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Public Comment Topic	Pacific City State Airport - SOAR Funding

Public Comment

Please do not claw back the \$1.375 million in SOAR funding that you committed to Pacific City State Airport in April 2026. The Friends of Pacific City State Airport carries much of the cost and responsibility to maintain the airport at this time as per our legal agreement, an MOU, with ODAV. The agency and our nonprofit has known for years that the airport has challenges but together we can make it safer. ODAV leadership has continually assured us that our airport would be next in line for SOAR funding for Cycle 6 after we complained that our Cycle 3 funding was being withheld. The coastal legislators were assured during a December 2024 meeting with both Kenji and Tony that the airport would be funded in 2025, but it wasn't. Now we're in line for a 2027 grant. The agency and its Board repeatedly misspeak to airport stakeholders. Our communities are put at additional risk as the agency neglects the critical repairs that we cannot do as volunteers. This airport isn't just a piece of property to manage in a way that reduces risk. It is an important asset for a community and a component of a larger coastal airport system.

Please ask yourself, why are there 28 State-owned airports? Why haven't these airports been transferred to other governmental bodies? It is because other public bodies can't afford to take them on, and it is the responsibility of ODAV to make sure that these airports don't close and are safe for use. Selling or transferring a public airport to a private organization with the stipulation for public use will end in failure, as demonstrated by statistics. Perhaps you should ask yourself why you continue to spend tens of thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of time fighting to expand Aurora State Airport when the City and the nearby housing developments don't want it. Pacific City residents want the airport and we have to fight to keep it open and safe. Clearly, this doesn't make sense to people who depend on this emergency resource. Stay true to your mission.

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