



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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VICE-CHAIR

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

JEFF MORT
MEMBER

GABRIEL PEREZ
MEMBER

RUDY VILLARREAL
MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2025, 10 a.m.
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140

IN ATTENDANCE

Vice-Chair Dennis Lord
Commissioner Monique Earl
Commissioner Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza
Commissioner Jeff Mort
Commissioner Charles Nelson
Commissioner Rudy Villarreal

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Peter Amundson
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. James Miller, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Mr. Wilbur Owens, Atmospheric Vehicle
Mr. Clint Simmons, California Black Aviation Association
Mr. Pieter Waters, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Henry Roy, California Black Aviation Association

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Dennis Lord called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Jeff Mort led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

Vice-Chair Lord informed the Commission that Commissioners Ryan Antoon and Christina Pascucci's term has expired, and introduced two new Commissioners, Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza and Charles Nelson, representing Supervisorial District 3, to the Aviation Commission.

A. Election of Commission Officers for 2025

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

B. Minutes for the January 29, 2025, meeting

The minutes for the January 29, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Mort and seconded by Commissioner Villarreal.

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

Mr. Morgan provided to the Commission a brief overview of Compton/Woodley Airport.

Expense and Revenue Report

Mr. Maselbas provided to the Commission 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. Information on the unfunded deferred maintenance report and reverted leases will be shared at a future 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 up 2 percent in the month of January 2025, as compared to the same month last year.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports were up 309 percent in the month of January 2025, as compared to the same month last year. Most of the increase is due to the firefighting efforts at General William J. Fox Airfield.

D. 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 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 General William J. Fox Airfield, design for the pavement reconstruction of taxi lanes and the east ramp area is projected to begin later this year.

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

A new flight school and a new Avionics business are expected to operate at Brackett Field Airport soon. Additional repairs are underway for the Precision Approach Path Indicator lights. On February 23, 2025, an aircraft incident occurred on the runway and is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board. There were no reported injuries.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, repairs are underway for the main vehicle access gate and the manual service gate. The Precision Approach Path Indicator lights were installed, and efforts are underway to coordinate the flight check with the Federal Aviation Administration. On February 1, 2025, an aircraft incident occurred on the runway with no reported injuries.

The job posting for the Assistant Airport Manager position at General William J. Fox Airfield will be advertised 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 County's Internal Services Department will be replacing and upgrading the stadium lights to LED. The new lease agreement for the development of aircraft storage hangars on the north apron area will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval soon.

At Whiteman Airport, an aircraft incident occurred on February 19, 2025, where the aircraft veered off the runway during takeoff. There were no reported injuries.

The consultant updated the aeronautical rent study reports, and the final reports will be posted on the airports website and shared with the Commission soon. Public Works is planning to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in the next few months to adjust the aeronautical hangar storage and aircraft tiedown rents to match fair market value. A tenant and stakeholder meeting will be held to receive comments regarding the proposed aeronautical rent adjustments.

A fire extinguisher program is being formalized at all five County airports to allow hangar tenants to recertify their fire extinguishers at their own expense.

Information on the Contribution of General Aviation to the U.S. Economy in 2023 and Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions (EAGLE) Initiative will be provided to the Commission after the meeting.

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

Aircraft Display Day was held on February 16, 2025, at Brackett Field Airport.

On March 8, 2025, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 Young Eagles event will be held at Compton/Woodley Airport. The 4th annual Steppin 4 Autism event will be held on April 19, 2025.

The Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection event was held at San Gabriel Valley Airport on February 1, 2025. The San Gabriel Valley Airport Pilots Association held their monthly meeting on February 19, 2025, and the Aircraft Display Day was held on February 23, 2025.

At Whiteman Airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 provided flights to 48 kids at their Young Eagles event on February 22, 2025. The next event will be held on March 22, 2025.

Airport Marketing and Public Relations

The on-call consultant is finalizing the new airports website. The airport newsletters will be distributed on a quarterly basis and the next edition will be in April 2025.

- E. Proposed motion to request Public Works to provide information to the Commission on the possibility of contracting out airport operations at the five County airports to address the long-term financial sustainability of the system of airports**

Vice-Chair Lord shared with the Commission the original motion by Secretary Harvey Holloway.

Commissioner Lopez Mendoza presented to the Commission an amended motion to request Public Works to provide information to the Commission on the possibility of contracting out the five County airports and the analysis of the top five revenue generating options to support existing airport operations.

Commissioner Lopez Mendoza's motion was seconded by Commissioner Earl. The Commission held a brief discussion. Three speakers commented on the agenda item. The motion was then unanimously approved by the Commission.

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

Mr. Maselbas provided the Commission with an update on the \$1.3 million approved consultant study for the potential repurposing of Whiteman Airport. A copy of the written report was shared with the Commission. The study consists of four components: 1) Confirmation of Airport Closure Process; 2) Existing Conditions Analysis; 3) Options Development Incorporation Stakeholder Input; and 4) Economic Impact Analysis of Preferred Options. A section of the report calls for a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan that includes planned interaction with the Aviation Commission and other interested parties. Commissioners discussed and shared comments on the information presented.

G. Mission Flight Presentation on January 2025 Events

Dr. Marc Haney shared with the Commission a brief video presentation on Mission Flight, a 501(c)3 aeronautic public benefit non-profit organization, based at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

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

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10 a.m.
at General William J. Fox Airfield
4725 William J. Barnes Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401**

Vice-Chair Lord adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Holloway, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

PHM:vt