



DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Aviation

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 OCTOBER 24, 2007

Whiteman Airport
12653 Osborne Street
Pacoima, CA 91331-2192

COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD
CHAIRMAN

EVELYN A. JEROME
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
Vice Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Roger L. Persons
Commissioner Clint Simmons
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Penelope Cornwall

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, 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. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Peter Albiez, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Jim Alfonso, SunQuest Flight School
Mr. William Berle, Whiteman Airport
Mr. John Clausen, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Brian Cunneen, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Mark Drew, Whiteman Airport
Ms. Jeanne Fenimore, Whiteman Airport
Mr. William Fenimore, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Jim Griffiths, SunQuest Flight School
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. H. Hopkins, Whiteman Airport
Ms. Joanne Kratzer, SunQuest Flight School
Mr. Ron Lisberg, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Bill Logan, Whiteman Airport
Ms. Ruth Logan, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Chris Mazor, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Dan Miller, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Jerry Neglio, Whiteman Airport
Mr. John Neglio, Whiteman Airport
Ms. Anne Maria Radel, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Dave Rankir, Whiteman Airport
Ms. Marcene, Rankir, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Ken Rapp, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Steve Rapp, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Jose Torres, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Russell Watts, Whiteman Airport
Ms. Linda Worden, Whiteman Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

1. Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2007

Commissioner Persons made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Butts.

2. American Airports – Project Manager’s Report

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission that the fuel price at the County-owned airports will increase 15 cents a gallon for both Jet A and 100 LL due to recent increases in the price of crude oil.

Mr. Wardle reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. The airport is supporting 22 fire-fighting aircraft due to the wild fires that are currently burning throughout Southern California. Two additional fuel trucks are on temporary loan from the fuel supplier and additional staff was relocated from El Monte and Brackett Field Airports to support the increased fueling operations at Fox Field. The airport hosted an EAA Young Eagles event and 30 people attended and received airplane rides. The Fox Airfield Association held its Pancake Breakfast event, which was well attended. The airport also hosted a 4-hour photo shoot for the Discovery Channel.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. The airport has experienced no impact to operations due to the wildfires. The airport’s crash-fire-rescue vehicle received an overhaul. The Civil Air Patrol has acquired an additional portable building that will be brought to the airport. A report containing the findings of the annual inspection of the underground fuel storage system will be provided soon. A flight planning room with new computers will be open on November 1, 2007. One of the flight schools at Brackett Field is planning to base a chieftain at the airport for multi-engine training.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. The airport experienced an increase in its operations due to the temporary closure of Hawthorne Municipal Airport for runway repairs. The airport welcomed 12 new tiedown tenants. The airport acquired 150 tons of dirt for maintenance of the runway and taxiway edges. The Letter of Agreement (LOA) regarding the new procedures for helicopter operations at Compton/Woodley Airport has been in effect since October 8, 2007. Copies of the LOA were provided to the local flight schools, helicopter operators, and the airport tenants. Mr. Marino informed the Commission that he has been contacting some incoming pilots via the radio to inform them about the procedures. Mr. Marino stated that the airport experienced no impact to operations due to the wild fires. A new windsock was installed midfield, on the north side of the airport. The restrooms located in the terminal building were painted. Some new tiedown chains have been installed. The south taxiway lights are inoperable, and a technician was called to verify the source of the problem. The airport held an EEA Young Eagles event on October 20, 2007, and 70 children received airplane rides.

Chairman Lord asked if any action was taken regarding the acts of vandalism that occurred a few months ago when a public phone was stolen from the

terminal building. Mr. Wardle stated that security cameras will be placed in the building in the near future.

