



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 E. Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182  
(909) 396-2000 • <http://www.aqmd.gov>

## Airports Study Working Group

Ken Edwards Center

July 14, 2005 Meeting Minutes

### Members Present

Susan L. Mearns, PhD.  
Christopher Patton

Dennis Quilliam  
Bill Rosendahl  
Martin Rubin  
Robert Trimborn

### Affiliation

Santa Monica Task Force on Environment  
LA City Dept. of Environmental Affairs,  
for Gretchen Hardison  
Los Angeles World Airport  
Councilman, City of Los Angeles  
Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution  
Santa Monica Airport

### Others Present

Brandon Eaton  
Ping Ho  
Rod Merl  
Len Nguyen  
Cyrus Rangan, M.D.  
Martin Tachiki

Los Angeles World Airways (Van Nuys)  
Friends of Sunset Park  
Santa Monica Airport  
Councilman Bill Rosendahl's Office  
LA County Public Health Dept.  
Attorney, City of Santa Monica

### AQMD Staff

Jean Ospital  
Tom Parsons  
Solomon Tefferu  
Mark Von Der Au  
Sumner Wilson

### Welcome

Mr. Tom Parsons welcomed the members of the Airports Study Working Group. Following a round of introductions of those present, Mr. Parsons outlined the agenda. Before proceeding with the agenda, Working Group member Mr. Martin Rubin. introduced Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl. Councilman Rosendahl stated that he is very interested in the proposed study and informed the attendees of his plan to raise the issue at the Santa Monica City Council meeting. He said that he would have a hearing about the impact of the Santa Monica Airport on Santa Monica City College, Mar Vista and the West LA area.

He added that he could smell the fumes from the airport in and around Mr. Rubin's neighborhood and appreciated the work AQMD is doing to investigate the issue. At the conclusion of Councilman Rosendahl's remarks, Mr. Parsons proceeded to discussions on the draft monitoring work plan.

## **Draft Monitoring Work Plan**

### **Van Nuys Airport**

Mr. Parsons emphasized the importance of finishing the draft airport monitoring work plan in order to submit the final plan to the EPA on time. As the deadline is fast approaching, Mr. Parsons suggested that participants take this opportunity to add or reduce certain aspects of the plan. While most of the parameters of interest to be measured have been discussed; he stated that the monitoring sites and schedule details have to be settled today.

Dennis Quilliam questioned the advisability of ultrafine particle measurements in the absence of an ambient standard. Jean Ospital responded by saying that even though there is no national standard for ultra fine particles, there are some data from the UCLA Supersite Study that may be used later for comparison purposes. Chris Patton inquired where the closest MATES III site would be that can be used to compare the future data. The obvious choice for Van Nuys would be Burbank, while for Santa Monica, there is no nearby MATES III fixed site. The question of measuring odor by Mr. Patton was addressed by Dr. Ospital as an intractable problem due to the current lack of sensitivity of odor sensing devices. Dr. Ospital stated that the study will look at other species that may serve as markers and indicators of airport impact. The question of whether the airport study could be considered as a preliminary health study was addressed by Dr. Ospital. In response, he said that the study to be launched can really be considered as a “gradient study”. It is hoped that the planned multiple parameter measurements at carefully selected sites will indicate the presence or absence of a concentration gradient around the airports. The draft data will be available three months after the end of the monitoring schedule. Dr. Ospital affirmed the AQMD's intentions to communicate with the technical committee and stakeholders, if in the interim a significant and deleterious finding is detected by the laboratory. Councilman Rosendahl requested to get all relevant information from the study to be used as a baseline data for future proposals and strategies. Mr. Parsons responded that all the valid data collected by the study will be entered into U.S. EPA's AQS database and will be available to the public after the study report is submitted to U.S. EPA. Ms. Susan Mearns asked if the data collected can be used for future health study.

The question of sampling at both airports at the same time was raised. Mr. Parsons responded that the lack of sufficient equipment and resources would make it impossible to launch a coordinated monitoring program at both airports.

Councilman Rosendahl promised to look into the prospect of the city of LA to provide a financial support to the study. Mr. Brandon Eaton stated that the Van Nuys Airport administration will have no problem with contract AQMD staff that drive their own cars to service the monitoring sites as long as the proper identifications and other conditions

are met. It was suggested that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AQMD and Van Nuys Airport should include these points.

One potential roadblock was pointed out by Mr. Eaton. This was the possibility that the Air National Guard site may be developed sometime in the future, the exact time of which is unknown. The likelihood, however, of the site being developed before the end of the study is quite small. Mr. Dennis Quilliam emphasized the importance of maintaining the Air National Guard site (site#5) to perform upwind/downwind comparisons with the site #4 located at the Van Nuys Golf course.

### **Santa Monica Airport**

Mr. Sumner Wilson informed the participants that almost all the sites have been finalized for the Santa Monica Airport with the exception of site #7. Mr. Martin Rubin suggested a cul-de-sac and promised to work with the neighbors to find a suitable site. The question of how far away two samples must be located to detect a concentration gradient was addressed by Dr. Jean Ospital. He indicated that previous studies have shown that emissions from freeways drop by 70-80 % within 150 meters. Ideally, multiple locations within a community are preferred for health studies. For example, the Air Resources Board (ARB) and Desert Research Institute (DRI) will be testing passive samplers (about 30 of them) in the Wilmington area and compare the results to traditional samplers. Mr. Sumner Wilson reiterated that getting power and agreement to site #7 is crucial to get it up and running.

The issue of contract AQMD staff was addressed. Every effort would be made to have the same individuals load and unload the samplers. AQMD staff will work with Santa Monica and Los Angeles City to finalize an agreement and/or license.

### **Outreach**

Outreach to residents impacted by the Van Nuys airport would be facilitated by Mr. Brandon Eaton. The Santa Monica airport Commission will be brought up-to-date on the study prior to the start of actual sampling. Mr. Rubin asked if it is too soon to invite an LA Times Environmental reporter to disseminate information about the study. Mr. Parsons suggested waiting at least until sampling starts in October before inviting the news reporter. The goal was to submit the final work plan to U.S. EPA by the end of August. Any input or suggestion should be communicated to Mr. Tom Parsons.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on November 3, 2005 at the Van Nuys Airport. The meeting is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon in the Airport Administration building, located at 16461 Sherman Way, Suite 300 at the northeast corner of Hayvenhurst Pl. and Sherman Way. The meeting room is on the third floor and the parking entrance is off Hayvenhurst, just barely north of Sherman Way. If you're heading north on Hayvenhurst, it would be the very first driveway on your right after you pass Sherman Way. A parking attendant will tell you where to park.