

Andrew Swick
Aviation Accident Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: September 17, 2023

Subject: WPR23FA344, Record of Memorandum

Contact: Fernando Mendez

Mr. Mendez has a residence on Lake Sammamish and lives a few properties over from the accident pilot's residence. He stated that on the day of the accident he was at his home and heard the accident airplane's engine increase in rpm, looked up to see it taxiing about midway out on the lake. The airplane had turned southeast while taxiing and started its departure. The airplane climbed a little bit during departure then hit a wake. It bounced twice then went nose-down into the lake. Mr. Mendez didn't hear anything unusual with the sound of the airplane and usually hears the accident airplane operating on the lake.

Mr. Mendez responded to the accident site in his boat that is docked at his property. As he arrived, the airplane was inverted, and the airplane's passenger exited the airplane and was holding onto the wing. He helped the passenger onto the boat's swim platform, put a life jacket on the passenger and called 911.

Mr. Mendez often windsurfs on the lake. He stated that when the wind is calm, just like on the day of the accident, the lake swell in the middle of the lake is not visible. The lake swell is a result of the boat activity near the southside of the lake.