

From: [Christian DiBenedetto](#)
To: [Oregon Department of Aviation](#)
Subject: Public comment — keep SOAR funding for Pacific City State Airport (KPFC)
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026 12:32:01 PM

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Dear Members of the State Aviation Board,

I urge you to keep the \$1.375 million in SOAR funding for Pacific City State Airport at your October 1st meeting.

My name is Christian DiBenedetto. I am a private pilot based at Twin Oaks Airpark (7S3) in Hillsboro, Oregon, flying a Van's RV-7A. I fly into Pacific City regularly, land, walk the beach, eat at local restaurants, and fly home. Every visit puts my money into Pacific City's restaurants and businesses, and I am far from the only visiting pilot doing exactly that. We are considering purchasing a second home in Pacific City because of the airport.

It is my favorite place to take people who have never been to the Pacific Ocean before. They are amazed by the proximity of the airport to the ocean. They all dip a foot or finger in the water, and they love the horseback riding on the beach.

A few points:

1. The airport's safety record speaks for itself: zero fatalities in 75 years. "Encroached and unsafe" does not match the record.
2. This project cannot be broken into phases. FEMA's new NFIP floodplain rules for Oregon, a "no net loss" standard requiring mitigation for any loss of flood storage, new pavement, or vegetation removal, take full effect in 2027. Splitting the work means later phases face far higher costs and hurdles. The drainage fix, emergency access road, and expanded airplane parking must happen now or not at all.
3. Two of the three funded items, drainage and an emergency access road, are safety improvements. Clawing back the money on safety grounds while killing the safety fixes makes little sense.
4. The land was donated in 1951 by 22 individuals and Tillamook County to the state for a public airstrip. It should stay one.

Please let the SOAR funding stand.

Respectfully,
Christian DiBenedetto
Private pilot, based 7S3
City of residence: North Plains, Oregon
[REDACTED]