



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

February 25, 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
Vice-Chair Penelope Cornwall
Secretary George G. Butts
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Marc Carrel

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

GUESTS

Mr. Bobby Chase, former Aviation Commissioner
Mr. William Pass, P3Air, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Cornwall called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the January 21, 2015, meeting, were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Lord, seconded by Vice-Chair Cornwall.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Whiteman Airport and the Proposition 65 Lawsuit

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the deadline for the Request for Qualifications for the helicopter operations facility at Whiteman Airport was extended through March 12, 2015. He also reported that they still have not been able to identify a prospective operator of the restaurant/café in the new terminal building at the airport.

Mr. Wardle distributed to the Commission two handouts about the Proposition 65 lawsuit filed in California concerning pollution from leaded aviation gasoline, which involves two County airports: Brackett Field and San Gabriel Valley Airport. Mr. Wardle further explained that one of the stipulated settlement items in the lawsuit is to notify all residents situated one kilometer from the runway of their exposure to lead. Mr. Wardle encouraged the Commission to read available information on this topic of concern. Commissioners and Mr. Wardle engaged in a brief discussion regarding this topic. In addition, there will be signs posted around the airports advertising the warnings.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that airport staff completed their annual First Aid/CPR certification.

On February 3, 2015, vapor recovery testing was successfully completed at the fuel storage and dispensing facility.

On February 17, 2015, a vendor installed a cabinet rack for the internal network on the airport and secured all equipment onto the rack.

- **Projects**

ABM Electrical Lighting will begin Phase III of the LED lighting project. LED lighting will be installed throughout hangar rows U, V, W, and the fuel pit area.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were up 9 percent in January, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 34 percent, compared to last year.

Ninety-five percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 29 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Aircraft operations at the airport were up 27 percent, compared to January 2015.

- **Meetings and Events**

On February 6, 2015, the University of Southern California's Aviation Safety Program class held its quarterly meeting at the airport.

Local Columbia School students visited the airport and had the opportunity to interview airport staff for their school newsletter.

The airport will host an E-Waste round-up on April 18, 2015.

Commissioner Amundson requested that necessary measures are taken during the upcoming E-Waste event to ensure the public is aware that the restaurant is open during the event.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that last month airport staff canvassed for all cracks and removed any growing weeds throughout the airport.

On February 20, 2015, a reoccurring First Aid/CPR class was held for six airport staff.

Lighting in the terminal offices and meeting room was upgraded to LED lighting.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-three percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 7 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are up 1.2 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 9 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are down 9.3 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting in the airport administration building on Thursday, February 19, 2015. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2015.

The Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles event will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

The San Fernando Valley 99s will host an Aviation Badge Day for the Girl Scouts of America and will also give them a tour of the tower on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that on March 20, 2015, he will host a booth at the annual Aviation Career Day event at Van Nuys Airport.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that an inoperable rescue and fire-fighting was dismantled to be utilized for training purposes.

Notices for the annual hangar inspections of third-party leaseholds were mailed.

A large, termite-damaged mulberry tree on the airport fell, but no damages or injuries were sustained. Consequently, Mr. Woodruff said he will obtain quotes from vendors to have the tree removed as well as for pruning other trees on the airport.

- **Projects**

New carpet tile was installed throughout the terminal building.

Phase II of the hangar lighting project is taking place on five hangar rows, and two stadium lights on the north side will be repaired or replaced.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-three percent of the aircraft hangars on the airport are occupied. Thirty percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes. Mr. Woodruff also added that he has a waiting list for non-aviation hangars.

Avgas fuel sales were down 12 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 32 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 10 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 has its Display Day on the third Sunday of every month.

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

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Woodruff congratulated Mr. Jake Kingcade on his new endeavor with San Bernardino International Airport.

On February 9, 2015, a person walked onto the taxiway and proceeded onto the runway following a plane that he had exited earlier. He was removed from the runway, and the La Verne Police cited the individual. The incident is still being investigated.

Commissioner Lord questioned why there is a cap on non-aviation use. Mr. Woodruff explained that, as a safety measure, there are areas on the airport designated for aviation only as they are not compatible for non-aviation activities. Mr. Wardle added that some time ago, they created maps of the airports indicating areas that are more compatible for aviation and others for non-aviation.

Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that an underground water leak was repaired over the weekend.

No problems were discovered during the annual AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System) inspection, and certification is now complete.

- **Projects**

The gate access card system project is nearly complete. Approximately 200 new gate cards have been issued to tenants to date.

Repairs were made to the roofs of the Van Wagner hangar and the Experimental Aircraft Association hangar.

