



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

November 25, 2015, Meeting
San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670
(626) 448-6129

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Steve Weeks

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary George G. Butts
Vice-Chair Penelope Cornwall

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. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Alvaro Escobedo, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Ted Stimpfel, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. William Pass, Volunteer, Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team
Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the September 30 and the October 28, 2015, meetings were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Lord, seconded by Commissioner Amundson.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

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

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation selected Welk Aviation for the Whiteman Airport helicopter development and lease negotiations have already begun. Mr. Wardle thanked Chairman Holloway and Secretary Butts for their participation in the selection process.

Mr. Wardle informed the Los Angeles County Aviation Commission that the generator project at General William J. Fox Airfield is complete.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales are down 4 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are down 52 percent, year to date. There are two 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.

- **Meetings and Events**

A local Boy Scouts troop completed a badge project by picking up trash along the north side of the runway.

The Pilot's Association will hold its annual Christmas Party in the terminal building on December 12, 2015, at 6 p.m.

Chairman Holloway inquired about a nondirectional beacon antenna that was removed. Mr. Smith replied the technology was obsolete, and the cost to maintain it was no longer justified.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that a backflow testing took place and minor repairs were completed. Additionally, all four 8-foot wind socks were replaced.

On November 17, 2015, the annual fire extinguisher recertification took place, and 150 extinguishers were recertified.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that renovation of the terminal building is progressing well.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety 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 5.1 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 8.7 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are up 1.8 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On November 9, 2015, Mr. Marino attended an American Association of Airport Executives Conference. He informed that one topic of focus and discussion was recently introduced legislation on airspace safety.

Commissioner Simmons asked Mr. Marino to elaborate on how the drone situation would be addressed. Mr. Marino informed Commissioner Simmons that the first step to be taken is to educate the community and to disseminate/publicize the facts and regulations regarding drones.

The Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting in the airport administration building on Thursday, November 19, 2015, and discussed winter flying. Also, the association conducted a question-and-answer segment with the Air Traffic Manager.

The annual holiday party will be held on December 10, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

The San Fernando 99s will hold its Cookies to the Tower Program on December 5, 2015.

This year, the annual Santa Fly-In will be held on Friday, December 11, 2015, to take advantage of the news coverage that will be available for this event.

The Whiteman Airport Association Antique Aircraft Display will take place on December 13, 2015.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host its Young Eagles event on December 26, 2015.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-eight percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 26 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 3.5 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 21.3 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 19.9 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 Antique Aircraft 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.

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that the upcoming open house was rescheduled to December 20, 2015, at the request of the Brackett Airport Association to coincide with the monthly Antique Aircraft Display Day.

The Brackett Airport Association will hold its annual Christmas Dinner on December 3, 2015.

A Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference was held at the airport on November 2015, and the event contributed to increased fuel sales on the airport.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that on November 19, 2015, there was an aircraft accident on the airport; a pilot flying an aircraft on low

fuel crashed on Fairplex Drive. The pilot was transported to the University of Southern California Medical Center for medical treatment.

Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that the triannual Automated Weather Observation System inspection is complete, and the system is functioning correctly.

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

- **Meetings**

The Compton/Woodley Airport Users Group will hold its annual holiday party on December 11, 2015, at 7 p.m., and participants attending the event will be asked to bring a \$10 unwrapped gift.

- **Miscellaneous**

On October 7, 2015, an aircraft based out of Compton/Woodley Airport crashed in the local residential area. The pilot received minor injuries.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

On November 5, 2015, the motor and control panel for the south gate was replaced.

On November 6, 2015, the new employees received First Aid/CPR training.

On November 24, 2015, the pilot lounge was refurnished.

On November 13, 2015, Mr. Escobedo received a training that simulated a scenario of a plane crash by the fuel pit and was pleased to inform that the training was successful.

- **Projects**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that construction continues in front of the terminal building and trenching for the footing for the sign is complete. He mentioned that the sign will be delivered to the airport soon.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Escobedo informed that Billion Air Aviation, Inc., is expecting delivery of its fuel storage tanks on December 2, 2015.

Avgas fuel sales were up 4 percent, and Jet A fuel sales were down 55 percent, compared to last year.

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

Airport operations are up 8 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On November 15, 2015, a celebration of life event for Bud Keeso was held at the airport.

On November 18, 2015, the San Gabriel Valley Association held its meeting.

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that on November 23, 2015, a meeting was held with Mr. Tom Traeger, President of the Santa Fe Dam Radio Control Modelers Club, to discuss updates to Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 91-57A. Mr. Escobedo informed that it is required for them to have procedures in place with the tower, as they are based less than 5 miles from the airport.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association and Annia's Kitchen will sponsor the Holiday Dinner on December 16, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Escobedo informed that the annual Airport Open House was held on October 31, 2015, and was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that on November 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., there was a vehicle/pedestrian deviation where two students entered the gates and drove to the north side of the airport. Operations staff intercepted the pedestrians and acquired all the necessary information to report the incident.

Commissioner Lord mentioned to Mr. Escobedo that he is a member of the Santa Fe Dam Radio Center Modelers Club and is pleased to say that the club is very responsible.

