



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

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

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## COMMISSIONERS

RYAN ANTOON  
CHAIR

DENNIS LORD  
VICE-CHAIR

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
SECRETARY

PETER AMUNDSON  
MEMBER

MONIQUE EARL  
MEMBER

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MEMBER

GABRIEL PEREZ  
MEMBER

RUDY VILLARREAL  
MEMBER

VACANT  
MEMBER

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2025, 10 a.m.

Brackett Field Airport

1615 McKinley Avenue

La Verne, CA 91750-5846

(909) 593-1395

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Ryan Antoon  
Vice-Chair Dennis Lord  
Secretary Harvey Holloway  
Commissioner Jeff Mort  
Commissioner Christina Pascucci  
Commissioner Rudy Villarreal

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Peter Amundson  
Commissioner Monique Earl  
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

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

Mr. Paul Maselbas, Assistant Deputy Director  
Mr. Jason Morgan, Assistant Chief, Aviation Division  
Ms. Van Tran, Staff Assistant

### GUESTS

Mr. Bruce Busch, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant  
Mr. Belsazar Uriarte, The Pilot Shop  
Mr. Sky N., San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant  
Ms. Rossana Nied, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant  
Mr. Jon Smalldridge, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant  
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Dave Kolstad, Experimental Aircraft Association

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ryan Antoon called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

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

Commissioner Christina Pascucci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **A. Minutes for the November 27, 2024, meeting**

The minutes for the November 27, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Vice-Chair Dennis Lord and seconded by Commissioner Pascucci.

#### **B. Los Angeles County Public Works Aviation Division – General Report**

Chair Antoon introduced Commissioner Rudy Villarreal, representing Supervisorial District 4, to the Aviation Commission.

Mr. Morgan provided to the Commission a brief overview of Brackett Field Airport.

##### **Expense and Revenue Report**

Mr. Maselbas provided to the Commission an updated summary of the Expense and Revenue Report and a detailed explanation on the expenditures and revenues. An increase in aircraft storage rental rates is proposed and outreach efforts to inform affected tenants will commence in March 2025. Commissioners engaged in a brief discussion regarding the information presented.

##### **Aircraft Operations (Takeoffs and Landings) and Fuel Sales**

The overall aircraft operations for all five County airports were up 14 percent in the month of December 2024, as compared to the same month last year. Total annual aircraft operations for calendar year 2024 were up 15 percent from the prior year.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports were up 2 percent in the month of December 2024, as compared to the same month last year. Total annual fuel sales for calendar year 2024 were up 30 percent from the prior year.

#### **C. Los Angeles County Public Works Aviation Division – Airport Management Update**

##### **Airport Projects (including Grant Funding)**

At Brackett Field Airport, the Sewer Pump and Force Main Replacement Project and the design for pavement reconstruction of approximately 12.5 acres of the north runway and taxiways are both underway. The Federal Aviation Administration is still evaluating the construction site for the new Airport Traffic Control Tower facility.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, design is currently underway for the reconstruction of approximately 14 acres of runway and taxiway pavement. The preferred construction site of the new Airport Traffic Control Tower facility has been identified.

At Whiteman Airport, the updated Airport Layout Plan which consolidates the aircraft run-up areas into a single midfield run-up area is pending the Federal Aviation Administration's review and final approval.

### **Airport Property Management**

At Brackett Field Airport, the new pilot supply shop in the airport terminal building is anticipated to open soon. A new lease agreement with a flight school is in progress. Additional repairs are underway for the Precision Approach Path Indicator lights.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, the Precision Approach Path Indicator lights were installed, and efforts are underway to coordinate the flight check with the Federal Aviation Administration.

At General William J. Fox Airfield, the position of Assistant Airport Manager is anticipated to be filled soon.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, the self-serve fuel island is still out of service and is being repaired. Fueling services are currently provided by Billion Air Aviation. The new lease agreement for the development of aircraft storage hangars on the north apron area is being finalized and should be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in the next few months.

Starting next month, a new company will take over the air traffic services through the Federal Aviation Administration's Contract Tower Program at Whiteman Airport and General William J. Fox Airfield. To restore nighttime instrument approaches to Runway 12/30 at Whiteman Airport, a comprehensive survey of obstructions needs to be conducted and specific measures need to be implemented. Both would need to be reviewed and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Since June 1, 2024, UL94 is available for purchase at Whiteman Airport. Public Works is coordinating with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to have UL94 available for purchase at Compton/Woodley Airport and San Gabriel Valley Airport. Commissioners shared comments on the information presented.

At Compton/Woodley Airport and Whiteman Airport, the Virtower aircraft operations count system is being worked on to ensure its proper function.

### **Airport Events and Activities**

The County's airports have been heavily utilized to facilitate the aeronautical activities related to the wildfires (Palisades Fire, Eaton Fire, Hughes Fire, Hurst Fire, and others) and recovery efforts. Aviation Division office and airport personnel also volunteered to assist with Public Works' disaster relief hotline and sandbag distribution before and during the rain events. Commissioners shared comments on the information presented.

Brackett Field Airport served as an operations base for Cal Fire, United States Forest Service, and other contract companies to fight the local fires. The Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection event was held at the airport on December 21, 2024. Aircraft Display Day was held on January 19, 2025, and Civil Air Patrol Squadron 64 held an event for their cadets on January 25, 2025.

On December 15, 2024, local non-profit organizations hosted the Toy Giveaway event at Compton/Woodley Airport. On January 18, 2025, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 held their Young Eagles event.

Cal Fire, United States Forest Service, and various contractors all were very busy with firefighting efforts at General William J. Fox Airfield. Most of the aircraft seen on the news attacking the fires came from this airport. The contractor fuel provider assisted to keep the aircraft moving throughout the heavy fire traffic.

On January 6, 2025, an aircraft accident occurred near San Gabriel Valley Airport and is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board. There were no injuries to persons on the ground. Mission Flight's Shine, Overcome, Ascend, Rejoice (SOAR) event was held on January 28, 2025. The Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection event will be held at the airport on February 1, 2025.

Los Angeles County Fire Department Barton Heliport and Cal Fire utilized Whiteman Airport to provide air traffic services and support the firefighting efforts. Helicopters for two local news stations, which are based at this airport, were also busy providing news reporting services. The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 provided flights to 40 kids at their Young Eagles event on December 14, 2024, and 25 kids at their January 25, 2025, event. The next event will be held on February 22, 2025.

### **Airport Marketing and Public Relations**

The airport newsletters may switch from a monthly to a quarterly basis. The January 2025 newsletters were disseminated and the next round of newsletters will be distributed in April 2025. The on-call consultant is finalizing the new airports website.

#### **D. Update on April 9, 2024, Board motion regarding "Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport: Expanding Economic Opportunities"**

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that the review of the draft scope of work for the proposed study of Whiteman Airport will be an internal County process. Once the contract for the study has been executed, it will be shared with the Commission. Commissioners discussed and shared comments on the information presented.

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

Six speakers commented on the expense and revenue report, rent increase, operation, maintenance, and activities at the airports.

Following public comments, Chair Antoon and Commissioner Pascucci informed the Commission that this will be their last Commission meeting as they will be replaced by two new Commissioners representing Supervisorial District 3. Both Commissioners shared their farewell speeches with the Commission.

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

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10 a.m.  
at Compton/Woodley Airport  
901 West Alondra Boulevard  
Compton, CA 90220-3528**

Chair Antoon adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Holloway, Secretary  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

PHM:vt