- **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 down 17 percent, compared to last year.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Herrera announced that the Compton/Woodley Airport Open House will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at 10 a.m., and he extended an invitation to everyone.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving reported about the preparations underway for the second annual air show at General William J. Fox Airfield, which is scheduled for March 21 and 22, 2015.

Airport staff is repainting the curbs, removing weeds, and repairing areas of erosion throughout the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas and Jet-A fuel sales are flat, compared to last year. There are no vacant hangars at the airport, and no hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

- **Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Simmons mentioned that this will be the last Commission meeting before the air show. Mr. Irving also announced that there will be an event at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on Friday night that will include a night air show and a concert.

Commissioner Lord brought up that last year there was considerable expenditure during the preparations for the air show and questioned as to which expenditures will not be repeated this year. Mr. Irving and

Mr. Smith noted that the parking lot treatments and the improvements made to the terminal building last year will not be necessary this year.

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

- **Expense and Revenue Report for January 2015**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the expense and revenue report for January 2015 and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the expenditures for Noise Monitoring Services. Mr. Smith explained the charges pertain to commercial service airports such as Los Angeles International, Bob Hope, Van Nuys, and Long Beach airports; and that the County is reimbursed once services are charged. In addition, Mr. Smith mentioned that the County is now being reimbursed for staff time.

Commissioner Simmons questioned some credits that are noted on the report. Mr. Smith clarified that the credits are a reflection of staff's labor time adjustments or incorrect charges credited to the project.

- **Drones**

Mr. Smith provided an announcement on Drone Regulations from the Federal Aviation Administration, which summarized their proposed rules and added that the County will be responding to it. Commissioners and Mr. Smith engaged in a brief discussion on the subject. Mr. Smith encouraged input from Commissioners interested in expressing their opinions.

- **Federal Aviation Administration Funding**

The President's proposed budget was released a couple of weeks ago. As of now, funding for the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program is approximately \$2.9 billion. Depending upon how the proposed budget provides for general aviation airports, funding for the County-owned airports may or may not be effected.

- **Wildlife Hazard Assessment**

The State recently funded wildlife hazard assessments for a few of the County-owned airports. Mr. Jason Morgan of Public Works has met with some of the airport managers to discuss the implementation of wildlife hazard management plans which include obtaining depredation permits to remove certain wildlife hazards.

- **Brackett Field Airport**

Mr. Smith met with Department of Regional Planning and the Fairplex staff to finalize the airport land use compatibility plan, which included some specific policies for the Fairplex and their development ideas. A consultant is working on the details.

Vice-Chair Cornwall inquired about the sign directing to the airport that she suggested at the last meeting. Mr. Smith noted that staff will be coordinating the installation of a sign with the City of La Verne.

- **Rio Vista Tree Removal at San Gabriel Valley**

Public Works personnel will undertake the majority of the work on the tree-removal project. The plan was revised in order to expedite the project and facilitate project financing.

- **General William J. Fox Field Air Show**

A waiver was issued to allow the Thunderbirds' support aircraft, a C-17 will operate at the airport during the event. Mr. Smith mentioned they will speak with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to determine if it is feasible to park the C-17 on one of their concrete pads.

- **Civil Air Patrol**

A meeting was held with the Civil Air Patrol to discuss the possibility of utilizing the old terminal building at Whiteman Airport to serve as their headquarters at the airport.

- **Whiteman Airport**

Mr. Smith addressed a concern regarding an outgrown tree that is approximately half a mile from the southeast side of the airport. He discussed that the tree belongs to the City of Los Angeles, and the City has expressed that there is no current appropriated funding to cut the tree but is willing to issue a free permit to cut it down.

- **Whiteman Airport Terminal Improvements**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the terminal improvements remain the same. The plans are with building and safety for final plan review, but the parking lot plans are all done.

- **Catalina Island**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the COO of the Catalina Island Conservancy sent a letter to him indicating that they hope to have a viable maintenance program and to make the necessary runway repairs on their own.

D. Compton/Woodley Airport Items

None.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Former Commissioner Bobby Chase updated the Commission in regard to drones and encouraged Commissioners to make phone calls addressing this concern and noted that he will continue to stay abreast of issues related to drones.

Mr. William Pass introduced himself as the CEO and President of P3Air. He presented a list of services his company provides and his plans for potential growth at Compton/Woodley Airport. In addition, he thanked American Airports Corporation and the County for the recent repairs made to the EAA hangar roof.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 10 a.m.
at General Wm. J. Fox Field
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

A motion by Commissioner Lord to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Simmons. Chairman Holloway adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Holloway, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

CD:

P:\avpub\ADMIN\Commission\Minutes\2015\Minutes_February 25, 2015.doc