

**LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (LAX)  
AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)**

**Meeting Minutes -- Thursday, June 12, 2025**

at LAX BOAC Board Room, Clifton A. Moore Administration Building

1 World Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Approved July 10, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Luciano Nocera at 7:04 p.m.

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Roll call was taken by Charles Pannunzio (LAWA Community Relations Principal Public Relations Representative; [CPannunzio@lawa.org](mailto:CPannunzio@lawa.org); 424-646-5044). Ten of the 14 Committee Members were present: William Cumming (Marina Del Rey); Jim Evans (Westchester/Playa Del Rey); Guido Fernandez (Hawthorne); Jonathan Loewenberg (Westchester/Playa Del Rey); Katrina Manning (Hawthorne); David Mannix (Westchester/Playa Del Rey) (Westchester/Playa Del Rey); Adam Moore (Culver City); Luciano Nocera (Culver City) (Chair); Carol Pirsztuk (El Segundo); and Jim Withrow (Inglewood). Absent: Angie Reyes English (Hawthorne) (Vice-Chair) (unexcused); Lance Giroux (El Segundo) (unexcused); and Sergio Paz (Lennox) (excused). Per the LAX AAC Bylaws, six Members representing the majority of the communities shall constitute a quorum, therefore, a quorum was present. Seven of the 21 Seats were vacant. Also attended: Josh Francis, LAWA Director of Community Relations; [JFrancis@lawa.org](mailto:JFrancis@lawa.org); 424-646-9166) also was present.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made at this time.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- May 8, 2025

No corrections or amendments were made.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Cumming, seconded by Mr. Evans, to approve the May 8, 2025 meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **APPROVED** with seven in favor; zero opposed; three abstained (Mannix, Pirsztuk and Withrow)

*Committee Member Beth Hyatt arrived around this time (7:10), making eleven Committee Members present (the LAX AAC quorum is six).*

**4. GUEST SPEAKER** – CARY BUCHANAN, AIRPORT MANAGER – AIRSIDE

- Airfield Safety

Mr. Pannunzio reported that Cary Buchanan informed him that he was unable to make the meeting and would plan to attend next month's meeting.

**5. OFFICER'S REPORT – LUCIANO NOCERA, CHAIR**

Mr. Nocera noted that he would be on vacation in July and returning in August. He will arrange with the Vice-Chair for the July 10th meeting. Mr. Nocera noted he would return in August for the next scheduled meeting on August 14th. The Committee will decide whether to cancel the August 14th meeting during its July 10th meeting. Mr. Pannunzio noted that he would agendaize this item for the next meeting. Mr. Francis reported that LAWA Community Relations will staff three events on Tuesday, August 5th as part of the National Night Out program, including events in Terminal 1 at LAX, the Mar Vista Recreation Center in Mar Vista, and at Randall Simmons Park in Reseda.

**6. PRESENTATION FROM BILL CUMMING (MEMBER, MARINA DEL REY)**

• “Roadmap in the Sky”

Mr. Cumming provided an in-depth overview of Southern California’s complex airspace system. Airspace Evolution & FAA Classification began with a historical look at changes implemented after the 1978 San Diego crash, which led to stricter FAA classifications such as Class A (18,000–60,000 ft), prohibited, and restricted zones. Flight Patterns & Procedures were explained using real-world examples of general aviation corridors, such as from Santa Monica or Torrance, including required altitudes to safely navigate around LAX’s Class B airspace. Mr. Cumming highlighted Noise & Safety Management, noting that both the FAA and LAWA monitor noise levels and that aircraft are becoming quieter due to new engine technology and noise abatement procedures at airports like John Wayne in Orange County. Mr. Cumming also discussed Airport Tower Operations & Air Traffic Control and how air traffic remains coordinated even after tower closures through visual flight rules, and how pilots interact with multiple control centers during flights. He also addressed Technology and Air Traffic Monitoring, mentioning advances like in-flight traffic visualization and the FAA’s ongoing, though delayed, efforts to upgrade national ATC systems. He clarified the difference between Legal vs. Safe Flight, explaining that some legal flights (such as VFR cross-country trips without communication) are possible but not advisable. Finally, Mr. Cumming touched on Airspace Congestion & Cost Factors, noting that general aviation activity has decreased due to high fuel costs and that flight schools like Sling Academy in Torrance contribute to increased airport noise.

Attendees asked a range of questions regarding airspace regulations, flight operations, and noise management, which Mr. Cumming addressed in detail. In response to questions about altitude restrictions, he explained that aircraft cannot enter LAX’s Class B airspace — from the surface up to 10,000 feet — without clearance from air traffic control. When asked whether pilots can fly below these levels without communication, he clarified that while it is legal under visual flight rules (VFR), it is not advisable due to safety concerns. Regarding airport tower closures, he noted that pilots may still land or take off using VFR, but air traffic control remains active through regional centers, with most coordination for Southern California handled from San Diego and Palmdale. Questions about why

aircraft must turn immediately after takeoff were answered by noting it is necessary to avoid infringing on LAX's Class B airspace, particularly for airports like Hawthorne. On air traffic technology, Mr. Cumming confirmed that the FAA is working on nationwide updates, although implementation could take 5–10 years due to budget limitations. When asked about noise monitoring, he shared that LAWA tracks decibel levels by aircraft and engine type, though the data is not regularly published. Regarding Santa Monica Airport's closure, he confirmed it is set to close at the end of 2028 and that the City is considering redevelopment options. He also explained that while helicopters are treated like fixed-wing aircraft under airspace rules, they often reroute over less sensitive areas such as Marina del Rey. Finally, when asked about general aviation constraints, he noted that while fuel costs and airspace complexity have made flying more difficult, safety standards and technology have vastly improved in recent decades.

## **7. LAWA REPORT – COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION**

Josh Francis, the new Director of Community Relations at LAWA, introduced himself and shared that he will represent LAWA at the Westchester/Playa del Rey Neighborhood Council and other community organizations including the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Francis, Mr. Pannunzio and other LAWA staff recently attended the ribbon cutting for the new LAX/Metro Transit Connector Station on June 6, 2025. Mr. Pannunzio noted that with the opening of the new station, the temporary LAX City Bus center has closed, and LAWA is running a new shuttle from the terminals to the station with 10-minute headways. He also noted that once the Automated People Mover (APM) train opens in early 2026, the guests will then use the train and the shuttle service will be discontinued.

Mr. Pannunzio noted that LAWA also hosted the LAX Day for the LAX Coastal Chamber Leadership Academy, participated in the Friends of Ballona Wetlands event to highlight environmental efforts, and will sponsor the upcoming LAX Kiwanis Club scholarship luncheon on June 17, 2025. Mr. Pannunzio mentioned that LAWA will welcome over 60 students from North Valley Occupational Center for an educational airport tour as part of its continued support for aviation career pathways on June 25, 2025 at Van Nuys Airport and on July 2, 2025 at LAX.

Committee member Katrina Manning expressed interest in coordinating student field trips to LAX, participating in future ribbon cuttings and events, and receiving tours of the Metro Transit Center and the Consolidated Rent-A-Car (ConRAC) facility. Mr. Pannunzio confirmed that tours during the school year are possible to coordinate and highlighted the fact that Hawthorne High School already participates in LAWA's annual Aviation Career Day event. Mr. Francis confirmed that LAWA would support coordination of tours related to the LAX/Metro Transit Center and will connect local representatives with Metro's community relations liaison, Andy Sywak.

There was discussion around inconsistent construction updates and a need for better outreach to the broader region beyond Westchester. Ms. Pirsztuk requested information on how construction information is being disseminated to the cities. Mr. Francis acknowledged these gaps and shared that LAWA would work to enhance communications, including restarting the LAWA Community Relations newsletter (with a target relaunch in August) and updating the community relations webpage. Suggestions from the Committee included expanding the use of City communications teams, neighborhood Facebook pages, and Nextdoor. Committee members also encouraged LAWA to explore data on existing subscriber numbers and increase community sign-ups for construction alerts.

Mr. Loewenberg asked for clarification on whether or not LAX has banned plastic water bottles. Mr. Pannunzio clarified that concessionaires were prohibited from selling plastic water bottles due to sustainability goals and further evaluation is underway to determine further reduction of the use of plastic bottles.

The Committee also asked about LAWA's current staffing levels and vacancies. In response, Mr. Francis noted that several departments/divisions, including Airport Police and Community Relations, have vacancies. A staffing chart shared at a recent Board of Airport Commissioners meeting outlines these vacancies and will be shared with attendees.

Mr. Francis and Mr. Pannunzio agreed to follow up on the following items:

- Coordinate tour for Hawthorne High School students at the request of Hawthorne City Councilmember Katrina Manning when the new school year begins.
- Share contact information for Metro's area community relations representative, Andy Sywak (sywaka@metro.net) and reach out with inquiry about tour of LAX/Metro Transit Center Tour for Committee members.
- Coordinate with LAWA's team overseeing the Consolidated ConRAC to coordinate a tour for Committee members before the APM opens.
- Update the Committee on progress made to the Community Relations newsletter and website.
- Distributed a link for the Committee members to sign up for CALM construction notifications.
- Share LAWA staffing vacancy charge from BOAC meeting with Committee members in follow up email.
- Reagendize presentation from Cary Buchanan, Airport Manager – Airside
- Agendize a presentation from someone from LAWA's Noise Management division and provide the Committee with resources related to noise management.
- Agendize a presentation from LAWA's Major Events team to provide an update to the AAC at a future meeting.

**8. LAX AAC SUBCOMMITTEE PANEL REPORTS** (Noise, Ground Transportation, Environmental, and Public Safety)

- Discussion and Possible Action

The Committee discussed holding Subcommittee meetings preceding the start of the Advisory Committee meeting. Prior to holding Subcommittee meetings, Mr. Moore was asked to report on items that may warrant further discussion and/or investigation at future AAC Subcommittee meetings. Mr. Moore noted that concerns were raised about the length of time required for Transportation Charter Party (TCP) permit processing for drivers, which, although reduced, is still perceived as too long. These delays are negatively affecting small, independent drivers and local businesses in nearby communities who depend on LAX-related work. There was some debate over whether expediting the permitting process could contribute to increased traffic congestion at LAX. It was recommended that the Ground Transportation Committee examine community perceptions of the TCP process, assess whether there is a shortage or surplus of licensed drivers, and evaluate the broader impact on traffic congestion and parking. Additional concerns were expressed regarding large numbers of rideshare vehicles idling or staging near Westchester and surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Moore also mentioned that labor issues were raised at the previous BOAC meeting, particularly concerning the safety of airport food service workers, such as those employed by Flying Food Group, with some employees expressing fears about their personal safety while on the job. Ongoing complaints and discussions are reportedly taking place with the National Labor Relations Board. The Public Safety Subcommittee may consider engaging directly with these workers to better understand their concerns and potentially advocate for appropriate solutions. Additionally, recent layoffs of restaurant workers — possibly linked to the implementation of QR code ordering systems — were noted, raising concerns about potential impacts on service levels during major events.

Mr. Moore reported out the following: no specific community noise complaints were identified in public comments during recent meetings, although it was noted that air traffic levels had decreased and some changes in airline operations and carrier schedules occurred. The Noise Subcommittee was encouraged to investigate whether these operational changes have impacted community noise levels. It was suggested that the Subcommittee confirm if historical monthly noise complaint reports from LAWA are still being generated, as these could provide valuable trend data. Additionally, concerns were raised that many residents may not know how to submit noise complaints, highlighting a need for increased outreach and education. The LAS Noise Management System (NMS) was identified as a potential resource for tracking complaints and identifying trends.

Mr. Moore's report out included information related to multiple environmental milestones and recognitions that have been achieved, including Level 4 carbon accreditations. However, a gap was identified in tracking whether these environmental benefits, such as improved air quality, are being distributed equally among all nearby communities. It was recommended that the Environmental Subcommittee explore opportunities to collect and report community-specific

environmental data to better assess localized impacts and ensure that all communities benefit equitably from these improvements.

**9. MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Nocera mentioned that El Segundo has three spots on the Committee and Ms. Pirsztuk would make her City aware of these additional spots. Mr. Pannunzio noted that there were two vacancies from Inglewood and Mr. Nocera noted there were two vacancies from Lennox and Marina Del Rey. Mr. Moore noted that he would no longer be on the Committee effective at the conclusion of this meeting due to his residency being in the City of Los Angeles and not Culver City.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

No New business was reported.

**11. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A **MOTION to ADJOURN** was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Loewenberg. The **MOTION to ADJOURN** was unanimously **APPROVED** with all 11 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting **adjourned** at 8:57 p.m.

*The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by LAX AAC. The LAX AAC Meeting Minutes page is <https://www.lawa.org/groups-and-divisions/community-relations/lax/laxaac>.*