



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, 2015, Meeting
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395

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 Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
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. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Antony Acker, former San Gabriel Valley Association member
Mr. Emerson Nicols, Compton/Woodley Airport tenant
Mr. William Pass, P3Air
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association member
Mr. Ed Sause, American Airports Corporation

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the May 27, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Amundson and mentioned that this meeting was adjourned on behalf of former Senator Richard Mountjoy, who recently passed away seconded by Chairman Holloway.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Wardle updated the Commission on the Request for Proposal for development of a helicopter operations facility at Whiteman Airport. He provided a summary of the proposal, which included a layout of the proposed area. Mr. Wardle mentioned that, as part of the selection process, a selection committee would be created, and he would like two commissioners to participate.

Mr. Wardle addressed a previous inquiry from Vice Chair Cornwall about future airport marketing by American Airports Corporation. He noted that they have engaged a marketing company from Chicago that will be sending out a mailer with information about available hangars to all aircraft owners within Los Angeles County.

Mr. Wardle informed that the museum at General William J. Fox Airfield was not meeting the requirements of its lease. The museum administrators were given the option to downsize but informed American Airports Corporation they would not be able to afford the rent. A Notice to Quit was issued and has now expired. The museum requested additional time to vacate the premises.

Mr. Wardle expressed concern with the water-reduction request for the airports. He informed that, as of now, they have not seen any impact on their overall water consumption on the airports. Unfortunately, there are no other places to reduce, as the only places left are wash racks, water fountains, and restrooms. He also informed they have contacted tenants with higher water consumption and recommended they obtain their water service directly with the utility company.

Vice Chair Cornwall inquired if any dry-scaping companies were contacted. Mr. Wardle informed they contacted Turf Terminators. Unfortunately, they only deal with residents and not businesses. He also added that American Airports Corporation continues to explore other options.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation found a tenant to replace the former auto shop at San Gabriel Valley Airport located on the landside on a month-to-month agreement.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino reported that as a result of the Customer Service Survey, conditions of the restrooms were addressed, such as LED lights, seat covers, replaced paper dispensers, painting, and other noticeable changes.

Mr. Marino reported that annual hangar inspections commenced this month with third-party leaseholds. Mr. Marino said that he mailed the 30-day letters, indicating the deficiencies found. In addition, two unauthorized uses were identified, a hardware shop and an individual that was housing cars. The leaseholders informed Mr. Marino that they would vacate by the end of the month.

- **Management**

Mr. Marino and Mr. Wardle visited Mike's Café last week to meet with one of the owners, as they have expressed an interest in the proposed restaurant space at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Marino also invited the owners to attend the next Aviation Commission meeting in October.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the concrete was laid in preparation for the installation of the propane tank.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-three percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 9 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are up 6 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 4.6 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are down 2.1 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The annual American Heroes Air Show was held at Hansen Dam on Saturday, June 20, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Mr. Marino hosted a booth at the event.

The Airport Association will host its annual barbeque and Antique Aircraft Display on July 12, 2015.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that on June 6, 2015, a suction line and a leak that was running to the hobby shop was repaired.

On June 18, 2015, a track and rollers on hangar E-13 and five stadium lights on the airport were replaced.

Mr. Escobedo reported that some of the cameras on the airport were repaired, and all cameras on the airport are now working properly.

- **Projects**

The first preconstruction meeting regarding the El Monte apron pavement rehabilitation project will be held on July 2, 2015.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were up 11 percent in March, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 3 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Ninety-three percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 27 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

- **Meetings and Events**

On May 21, 2015, airport staff provided a tour of the airport to 30 students from South El Monte High School and shared information with them on the opportunities and services readily available in general aviation.

The Radio Control League hosts its meetings every Tuesday of the month. The first meeting was held on June 9, 2015.

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

- **Miscellaneous**

On June 22, 2015, two Directors from Hitachi and one Tech Officer from High Signal visited the airport and toured the tower. Their objective was to see how the tower systems and operators work, which would aid them in developing improvements for the Federal Aviation Administration's NextGen Program for airports.

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

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the land erosion around the airport and weed control is being addressed accordingly by airport staff.

Mr. Irving reported that lighting ballasts and lights that were no longer functioning properly were repaired, as this was causing a cascading problem.

The Fly-In and Pancake Breakfast will take place in September 2015. Mrs. Prewitt, wife of Mr. George P. Prewitt, has taken charge of this event and is moving forward.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty 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 remain flat, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 5 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 5 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Secretary Butts inquired about the airport restrooms and asked if the restrooms were painted, or if any repairs were done. Mr. Irving informed that, as of now, no repairs were done, but he added they are addressing the water conservation concern by checking all valves and faucets.

Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera reported to the Commission he has depleted the high-priced fuel, and new prices are now at \$5.25 self-service and \$5.45 full-service for Avgas.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera reported the gate access card project continues, and the east and the west gates are completed. He also reported that some problems with the west gate were reported, but the gate is now functioning properly.

In addition, he informed that the work on the terminal gate has commenced and is scheduled to be completed by the second week in July.

- **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 28 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Miscellaneous**

Secretary Butts mentioned to Mr. Herrera that the gas prices on the Federal Aviation Administration's website are reflecting the old gas prices.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the nursery on the airport uses a high amount of water; and, for this reason, the nursery is planning to procure their own water meter. Mr. Woodruff said he requested from the nursery a plan that would indicate how they would run the lines since the City of La Verne would not install a water meter on the airport.

