



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 30, 2007
General William J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401**

COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD
CHAIRMAN

EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER
VICE CHAIR

CLYDE G. BAILEY
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

ROGER L. PERSONS
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Roger L. Persons
Commissioner Clint Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. William H. Higley, Deputy Director, Administration
Mr. Ted A. Gustin, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. Richard L. Smith, Airport Project Coordinator, Aviation Division
Mrs. Miriam Gomes Oprüşan, Staff Assistant, Aviation Division

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Gary Aldrich, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Fred Ellinger, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Ken Kelly, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Bill Logan, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Tom Lowry, Aviation Division, Retired
Mr. George Prewitt, Fox Airfield Association
Mrs. J. Prewitt, Fox Airfield Association
Mr. Bob Stambovsky

CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**1. Minutes of the Meeting of April 25, 2007**

Commissioner Persons made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Butts. The minutes were approved and adopted as written.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle provided an update of commercial leases that are in negotiation for property at the County airports.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. In the past month, two County hangars and four third-party hangars were vacated to accommodate aviation users. Mr. Morgan also stated that 30 to 40 hangars will be re-inspected on June 1, 2007, to ensure those hangars are being used for aviation purposes.

Construction of a new fixed-base operator facility and aircraft hangars at the airport is in progress.

As part of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Runway Safety Action Team recommendations, the airport is currently implementing an access gate card program. The program requires that all airport users fill out an application form, read a comprehensive list of the rules and regulations, and sign an acknowledgement of understanding.

An American flag was purchased for the pilots' lounge. Fire extinguishers will be inspected and recertified in July. Amber reflective pavement markers will be installed soon to assist pilots operating on the ground at night.

Mr. Morgan announced that the Whiteman Airport Association meeting will be held on June 14; the Challenge Air Event meeting, and the stakeholders' meeting will be held on June 21.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. Out of 177 County hangars, 149 were inspected, and 130 of them were found occupied by aviation users as well as 19 by non-aviation users. Out of 19 hangars occupied by non-aviation users, 16 are on an aviation lease, which is a violation of the hangar license agreement. Those tenants were served with a 60-day Notice to Comply, when they will need to provide an aircraft tail number and insurance coverage, in order to remain in the hangar.

The Mt. San Antonio College is currently doing some remodeling work at its building. Fire extinguishers will be inspected and recertified on June 11, 2007.

Mr. Fox-Tuck reported that a vehicle damaged the northeast entrance gate, and he speculated that the incident was caused by tailgating. The access gate loop detector and the motor will have to be replaced in order to fix the automated gate system.

Commissioner Simmons asked if there is a possibility of two cars passing when the gate system is activated. Mr. Fox-Tuck responded no. Commissioner Simmons suggested installing a sign stating that users should follow the procedures in order to avoid accidents. Commissioner Butts asked if the gate has a security camera. Mr. Fox-Tuck said no, and he also added that American Airports Corporation (AAC) has been working with the County on updating the security camera system.

The airport is still receiving complaints regarding the public restrooms located in the "I" row. Mr. Fox-Tuck stated that once the hangars revert to the County, all necessary repairs will be made.

Commissioner Bailey asked when the "I" row hangars will revert to the County. Mr. Wardle answered that it will take 2 years. Commissioner Bailey asked if it would be worthwhile repairing the restrooms. Mr. Ted Gustin said that he will evaluate the problem.

The wooden benches located in front of the terminal building were restored and new picnic tables were purchased. The telephone poles next to the Pomona Police Department's hangar were removed.

Mr. Fox-Tuck announced that the Brackett Field Airport Association's Annual Barbecue will take place on June 9, 2007, at 4:30 p.m., in the terminal building.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. Airport staff have been working aggressively on inspecting the hangars whose tenants did not comply with the inspection schedule. Mr. Herrera anticipated having the hangar inspections complete before the end of the Summer. The Los Angeles County Fire Department, Station 167, performed training at the airport, which included aircraft rescue and recovery. On May 9, 2007, Chevron performed a quality control inspection and recertified the airport's fuel system for a 12-month period. The airport hosted a High School Graduation on May 16, 2007.

Commissioner Simmons asked if there are procedures when tenants do not allow airport staff to inspect their hangars. Mr. Wardle responded that AAC has been working with a lessee on this issue. The lessee's attorney wrote a letter stating that the lease agreement provides for the right to inspect the leased premises provided that they give a reason why. The initial notice did not state a specific reason; therefore, Mr. Wardle stated that AAC will review the notice, add a safety reason, and pursue with those groups that have not yet complied with the hangar inspections.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. As of today, 196 hangars were inspected at the airport, and notices were sent out to tenants whose hangars were found with non compliance items.

A draft letter stating procedures for helicopter operations was sent to the FAA for review. Mr. Marino stated that once FAA concludes their review, he will send the letter to the airport users and begin the 3-month trial period.

A new wind sock was installed on top of the EAA hangar. Handicap parking signs were installed in the terminal parking lot. The overhead fuel pipes at the fuel island were replaced by hose reels. The north wall perimeter lighting project is almost complete.

Chairman Lord asked for the status of the fuel plume monitoring/remediation project and the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Gustin said the remediation project has not been yet advertised for bids. Mr. Smith stated that the ALP update was approved by the FAA.

