



1006 E. Jackson St.
Medford, OR 97504
541.773.2872
www.buildso.org

September 21, 2026
Mayor and Members of the Medford City Council
City of Medford
411 West 8th Street
Medford, Oregon 97501

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Builders Association of Southern Oregon (BASO), I am writing to ask the Medford City Council to take a closer look at the stormwater fees currently being charged to the Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport (MFR), as well as the proposed additional fees tied to airfield pavement.

Our airport is not simply another property in Medford. It is a regional economic asset that supports businesses, families, tourism, construction, workforce recruitment, healthcare, and communities throughout Southern Oregon. Costs placed on the Airport affect airline service, fares, future investment, and the Airport's ability to continue improving a facility that serves the entire region. We are particularly concerned that the Airport is already paying approximately \$14,000 per month for landside impervious surfaces while also operating its own airfield stormwater system. The Airport has invested more than \$5 million in a dedicated treatment facility that discharges directly into Upton Creek. Adding additional stormwater charges to airfield pavement raises a reasonable question: is the Airport being charged for infrastructure and services it is already providing and maintaining at its own expense?

There is also a broader issue of consistency. Public roads, bridges, runways, and taxiways all serve the same fundamental purpose: moving people and commerce. The City does not assess its public streets and bridges in the same manner as ordinary commercial property. Those transportation surfaces are treated as part of the public infrastructure system. We believe the same principle deserves consideration at the Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport, particularly when the Airport independently manages the stormwater generated by its airfield.

Southern Oregon competes every day for employers, investment, visitors, and reliable air service. Eugene and Redmond airports do not face the same type of assessment described here. We should be looking for practical ways to strengthen our region's competitive position while ensuring that necessary public infrastructure is responsibly funded.

BASO respectfully asks the Council to review the existing stormwater fee charged to the Airport, reconsider the proposed additional fee on airfield pavement, and work directly with Airport leadership to develop an approach that recognizes the stormwater infrastructure the Airport already owns, operates, and maintains. This issue is bigger than one fee. A strong airport supports a strong regional economy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joey Minear
Chief Executive Officer
Builders Association of Southern Oregon