Mr. Woodruff reported the tractor door that was ripped off the hinges by a Mercy Air helicopter that was repaired and is now functioning properly. In addition, hangar doors on the airport are being repaired, along with some patching, minor repairs, and improvements to the restroom facilities.

Mr. Woodruff stated that the first phase of the hangar inspections will commence soon.

- **Project**

The new public restroom facility was installed at the County's wash rack and is fully functional.

- **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 down 10 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 10 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 34 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 at the airport on the second Thursday of every month, at 7:30 p.m.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that another staff member was recruited by the San Bernardino International Airport Authority, and he is currently looking for a new assistant manager.

Commissioner Simmons inquired if transient parking was available at the airport. Mr. Woodruff informed that there is transient parking at the airport.

Commissioner Simmons also inquired on the outcome of the falconry demonstration that Mr. Woodruff recently attended. Mr. Woodruff said that it was an interesting demonstration, but he would not be implementing falconry as a mitigation tool at this time.

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

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

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

Commissioner Simmons expressed his concern with the expenses from Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division. Mr. Smith summarized the expenses pertaining to Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division for the entire year. He also added that this was a year with a lot of construction activity.

Mr. Smith informed that the County had the opportunity to provide a tour of Compton/Woodley Airport to Field Deputies for Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, to demonstrate to them the operations that take place at the airport.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that, as he had mentioned in a prior meeting, the bulletin to fill the position for Airport Project Coordinator is programmed to come out in July. In addition, he said that he is looking to fill the Secretary III position as Ms. Regina Caballes accepted a position with the Department of Public Health as a Senior Secretary II.

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

The resolution for the official name change is moving forward and is anticipated to go to the Board of Supervisors by August 4, 2015. Mr. Smith explained that this was the final ministerial step that the County was unable to complete before Supervisor Gloria Molina left office. After this process, official documentation will be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration, and California's Department of Transportation will be able to change their publications as well.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport Entrance Sign**

Construction of the airport entrance sign is anticipated to commence at the end July. In the meantime, the construction company is waiting to receive the material for the sign.

- **Gate Access System at Compton/Woodley Airport and San Gabriel Valley Airport**

Mr. Smith made mention that the contractor has completed the work on the east and west gates at Compton/Woodley Airport, and this project is expected to be finalized by the end of July.

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

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the generator canopy is currently under construction; and, once completed, the new generator will be installed. He also added that he anticipates some power outages while the conversion takes place.

- **Exit Taxiway for Runway 6 at General William J. Fox Airfield**

The Board of Supervisors approved the exit taxiway for Runway 6 on June 16, 2015, and the project will advertise for the next 5 weeks with the bid opening by Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

- **Vehicle Parking Lot on Airpark Way**

Mr. Smith stated that MTM Construction was selected for the Job Order Contract for this project and added that a scope meeting was held on June 24, 2015.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport Apron Rehabilitation Project**

The final notice for the CEQA exemption requirements was filed on August 17, 2015, and is going to the Board of Supervisors on July 7, 2015, followed by opening of bids by August 4, 2015.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the Master Plan Airport Layout Plan for General William J. Fox Airfield. Mr. Smith provided a history of what has transpired with the Master Plan. Commissioner Simmons has a concern with the type of impact that the drought would have on the Master Plan Airport Layout Plan.

D. Annual Rental Rate Adjustments – Proposed Increase to Non-aviation Surcharges

Mr. Smith provided a summary on the annual rental rates proposal that American Airports Corporation is proposing, which includes a 3.3 percent increase to the non-aviation rental rate and no increase for aviation rental rates. Mr. Smith said the County concurs with the proposal.

Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the non-aviation surcharge increase. Vice Chair Cornwall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Brackett Field Airport Items

The restroom facility at the wash rack at Brackett Field Airport is complete and will serve as a model for future wash racks on the airports. The new restroom facility includes some sustainable items such as sensor fixtures and porous concrete.

Mr. Smith addressed the signage request by Vice Chair Cornwall and stated that the sign will be on the second light pole before the intersection. The application process takes approximately 8 weeks. As for the monument sign that will be placed on McKinley Avenue, it is also being worked on and in the process of gathering all information pertaining to the sign.

The Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan is anticipated be finalized by July 22, 2015, and the final public hearing will take place at Meadows Golf Course. Mr. Smith asked if anyone is interested in attending. The County and the Fairplex administrators came to the agreement that they would work with each other but are moving forward with the plans.

The Federal Aviation Administration published its list of the top Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviation. Unfortunately, Brackett Field Airport made the list. On the positive side, there might be some funding to improvements to the areas that are considered a hotspot. At Brackett Field Airport, there is only one hotspot, which is located at taxiway E.

F. Miscellaneous

Vice Chair Cornwall suggested that the mailer include a listing of the prices and hangars available at the airports. Mr. Wardle informed that the mailers were already printed and ready for distribution. He informed that the list of

aircraft owners was purchased, and they have the option of resending mailers with added information.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Association, spoke to the Commission regarding the mailers and inquired if the mailers will be a reoccurring task. Mr. Wardle stated that the list was purchased, and it will be reoccurring. He also added that it is in concurrence with the segregation that is taking place at the airports and extended the support of the San Gabriel Valley Association.

Mr. Anthony Acker, San Gabriel Valley Association, shared that he has old files with airport history and offered to share this information with anyone interested.

Mr. William Pass, P3Air, informed the Commission that his intent to base his business at San Gabriel Valley Airport has changed, and he will be retracting his offer.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, August 26, 2015, at 7 p.m.
at Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140**

Commissioner Simmons moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chair seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. Butts, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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