



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

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>

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2024, 10 a.m.

San Gabriel Valley Airport

4233 Santa Anita Avenue

El Monte, CA 91731-1670

(626) 448-6129

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Ryan Antoon
Secretary Dennis Lord
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Monique Earl
Commissioner Jeff Mort

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Christina Pascucci
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Paul Maselbas, Assistant Deputy Director
Ms. Van Tran, Staff Assistant

GUESTS

Mr. James Miller, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Mr. Dave Kolstad, Experimental Aircraft Association
Mr. David Roh, Cloud Aviation
Mr. Don Brandon, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Steve Argubright, Blue Sky Aviation
Ms. Rossana Testa, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. Rudy Villarreal, Los Angeles County Aviation Commission
Mr. Bruce Busch, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. Clint Simmons, California Black Aviation Association
Mr. Belsazar Uriarte, Brackett Field Airport Tenant
Mr. Raghu Murthy, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Dennis Lord called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes for the October 30, 2024, meeting

The minutes for the October 30, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Secretary Lord and seconded by Commissioner Monique Earl.

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

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that Commissioner Curt Castagna's term has expired, and his seat for Supervisorial District 4 is being filled by the newly appointed Commissioner Rudy Villarreal.

Mr. Maselbas provided to the Commission a brief overview of San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Expense and Revenue Report

Mr. Maselbas mentioned to the Commission that the report will be shared at each airport location for the next two meetings. A summary of the Expense and Revenue Report, a detailed explanation on the expenditures and revenues, and an update to the Airport Capital Improvement Plan were presented to the Commission. All the reports will be updated and presented at the next meeting.

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 down 0.2 percent in the month of October 2024, as compared to the same month last year.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports were up 2 percent in the month of October 2024, as compared to the same month last year.

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

Airport Projects (including Grant Funding)

No major projects are taking place at the airports.

The annual Airport Capital Improvement Plan meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration will be held on December 9, 2024.

At Brackett Field Airport, the design for pavement reconstruction of approximately 12.5 acres of the north runway and taxiways has begun. The Sewer Pump and Force Main Replacement Project is expected to begin in early December. The Federal Aviation Administration is evaluating the construction site for the new Airport Traffic Control Tower facility.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration identified the apron area south of the terminal building as the preferred construction site for the new Airport Traffic Control Tower facility. Design is currently underway for the reconstruction of approximately 14 acres of runway and taxiway pavement.

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, a new lease for a pilot supply shop in the airport terminal building is expected to be finalized soon. 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, Adam Sikorski was recently promoted from Assistant Airport Manager to Airport Manager. Danny Hagle, who was covering for the position of Airport Manager, will be returning to Public Works Road Maintenance Division at the end of the year. The position of Assistant Airport Manager is anticipated to be filled soon.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, the self-serve fuel island and entrance sign are being repaired. 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 early next year. Construction of the new facility should commence shortly thereafter.

At Whiteman Airport, repairs are being made to the Airpark Way vehicle access gate. To restore nighttime instrument approaches to Runway 12/30 at the 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

Public Works is partnering with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and Brotherhood Crusade to collect toys at the five County airports through December 10, 2024.

On November 17, 2024, an aircraft accident occurred near Brackett Field Airport at the In-N-Out Pomona Dragstrip and is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board. The four individuals on board the aircraft sustained injuries. There were no injuries to persons on the ground.

The Federal Aviation Administration held the First Responders Training at Compton/Woodley Airport on November 6 and 7, 2024.

At General William J. Fox Airfield, an aircraft incident occurred on November 8, 2024, where a landing aircraft veered off the runway and into the infield area. There were no reported injuries.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Pilots Association held their monthly meeting on November 20, 2024, and the Aircraft Display Day was held on November 24, 2024.

At Whiteman Airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 provided flights to 54 kids at their Young Eagles event on November 23, 2024. The next event will be held on December 14, 2024.

Airport Marketing and Public Relations

The on-call consultant is finalizing the new airports website and is expected to go live early next year.

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

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that the Board of Supervisors approved the County Department of Economic Opportunity to hire a consultant to conduct an economic impact analysis and land use study for the potential repurposing of Whiteman Airport. Aviation Enterprise Funds will be used to finance a portion of the cost of the study. Public Works received the draft scope of work which will be shared with the Commission.

Commissioners discussed and shared comments on the information presented.

E. Election of Commission Officers for 2025

Chair Ryan Antoon announced the nominations for Commission Officers for 2025 as follows: Ryan Antoon, as Chair; Dennis Lord, as Vice-Chair; and Harvey Holloway, as Secretary. The nominations were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Earl and seconded by Commissioner Jeff Mort.

F. Approval of the 2025 Meeting Calendar

Chair Antoon presented the 2025 Commission Meeting Calendar. The meeting calendar was unanimously approved as amended on a motion from Secretary Lord and seconded by Commissioner Mort. The Commission voted to amend the scheduled meeting dates as follows: from September 24, 2025, to September 17, 2025; and from November 26, 2025, to December 3, 2025.

G. Report on November 9, 2024, Compton City Council Third District Town Hall Meeting

Secretary Lord shared with the Commission a brief report on City of Compton's Third District town hall meeting. Discussion topics included Compton/Woodley Airport activities, emergency response, youth programs and scholarships, and the Federal Aviation Administration exercise for fire personnel.

H. Final Report on the Restoration of the Dominguez Air Meet Plaque

Secretary Lord provided the Commission the final update on the restoration and shared photographs of the installation of the historical monument.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

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

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 10 a.m.
at Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846**

Chair Antoon adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Lord, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission