

Capt. Jeremy Lowe
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December 18, 2023

CA Board of Pilot Commissioners
Mr. Allen Garfinkle
Executive Director

Subject: Capt. J. Lowe - Resignation and Surrender of State License

Dear Allen,

Please accept this letter as notification of my resignation from the San Francisco Bar Pilots and surrender of my State License No. 2588-06, effective January 1, 2024. I am leaving SFBP to enter the training program with the Tampa Bay Pilots (FL).

As a mid-career pilot, I would like the Commission to know that this is not a decision I came to lightly. Prior to becoming a pilot, I was captain for a large US oil company. It was a great career; but it required me to spend half the year away from home and my family. One of my primary motivations in becoming a pilot was to be home with my family and a daily presence in my daughter's life.

In 2015, I moved my family to the Bay Area from Tampa, FL with every intent of making a home here and having a long, fulfilling piloting career in the San Francisco Bay. However, the realities of recovering financially from the BOPC Training Program, followed by significantly reduced pilot income, and the high cost of living put considerable strain on our finances. For example, the real estate market, for a mid-career professional moving to the Bay Area from out of state, is a significant barrier to overcome. Half the house costs twice as much compared to just about anywhere else in the country. The standard of living and quality of life we experienced as a result of our move to the Bay Area was considerably degraded and after 3 years of trying to make it work, my family made the decision to move back to Tampa. Becoming a "commuter" pilot once again created long absences from my family and I therefore made the decision to sit for the Florida Pilot Exam and apply to the Tampa Bay Pilots.

Despite having to start over as a trainee pilot, this decision is the right decision for me and my family. Financially, we will be significantly better off, and we will be able to enjoy a better standard of living than had I remained a San Francisco Bar Pilot.

While this decision is a personal decision, I wanted to make the Commission aware of the circumstances that led me to it. My experience is not unique, the financial impacts are similar on all BOPC trainees and licensees. I do believe that pilot income and cost of living discrepancies between the Bay Area and the rest of the country make the BOPC training program less competitive and results in more pilots living out of state or long distances from the pilotage grounds. This negatively impacts the health of the pilotage system and I would urge the Commission to take these issues under consideration when evaluating the training program and setting pilotage rates.

Sincerely,
Capt. Jeremy Lowe