



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

September 25, 2013, Meeting

General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

4555 West Avenue G

Lancaster, CA 93536-8401

(661) 940-1709

### COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD  
CHAIRMAN

PETER AMUNDSON  
VICE CHAIRMAN

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS  
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO  
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE  
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL  
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS  
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF  
MEMBER

VACANT  
MEMBER

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis C. Lord  
Vice Chairman Peter M. Amundson  
Secretary Harvey A. Holloway  
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase  
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

#### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner George G. Butts  
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono  
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall  
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

#### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard Smith, Division Chief, Aviation Division  
Ms. Victoria Frausto, Staff Assistant  
Mrs. Claudia Delgado, Staff Assistant

#### AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director  
Mr. Christopher Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport  
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield  
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport  
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport

#### GUESTS

Mr. Clay Myers, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service  
Ms. Darlene Hall, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service  
Ms. Donna Knighton, President, Fox Airport Association  
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Al Carlson, Tenant, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield  
Mr. Gary Aldrich, Tenant, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Secretary Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **A. August 25, 2013, Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved with minor changes on a motion from Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Vice Chairman Amundson.

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

Mr. Wardle thanked Christopher Brooks and Gil Viramontes for their efforts in hosting a successful Open House and Fly-In event at El Monte Airport on September 22nd.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that two restaurateurs have expressed interest in operating the restaurant facility at Whiteman Airport and will be submitting their proposals to American Airports Corporation.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that Rafael Herrera, the Airport Manager at Compton Airport, is currently on vacation, but will provide a report for both the months of August and September at the upcoming Commission meeting.

Chairman Lord asked for the approximate date for repairing the cracks on Runway 25 at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Smith noted that it should be completed by the end of October.

#### **Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that the lighting fixtures in the public restrooms located in the administrative building were replaced with light-emitting diode lights. He also reported that the main waterline was repaired, as well as the public drinking water fountain, and that the sandbags used to control water runoff throughout the airport were replaced in preparation for the rainy season.

As recommended by the Runway Safety Action Team, Mr. Marino added signage on Taxiways Delta and Charlie signs informing pilots to stay clear of the Runway upon exiting.

- **Projects**

One of the stadium lights at Whiteman Airport is currently being repaired due to faulty wiring.

- **Development and Activities**

Year-to-date aircraft operations are down 4.3 percent and 74 percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied. Ten of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

Year-to-date Avgas fuel sales were down 16.2 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 2.5 percent.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Whiteman Airport Association held their monthly meeting at the airport on Thursday, September 19th, which included topics about the safety and security on the airport.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host their monthly Young Eagles event at the airport on September 28th, at 10 a.m.

The Boy Scouts of America will host their Aviation Badge Day at the airport on October 12, 2013.

The airport's second annual Open House event will take place on October 26th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in conjunction with a Young Eagles event to draw more participation.

### **Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Airport staff performed general maintenance and weed abatement at the airport.

Mr. Woodruff hired contractors to repair the Jet-A fuel truck and expects to have it working properly as soon as possible.

- **Projects**

Mr. Woodruff is working on obtaining additional contractor bids for the Brackett Field Airport hangar lighting project.

- **Development and Activities**

Eight percent of the hangars at the airport are vacant and 23 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

Year-to-date, Jet-A fuel sales are up 7 percent and Avgas fuel sales are down 5 percent. Airport operations are up 15 percent.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff provided the Commission with a flyer for the Brackett Field Airport Open House and Fly-In event, which is scheduled for October 20th, in conjunction with the Brackett Airport Association's Aircraft Display Day.

Mr. Woodruff announced that the San Gabriel Valley 99s meets at the airport on the second Thursday of every month, at 7:30 p.m. and the Brackett Airport Association meets on the first Thursday of every month, at 7 p.m.

- **Miscellaneous**

On September 18th, an aircraft damaged its propeller upon landing on Runway 26L. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department responded and there were no injuries reported.

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that he is looking into various options to provide more security at the airport following a recent burglary that occurred at the airport.

Chairman Lord, Mr. Woodruff, and Mr. Wardle engaged in a brief conversation regarding a complaint from Mr. Patrick Jones concerning an airport gate which is not on the electronic card access system. Mr. Wardle acknowledged that it should be on the system at the expense of the tenant who has already been notified. Mr. Wardle will follow up with the tenant.

### **Mr. Christopher Brooks reported on El Monte Airport items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

Last month, general maintenance was performed on the airport in addition to repairs that were made to four hangar doors.

Mr. Brooks announced that Mr. Ian Davis, an aviation student at Mount San Antonio College, has joined the El Monte Airport staff as a new hire.

- **Projects**

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that the airport's wildlife management program have resulted in a decrease in bird population at the airport.

As part of the county's hangar lighting project that will begin on September 26th, all flood lights will be replaced with light-emitting diode lights.

### **Development and Activities**

Two hangars at the airport are vacant and 28 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

Aircraft operations are down 13 percent and both Avgas and Jet-A fuel sales are down which may be due in part to the departure of the Los Angeles Flight Center, a flight school, from the airport.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Retired Teacher Association's Annual Meeting took place at the airport on September 25th.

The airport's Open House and Fly-In event took place on September 22nd. Mr. Brooks thanked Commissioner Chase for meeting and greeting participants at the event. He also noted that the event sponsor, 9D Media, was an integral part in drawing attention to the event.

Vice Chairman Amundson asked Mr. Brooks what could be done to promote the Open House and Fly-In event more effectively. Mr. Brooks noted that he will explore social media along with any suggestions that the Commission and others have to offer. A brief discussion followed about marketing future events.

### **Mr. Steve Irving reported on General Wm. J. Fox Airfield items**

- **Management and Maintenance**

The ceiling in the airport terminal building was replaced with drywall and new lighting was installed.

Mr. Irving hired an arborist to inspect the trees outside of the terminal building, which the arborist advised are causing damage to the sidewalk and jeopardizing the foundation of the building. The arborist has recommended removing the trees to prevent further damage. Mr. Smith added that, although a few trees will need to be removed, other trees will be replanted farther away from the terminal building.

Mr. Irving also noted that the sprinkler system around the airport will soon be replaced.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Irving reported that there is one vacant hangar at the airport and that there are no County-owned hangars being used for non-aviation purposes.

Jet-A fuel sales were down 12 percent and Avgas fuel sales were flat, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Wings 'N' Wheels Chili Cook-Off event will take place at the airport on October 19, 2013, in conjunction with the Fly-In and Open House event.

Mr. Irving announced that the airport will host an Air Show event, which is tentatively scheduled for November 2014.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Irving reported that on September 21st an aircraft veered off of the runway upon landing, sustaining minor damage. The runway was temporarily closed until the aircraft was removed. There were no injuries reported.

### C. **County Aviation Division Report – Mr. Richard Smith**

Mr. Smith introduced Mrs. Claudia Delgado who will assume the role as administrative staff to the Aviation Commission.

- **Expense and Revenue Report for August 2013**

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

Commissioner Simmons inquired about various expenditures reported in August. Mr. Smith provided detailed information on all expenditures in question.

- **Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update**

Mr. Smith reported that Whiteman Airport's Master Plan Update is nearing completion and that the County is working with County Counsel to make the necessary amendments to the contractor's scope of work to comply with California Environmental Quality Act requirements.

- **El Monte Airport Exhibit**

Mr. Smith was a guest speaker at an exhibit held by the students of the California State University, Los Angeles who unveiled their exhibit on the history of aviation in the San Gabriel Valley, including a nice display on El Monte Airport. Mr. Smith encouraged the Commission to visit the exhibit which is currently displayed in the campus library.

- **Brackett Field Airport**

A meeting to address the noise complaints by a small group of residents near Brackett Field Airport was held. Attendees left the meeting with a better understanding about aircraft and airport operations and what aircraft pilots are doing to mitigate the noise impact on the surrounding communities.

- **Implementation of Minimum Standards**

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Wardle and the airport managers for their efforts in implementing the Minimum Standards and Permits at the County airports. The airport managers have followed up with tenants and have received over 60 percent compliance.

- **Tree Obstruction at El Monte Airport**

A meeting with representatives of the City of El Monte and the environmental group, Amigo de Los Rios, to discuss the tree obstruction issue at the Rio Vista Park is scheduled for October 2nd. Mr. Smith reported that he recently received a draft license agreement from the City of El Monte which when fully executed, will allow the County authority to begin the work of removing and replacing trees at the Rio Vista Park.

- **Forest Service at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield**

Mr. Smith reported that the new lease agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service did not make specific reference to landing fees and will need to be added through an amendment which is expected to go to the Board for approval in November.

- **Brackett Field Airport Beacon Tower**

The Brackett Field Airport beacon tower contract bids are scheduled to be opened on September 29, 2013, and the replacement of the beacon tower is expected to take place in October or early November 2013. The project is estimated to cost \$150,000.

- **Brackett Field Airport Restroom Facility and Wash Rack**

Replacement of the restroom facility at Brackett Field Airport is expected to be completed by the end of the year or early 2014.

- **El Monte Airport Fly-In and Open House**

Mr. Smith thanked Christopher Brooks for his efforts in hosting the Open House and Fly-In event and noted that it was a well-attended event.

- **El Monte Airport Name Change**

Mr. Smith reported that efforts are underway to change the name of the El Monte Airport to the San Gabriel Valley Airport and that the City of El Monte concurs with the change. The name change is anticipated to help better market the airport to all communities within the San Gabriel Valley.

Vice Chairman Amundson suggested a ribbon-cutting ceremony to re-dedicate the airport under the new name.

- **Federal Budget Sequestration**

Mr. Smith reported that the 2014 Federal budget. Discussions in Washington have begun regarding a continuing resolution for various agencies should there not be an adopted budget by September. The budget impact to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the contract towers is uncertain at this time and is contingent upon the adoption of the budget or passage of a continuing resolution that adequately funds the Federal Aviation Administration.

Chairman Lord asked Mr. Smith how many of the County-owned airport towers might be affected. Mr. Smith responded that the two General Wm. J. Fox Airfield and Whiteman Airport.

- **Airport Capital Project Grants**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the County received a total of \$4.4 million from the FAA in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants.

- **Brackett Field Airport North Side Helipads**

Mr. Smith reported that the project will cost an estimated \$725,000 and that the County received an AIP grant from the FAA for the project in the amount of \$652,000. Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of November 2013.



- **Compton/Woodley Runway Repair**

Public Works' Geotechnical Materials Engineering Division will conduct boring samples on the south runways 25L and 07R on September 30th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- **General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Perimeter Fencing Replacement**

Public Works received an AIP grant from the FAA in the amount of \$1.95 million. Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of November 2013.

- **General Wm. J. Fox Airfield High-Speed Taxiway Exit**

The Public Works Construction Division continues to review the 70-percent plans, specifications, and estimates and is awaiting the comments from the FAA on the 70-percent documents. Any comments received will be forwarded to our consultant, so they can complete the plans. Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2014.

**D. Additional Items**

Chairman Lord asked Mr. Smith for an update on the airport at Catalina Island. Mr. Smith reported that the Catalina Island Conservancy is still considering County sponsorship of their airport and that Caltrans has completed Catalina Airport's annual inspection. The Aviation Division is continuing to work with County Counsel on a draft proposal for sponsorship to provide to the Catalina Island Conservancy. The Conservancy is scheduled to meet in December.

**E. General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Items**

No additional items.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Clay Myers from the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service greeted the Commission and informed them of the current changes their facility is undergoing at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. They have made additions to their personnel and aircraft and will be begin construction of a new office facility, vehicle parking area, and helipads.

Ms. Donna Knighton, President of Fox Airport Association, greeted the Commission and provided them with a fuel price comparison document for the month of September. She noted that the high fuel prices at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield cause tenants to seek gas from other airports and asked the Commission to consider reducing the price of gas. Ms. Knighton also mentioned that the Fox

Airport Association has helped organize and advertise the Fox Airport Annual Airfare, which draws crowds of 400 to 500 people. She also encouraged the Commission to come out to The Wings 'N' Wheels Chili Cook-Off event scheduled for October 19, 2013, in conjunction with the Open House and Fly-In event.

Mr. Gilbert Viramontes of the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association greeted the Commission and informed them of his plans to promote the El Monte Airport name change to the various San Gabriel Valley Area city councils and chambers of commerce.

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

**Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 7 p.m.  
Whiteman Airport  
12653 Osborne Street  
Pacoima, CA 91331-2104  
(818) 896-5271**

Vice Chairman Amundson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Simmons seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis C. Lord, Chairman  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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