



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## AVIATION COMMISSION

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

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Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
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## COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS LORD  
CHAIR

HARVEY HOLLOWAY  
VICE-CHAIR

JEFF MORT  
SECRETARY

PETER AMUNDSON  
MEMBER

MONIQUE EARL  
MEMBER

JERILYN LOPEZ MENDOZA  
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CHARLES NELSON  
MEMBER

ROHIT J. SINGH  
MEMBER

CHRISTOPHER D. THOMAS  
MEMBER

RUDY VILLARREAL  
MEMBER

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2025, 10 a.m.

Whiteman Airport

10000 Airpark Way

Pacoima, CA 91331-7393

(818) 896-5271

### IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Dennis Lord  
Secretary Jeff Mort  
Commissioner Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza  
Commissioner Charles Nelson  
Commissioner Rohit J. Singh  
Commissioner Christopher D. Thomas  
Commissioner Rudy Villarreal

### OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice-Chair Harvey Holloway  
Commissioner Peter Amundson  
Commissioner Monique Earl

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

Mr. Jason Morgan, Chief, Aviation Division  
Ms. Van Tran, Staff Assistant

### GUESTS

Mr. Clyde Carpenter, Experimental Aircraft Association  
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association  
Mr. Solomon Bruck, Whiteman Airport Tenant  
Mr. Rico Burgos, Whiteman Airport Tenant  
Mr. James Miller, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Mr. Derek Sardarian, Whiteman Airport Guest  
Mr. Jerry Neglio, Navions West Inc.  
Mr. Michael R. Williamson, Whiteman Airport Guest  
Ms. Penny Alderson, Vista Aviation  
Mr. Wade Danielson, Whiteman Airport Tenant  
Mr. Justin Phillips, Vista Aviation  
Mr. Matthew Stone, Whiteman Airport Pilot  
Ms. Josephine (Josie) Zarate, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

## **GUESTS CONTINUED**

Mr. Scott Heames, Whiteman Airport Pilot  
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association  
Mr. Stephen Witt, LosAngelesCountyPolitics.com  
Mr. Tom Sutfin, Whiteman Airport Guest  
Ms. Christina Merrick, Whiteman Airport Pilot  
Mr. Richard Mend, Mend Aviation  
Mr. Neil Casey, Whiteman Airport Pilot  
Mr. Tony Rodriguez, Concern Citizen  
Mr. Arik Cohen, Whiteman Airport Tenant

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Commissioner Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Lord informed the Commission that Secretary Jeff Mort's term will be expiring, and his seat for Supervisorial District 4 will be filled by a new Commissioner.

Chair Lord introduced Commissioner Christopher D. Thomas, representing Supervisorial District 1, to the Aviation Commission.

#### **A. Minutes for the August 27, 2025, meeting**

The minutes for the August 27, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Charles Nelson and seconded by Secretary Mort.

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

Mr. Morgan shared with the Commission that he was officially appointed to Chief, Aviation Division, in September 2025.

Mr. Morgan informed the Commission that the updated Expense and Revenue Report and the Airport Capital Improvement Plan are expected to be presented at the next Commission meeting.

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

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

The overall aircraft operations for all five County airports were up 8 percent in the months of August and September 2025, as compared to the same two months last year.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports were up 11 percent in the months of August and September 2025, as compared to the same two months last year.

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

**Airport Projects (including Grant Funding)**

The annual Airport Capital Improvement Plan meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was held on October 28, 2025.

At Whiteman Airport, the FAA is still reviewing the proposed consolidated aircraft run-up area.

At Brackett Field Airport, design has been underway to reconstruct approximately 12.5 acres of pavement for the north runway and cross taxiway and expected to be completed by the end of this year. Due to the Federal Government shutdown, planning for the construction of the new Airport Traffic Control Tower has been placed on hold.

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 soon.

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. The design phase to rehabilitate the remaining taxi lanes and ramp areas is scheduled to begin next year.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, design is currently underway to rehabilitate 14 acres of runway and taxiway pavement and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Design is also currently underway to perform the crack sealing, patching, and slurry seal to preserve and extend the life of the southern end paved apron areas. Due to the Federal Government shutdown, planning for the construction of the new Airport Traffic Control Tower has been placed on hold.

Mr. Morgan mentioned to the Commission that Public Works recently accepted several FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants that include new federal requirements. Commissioners provided comments on the information presented.

**Airport Property Management**

At Whiteman Airport, a vehicle accident occurred between a tenant and a parked aircraft on September 30, 2025, with no injuries reported or damage to airport property. On October 20, 2025, the northside power pole was installed. County electricians and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) are working to install and restore power to the Airport Traffic Control Tower gate. LADWP shut down power on October 25, 2025, to upgrade poles and replace power poles along Airport Way for higher wind durability. Airport management is working with LADWP to establish a schedule for the LED upgrades installation. Mr. Morgan will be meeting

with Dr. Armida Ornelas, President of Los Angeles Mission College, to explore potential opportunities for an aviation program with the college and the airport.

At Brackett Field Airport, the east side fuel island pump is being repaired. On October 19, 2025, a single-engine aircraft veered off the paved runway and crashed into an airfield directional sign. No injuries were reported or emergencies declared. On October 28, 2025, an aircraft on route from San Luis Obispo Airport to Cable Airport experienced engine problems and made an emergency landing at the airport. There were minor injuries to a passenger, and no damage was reported to the airport. First Responder training sessions will be held at the airport on November 17, 18, and 21, 2025.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) is scheduled to be repaired by mid-December 2025.

On September 24, 2025, a vehicle incident occurred at General William J. Fox Airfield causing damage to the airport fencing and a power pole. No serious injuries were reported. Southern California Edison repaired the power pole.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) lights were repaired. The Runway End Identified Lights (REILs) for Runway 19 are being repaired. A vehicle incident occurred between a vehicle and a parked aircraft on October 27, 2025, and is being investigated.

The Federal Government shutdown currently has had no impact on airport operations or the contract and FAA Airport Traffic Control Tower facilities at the airports.

Mr. Morgan met with Archer Aviation and Beta Technologies to discuss ways the County airports may be able to accommodate Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft or the various segments of the industry for the upcoming 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics and beyond.

The annual Possessory Interest Tax (PIT) bills were sent out to airport hangar tenants from Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector. The deadline for payment of the first installment is on December 10, 2025, and the deadline for the second installment payment on April 10, 2026. Public Works is working with several airport tenants, County Counsel, Assessor, Auditor Controller, and various direct assessment tax agencies to ensure the taxes are appropriate and accurate. An update will be provided to all airport hangar tenants soon. Commissioners discussed and shared comments on the information presented.

### **Airport Events and Activities**

At Whiteman Airport, Caltrans conducted their annual airport inspection on October 15, 2025. Cancer Kids Helicopter Flights held an event at the airport on October 24, 2025. The Aircraft Display Days are held on the second Sunday of each month. The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 Young Eagles events are held on the fourth Saturday of each month.

At Brackett Field Airport, the FAA Runway Safety Advisory Team (RSAT) held their meeting on September 5, 2025. Caltrans conducted their annual airport inspection on September 11, 2025. A memorial service was held at the airport for former Public Works employee, Salvatore Cirino, on October 25, 2025. The Aircraft Display Day events are held on the third Sunday of each month. Brackett Airport Association monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

On September 28, 2025, the El Dia Del Ranchero event was held at Compton/Woodley Airport for the third consecutive year. The Cali Motor Fest Cancer Awareness event was held at the airport on October 4, 2025. The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 Young Eagles event was held at the airport on October 19, 2025. The Annual Air Fair (Air and Space theme) will be held at the airport on November 1, 2025. Public Works will have a booth at the event.

At General William J. Fox Airfield, Caltrans conducted their annual airport inspection on September 9, 2025.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, Caltrans conducted their annual airport inspection on September 30, 2025. Aircraft Display Day events are held at the airport on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Commissioners inquired about public outreach and community engagement for the airport events. Mr. Morgan informed the Commission that the new airports website will include these items, which is part of the overall Strategic Communications and Marketing Plan for the airports.

**D. Trifiletti Consulting Presentation on Whiteman Airport Economic Impact Analysis and Land Use Study**

Ms. Lisa Trifiletti shared with the Commission a brief presentation on the economic impact analysis and land use study for Whiteman Airport, progress to date, and next steps. Focus Groups will be meeting in November 2025, and the Open House will be held on December 3, 2025, at Vista Aviation. The purpose of the Focus Groups and Open House is to gather stakeholder feedback.

**E. Update from Aviation Commission Subcommittee on Airport Funding and Self-Sustainability**

Chair Lord provided the Commission with an update on the subcommittee. Zoom meetings were held with tenants from each airport in September 2025, to solicit feedback regarding the 2025 Aeronautical Rent Studies and related potential adjustments to the monthly rental rates for use of County-owned aircraft storage hangars and tiedowns. A final report will be shared with the Commission soon. Commissioners shared comments on the information presented.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Nine speakers commented on the operation, maintenance, and activities at the airports.

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

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 a.m.  
at San Gabriel Valley Airport  
4233 Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731-1670**

Chair Lord adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Mort, Secretary  
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

JM:vt