



GAIL FARBER  
Director of Public Works

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
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### LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

October 28, 2015, Meeting

Whiteman Airport  
12653 Osborne Street  
Pacoima, CA 91331-2104  
(818) 896-5271

## COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
CHAIRMAN

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
VICE CHAIR

GEORGE G. BUTTS  
SECRETARY

ANGELO R. CARDONO  
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS  
MEMBER

DENNIS C. LORD  
MEMBER

PETER M. AMUNDSON  
MEMBER

STEVE WEEKS  
MEMBER

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Harvey A. Holloway  
Vice Chair Penelope Cornwall  
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary George G. Butts  
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson  
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono  
Commissioner Clinton Simmons  
Commissioner Steve Weeks

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

### GUESTS

Ms. Karla J. Borden, Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team  
Mr. Brad Howard, Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team  
Mr. William Pass, Volunteer, Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team  
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman 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**

Approval of the minutes of September 30, 2015, meeting was deferred to the next Commission meeting for lack of a quorum.

#### **B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report**

##### **Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission about an article in the American Airports Corporation's (AAC) monthly newsletter titled, "Time for Some Housekeeping," and explained the article was intended to address a clean-up issue with key cards at the five airports. Mr. Wardle further explained that some tenants have multiple key cards, and the current policy in place is one card for each cardholder.

Commissioner Lord mentioned he is aware of the current discussions regarding the card issue and added that many of his Experimental Aircraft Association members were not aware of the policy.

The Antelope Valley College is looking into expanding its aviation program and has approached AAC to request a lease for the museum space. A secondary meeting between the college, AAC, and the County will be scheduled to plan for the required improvements.

A current tenant at Whiteman Airport, ARC Machines, is asking for a lease extension and is offering to give back a large parcel of land to the County as an incentive.

Mr. Wardle provided a report to the Commission about the significant reduction in water use that has taken place at the five airports. In the report, Compton/Woodley Airport saw the highest drop in water use. Conversely, Brackett Field Airport had an increase in water consumption. Mr. Wardle explained that the increase at Brackett Field Airport is attributed mainly to the nursery. He also stated that they are working with the nursery and the local water utility company to put the nursery on a separate water meter.

Mr. Wardle announced that the posting for the Assistant Manager position at Brackett Field Airport is available.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that AAC has received all the responses for the Request for Proposals for the proposed helicopter operations area space at Whiteman Airport and is ready for the selection process. Currently, there are two bidders, and the selection process should take place sometime in November 2015.

Commissioner Lord commented on the amount of water reduction the County requested and expressed his concern with the amount of money spent on the landscaping at Compton/Woodley Airport.

### **Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

On October 7, 2015, a meeting was held with all commercial tenants, except for one, regarding the ramp construction project. During the meeting, all questions asked by the commercial tenants were answered by Mr. Escobedo.

On October 15, 2015, new piping, along with a timer-based, slow-drip system was installed on the south end of the airport.

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that on October 16, 2015, he hired a new employee, Ms. Sabrina Ocegueda.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that Billion Air is expecting delivery of the tanks on December 2, 2015.

The monument sign project is progressing, and 90 percent of the irrigation and electrical wiring is complete.

Avgas fuel sales were up 4 percent, and Jet A fuel sales were down 40 percent, compared to last year.

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

Airport operations are up 9 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On October 14, 2015, the local Runway Safety Action Team met and discussed topics that included adding a hot spot on the airport on taxiway alpha/delta and reported no vehicle pedestrian deviation incidents on the airport.

The first meet-and-greet meeting with the tower manager was held this month. The meeting was successful and plans to continue meeting monthly were recommended.

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that the annual Airport Open House will be on October 31, 2015, and will include a fun house and small pumpkin patch.

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

Mr. Irving informed the Commission on flooding preparations that took place at the airport and the repairing of hangar roofs that have leaks. Repairs are taking place as tenants report the problems.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales are up 10 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are down 45 percent, year to date. There are two vacant hangars, and no hangars are used for non-aviation purpose.

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

- **Meetings and Events**

The Pilots Association held its annual Fly-In and Pancake Breakfast, and the Rotary Club will hold its Chili Cook-Off on October 31, 2015.

### **Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items**

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that the older crash fire rescue truck was repaired, and the newly acquired electric mower is facilitating the maintenance of the landscape around the airport.

- **Management and Maintenance**

The directional signs on the airport were replaced with new signs. Mr. Lonctaux also informed that he has in place a guidance panel audit kit to be used as a tool in determining when signs are faded.

- **Projects**

The County and AAC selected the contractor for the restroom remodeling and are negotiating the contract terms.

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that AECOM is updating the Airport Layout Plan and is preparing a narrative for the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

There are 24 vacant hangars, and 33 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 2 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 17 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 21.5 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 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 is tentatively scheduled for December 5, 2015.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Lonctaux informed Chairman Holloway that on September 26, 2015, the crash fire rescue truck was stolen from the airport. The truck was recovered on September 28, 2015, with minor damages which were repaired. As a safety precaution, Mr. Lonctaux implemented new storage procedures for the keys to the crash fire rescue trucks.

### **Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that the code on the walk-thru gate near the Experimental Aircraft Association's hangar was changed.

Hangar inspection commenced on October 26, 2015, and will follow up with tenants that are pending.

