

Fw: Opposition to taking of drain-field

From Brandy Steffen <brandy.steffen@jla.us.com>

Date Mon 2025-01-06 8:52 AM

To Jen Winslow <Jen.winslow@jla.us.com>; Ashley Balsom <ashley.balsom@jla.us.com>

 3 attachments (8 MB)

Aurora State Airport Utility Easement (rec'd) 4823-5868-1777 1.pdf; Aurora State Airport Non-Commercial Site Lease (exec'd) 4828-2404-6256 2.docx; 2023 HDSE to ODAV notify renew rev 1.docx;

BRANDY STEFFEN | JLA PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Senior Program Manager + Partner

She/Her » [Why pronouns matter](#)

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Meeting + email hours 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday » Administrative-only hours Friday

[Check my availability](#) » [Schedule a 30 minute check-in](#)

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Please note: I will be on vacation, without access to my email, starting Friday, 01/24/25 and returning Monday, 02/03/25.

From: THOMAS Alex R <Alex.R.THOMAS@odav.oregon.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 3:48 PM

To: Brandy Steffen <brandy.steffen@jla.us.com>; Samantha Peterson <SPeterson@CenturyWest.com>; BEACH Anthony <Anthony.BEACH@odav.oregon.gov>

Subject: FW: Opposition to taking of drain-field

Hello,

Good afternoon. Please include within the UAO record.

ALEX THOMAS

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION (ODAV)

POLICY, PLANNING, & PROGRAMS MANAGER



CELL 971-375-2357

EMAIL Alex.R.Thomas@ODAV.Oregon.Gov

SALEM, OR 97302

WWW.OREGON.GOV/AVIATION

[Schedule a meeting with me.](#)

[Schedule a meeting with any of the programs listed below.](#)

Alternative Contacts:

COAR Grants: Grants@ODAV.Oregon.Gov

Procurement / Contracts: Contracts@ODAV.Oregon.Gov

Pavement (PEP/PMP): Pavement@ODAV.Oregon.Gov

Land Use / Tall Structure: LandUse@ODAV.Oregon.Gov

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From: Helbling, Tony <helbling@wilsonconst.com>
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 at 14:57
To: THOMAS Alex R <Alex.R.THOMAS@odav.oregon.gov>
Cc: Doris Gulden <manager@secapcoa.com>
Subject: Opposition to taking of drain-field

You don't often get email from helbling@wilsonconst.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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December 23, 2024

Alex Thomas
Planning and Programs Manager
Oregon Department of Aviation
3040 25th St SE
Salem, OR 97602
Alex.R.Thomas@odav.oregon.gov

Re: Opposition Removal of HDSE Drain-field

Mr. Thomas,

Please enter into the record my fervent opposition to the proposed "Preferred Alternative" for the Aurora State Airport Master Plan, currently in development, to include and especially, opposition to the removal of HDSE's Drain-field.

This alternative is diametrically opposed to Oregon Revised Statute 836.642, promoting development at Oregon's rural airports, specifically in this case, Aurora State Airport. The plan calls for the destruction of many jobs and the taking of private property due to misguided planning, not required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Private investors brought development and jobs to the airport at the invitation of the State of Oregon, now to be told the investment is not worthy of protection by the very agency charged to do so in the statute. Furthermore, the agency plans to destroy this investment while openly declaring the intent to

build new hangars in their places and then commercially lease those properties. This plan is as unfathomable as it is immoral.

Many of these properties are served by HDSE's state-of-the-art septic system which includes a drain field on the south end of the runway. The drain-field was installed with the knowledge and approval of ODAV and the FAA. HDSE has an easement in perpetuity as well as a valid lease that is in it's first of two, five-year extensions which began in August of 2024. (See Attached)

It is clear to us a different approach could achieve the much-needed safety improvement of a runway extension as was admitted to by the FAA's Tim House during the last Public Advisory Committee meeting. This approach would show progress toward C-II compliance rather than an "all or nothing" approach as called for in the proposed Preferred Alternative. This approach could include the modification of the drain-field to be brought into compliance with FAA standards for an allowed "utility" within the Runway Safety Area.

We are specifically asking for ODAV and its consultants to tap the brakes on this process so that a public, face-to-face, work-session type meeting could be held with all the PAC members, ODAV staff, their consultants as well as the FAA, and be open to the public. At this meeting, we could JOINTLY and FREELY discuss ideas and options with a common goal of developing a plan that does not destroy jobs and private property investment. We could work together in the spirit of ORS 836.642, 3(e) "... protect investment" rather than destroy it.

Sincerely,

Tony Helbling
President
HDSE Board of Directors

CC: File/Doris Gulden