
Public Comment on SGU Airport PPR Policy (Resident/Tenant/Pilot)

1 message

Andreas [REDACTED]
To: publiccomments@sgcityutah.gov

Tue, Sep 1, 2026 at 8:42 PM

Dear Mayor Hughes, City Council and Airport Staff,

I'm a St. George resident, a pilot based at St. George Regional Airport, and a tenant. I'm unable to attend the September 1, 2026 open house, so I'm submitting this comment in writing and asking that it be included in the public record.

I want to express my support for the Southern Utah Aviation Association and its Governmental Affairs Committee. I understand the current Prior Permission Required (PPR) system was put in place for safety during the airfield renovation, and I appreciate the work the city has done to complete those projects.

My position is simple: the PPR should end when the construction that justified it is finished. It is a temporary safety measure, not a long-term operating model.

I want to raise my experience specifically. Earlier in 2026, I was flying when the weather deteriorated and SGU was the closest suitable airport. Because of the PPR, I could not treat SGU as an alternate and had to divert. I understand a pilot can declare an emergency and land anywhere, but that is not the issue. The PPR removes SGU as an airport a pilot can plan on, which means the decision gets pushed later and the options get worse before anything is declared. A restriction adopted for safety during construction has, in my experience, created a safety problem.

If the city is considering keeping the PPR in place beyond the completion of construction, I would respectfully ask that this be stated publicly, that a defined end date be set, and that the specific safety basis be explained and weighed against the safety cost I've described. I'd also note that the city has obligations under its FAA grant assurances regarding reasonable public access.

Thank you for your time and for the investment the city continues to make in SGU. I'm glad to discuss any of this further.

Respectfully,

Andreas Echavez

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