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Public Comment Topic	Please preserve SOAR funding for Pacific City State Airport (KPC)

Public Comment

Dear Oregon Department of Aviation Board,

My name is Erin, and I co-host a small vacation rental near Pacific City State Airport that welcomes visiting pilots. My family has come to know this airport well, and my young child has grown up watching planes land just down the road. I'm writing to ask you to reconsider withdrawing the \$1.5 million in SOAR funding approved for KPC this past April.

Part of the funding was set aside to fix a drainage system that floods during winter King Tides, sending water onto Rueppell Avenue and putting neighbors at risk. It would also fund an emergency access road, so LifeFlight and other emergency vehicles no longer have to cross private property to reach the airstrip. These aren't upgrades. They're basic safety needs that have waited years for a fix.

I understand ODAV is facing a real budget shortfall, and I don't take that lightly. But Friends of Pacific City State Airport spent eight years working toward this grant, and ODAV has a Memorandum of Understanding with them that seems to have been overlooked in this decision. I'd ask that the Board honor that relationship and give the community a chance to weigh in before any funds are pulled back. Tillamook County's permit for these repairs expires in October 2027, after which new FEMA floodplain rules will make this work much harder to do.

Pacific City State Airport was recognized last year as one of just eight national general aviation treasures by FAA Safety Briefing magazine. It's also become part of daily life here, for pilots, for local businesses, and for kids who run outside every time they hear a plane coming in. I hope the Board will keep the SOAR funding in place and work with this community, rather than against it.

Thank you for your time and for considering these comments.

Sincerely,
Erin Gorski
Pacific City, Oregon

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No