Commissioner Chase commented on a magazine article regarding light-sport aircraft flying over congested areas. Commissioner Chase noted the article states that a powered parachute instructor desires to fly powered parachutes out of Compton/Woodley Airport. Commissioner Chase believes that this type of ultra-light aircraft is not compatible with the traffic at Compton/Woodley Airport, and suggested a discussion with

the airport manager about the situation in order to avoid possible problems at the airport.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. The airport is still facing some challenges in keeping the airport clean due to the high winds. Airport staff is keeping the west side construction floor wet in an attempt to minimize the problem. Additionally, one of the hangar developers will start paving the area, which will also help to reduce the dirt on the airport. The self-service fuel island was down from Friday evening through Sunday.

Commissioner Bailey asked if the building that is currently being used by the FAA will be available for the restaurant. Mr. Gustin answered that the FAA will sign a new lease, but they are looking for a more suitable location for their operation.

Chairman Lord stated that the Helicopter Safety Subcommittee and the Minimum Standards for Commercial Aeronautical Activities Subcommittee (MSCAA) are currently active and conducting studies. He also added that the MSCAA Subcommittee already completed the following items: General Requirements and Standards; Fixed Base Operator – Full Service; and Noncommercial Self-Fueling Permittee. Those items will be reviewed by County Counsel. Following the review; the above-mentioned items will be brought before the Commission and posted on the Public Works' website.

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Gustin provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for April 2007, and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Gustin commented that the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's website provides a good update on the proposed Federal budget for the next fiscal year, which will cause an impact in the general aviation.

Mr. Gustin informed the Commission the 2007 Airport User Survey was conducted from April 1 to May 15, 2007, and invited Mr. Richard Smith to present the results of the survey.

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with a slide presentation regarding the survey results, noting that out of 1,400 surveys mailed out to the airport tenants, and 200 forms hand-carried to the County airports, 392 responses were received. The overall average of all airports was 3.60, out of 5 points possible, with five being the highest in overall satisfaction.

Mr. Smith provided updates on the current projects at the County airports. The confirmation of funding from the FAA for the taxiway development project at El Monte Airport and the Master Plan Update for Whiteman Airport is expected to be received in the next two weeks. The FAA approved funds for the acquisition of a sweeper for El Monte Airport, and

for the Pavement Rehabilitation Phase III at Fox Airfield, which is estimated at \$2.032 million.

4. Assembly Bill No. 700

Chairman Lord discussed Assembly Bill 700, which would require the State Air Resources Board to complete a study of air pollution caused by jets and turbo-prop airplanes idling on the ground at the Santa Monica Airport. He cautioned that there was no opposition to the Bill and that, if passed, would cause a tremendous negative impact to General Aviation. Chairman Lord encouraged pilots to write a letter to their local elected officials in opposition to the AB 700.

5. Annual Rate Adjustment

Mr. Gustin presented the proposed rate adjustments for hangars and tiedowns at all five County airports. He stated that all hangar rents will be increased 4.18 percent, due to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase in the "Minimum" rent for AAC, which became effective on April 1, 2007. The only change in tiedowns will be for Compton/Woodley Airport and Whiteman Airport. The basic, single-engine push in rate will be \$49 at Compton/Woodley Airport, down from \$71, and \$86 at Whiteman Airport, up from \$76.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the lower rates for tiedowns at Compton/Woodley Airport will be advertised. Mr. Gustin said that AAC is working on the advertisement.

Chairman Lord heard from members of the public regarding the annual rate adjustment.

Mr. Bill Logan expressed concern about the rent increase. He added that if each hangar had an airplane, the County would generate more taxes, and consequently more revenue, and therefore, would not have to raise the rent. Mr. Gustin explained that the Aviation Enterprise Fund does not receive any revenue from the property taxes paid on the airplanes. Those revenues go to the County General Fund.

Mr. George Prewitt expressed some concerns regarding the hangar rate increase. He noted that the hangar rates applicable in the Antelope Valley should not be compared to the Santa Monica area, which is a high rent district. Mr. Gustin stated the appraisal for Fox Airfield was done by a County appraiser that made comparisons with airports located in comparable areas.

Commissioner Persons made a motion to approve the CPI increase of 4.18 percent, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion passed without further discussion.

6. General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Items

No additional items for General Wm. J. Fox Airfield.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. George Prewitt asked if the 2007 Airport User Survey results will be published on the Public Works' website. Mr. Smith answered that this possibility will be evaluated, and that the results are available upon request.

Mr. Prewitt asked if others participate in the Minimum Standards studies for Fixed Base Operator. Chairman Lord explained that at this point the studies are being developed by the Subcommittee, Commission members, and staff research on what other airports have done. Chairman Lord noted that once County Counsel reviews the procedures, the public will have the opportunity to discuss them and provide its input.

Mr. Hagopian asked if there are plans to develop a new terminal building at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Gustin stated that the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update will include the selection of a new terminal building location.

Mr. Bill Logan expressed concern regarding the safety at Whiteman Airport due to the new hangars that will be built at the airport. Mr. Logan stated that those hangars will have the capacity to store larger airplanes that cannot land and take off on the runway at Whiteman Airport. Commissioner Simmons thanked Mr. Logan for expressing his concerns. Mr. Wardle offered to discuss Mr. Logan's concerns along with the airport manager. Chairman Lord suggested Mr. Logan meet with AAC and present the results before the Commission.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVIATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON:

**Wednesday, June 27, 2007, at 7 p.m., at
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley 4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

Commissioner Butts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission