



Joshua Cawthra  
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator  
Office of Aviation Safety - Western Pacific Region

**Date:** January 25, 2024  
**Subject:** WPR24FA073  
**Contact:** Melissa Richter - Witness

During a telephone conversation, Ms. Richter stated she was at the Moss Beach Distillery, on the patio, just about finishing dinner, hear an airplane, that sounded really close, it was "sputtering" and "dipping" and "turning." She compared it to "coughing" and that the airplane picked up speed, and continued to watch it, pulled up her phone, heard engine cut out, banked in, but the airplane dropped, and they lost visual sight of the airplane's lights. Felt they were trying to make it to the airport. She added that it appeared that the airplane flew toward the ocean but she did not see or hear it enter the water. Ms. Richter stated that she took a photo of the airplane, where you could see the lights only of the airplane.



Figure 1: Witness provided photo.