



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2025, 7 p.m.

Whiteman Airport

10000 Airpark Way

Pacoima, CA 91331-7393

(818) 896-5271

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Dennis Lord
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Monique Earl
Commissioner Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza
Commissioner Charles Nelson
Commissioner Rudy Villarreal

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice-Chair Harvey Holloway
Secretary Jeff Mort
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Jason Morgan, Assistant Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. Samuel Maghakian, Facilities Project Manager I

GUESTS

Mr. Louie Correa, Community Member
Mr. Clyde Carpenter, Experimental Aircraft Association
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Hollis Erdmann, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Arik Cohert, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Jen Cohert, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Chris Merrick, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Mike Gorman, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Lynn Barker, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. Matthew Stone, Whiteman Airport Pilot
Mr. Jon Smalldridge, Whiteman Airport Guest
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. James Miller, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

GUESTS CONTINUED

Mr. Giuseppe Dalmonte, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. David Lunt, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. John Nagle, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. Vincent Nguyen, Community Member
Ms. Penny Alderson, Vista Aviation
Mr. Timothy M. McGee, Burbank Aviation Museum
Ms. Amy Dgirguenan, Civil Air Patrol
Ms. Angelina Bliven, Civil Air Patrol
Ms. Josie Schlachet, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Cloud Cho, Rocket Room Corp.
Mr. Pieter Waters, San Gabriel Valley Association
Mr. Chris Thomas, San Gabriel Valley Association
Mr. Shopet Tzuberg, Civil Air Patrol

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dennis Lord called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Charles Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes for the February 26, 2025, meeting

The minutes for the February 26, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Rudy Villarreal and seconded by Commissioner Monique Earl.

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

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

Expense and Revenue Report

Mr. Morgan provided to the Commission a summary of current and projected airport revenues and expenses, the Airport Rent Study completed in January 2025, current aeronautical and non-aeronautical rental rates, deferred maintenance needs at the County airports, and the three potential scenarios to enhance revenues at the County airports that Mr. Paul Maselbas previously shared with the Commission.

Chair Lord proposed to establish a subcommittee of the Aviation Commission on Airport Funding and Self-Sustainability. The purpose of the subcommittee will be to collaborate with Public Works and identify and recommend the implementation of cost saving measures and the pursuit of new or enhanced sources of revenue to ensure the airports remain self-sustaining and capable of fully funding all planned airport capital improvement projects and deferred maintenance needs. This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Aircraft Operations (Takeoffs and Landings) and Fuel Sales

The overall aircraft operations for all five County airports were up 20 percent in the month of March 2025, as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Morgan spoke briefly about the runway closure underway at Van Nuys Airport and how it is impacting Whiteman Airport from additional flight training activities.

Aircraft operations gathered from Virtower for March 2025 indicate that there were 68 takeoffs and landings at Whiteman Airport during the voluntary curfew hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The majority (60%) of the operations were related to the news media helicopters.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports were up 6 percent in the month of March 2025, as compared to the same month last year.

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

Airport Projects (including Grant Funding)

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.

At General William J. Fox Airfield, design for the pavement reconstruction of the south taxi lanes and the east ramp area is projected to begin soon.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, design for the reconstruction of approximately 2 acres of north taxiway and rehabilitation of approximately 18 acres of south ramp/apron areas and taxi lanes are anticipated to begin later this year.

At Brackett Field Airport, the Sewer Pump and Force Main Replacement Project is currently underway and expected to be completed soon. Design has been underway for the pavement reconstruction of approximately 12.5 acres of pavement for the north runway and cross taxiway. The FAA continues its efforts to identify a desired site for the new Airport Traffic Control Tower for the airport.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, design will begin soon to perform the crack sealing, patching, and slurry seal to preserve and extend the life of approximately 41 acres of apron area. Design is currently underway for the reconstruction of approximately 14 acres of runway and taxiway pavement. Construction of the new Airport Traffic Control Tower for the airport may begin as soon as late 2026.

Airport Property Management

Mr. Morgan informed the Commission that the recent strike by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) did not impact the operations of the County airports.

At Whiteman Airport, repairs are being made to the power pole which will impact the north vehicle access gate for the Air Traffic Control Tower facility. Notices will be sent to hangar tenants regarding the fire extinguisher recertification program to be held in June 2025.

The Assistant Airport Manager position at General William J. Fox Airfield was advertised, will be reviewing applications, and interviewing potential candidates.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, repairs are underway for the main vehicle access gate. The Precision Approach Path Indicator lights were installed, and efforts are underway to coordinate the flight check with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The new pilot shop at Brackett Field Airport is expected to open on May 17, 2025. Repairs were made to the Precision Approach Path Indicator lights.

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. Repairs are being made to the Precision Approach Path Indicator lights. On April 15, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved the new lease agreement with Blue Sky Aviation for the development of aircraft storage hangars on the north apron area.

Airport Events and Activities

At Whiteman Airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 Young Eagles event was held on April 24, 2025, will be hosting the “Learn to Fly Week” event on May 13-17, 2025, and the “Flying Start” event on May 17, 2025.

At General William J. Fox Airfield, the International Aerobatics Club, Los Angeles Chapter 49 held the aerobatics competition on April 24 – 26, 2025.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, the 4th annual Steppin 4 Autism event was held on April 19, 2025. The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 Young Eagles event was held on April 26, 2025.

At Brackett Field Airport, the Aircraft Display date was held on April 20, 2025. The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 92, based out of Chino Airport, will be hosting the Young Eagles event on May 18, 2025.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Pilots Association held their monthly meeting on April 16, 2025, and the Aircraft Display Day was held on April 27, 2025.

Public Works is looking into the possibility of setting up an airport stakeholder meeting likely to be held virtually on a monthly basis where airport tenants can meet with the Public Works airports team to discuss events, activities, and issues.

Airport Marketing and Public Relations

The on-call consultant is finalizing the new airports website. No airport newsletters were released for the first quarter of 2025. The next newsletters are to be released in June 2025.

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

Mr. Morgan provided the Commission with an update on the \$1.3 million Whiteman Airport Land Use Study and Economic Analysis.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Twenty-four 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, May 28, 2025, at 7 p.m.
at San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670**

Chair Lord adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Mort, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

JM:cmd