- **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 purpose. In September, Avgas fuel sales were up 6 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Miscellaneous**

On October 7, 2015, an incident near the airport was reported. An aircraft based out of Compton/Woodley Airport crashed, and the pilot managed to walk away from the crash and no major damages were sustained by the aircraft.

## **Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items**

Mr. Marino reported to the Commission that County hangar inspections were performed from October 7 through October 9, 2015 and are approximately 45 percent complete.

On October 27, 2015, the trees and bushes were trimmed along the helicopter area.

On Wednesday, October 14, 2015, AAC and Fire Station No. 98 held a drill and conducted training where the Fire Department was able to evaluate the access points on the airport. Firefighters also had the opportunity to train with Avgas and Jet A to see how each fuel burns.

On October 15, 2015, CPR training was held for six employees on the airport.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that renovation of the terminal building and construction of the new parking lot began this month.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-nine percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 10 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purpose. Avgas fuel sales are up 4.5 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 6.5 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are up 3.8 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting in the airport administration building on Thursday, October 15, 2015; the next meeting will be held on November 19, 2015. The annual holiday party will be held on December 10, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

On October 23, 2015, Larger-than-Life, an organization with a focus on improving the lives of children with cancer, held its 4th annual event at the airport.

The Whiteman Airport Association Antique Aircraft Display will take place on November 8, 2015.

The annual fire extinguisher recertification will be held on November 17, 2015.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host its Young Eagles event at the airport on November 28, 2015.

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

Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Rubisela Uribe as the new Division's Secretary III.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Supervisor Kuehl of the third District has appointed Commissioner Marc Carrel to the Board of Appeals Commission and will no longer serve on the Aviation Commission.

AAC has received several inquiries and requests for permission or approval for flying drones. Therefore, in response to this type of service, AAC and the County are planning to develop a standard form to interact with these commercial operators.

On October 13, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract for consultant services to process noise reports for Burbank, Van Nuys, Los Angeles International, and Long Beach airports.

- **September 2015 Expense and Revenue Reports**

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

Commissioner Lord questioned expenses under AVCOM. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the expense was for the service and maintenance of the air traffic control tower at Whiteman Airport.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport**

The Billion Air lease is scheduled for Board of Supervisors' approval on November 3, 2015. Mr. Smith mentioned to the Commission that this is just an amendment to extend the construction, and Billion Air is expecting delivery of the storage tanks in December 2015.

The open house that will be held on October 31, 2015, has received publicity in *The San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, and it is expected a good turnout.

Mr. Smith mentioned to the Commission that preparations for the placement of the monument sign are taking place as scheduled and informed that all the material is at the airport waiting for the placement of the sign to begin.

The County and the City of El Monte continue to work with the issue regarding the trees at Rio Vista Park. In addition, the new schedule calls for trimming to take place along the wash sometime in January 2016 and continues on with coordinating with the school to trim the trees sometime next summer.

- **Brackett Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the Memoranda of Understanding for the Sheriff's and Fire departments are complete and will be at Brackett Airport for the next 5 years.

- **Barnes Aviation**

Mr. Smith presented a plaque on behalf of the Aviation Commission to Barnes Aviation in recognition of its 75 Years of Service on November 11, 2015.

- **Los Angeles County Air Show**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that structure for the Los Angeles County Air Show Board has changed, and the first meeting for the full Board is November 17, 2015.

D. **Whiteman Airport Items**

Mr. Smith briefed the Commission that at Whiteman Airport there is a third-party solar development project that is almost complete. Mr. Smith underlined the importance as this project is the first of its kind at any of the County airports. He added that two other airports are trying to follow suit in participating in this solar project the County supported.

Mr. Smith shared with the Commission that he attended the 29th Annual Productivity and Quality Award Program 2015 Ceremony and received a Certificate of Recognition for acquisition of the Whiteman Airport terminal building and hangars.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. William Pass, volunteer for the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team, expressed to the Commission his interest in forming a committee that would include the Commission, County staff, and airport staff in an effort to address safety issues and safety concerns at the airports.

Ms. Karla J. Borden, FAAST Safety Team in Van Nuys, introduced herself to the Commission. She provided a brief explanation to the Commission of what FAAST duties are and expressed that they are not part of the regulatory section, and her team provides assistance in the educational aspect of aviation.

Chairman Holloway requested from Mr. Pass a list of his observations in order to address his concerns.

Mr. Smith expressed pride in Compton/Woodley Airport's appearance and emphasized that millions of dollars have been invested on the infrastructure improvements at the airport. In addition, Mr. Smith informed Mr. Pass he can address issues, anytime, to him or to Mr. Scott Wardle instead of waiting for a Commission meeting.



Mr. Brad Howard, FFAST Safety Team in Los Angeles, introduced himself to the Commission and explained his position as a FFAST Safety Team member, and offered his support.

Mr. Dan Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association, suggested the County invest in adding cement or turf in front of the terminal building, as this is the location where they hold their outdoor events.

**IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:**

**Wednesday, November 25, 2015, at 10 a.m.  
at San Gabriel Valley Airport  
4233 Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731-1670  
(626) 448-6129**

Vice-Chair Cornwall moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Lord seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penelope Cornwall, Vice-chair  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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