



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

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

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### LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

May 30, 2018, meeting  
San Gabriel Valley Airport  
4233 Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731-1670  
(626) 448-6129

## COMMISSIONERS

CLINTON SIMMONS  
CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

PETER M. AMUNDSON  
SECRETARY

CURT CASTAGNA  
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
MEMBER

GABRIEL PEREZ  
MEMBER

STEVE A. WEEKS  
MEMBER

VACANT  
MEMBER

VACANT  
MEMBER

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons  
Vice-Chairman Dennis Lord  
Commissioner Peter Amundson  
Commissioner Curt Castagna  
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway  
Commissioner Gabriel Perez  
Commissioner Steve A. Weeks

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner 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. Pete Lonceteaux, Manager, Brackett Field Airport  
Mr. Carlos Diaz, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport  
Mr. Enrique Curioso, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport

### GUESTS

Mr. Johnathan Reimann, ARC Window Cleaners  
Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Peris Meeks, President of the Airport Users Association  
Mr. John Wilcox, Brackett Field Airport  
Mr. Ed Sause, American Airports Corporation  
Mr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Ed Slifkin, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Ken Hanson, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

## **GUESTS** (Cont.)

Mr. Hans Van Riet, Visitor  
Ms. Linda Rever, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Winn Williams, Port Hangar Association  
Mr. Howard Belzberg, San Gabriel Valley Airport Pilot  
Ms. Leanne Powers, San Gabriel Valley Airport  
Mr. Jon Smalldridge, San Gabriel Valley Airport  
Mr. Bruce Busch, San Gabriel Valley Airport  
Mr. Mauricio Gonzalez, San Gabriel Valley Pilot  
Ms. Debra Gonzalez, Mission Flight  
Mr. Jeff Strouse, San Gabriel Valley Aerial Art Photography

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Clinton Simmons called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chairman Dennis Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **A. Minutes**

The minutes for April 25, 2018, were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Peter Amundson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dennis Lord.

Chairman Simmons introduced Ms. Christina Pascucci as the new Aviation Commissioner appointed by Supervisor Sheila Khuehl, 3rd District and Mr. Jeff Mort as the new Aviation Commissioner appointed by Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District.

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

##### **Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that airport management provided an informational handout to all tenants on the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

An agreement is being finalized with a prospective tenant on the basic terms for occupancy of the south hangar at San Gabriel Valley airport.

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

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that airport staff is working on weed abatement throughout the airport and are rebuilding the sprinkler system on the north side of the Air Show headquarters building.

The tanker companies continue to utilize the airport as a location for certification of their newest air tankers.

The Wings and Wheels Chili cook-off will be held on October 27, 2018.

Plans for the upcoming 2019 Los Angeles County Air Show have commenced. The first meeting to fill seats on the Air Show Board of Directors will take place in the month of June.

Commissioner Amundson inquired about the number of attendees at the 2018 Air Show. Mr. Smith informed Commissioner Amundson that there were approximately 88,000 attendees.

Ninety-eight percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and no hangars are used for non-aviation.

Avgas fuel sales were consistent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 24 percent, compared to the same month last year. Aircraft operations on the airport were down 7 percent, compared to the same month last year.

### **Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Whiteman Airport Items**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that a new water heater pump was installed on the emergency generator and the computer at the fuel station pump was rebuilt.

New batteries were installed at the vehicle gate located on the north side of the airport.

On April 27, 2018, Whiteman Airport hosted a booth at the Annual Aviation Career Day at Van Nuys Airport.

On May 13, 2018, Whiteman Airport hosted an event of the reenactment of the first delivery and pick up of U.S. mail by Contract Airmail Flight 8.

On May 5, 2018, the Aviation Explorer Post 747 held their third annual fundraising Gala and on May 14, 2018, the American Airports Corporation hosted a Helicopter Fly Day for kids battling cancer.

The next Whiteman Airport Association meeting will be held on June 21, 2018, and the next Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles Day will be held on June 23, 2018.

The Annual Whiteman Airport Open House will be held on September 22, 2018.

Ninety-two percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 10 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage.

On April 28, 2018, there was a vehicle accident that damaged the perimeter fencing on Airpark Way.

Avgas fuel sales were up 6.1 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 7.1 percent, compared to the same month last year. Aircraft operations on the airport were up 5.2 percent, compared to the same month last year.

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

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that the 99s repainted the Brackett Airport sign.

The Brackett Airmen Association holds its monthly meeting on the first Thursday of every month and Display Day on the third Sunday of every month.

On November 2, 2018 through November 4, 2018, the Academy of Model Aeronautics West Coast will host their convention at the Fairplex.

The Taste of La Verne event will be held on October 16, 2018, and the Annual Airport Open House will be held on October 20, 2018.

Eighty-five percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 25 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 13.2 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 11.6 percent, compared to the same month last year. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 10.5 percent, compared to the same month last year.

**Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items**

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that a roofing company inspected the Experimental Aircraft Association Hangars after a leak was reported. The contractor will provide a quote to make the necessary repairs.

New mirrors were installed in all the restrooms at the airport and a new bollard was installed adjacent to the card reader at the Wilmington Gate entrance.

New parking signs were installed throughout the airport to enforce unauthorized parking and the parking stalls assigned to the Experimental Aircraft Association were painted.

Trees were planted along the sound wall to add curb appeal and provide additional noise reduction for surrounding neighbors.

The Runway and Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation project is in progress.

The successful annual Compton Woodley Airport Open House and the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles Air Fair was held on May 19, 2018. Vice-Chairman Lord thanked the Assistant Manager for his diligence displayed during the Annual Open House.

### **Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items**

A local vendor was hired to clean all the windows at the terminal building and the hedge on Riverview Avenue was trimmed.

The Aircraft Swap meet and the Mission Flight Seminar event will be held on Sunday, July 22, 2018.

A promotional video is continuously being played on the new television that was recently purchased.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., and the Civil Air Patrol meets every Thursday at 7 p.m.

On April 3, 2018, there was an emergency aircraft landing. No injuries or damages to the airport were reported.

Twenty-two hangars at the airport are vacant, and 19 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 2 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 9 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 8 percent, compared to the same month last year.

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

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the April 2018 Expense and Revenue Report and explained the increased labor expenses.

Mr. Smith updated the Commission on a request to have traffic calming measures added on Airpark Way and provided information on adding signage to the terminal building at Whiteman Airport.

Mr. Smith presented a summary of capital projects taking place at all five County-owned airports and a fact sheet with capital project information.

#### **D. Customer Service Survey Presentation**

Mr. Smith shared a presentation on the results of the 2018 Airport Customer Service Survey.

#### **E. Annual Rental Rate Adjustment**

Mr. Smith provided a summary of the annual rental rates proposal by American Airports Corporation which includes increasing the non-aviation surcharge to 78 percent, and no increase for aviation rental rates.

Chairman Simmons invited the public to comment on this item.

Mr. John Wilcox shared with the Commission his concern with the increase to non-aviation hangars and the lack of decrease towards aviation hangar rental rates. He also expressed that rental rate increases causes the possessory tax to also increase and shared that rental rates in various airports are lower.

Chairman Simmons explained that rental rates in various counties will differ as the demand changes based on the location.

Vice-Chairman Lord clarified the difference between possessory tax and property tax and Commissioner Castagna explained that the proposal is to increase non-aviation and leave aviation rates consistent and based on the information provided, rates are comparable.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, shared a hangar rent survey that he conducted in February 2018, showing the differences in hangar rental rates in various counties and stated to the Commission that he would like to see a decrease in rental rates at the County airports.

Vice-Chairman Lord stated to Mr. Lopez that his hangar survey is documenting information for airports that are not within the Los Angeles County, and the only two airports in his survey that are in Los Angeles County both have higher rental rates.

Mr. Winn Williams, expressed to the Commission his concern on what a tenant at Brackett Field Airport is storing in his hangar and what he is being charged for that hangar. Vice-Chairman Lord informed him this does not have to do with the discussion of the annual rental rate proposal and his concern can be addressed to the airport manager.

Mr. James Haney stated to the Commission his concern with the possessory interest tax and its affect when increasing rents for non-aviation use of hangars.

Mr. Jon Smallridge stated to the Commission that American Airports Corporation should have a set cap on how much they are able to profit from aviation and non-aviation hangars. Mr. Smallridge stated that if AAC can make more money on non-aviation hangars, they will advertise for non-aviation as opposed to aviation hangar rentals.

Chairman Simmons concluded public comment on the Annual Rental Rate Adjustment item.

The Commission held a brief discussion. Commissioner Amundson then made a motion to support the recommendation of the 2018 annual rental rates, which was seconded by Commissioner Holloway and unanimously approved.

#### **F. Commissioner Meeting Frequency and Location Discussion**

Commissioner Weeks opened a discussion about the number of meetings and locations as it related to the Commissioners and public participation. He suggested some meetings be moved to a different location or change the

meeting times to improve the ability to obtain a quorum and generate public participation. The Commission held a discussion and the majority of Commissioners agreed that meeting at all 5 County airports twice a month allows tenants to attend Aviation Commission meetings.

### **G. San Gabriel Valley Airport Items**

None.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, shared with the Commission information pertaining to a Part 13 complaint he filed with the FAA regarding the possessory interest taxes. Mr. Haney informed the Commission that through their legal counsel they obtained additional information which he shared with the Commission.

Mr. Perris Meeks, Compton Airport Tenant, shared with the Commission his concern regarding projects that take place at the airport. Mr. Meeks would like the County to advise tenants when drastic changes are made to the airport and when projects are planned. Mr. Meeks concluded by suggesting a digital version of the Customer Service Survey to help increase tenant participation.

Mr. Jeff Strouse, Aerial Art Photography and Sim Training, addressed the Commission with his concern on the amount of time it is taking to install additional security cameras.

Mr. Winn Williams inquired with the Commission as to where he could view the information that is provided to the Commission on the day of the Aviation Commission meeting.

Ms. Leanne Powers, San Gabriel Valley Airport, shared with the Commission that on May 19, 2018, her Girl Scout Troop 3331 visited the airport and the girls were introduced to aviation. Ms. Powers thanked everyone involved in the event.

## **III. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:**

**Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at 7 p.m.  
at Brackett Field Airport  
1615 McKinley Avenue  
La Verne, CA 91750-5846**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission