

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 7:02 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Adams, Dingman, Fitch, Phillips, Rhilinger, and Chairperson Gates.

Absent: Commissioner Tymczyszyn.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian and Senior Account Clerk Walters.

MOTION: Commissioner Adams moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Tymczyszyn for the April 10, 2008 Commission meeting. Commissioner Fitch seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Rhilinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Rhilinger, seconded by Commissioner Dingman, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2008

Chairperson Gates requested that the following be added to the March 13, 2008 minutes as Item 8I: "It was noted that the FAA has decided not to decommission the VHF Omni Range (VOR) approach to runway 11 Left."

MOTION: Commissioner Rhilinger moved for the approval of the March 13, 2008 Airport Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Tymczyszyn).

6. ACTION ITEMS

None.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.D SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.D.2 POLICY CHANGE AND GA GROWTH—SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON JET FUEL

Chairperson Gates requested that Item 7.D.2 be taken out of order and introduced the item.

Commissioner Adams provided background on the sub-committee's evaluation of the City's current policy that bans the sale and storage of jet fuel at the Airport. He noted that the recommendation being presented is the result of a six-month study and commended Commissioner Tymczyszyn and Chairperson Gates for their efforts.

He provided a power point presentation, Study Report #1 Jet Fuel Policies, in the material of record that summarized Study Purpose, Methodology, Data Sources, Policy Goals and Actual Results, Additional Study Findings, and Committee Recommendation. It was noted that copies of the complete report were included in agenda material.

Chairperson Gates clarified that some jet departures are made using 100 low lead, an aviation gasoline that can damage engines and reduce safety margins.

Commissioner Adams concluded his presentation with the sub-committee's recommendation to remove the ban on sale of jet fuel at Torrance Airport in order to: increase safety margins for jet operations, eliminate extra jet and diesel flights made only to refuel elsewhere, capture the City and FBO revenues now sent elsewhere, and provide support for emergency operations.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the Study has not been available to staff for a sufficient amount of time to allow for their input or concerns. He recommended that the Commission take no action for a minimum of 30 days to allow for an opportunity for thoughtful review and comment by all parties involved. He advised that staff analysis would include an environmental assessment requirement regarding the increase in fueling sites, use of jet fuel in regards to the Airport's Master Plan, input from the Torrance Fire Department, and input from the Community Development Department.

Commissioner Rhilinger questioned if there was written documentation from interviews and the accuracy of data listed in the charts on pages 5 and 6 of the Study. She stated that conclusions generated from that data appear to be inconsistent and that there was no firm data available to accurately indicate how lucrative the sale of jet fuel might or might not be. She submitted and entered into record her entire list of questions and concerns, noting that she did not see anything in the Study that indicates a compelling need to start making jet fuel available at the Airport at this point in time.

Commissioner Fitch noted that, although the decision by the sub-committee to analyze the jet fuel policy was not a City Council directive, City Council approved the Commission Work Plan and formation of the Policy Change and General Aviation Growth sub-committee in July 2006. She recommended that the Commission take no action at this time to allow for additional input.

At 7:42 p.m., Chairperson Gates welcomed public comments.

Barry Young, Vanderhill Road, stated that private, high-end jets would lead to a much bigger operation at the Airport.

Jackie Decker, Carlow Road, expressed concern about more noise and crashes with increased jet traffic, adding that proximity of the Airport does affect property values.

Ernie Moore, Avocado Street, Lomita, stated that pilots who fly with insufficient fuel should lose their licenses, suggested the Commission consider efforts going on at Port of Los Angeles, and that the original concept of the Airport was not to have jets.

Steve Polcari, Anza Avenue, President of Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association, stated that 99% of members are against changing the current policy due to concerns about property values, safety, and quality of life issues.

Jim Burman, Audrey Avenue, received clarification that pilots are allowed to fly directly over neighborhoods and stated that jets are much louder than other aircraft.

Patrick Dempsey, Kathryn Avenue, questioned the percentage of jets landing with unsafe fuel levels, stated that it was important to look at home values before and after an airport allows jet fuel, and noted that surveys were sent out to every jet owner but not to every resident.

Rae Thrasher, Ladeene Avenue, stated that Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association did not receive a copy of the study plan, that 100% of its homeowners are against the sale of jet fuel, and that more time is needed to solicit input.

David Henseler, Singingwood Drive, President of Country Hill Homeowners Association, expressed concern that there are pilots flying with insufficient fuel and that the noise abatement system is not fully operational. He stated that the Study should identify types of planes that make more noise and compare before and after effects on property values in other parts of the State. He stated that the Association is opposed to lifting the ban on the sale of jet fuel.

Jim Korby stated that jets today are not as loud as those in the 1970s, that pilots are more professional and skilled now, that there was less possibility of crashes, and that the sale of jet fuel would generate income for the City.

Joseph Jurado, West 253rd Street, Lomita, stated that jets are noisier than prop planes and that selling jet fuel would invite more jet traffic in the future.

Michael Bettinger, 232nd Street, former Airport Commissioner, stated that there are no new facts in the Study that were not brought forward during the Master Plan hearings. He asserted that the Airport adversely affects property values, jet fuel can be trucked in, jet fuel is being illegally stored at Airport in hangars, and changing the Master Plan would require a full Environmental Impact Report.

Gavin Wasserman, Steele Street, received clarification that a fully fueled airplane taking off is no noisier and expressed concern that the software for the noise monitoring system was not functioning.

Ed Pierce, Clear Vista Drive, Rolling Hills Estates, stated that he did not have a strong opinion on the issue but stressed the importance of avoiding emotional evaluations and looking at all facts including reports from the Noise Abatement System.

Cliff Numark, Ladeene Avenue, stated that the Study does not include broad enough comparisons, particularly with other airports that have changed policies regarding jet fuel.

Ken Hudson, Pennsylvania Avenue, stated that jets are loud when they take off and allowing jet fuel will increase jet traffic and probability of crashes.

Garland McGovney, Susana Avenue, expressed concern about increased air traffic at Torrance Airport.

John Bailey, President of Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, questioned why the original letter sent to the Association was not on City letterhead, why there was no input from City staff, and how the City could come up with the funding to proceed with this issue. He noted that the Coalition of Homeowners Associations of Torrance voted unanimously against the sale of jet fuel at the Airport.

Mike Moran, Los Codona Avenue, expressed concern that any type of jet would be able to fly in and out of the Airport.

Joe Arciuch, Kathryn Avenue, questioned the lack of supporting data in the Study and offered to provide data proving that property values of residential properties near the Airport are lower.

David Boyd, Calle Miramar, stated that he was in favor of lifting the ban on the sale of jet fuel because it is the wave of the future.

John Thornburg, Elvira Avenue, pointed out that homeowners near the Airport purchased their homes at reduced rates and proposed that only certain jets be allowed to take off and land at the Airport.

At 8:55 p.m. Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian advised that the Commission had two options: accept and file the Study and forward it to City Council or to concur with staff recommendation to refer it back to the City for input.

Chairperson Gates stated that the sub-committee looked at this issue as a way to reduce the number of jet flights over the City.

MOTION: Chairperson Gates moved to concur with staff recommendation that the Commission take no action at this time and that Study #1: Jet Fuel Policy be made available to the public and City staff for its review for a minimum of 30 days. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Tymczynyn).

The Commission was in recess from 9:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

7A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Gates noted that the following reports for April 2008 were included in the agenda material: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, April Meeting Room Schedule, and Hangar Waiting List.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that construction of 2 Executive Hangars is complete and that painting and sealing the Airport Tower is scheduled for May 2008.

Commissioner Fitch questioned why 2% of the Noise Abatement System upgrade was incomplete and stated that she would like to review Noise Abatement reports before they hold their Open House.

7B. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Gates noted that the following reports were included in supplemental material: Events Requiring Emergency Response and Airfield Operations Status.

7C. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT – AERONAUTICAL

Chairperson Gates noted that a report from Land Management Team Chair Sunshine was included in the agenda material.

Responding to Commissioner Fitch's inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian explained that leased properties on the airfield are long-term and would revert to City ownership when they expire.

7D. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

7D.1 STATE AND FED FUNDING

Chairperson Gates reported that he spoke with the FAA regarding eligibility of Torrance to apply for grants and was informed that they are flexible.

7D.2 POLICY CHANGE AND GA GROWTH

Previously considered.

7E.3 MASTER PLAN

Commissioner Rhilinger reported that the subcommittee has not met.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

8A. Commissioner Adams commended Chairperson Gates for his leadership at this meeting.

8B. In response to Commissioner Fitch's inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that staff received Study #1: Jet Fuel Policy on April 3, 2008.

8C. Commissioner Fitch discussed the jet fuel policy included in the lease agreement with Flite Park.

8D. Commissioner Fitch announced that the Community Planning and Design Committee is meeting on April 16, 2008 to approve the final design of the sign.

8E. Commissioner Fitch announced the Armed Forces Day parade on May 17, 2008.

8F. Commissioner Fitch shared information about a PBS broadcast about a Texas pilot and the Community Emergency Response Team.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:40 p.m., Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Fitch, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., in the West Annex meeting room.

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| Approved as Submitted May 8, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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