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

Mr. Smith introduced and welcomed Mr. Pat Proano as the new Deputy Director for Aviation Division.

Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Carmen Sainz, Department of Regional Planning, and mentioned that December 9, 2015, will be the last public hearing where Mr. Smith anticipated the final approval for the Brackett Field Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the General William J. Fox Airfield Airport Layout Plan. Mr. Smith informed that the layout plan was an easy approval, as there were no changes to the existing plan.

- **October 2015 Expense and Revenue Reports**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the October 2015 expense and revenue report and stated that the Commission will see a negative net income that is attributed to a budgeted transfer that was anticipated.

Commissioner Simmons inquired on the duties of Architectural Engineering Division and the types of services that they provide to Aviation Division. Mr. Smith provided a summary on the types of services that Architectural Engineering Division has provided in the past.

- **Brackett Field Airport and General William J. Fox Airfield Restroom Rehabilitation**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the restrooms at Brackett Field and General William J. Fox Airfield will undergo a rehabilitation that will resemble the work that took place at the facility where the Aviation Division is located. Mr. Smith mentioned he is hopeful the restrooms rehabilitation at Fox Field will be complete prior to the annual air show that will take place in March 2016.

- **Los Angeles County Air Show**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the first all-hands air show meeting took place, and Chairman Holloway attended. Mr. Smith also mentioned that, aside from the Blue Angels, they are anticipating participation from Tora! Tora! Tora! as part of the show. Mr. Smith also

mentioned that due to the pyrotechnics involved, they may require additional permits for this type of performance.

- **Whiteman Airport**

One of the Board of Supervisors initiatives includes the homeless and County airports that are participating in this initiative. At Whiteman Airport, Mr. Marino and his staff patrol a homeless encampment that has been a problem over the years. In order to address the issue, some sections of the fence were repaired, and a gate was added close to Roger Jessup Recreational Park.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the Department of Public Works' Road Maintenance Division will perform the tree removal on Wingo Street. Notices and community signs regarding the tree removal schedule have been posted.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport**

The City of El Monte will commence trimming the pine trees along the wash in January 2016. The City's arborist informed they can take 30 feet of the pines, and the pines will survive. Therefore, this project will be completed in three phases. Mr. Smith also informed that Amigos de Los Rios will do all the outreach informing to the community.

The concrete for the monument sign will be poured in two phases, which will take 2 weeks to complete. Once the pouring is complete, the placement of the sign should be quick since the sign is already built and ready for installation.

- **Drones Conference**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission he attended the American Association of Airport Executives Drones Conference and elaborated on the productive discussion that took place between air traffic controllers and airports. Mr. Smith was pleased to inform the Commission that during the last hours of the conference, air traffic controllers and airport operators held a discussion analyzing the roles, responsibilities, and authorities that air traffic controllers and airports would have.

Commissioner Simmons commented on enforcement of the UAS rules and suggested that monetary fines may become necessary as drones are integrated into the national air space system.

D. San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Mr. Smith briefed the Commission on the apron pavement rehabilitation that will cost about 5 million in Federal grant funds. Mr. Smith pointed out the

impacted areas on the airport and the relocation of some of the tenants during this project. Mr. Escobedo has contacted all tenants, and only a few have not responded. Mr. Smith is requesting that tenants give sufficient notice to American Airports Corporation when movement is needed. This project is scheduled to commence sometime late January 2016 or early February 2016.

Commissioner Lord mentioned that the taxiway at Compton/Woodley Airport has a dip on the asphalt and would like the County to look into it. Mr. Smith replied he would have it inspected.

E. Election of Commission Officers for 2016

Chairman Holloway announced the nominations for the 2016 Commission Officers as follows: Penelope Cornwall as Chair, George Butts as Vice Chair, and Angelo Cardono as Secretary.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to accept the nominations as presented and Commissioner Lord seconded the motion. The motioned carried.

F. Approval of 2016 Meeting Calendar

Chairman Holloway presented the Commission Meeting Calendar for 2016. Commissioner Lord moved to accept the Commission Meeting Calendar for 2016, and Commissioner Cardono seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. William Pass, volunteer for the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team, provided the Commissioners copies of a summary he created, which details what he has observed on the airport. Mr. Pass mentioned he looks forward to having a round table meeting to discuss this. Mr. Smith informed the Commission Mr. Wardle is addressing valid issues mentioned on Mr. Pass's summary, and Mr. Smith continues to welcome feedback and suggestions for safety.

Mr. Ted Stimpfel, San Gabriel Valley Airport guest, expressed to the Commission his concern with the airport name change from El Monte Airport to San Gabriel Valley Airport and asked the Commission to reconsider changing the name back to El Monte Airport.

Chairman Holloway mentioned that there was much outreach to inform the community of the name change that took place.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Association, thanked the Commission for assisting with the name change and requested the assistance in advertising aviation to the youth in the community to increase the number of pilots.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at 10 a.m.
at Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395**

Commissioner Lord moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. Butts, Vice-chair
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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