Director’s Message

EXTRA! EXTRA! Hot off the presses, the headline here at Long Beach Airport is the opening of our new Ticketing Lobby and Checked Baggage Inspection System (CBIS) facility. Special thanks are owed to all our Airport employees and stakeholders who have worked diligently to get those projects to completion and organize various ribbon cutting and grand opening celebrations! This month, I’ll be sharing details and photos about that uplifting news, as well as other exciting LGB happenings. –Cynthia Guidry

New Ticketing Lobby and CBIS Facility

We hosted several commemorative events, including a Ribbon Cutting, Community Open House and Employee Luncheon to mark this major milestone. The official opening day was May 4. The projects, representing a combined investment of more than $50 million, are part of the $110 million Phase II - Terminal Area Improvement Program to make strategic pre-security enhancements to the Airport. The work complements the historic terminal and builds upon LGB’s status as a first-class gateway to Southern California. See below for photos of the completed projects and LGB’s celebrations!
LGB Business Partner Spotlight: Quincy Lagrone

This month we’d like to spotlight Quincy Lagrone, Delta Air Lines Station Manager, contracted through Unifi, the largest ground handling and aviation services company in North America. Delta offers direct flights at LGB connecting Long Beach to Salt Lake City.

Q: Can you share a sentence or two about your professional background?
A: My 10-year career has been a pleasant roller coaster ride. It has allowed me to learn, teach and grow while meeting so many wonderful people throughout the country.

Q: How did you end up in the aviation field?
A: I moved to Palm Springs to be an everyday dad to my two daughters, Dominque and Ukari. I was looking to do something different. I had been in sales for the previous five or so years. I walked into the Palm Springs Airport and said I’m going to make the best of this opportunity.

Q: Can you tell us about your business operations at Long Beach Airport?
A: Here at Long Beach Airport, I service Delta Air Lines. We have daily flights to Salt Lake City. Hopefully soon, Delta will expand and offer additional flight service. I have a wonderful and safe operating staff. I can’t thank them enough for the hard work they do daily.

Q: What do you like best about being part of the LGB community?
A: Being a resident of Long Beach and being able to serve this community means so much to me, not to mention being less than a mile from the beach and all the great food this city has to offer. Not bad for a kid from South Central Los Angeles.

Bond Refinancing Generates Cash for Airport

LGB’s Finance division closed in on the final details of an effort to refinance existing 2009-2010 Airport bonds, which will generate significant financial savings. Combined with the issuance of new debt, up to $30 million will be available to support the completion of the four remaining components of Phase II of the Terminal Area Improvement Program. The existing bonds will be paid within the same time period (2040) and the new debt issued will be repaid by 2047, keeping LGB on a strong financial footing. The Ticketing Lobby and new CBIS facility could not have happened without the resequencing of projects during the pandemic to ease cash flow. This is great news for the future of our modernization efforts!

Coloring Sheet Contest Art Uplifts

New coloring sheets have landed at LGB! The Airport’s “Plane to See” aviation-themed illustration contest garnered more than 100 entries from talented local artists, who submitted uplifting designs that make it “Plane to See” why LGB and its storied aviation history are so special. The coloring sheets are being distributed here at the Airport and can be downloaded online. Prizes of $500 were awarded to six local adult artists for a total of 11 prizes given. Five youth, who attend Cabrillo High School, Marshall Academy of the Arts and Millikan High School also received $500 prizes.
Seen at the Scene

With pandemic restrictions easing, we’ve had a great influx in pent-up demand for tours of LGB by local groups. Recently, kids from Hebrew Academy of Long Beach enjoyed posing in front of a fire truck, and members of Jack and Jill of America’s Long Beach Chapter met with our therapy dogs.
Airlines Realign in the Concourse

In April, our Engineering and Operations teams completed a much-anticipated realignment of airline activity in the boarding lounges and aircraft gate areas. To make better use of the facility’s design, Southwest Airlines moved all their flight activity to the North Concourse, and Hawaiian Airlines took over Gates 1 and 2 in the South Concourse. This repositioning makes better use of our dining and retail amenities for customers and is more aligned with the available space in the gate area hold rooms. The move also included some back of house relocation of the airlines’ ground handling and ramp offices. This was a big milestone for LGB!

Taxiway L Update

Taxiway L is adjacent to Runway 12-30 and serves as the primary taxiway for all departing commercial aircraft. The reconstruction project is critical to the safety of our airfield and a tremendous amount of work is currently underway in three of the five phase areas. Placement of Cement Treated Base (CTB) concrete was completed last month in the Phase V area. And Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) placement started in Phases I, II and V areas. Rebar and structural steel installation was completed, and concrete placement began for the Lakewood Tunnel approach. Demolition of existing electrical was completed in both Phase I and V areas. And electrical line installation is ongoing in Phases I and II.
Rebar and structural steel placement for the Lakewood Tunnel approach

Concrete placement for the Lakewood Tunnel approach

Electrical line placement at Taxiway L1 and L2 connectors
Runway Safety Team in Long Beach

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Runway Safety Team (RSAT) was in town last month and gave high praise to Long Beach Airport! The week started with a pilot users forum, in which LGB staff participated along with the air traffic control tower and FAA flight standards office. RSAT then toured the Airport with Operations on both daytime and nighttime inspection. This was followed by a full regional meeting. Attendees discussed several safety topics and received a presentation about the safety improvements related to the implementation of the airfield changes that were a result of an airfield geometry study at LGB a few years back. Thank you for doing your part to maintain safety on the airfield!

New Lease Generates Revenue for LGB

Since 2015, Mercedes-Benz (MBZ) has operated a 1.1 million-square-foot facility at the 52-acre former Douglas Aircraft Company site as it’s Long Beach Vehicle Preparation Center (VPC). The VPC is one of just four such facilities in the United States. From 2016 to April 2021, MBZ also leased a portion of LGB’s surface parking lot on a month-to-month basis at East Wardlow Road and Globemaster Way for vehicle storage in support of its VPC. With the recent recovery in the automobile sales industry, a new lease for the entire 11-acre surface lot has been negotiated with MBZ to support its current need for vehicle storage. The lease will generate an annual revenue of $1.4 million.

Blood Drive June 15

Long Beach Airport, in partnership with the American Red Cross, will hold a blood drive on June 15, 2022. It will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the historic terminal, 2nd Floor Event Space. To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800.RED CROSS (800.733.2767).
Save the Date: Plane Pull

Mark your calendar for the in-person return of the Special Olympics Southern California Plane Pull fundraiser at Long Beach Airport, scheduled for Saturday, September 24. Teams will test their strength, stamina and endurance when they pull a 124,000-pound jet 12 feet. Support Special Olympic athletes: form or join a team; sponsorships available.

March Commercial Flight Activity

Commercial passenger traffic at Long Beach Airport in March 2022 surpassed the previous month and doubled the number of March 2020. LGB served 270,210 passengers in March. Total air cargo carried by aircraft, both inbound and outbound, increased 25.8% in March 2022 compared to the same time the previous year; 1,301 tons passed through the Airport in March 2022.

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COVID-19 Masking Requirements

On April 29, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services issued an updated Health Order for control of COVID-19, to align with the new Los Angeles County Health Order requiring masks in all public transit and indoor public transportation hubs. The updated Health Order requires masking for everyone two years of age and older, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status, on public transit within the city. This includes wearing masks on commuter trains, buses, taxis and rideshares. Masking continues to be required in indoor public transportation hubs including airport terminals and any other indoor area that serves as a transportation hub.

Airport Administrative Offices Holiday Closures

Long Beach Airport administrative offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. Airport operations, security and building services will continue uninterrupted.