



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

May 27, 2015, Meeting
San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670
(626) 448-6129

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
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary George G. Butts
Vice-Chair Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Marc Carrel
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono

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. Bobby Chase, former Aviation Commissioner
Mr. Robert Clark, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. Martin Montesgue, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. Ed Sause, American Airports Corporation

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Peter Amundson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next Commission meeting for lack of a quorum.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on General William J. Fox Airfield Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Wardle informed that the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has been using the airport for its certification drops and leaving the aircraft on the ground.

The night fire-fighting helicopters have returned to Fox Airfield for the 2015 season.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the light on the rotating beacon tower was replaced, and a weed-control program/schedule for the runway areas has been set up.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas sales were up 11 percent for April, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 50 percent, compared to the same month last year. There is only one vacant hangar on the airport, and no hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

The annual Compton/Woodley Airport Open House and Youth Fair was held on Saturday, May 9, 2015. The event included vintage cars, aircraft displays, food trucks, and plane rides for kids. In addition, Mr. Herrera thanked Mr. Smith and the Commissioners who attended.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera reported the gate access card project continues, and the west gate went live on Monday, May 25, 2015. Completion of the project is expected sometime in June.

The runway repairs were completed on April 28, 2015, and the north runway remained open through the duration of the repairs.

- **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 39 percent in April, compared to the same month last year.

- **Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Lord mentioned that complaints were brought to his attention regarding the west gate, and he had referred them to Mr. Herrera. Mr. Herrera responded that the gate is now fully operational and agreed to post signs in the future informing the users when a gate is malfunctioning.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino reported that beds built around the trees in the public-viewing area were enlarged, and the watering schedule was changed after a recommendation from the County's arborist who evaluated the trees. Mr. Marino added that the trees are in good shape.

Airport staff continues to evaluate areas for improvement, and this month a new sink was installed in the men's terminal restrooms.

- **Projects**

A new propane tank will be installed at the proposed restaurant site on June 3, 2015.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-four 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 9.6 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 10.2 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are down 3 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On May 11, 2015, Whiteman Airport hosted a Civil Air Patrol event, and the exercise lasted for one week, which included seven airplanes and over 40 Civil Air Patrol members at the airport.

On May 18, 2015, Larger-than-Life, an organization with a focus in improving the lives of children with cancer held an event at the airport.

The next Antique Aircraft Display Day will be Sunday, June 14, 2015.

The Whiteman Airport Association will hold its monthly meeting in the airport administration building on Thursday, June 18, 2015.

The annual American Heroes Air Show will be held at the Hansen Dam on Saturday, June 20, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Miscellaneous**

On May 9, 2015, a Lancair 320 aircraft pilot experienced a gear-up landing on runway 12. The pilot was aware of the circumstances and alerted the tower. Airport staff was standing by with aircraft/rescue and firefighting trucks. The National Transportation Safety Board conducted an investigation over the phone and cleared the incident. The runway was closed for an hour, but no injuries were reported.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that, this month, they corrected leaks on the 2-inch waterlines that run throughout the airport. Water for a large portion of the south area of the airport had to be shut off for approximately 8 hours while the repairs took place.

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the new tractor on the airport sustained some damages when a Mercy Air Helicopter ripped off its door from the hinges. Mr. Woodruff added that he will be ordering a new door for the tractor.

A 6-inch by 6-inch ground-vault steel door sustained some damages after an airport employee drove over it with the tractor. After evaluating the damages, it was decided it would be filled with gravel and concrete since there is no activity in the vault.

- **Project**

The County's wash rack bathroom project has commenced. The old unit was removed, and the ground work and foundation are being prepared for the new prefabricated building.

- **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 were down 6 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 30 percent compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 56 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**

Commissioner Simmons inquired why operations are up and fuel sales are down. Mr. Woodruff replied he is not sure of the reason, but speculated that numerous flight schools operating from the airport are probably purchasing fuel elsewhere.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that he received the results from the annual Federal Aviation Administration Form 5010 Airport Master Record inspection and is pleased to report that San Gabriel Valley Airport received an excellent grade.

The hangar inspections will commence on June 9, 2015, and should take approximately 10 days.

At the terminal building some light ballasts were replaced in the entrance of the building.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were up 18 percent in March, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 36 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.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 20 percent in April compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

On May 9, 2015, the Boys & Girls Club of Monrovia participated in the Flights-Above-Addiction event that was held at the airport. Participants were afforded the opportunity to paint images of their dreams onto a Cessna airplane.

On May 21, 2015, two airport staff provided a tour of the airport for 30 high school students from South El Monte High School and shared information 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 will be held on June 9, 2015.

On Sunday, June 28, 2015, the San Gabriel Valley Airport will host its Antique Display Day.

- **Miscellaneous**

On May 20, 2015, a minor car accident on the corner of Santa Anita Avenue and Tyler Avenue damaged a portion of the airport fence. Mr. Escobedo stated that he is working with the vehicle owner's insurance company for reimbursement of damages.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the students from the high school who attended the tour were there for a special reason or just for a general tour. Mr. Escobedo stated that their visit was just an airport visit, which included a general tour.