Chairman Lord commented on a newspaper interview he gave to "The Compton Bulletin" regarding the noise issues at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Richard Smith, Mr. Marino, and Chairman Lord will meet with members of the Compton City Council on November 6, 2007, to present the proposed actions which will help minimize the impact of helicopter noise in the community. Among the proposed actions to be discussed are the installation of curfew signs at the airport and a request to the Army Corps of Engineers to reopen the Santa Fe Dam Training Pad.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked what the curfew sign reads. Mr. Marino answered that the sign states "No pattern practice from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., unlike the previous sign which stated "No pattern practice from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Chairman Lord stated that El Monte Airport has signs stating the same pattern practice restrictions. Mr. Smith added that Brackett Field Airport has the same curfew signs posted as well.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked for more detailed explanation of the curfew signs. Mr. Smith explained that many airports have curfew signage, mostly the airports located in areas that have had specific issues with community-related noise problems. Mr. Smith explained that the curfew signage is a tool used by airport management and the Air Traffic Control personnel to help reinforce the airport rules, such as situations when itinerant traffic comes to the airport and chooses not to follow the rules.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked if the pattern practice restrictions were applicable only to helicopters. Mr. Smith stated that the restrictions will apply to both helicopters and airplanes, and he added that it is a voluntary curfew. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked if the curfew is in the Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS) system. Mr. Smith answered that while Compton/Woodley Airport does not have an ATIS system, the curfew will be published in the Airport Facility Directory.

Chairman Lord informed the Commission that he and Mr. Smith participated in a meeting with one of the Deputies of the Second Supervisorial District, the City of Compton Acting City Manager, City of Compton Assistant Manager, and three City of Compton residents to discuss the helicopter noise issue at Compton/Woodley Airport. Chairman Lord provided an overview of the meeting. He added that since Compton/Woodley Airport does not have an Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT), due to low number of operations, other possibilities like security cameras are being explored to identify the pilots who are not in compliance.

Commissioner Cardono commented that he had recently observed a helicopter on the south taxiway at Compton/Woodley Airport hover taxiing at approximately 60 miles per hour and an altitude of 6 to 8 feet off the ground. He added that discourteous behavior of this nature should be avoided by the pilots.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. The water fountain located in the terminal building has been repaired. The single and twin engine transient parking spaces were repainted. New signage stating "No pattern practice from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m." has been posted at the airport. Mr. Herrera informed the Commission he met with a based flight school to discuss helicopter issues. The flight school is willing to assist airport management to mitigate the affects of helicopter noise impact to the community. The airport hosted a fundraiser for the El Monte School District and received much gratitude for the use of the facility. An airport tour was also conducted for 20 children from a local school.

Commissioner Wolf asked for some clarification regarding the curfew signs. Mr. Smith explained that the objective of implementing a curfew is not to impose upon the airport tenants, since the tenants are typically willing to collaborate in mitigating the noise impact. Curfew signs can be used by airport management and ATC staff as a mechanism to enforce the airport rules to itinerant pilots who may be practicing traffic patterns at County-owned airports. Mr. Smith remarked that the airport is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the curfew only applies to use of the traffic pattern for repetitive practice during the specified hours.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander inquired as to the ATCT's regular schedule at the four-towered County airports. Mr. Smith answered the ATCT's working hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at General Wm. J. Fox Field, El Monte, and Whiteman Airports and from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Brackett Field Airport.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander pointed out that specific terms used among the aviation community may confuse the general public and consequently create serious misunderstandings. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander advised caution when using terms like curfew and uncontrolled air space that can be easily misinterpreted by non-pilots. She also raised concerns regarding the applicability of the rules that differentiate between based tenants and transients, or non-based aircraft.

Mr. Smith stated that the rules at the County-owned airports apply to all airport users. He explained that the point made between based tenants and transient aircraft is based on the fact that tenants are more likely to follow the rules because it is not in their best interest to create a conflict with their airport landlord.

Commissioner Simmons commented that a solution to the helicopter noise issues is crucial to keep the airports open.

Due to the sensitivity of the helicopter noise issue, Commissioner Cardono suggested involving other County departments like Regional Planning and County Counsel to search for a solution.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. The airport is experiencing a substantial increase in activity due to the wild fires. Mr. Morgan provided a brief description of the items discussed during the last Whiteman Airport Association meeting and informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2007. Mr. Morgan provided an update on the issues raised in the last Commission meeting. Mr. Morgan stated that there is an Albatross aircraft at the airport undergoing engine maintenance and confirmed that the aircraft is not damaging the asphalt. Mr. Morgan suggested researching pavement design strength to avoid any misconception regarding runway damage. Regarding the relocation of the flight school, Mr. Morgan mentioned that one of the airport tenants offered to accommodate the flight school in one of his vacant hangars and other possibilities are also being explored. Mr. Morgan informed the Commission the Challenge Air Event will be held on November 3, 2007. Mr. Morgan informed the Commission of the passing of Mr. Rafael Vasquez, the co-owner of Rocky's Restaurant located at Whiteman Airport.

Commissioner Cardono suggested that Mr. Morgan contact the news helicopter operators to explore the possibility of mentioning the importance of the role of the County airports during their media coverage of the wild fires.

Commissioner Simmons thanked Mr. Morgan for providing an update on the issues raised in the last Commission meeting.

3. County – Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Smith provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for September 2007 and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Supervisor Burke recommended incorporating Cultural Diversity and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for all County Commission members on a biannual basis.

Mr. Smith provided a summary of the updated publications price list and Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics Aviation in California Fact Sheet. The summary items included number of grants issued, revenues received, number of certified pilots, registered aircraft, amount of Airport Improvement Program (AIP), and State Matching Grant funds disbursed.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the current projects at the County airports. A State AIP Matching Grant was received in the amount of \$5,000, for the Comprehensive Drainage and Pavement Reconstruction Design Project at Compton/Woodley Airport. Board approval to award the consultant services contract is set for the November 13 Agenda.

The final survey report for the Instrument Approach Procedures at Compton/Woodley Airport was received. The information will be entered into the FAA's Aeronautical Database this week. The FAA will then begin a feasibility study for an Instrument Approach at Compton/Woodley Airport.

A requisition was created for the El Monte Airport power sweeper acquisition and was sent to Internal Services Department. A purchase order should be issued by November 2007.

The scope and fee proposal of the Taxiway Development Project, part of the Runway Safety Action Plan for El Monte Airport, was received by the consultant. The design fee is \$87,248, which includes a \$12,040 contingency fee.

A pre-construction meeting for the Pavement Rehabilitation, Phase III Project at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield was held on October 23, 2007. In order to avoid weather difficulties, the contractor will begin work in April 2008. The fee proposal for the Monument Entrance Sign is expected to be received before the end of the month. Mr. Smith anticipated beginning construction in December; however, the relocation of utilities for the lighting of the sign may delay the project's start date.

The Request for Qualifications for the Whiteman Airport Master Plan (AMP) Update was advertised on October 11, 2007, and the bid deadline is November 8, 2007. Mr. Smith shared some drawings of the Airpark Way Entrance Improvements and invited Commissioners to take a look at them.

4. Angel Flight West

Chairman Lord presented to the Commission the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Angel Flight West and the County of Los Angeles regarding the use of the County airports during emergencies or disaster-recovery efforts. Chairman Lord asked if there was a representative from Angel Flight West present at the meeting. No representative was present.

On motion by Commissioner Persons, seconded by Vice Chair Jerome Alexander, the Commission unanimously approved the execution of the MOU.

5. Whiteman Airport items

No additional items for Whiteman Airport.

6. Public Comment – Open Forum

Ms. Joanne Kratzer expressed concern regarding the relocation of her flight school. She stated that the flight school is located in a great site of the airport. She added that the option offered for relocation is unacceptable due to the limitations of the location such as parking and signage.

Mr. Smith explained that in order to start the Parking Ramp Project, that will add 70 new tiedowns at the airport, two tenants will need to be relocated, including Ms. Kratzer's flight school. He stated that the last parcel on the airport available for this type of project is where the flight school is currently located. The other tenant should be relocated by August 2008, which is the deadline to accept Federal grants. The design of the project is already complete. Mr. Smith added that AAC and the County will continue to work to find a suitable alternative, even if temporary, to accommodate the flight school.

Mr. Steven Rapp stated the Whiteman AMP foresees the relocation of Fixed Based Operators (FBO) to a new north side FBO apron area. Mr. Rapp expressed his support for Ms. Kratzer, and stated that her flight school is a valuable asset to Whiteman Airport.

Chairman Lord mentioned that the Whiteman AMP, even though it covers a 20-year time frame, is primarily focused on the first ten years. Chairman Lord noted the aviation market has changed in the last ten years, as well as its requirements. He continued by saying that any agreeable solution to accommodate the flight school will be supported by the Commission.

Commissioner Simmons asked what will be done on the site where the flight school is currently located. Mr. Smith answered the area will consist of an aircraft parking ramp for 70 single-engine aircraft tiedowns. Commissioner Simmons suggested analyzing the situation closely, in order to provide an alternative solution to the needs of Ms. Kratzer.

Chairman Lord requested Vice Chair Jerome Alexander and Commissioner Wolf meet with AAC to search for a viable solution to solve the relocation issue.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander suggested creating a Subcommittee to discuss the flight school relocation.

Mr. Ron Lisberg asked if there will be a public meeting to discuss the issue. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander stated that the lease agreement between the flight school and the County is a private contract and therefore, the meeting will not be open to the public. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander explained that the issued will be discussed between the interested parties, and the decision made will be brought before the Commission.

Mr. Bill Logan expressed concern regarding the length of the runway at Whiteman Airport which, according to him, cannot be used in a safe manner by large aircraft. Mr. Logan stated that airplanes with a weight greater than 12,500 pounds should not be permitted to take off or land at the airport. He added that there is no need for large hangars to be built when larger airplanes cannot land at the airport. He also asked how many hangars were inspected at the airport.

Commissioner Wolf asked if there are plans to bring aircraft to the airport that are heavier than the runway is rated for. Mr. Smith answered that AAC and the County were not aware of any such plans.

Commissioner Persons mentioned that the current Whiteman AMP states that the Commission advises the Board of Supervisors regarding the operation and development of the County's airport system, and all final decisions are the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Wolf asked Mr. Wardle what was AAC's position regarding the large hangar construction. Mr. Wardle stated that larger hangars were built before AAC received the contract to manage the County airports. He suggested a study be made of the stress ratings of the surface to clarify the concerns. Mr. Wardle remarked that all the lease agreements are reviewed by County staff and County Counsel and are approved by the Board of Supervisors. Regarding the hangar inspections, Mr. Wardle encouraged Mr. Logan to speak with the airport manager who has detailed information regarding the hangar inspections conducted at the airports.

Commissioner Wolf and Commissioner Simmons suggested caution when negotiating hangar development projects to accommodate larger airplanes that might not be compatible with the airport.

Mr. Russell Watts expressed concern regarding the reasons that resulted in his eviction from Whiteman Airport. He inquired about the rules that allow only one person to be on the lease agreement.

Chairman Lord explained that in order to be consistent and avoid future disputes between tenants, the policy for individual hangars states that only the owner of the aircraft with the insurance in the owner's name will be on the lease. If there is a third party involved, other than the aircraft owner, the negotiation will be between the aircraft owner and the third party. Chairman Lord and Mr. Wardle offered to discuss Mr. Watt's eviction process after the meeting.

Mr. Jim Alfonso expressed concern regarding the rent increases and the soil mixing operation located near airpark way that he believes is causing an increase of the fly population at the airport.

Chairman Lord commented that the current contract for rent increases is tied to the Consumer Price Index.

Mr. Wardle stated that the soil mixing operation is in a short-term lease and eventually will leave the airport.

Mr. William Berle expressed concern regarding the landing of larger aircraft at Whiteman Airport.

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

**Wednesday, November 28, 2007, at 9 a.m., at
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

Commissioner Persons made a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Rafael Vasquez, who recently passed away, seconded by Commissioner Butts. Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting in memory of Rafael Vasquez, at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission