



GAIL FARBER  
Director of Public Works

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

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

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

## COMMISSIONERS

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
*CHAIR*

GEORGE G. BUTTS  
*VICE-CHAIR*

ANGELO R. CARDONO  
*SECRETARY*

PETER M. AMUNDSON  
*MEMBER*

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
*MEMBER*

DENNIS C. LORD  
*MEMBER*

GABRIEL PEREZ  
*MEMBER*

CLINTON SIMMONS  
*MEMBER*

STEVE A. WEEKS  
*MEMBER*

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

November 30, 2016, Meeting  
San Gabriel Valley Airport  
4233 North Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731-1670  
(626) 448-6129

### IN ATTENDANCE

Vice-Chair George G. Butts  
Chair Penelope Cornwall  
Commissioner Peter Amundson  
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway  
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord  
Commissioner Gabriel Perez  
Commissioner Clinton Simmons  
Commissioner Steve A. Weeks

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary 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. Pete Lonctaux, Manager, Brackett Field Airport  
Mr. Carlos Diaz, Interim Manager  
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield  
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

### GUESTS

Mr. Winn Williams, Port-A-Port Hangar, SSO  
Mr. Peris Meeks, Compton/Woodley Airport Utopia  
Mr. Gabe Lopez, President of San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Jeff Strouse, Aerial Sim Training/Aerial Art Photography  
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association  
Mr. Gil Viramontes, Vice President of San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cornwall called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

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

Commissioner Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

#### **A. Minutes**

The minutes for the October 26, 2016, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Vice-Chair Butts, seconded by Commissioner Amundson.

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

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

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that Mr. Jared Birch resigned as the Airport Manager at San Gabriel Valley Airport and returned to his previous place of employment with Palmdale Airport.

##### **Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items**

- **Maintenance**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that airport staff developed a board system to track reported runway light fixtures that need repairs.

- **Development and Activities**

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

Avgas fuel sales were down 54 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 54 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 3 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Chair Cornwall noted that signs on the freeway continue to display El Monte Airport and would like to know when they will be updated.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that Mr. Samuel Maghakian was hired as the new assistant manager.

Mr. Maghakian will attend a Wildlife Hazardous training that Los Angeles World Airports will host on December 14, 2016.

On November 9, 2016, the annual fire extinguisher recertification was held, and over 100 extinguishers were recertified.

American Airports Corporation contracted a company to fumigate the old administration building for termites and pest control in preparation for Civil Air Patrol's move-in date.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-four percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 15 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 8.8 percent, year to date, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 2.7 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 2.1 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting on November 17, 2016, and Chris Cooper, the new Airport Traffic Control Tower Manager, attended. There will be no meeting in December.

On December 8, 2016, the Whiteman Airport Association will host its annual holiday party and will collect food donations for Meet Each Need with Dignity organization.

On December 10, 2016, the annual Santa Claus fly-in will take place in conjunction with Meet Each Need with Dignity organization.

The next Aircraft Display Day will be on December 11, 2016.

On December 14, 2016, Whiteman Airport will host a Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team's Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) seminar in the new building.

Commissioner Weeks asked about the Civil Air Patrol's lease term. Mr. Smith explained that the Civil Air Patrol is on a year-to-year basis.

Commissioner Weeks also inquired on the plans for the future restaurant in the terminal building at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that he has considered all comments brought up at the last Commission meeting and concluded it would be best to have the vendor design a small kitchen area that would be adequate for a sandwich shop where only the kitchen area would be utilized.

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

The west hangar restrooms were painted, and annual heaters were added to the restrooms to prevent pipes from freezing.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that construction on the taxiway project is moving along. Over the last few days, the contractor has moved dirt around. Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the contractor had two options: to have a subcontractor finish the job or patch the runway without completing the job.

One of the 100LL fuel trucks was out of service for approximately 1 week. The truck was repaired and is now back in service.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales are down 20 percent, compared to last year. Jet-A fuel sales are down 70 percent, year to date.

There are three vacant hangars, and no hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes. Airport operations are down 30 percent from over last year's operations.

- **Miscellaneous**

The 99s are hosting their annual Christmas event in the terminal building on December 3, 2016.

The Pilots Association annual Christmas event will be held on December 10, 2016, at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Simmons inquired if the current repairs on the runway are in preparation for the upcoming air show. Mr. Irving informed Commissioner Simmons that repairs, such as crack-seal fills, are repairs done throughout the year and not specifically for the air show.

Commissioner Simmons asked Mr. Irving for an update on the current coordinated efforts between the air show event coordinators and the airport manager. Mr. Irving informed Commissioner Simmons that

everything is going well and affirmed there are no specific issues pending. He added that there has been a lot of activity with a lot of work, meetings, communications, and a lot of people coming and going. At the moment, everything seems to be on track and is moving forward in a positive way. Next week, the ICAS Convention will take place where it will be announced that the Thunderbirds are coming to General William J. Fox Airfield; but, so far, so good.

Commissioner Holloway inquired about the ongoing issue with the Fire Department regarding the numbering system they are requesting be placed on the hangar rows. Mr. Irving informed the Commission that he started working on this a year and a half ago but stated that the Fire Department is having internal difficulties with the numbering specifics for the airport.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

The Jet-A fuel truck is currently out of service. The replacement parts for the software firmware were ordered and are expected within the next few weeks.

Mr. Lonctaux reported to the Commission that there are wooden boards that line up approximately 500 feet on the north side of the field by the Alpha Row that needs to be replaced.

On the north and south sides of the airport, there are two gates that will be replaced because of security issues.

The annual airport signage preventive-maintenance program took place this month. All signs on the airport were rehabilitated, cleaned, and are operating properly.

- **Projects**

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that the County continues to work on the future pavement rehabilitation project at the airport and has begun to evaluate a future crack-seal project for the transient parking area.

Eighty-two percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 23 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 18 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 31 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations were down 14 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Brackett Field Airport Association Christmas dinner will be held on December 8, 2016.

Commissioner Weeks asked what percentage the air show contributes to airport operations. Mr. Lonctaux stated that he could not provide a definite answer but thought it is less than 5 percent.

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

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that all the damages caused by the accident on October 14, 2016, are repaired and the three affected hangars are now operational.

Mr. Leonard Iñiguez was hired as the assistant manager for Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that the County and American Airports Corporation continue to engage vendors in an effort to acquire their services to replace the 30 panels on the sound wall.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-seven percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 35 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were up 18 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On November 26, 2016, a meeting was held to discuss the upcoming Woodley's Wings and Wheels. City of Compton, Third District, City Councilwoman Tana L. McCoy attended the meeting and offered to assist with street parking on the day of the event.

On December 10, 2016, the California Black Aviation Association will host its annual brunch at Ports O'Call Restaurant in San Pedro.

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

Mr. Smith announced that Mr. Jason Morgan, Assistant Chief, will be leaving Aviation Division to work on a new assignment within Public Works. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Jason Morgan for his contribution to Aviation Division.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he met with Valley Industry and Commerce Association where he presented on an upcoming development at Whiteman Airport and General William J. Fox Airfield. The presentation was well received, and Mr. Smith had the opportunity to interview with Mr. Mark Madler, a staff writer for the San Fernando Valley Business Journal.

- **General William J. Fox Airfield Air Show**

Mr. Smith presented the Commission with a Tenant Rights and Responsibilities document that he authored to establish mutual understanding of what will transpire during the air show and what the tenants can expect.

Mr. Irving will schedule several meetings with airport tenants to present and discuss the Tenant Rights and Responsibilities.

- **October 2016 Expense and Revenue Reports**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the September 2016 Expense and Revenue Report and offered to answer questions.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the expenses for geotechnical at Compton/Woodley Airport continued. Mr. Smith answered that the expenses at Compton/Woodley Airport are complete, and any current or future expense pertaining to geotechnical would be for ongoing repairs at the five County airports.

- **Federal Aviation Administration Grants for 2017-18 Fiscal Year**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the County met with the Federal Aviation Administration to secure funding for current year and upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Smith added that staff worked diligently in preparing for this meeting, and \$16 million in Airport Improvement Program grants were secured.

Mr. Smith provided to the Commission a summary of the projects that were funded. Some of the projects summarized included three new design grants, the southeast ramp at Bracket Field Airport, the runway design at General William J. Fox Airfield, and the Compton/Woodley Runway Taxiway construction.

- **Trees at Rio Vista Park**

The tree removal at Rio Vista Park is scheduled for December 26 through December 30, 2016, and Mr. Smith reiterated that all planting will take place in April 2017. All obstruction issues at Rio Vista Park will be resolved by the summer.

**D. Election of Commission Officers for 2017**

Chair Cornwall announced the nominations for Commission Officers for 2017 as follows: George G. Butts, as Chairman; Angelo R. Cardono, as Vice Chairman; and Clinton Simmons, as Secretary.

Commissioner Lord made a motion to accept the nominations as presented, and Commissioner Amundson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted and carried as presented.

**E. Approval of 2017 Meeting Calendar**

Chair Cornwall presented the 2017 Commission Meeting Calendar. Commissioner Simmons moved to accept the 2017 Commission Meeting Calendar, and Vice Chair Butts seconded the motion. The motion was accepted and carried as presented.

**F. San Gabriel Valley Airport Items**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the ceilometer at the airport did not include replacement parts. Therefore, the ceilometer at San Gabriel Valley Airport will be replaced.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Winn Williams, Port Hangar Association, expressed concerns regarding the end of his lease and the renewal of a new lease at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Williams informed the Commission that he is interested in continuing his lease at Brackett Field Airport but felt that the County and American Airports Corporation are not cooperating with extending a new contract. Mr. Smith explained that the airport has too many hangars, and there is no need for additional hangars at the airport. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Mr. Winn will be properly notified prior to the end of the lease.

Mr. Peris Meeks, Compton Airport UG Utopia, announced the Compton/Woodley Wings and Wheels as the new event that will take place at the Compton/Woodley Airport on March 11, 2017. Mr. Meeks shared with the Commission that the goal is to make this upcoming event a success and an annual event that continues to grow every year.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, expressed his concern with the increased cost of the hangar rents at the County airports. Mr. Lopez expressed his interest in seeing that the cost of the hangars be reduced in order to attract new tenants and maintain the current tenants.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation resurveyed the airport rental charges and determined that the rental rates at the County airports are reasonable and fair under the current surrounding market.



Mr. Jeff Strouse, Aerial Sim Training/Aerial Art Photograph, expressed to the Commission his concern with the minimal number of surveillance cameras that are on the airport and his desire to have additional cameras installed throughout the airport. In addition, Mr. Strouse mentioned the following concerns with the pavement project: incorrectly installed U-bolts and chains in the tiedown area; missing taxiway numbering, and finally, as a good gesture, Mr. Strouse requested that American Airports Corporation and the County compensate tenants for their displacement during the improvements at the airport. Mr. Wardle addressed his concerns.

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

**Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at 10 a.m.  
at Brackett Field Airport  
1615 McKinley Avenue  
La Verne, CA 91750-5846  
(909) 593-1395**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo R. Cardono, Secretary  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

CD:cb

P:\AVPUB\ADMIN\COMMISSION\MINUTES\2016\MINUTES\_NOVEMBER 30, 2016.DOC