, the official documentation will be sent to the FAA and the California Department of Transportation, and they will update their publications.

- **Emergency Generator Replacement at General William J. Fox Airfield**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the concrete was poured on August 20, 2015, and is ready for the installation of the generator.

- **Exit Taxiway for Runway 6 at General William J. Fox Airfield and San Gabriel Valley Airport Apron Rehabilitation Project**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he is anticipating a delay in these two projects since there are two contractors that are contesting. Overall, the delay will be beneficial since the original scheduled date to start the project is November, which is rainy season.

D. Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Commissioner Simmons shared with everyone that he would like to see more participation and assistance for the next open house at Compton/Woodley Airport.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Bobby E. Chase, former Commissioner, spoke to the Commission about commercial use of drones. Mr. Chase elaborated on the facility of purchasing drones at supermarkets. He also mentioned the positive and negative ways that drones are being utilized.

Mr. Tehmon Edwards, Compton/Woodley Airport guest, inquired on the type of training that AAC employees are required to complete. Mr. Smith provided a brief explanation on some of the initial training that the County requires from AAC for employees to complete.

Mr. Henry M. Roy, Compton/Woodley Airport tenant, spoke to the Commission on his concern on how to approach tenants who are not in the vicinity when emergencies happen at the airport. He suggested that in the future, AAC should assign someone available who can provide information to tenants when emergencies occur at the airport.

Mr. Peris Meeks, Compton/Woodley Airport tenant, spoke to the Commission on his concern regarding standard operating procedures on how to handle airport emergencies. Mr. Smith elaborated on the fact that Compton/Woodley Airport does not have a tower. Therefore, the response to an emergency will be different than an airport that has a tower with standard operating procedures. Mr. Meeks suggested that a group or a committee be created to develop an emergency response team. Commissioner Lord mentioned that communication is the key and stressed the importance of everyone's involvement. Secretary Butts offered to teach a group on how to use a fire extinguisher and assist in building an agenda once a response team is in place.

Mr. Robert L. Ray, Compton/Woodley Airport resident, spoke to the Commission on his concerns with the flight patterns that pilots use and asked if airport employees can radio pilots. Mr. Wardle explained that airport employees do not have radio capability to contact the pilots when in flight.

Mr. Enkone Goodlow, Compton/Woodley Airport guest, suggested to the Commission that tenants also be trained in operating the rescue truck.

Mr. Gary G. Golson, Compton/Woodley Airport tenant, spoke to the Commission and expressed his appreciation to Secretary Butts for his suggestion of having a response committee at the airport. He suggested that maybe additional fire extinguishers be added to the ends of the hangar rows. Lastly, Mr. Golson inquired on the process of term limits for the Commission.

Mr. Robert L. Scott, owner of SkyAds, expressed his concern with the airport manager at the airport and shared his encounters and complaints with management. In addition, Mr. Scott offered his services to manage the airport.

Commissioner Lord shared his comments on the tragic accident that occurred at Compton/Woodley Airport on August 9, 2015, at approximately 12:35 p.m. He applauded those who responded and assisted and shared his disappointment when listening to the details that tenants shared on camera about the accident. In closing, Commissioner Lord informed that he looks forward to the final National Transportation Safety Board report and recommendations for moving forward.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 7 p.m.
at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

Secretary Butts moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Lord seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. in memory of Mr. Richard Gochie.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. Butts, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

CD:cb

P:\AVPUB\ADMIN\COMMISSION\MINUTES\2015\MINUTES_AUGUST 26, 2015.DOC