Commissioner Lord expressed his appreciation for the upgrade to the end-rooms at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Wardle announced, that last week, their first professional drone operator moved into a hangar as a tenant at the San Gabriel Valley Airport. Mr. Wardle added that the new tenant is aware that drones are not allowed to be operated at the airport.

Mr. Wardle also mentioned that Vice Chair Cornwall was interested in the possibility of doing some direct mailing to aircraft owners in the system

area. Mr. Wardle mentioned that he found a company operating out of Illinois and gave a count of approximately 3,100 owners. He pointed out that he has just received this information and will report additional information at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lord asked Mr. Wardle about the mailers that were sent out in regard to Proposition 65. Mr. Wardle informed that they only received two inquires.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the new tenants are considered non-aviation tenants. Mr. Wardle replied that they are, and they use the hangar for storage purposes only.

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

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

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

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the codes next to the division names on the report. Mr. Smith explained that every division has a five-digit code that identifies it.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission they are currently pushing the plans and specifications for the ramp reconstruction at San Gabriel Valley Airport and the exit taxiway at Fox Airfield. Therefore, charges will be noticeable once the start dates come in.

Mr. Smith announced that the New Commissioner's orientation and webinar are available primarily for new commissioners, and he welcomed all Commissioners to sign up, if interested.

Commissioner Carrel was unable to attend the meeting because he and his family are welcoming their newly born baby.

On the agenda, one of the items for discussion was the annual rental rate adjustment. Due to the lack of quorum, Chairman Holloway deferred the action item for the next Commission meeting and summarized what the item would entail. A brief discussion among the Commissioners took place. The agenda item will be discussed at the next Aviation Commission meeting.

Mr. Smith announced that Mr. Patrick Di Leva, Airport Project Coordinator, accepted a higher position with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and will be leaving soon. He added that he is looking into filling the position sometime soon.

Mr. Smith informed they received some negative responses on the installation of the propane tank at Whiteman Airport. Considering the cost, the County has determined that the project will be completed by a Job Order Contract also known as JOC.

Mr. Smith complimented Mr. Herrera on his success with the Compton/Woodley Airport Open House and Youth Fair this year and on how nice it was to see many children and families at the event. Mr. Herrera mentioned that there were approximately 500 attendees.

The Board of Supervisors is considering to adopt a new Countywide policy regarding water conservation. The proposal the Board is focusing on would affect the Malibu Area and District 40, which would include Fox Airfield. This may present a real challenge for the airport depending upon the outcome. Commissioner Lord asked if it is feasible to use reclaimed water at the airport. Mr. Smith replied it would be tremendously expensive.

The project regarding removal of the trees at San Gabriel Valley Airport is still in the plans, and we are currently waiting for the school year to end to commence the project, which should occur sometime in July 2015.

The Department of Public Works' Flood Control Division is celebrating its 100-year anniversary. Mr. Smith added that there will be many activities during the year, and Aviation Division will be getting involved in these projects.

Commissioners Simmons and Lord engaged in a brief discussion pertaining to the water conservation and the possibility of a future flood.

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

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the \$250,000 project is on schedule and should be completed by July 2015. The contractor is currently working on a steel canopy for the generator.

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

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that on June 16, 2015, the Department will request authorization from the Board of Supervisors to advertise for approximately 5 weeks, followed by a bid opening on Tuesday, June 21, 2015.

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

The apron pavement rehabilitation project at San Gabriel Valley Airport was submitted to Public Works' Construction Division to process for advertisement. The County is anticipating going to the Board of Supervisors on July 7, 2015, and opening the bids by August 4, 2015.

Mr. Smith mentioned that these two projects are very late since the Federal Aviation Administration's fiscal year ends at the end of September.

- **Vehicle Parking Lot on Airpark Way**

The electrical engineers are close to completing their design of the lighting system, and the job contract for the project, once assigned, should proceed with construction by August 2015.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport Entrance Sign**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that construction of the airport entrance sign is anticipated to commence in July. In the meantime, the construction company is working on all the required submittals and waiting to receive the material for the sign. Commissioner Lord inquired about the signs on the freeway. Mr. Smith replied that the signs are placed by California Department of Transportation, and they incur the cost of these signs.

D. Customer Service Survey Presentation

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the 2015 Airport Customer Service Survey. There were 302 survey responses received, and the overall average score for all airports is 3.9, out of the 5 possible points, with 5 being the highest in overall satisfaction.

E. Annual Rental Rate Adjustment – Proposed Increase to Non-aviation Surcharges

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

F. San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Commissioner Amundson commented on the recent passing of Senator Richard Mountjoy, stating that Senator Mountjoy utilized the San Gabriel Valley Airport for over 16 years as his link to Sacramento, and San Gabriel Valley Airport will not be the same without Dick Mountjoy.

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 different ways commercial drones will be utilized in the future and the potential impacts.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at 7 p.m.
at Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395**

Chairman Holloway adjourned the meeting in memory of Senator Richard Mountjoy at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Holloway, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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