

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES,  
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE STATE OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM FOR ) FINAL ORDER A  
COMPENSATION UNDER ORS 197.352 ) CLAIM NO. M129993  
(BALLOT MEASURE 37) OF )  
Joyce M. Morrell, CLAIMANT )

Claimant: Joyce M. Morrell (the Claimant)

Property: Township 7N, Range 8W, Section 7, Tax lot 1100  
Township 7N, Range 8W, Section 18, Tax lot 2100  
Clatsop County (the Property)

Claim: The demand for compensation and any supporting information received from the Claimant by the State of Oregon (the Claim).

Claimant submitted the Claim to the State of Oregon under ORS 197.352. Under OAR 125-145-0010 *et seq.*, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) referred the Claim to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) as the regulating entity. This order is based on the record herein, including the Findings and Conclusions set forth in the Final Staff Report and Recommendation of DLCD (the DLCD Report) attached to and by this reference incorporated into this order.

ORDER

The Claim is approved as to laws administered by DLCD and the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for the reasons set forth in the DLCD Report, and subject to the following terms:

1. In lieu of compensation under ORS 197.352, the State of Oregon will not apply the following laws to Joyce Morrell's division of the 59.6-acre subject property into two approximately 4-acre parcels and 51 approximately 1-acre parcels and to her development of a dwelling on each resulting undeveloped parcel: applicable provisions of Goals 3, 4 and 14, ORS 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6, and 33. These land use regulations will not apply to Joyce Morrell only to the extent necessary to allow her to use the subject property for the use described in this report, and only to the extent that use was permitted when she acquired the property on January 12, 1972.
2. The action by the State of Oregon provides the state's authorization to Joyce Morrell to use the property for the use described in this report, subject to the standards in effect on January 12, 1972.
3. To the extent that any law, order, deed, agreement or other legally enforceable public or private requirement provides that the subject property may not be used without a permit, license

or other form of authorization or consent, the order will not authorize the use of the property unless Joyce Morrell first obtains that permit, license or other form of authorization or consent. Such requirements may include, but are not limited to: a building permit, a land use decision, a "permit," as defined in ORS 215.402 or 227.160, other permits or authorizations from local, state or federal agencies and restrictions on the use of the subject property imposed by private parties.

4. Any use of the subject property by Joyce Morrell under the terms of the order will remain subject to the following laws: (a) those laws not specified in (1) above; (b) any laws enacted or enforced by a public entity other than the Commission or the department; and (c) those laws not subject to ORS 197.352 including, without limitation, those laws exempted under ORS 197.352(3).

5. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing terms and conditions, in order Joyce Morrell to use the subject property, it may be necessary for her to obtain a decision under ORS 197.352 from a city and/or county and/or metropolitan service district that enforces land use regulations applicable to the property. Nothing in this order relieves Joyce Morrell from the necessity of obtaining a decision under ORS 197.352 from a local public entity that has jurisdiction to enforce a land use regulation applicable to her use of the subject property.

This Order is entered by the Director of the DLCD as a final order of DLCD and the Land Conservation and Development Commission under ORS 197.352, OAR 660-002-0010(8), and OAR 125, division 145, and by the Administrator for the State Services Division of the DAS as a final order of DAS under ORS 197.352, OAR 125, division 145, and ORS 293.

FOR DLCD AND THE LAND  
CONSERVATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:



Lane Shetterly, Director  
DLCD  
Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2007.

FOR the DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:



David Hartwig, Administrator  
DAS, State Services Division  
Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2007.

## **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL OR OTHER JUDICIAL RELIEF**

You are entitled, or may be entitled, to judicial remedies including the following:

1. Judicial review under ORS 183.484: Judicial review under ORS 183.484 may be obtained by filing a petition for review within 60 days from the service of this order. A petition for judicial review under ORS 183.484 may be filed in the Circuit Court for Marion County or the Circuit Court in the county in which you reside.
2. A cause of action under ORS 197.352 (Measure 37 (2004)): If a land use regulation continues to apply to the subject property more than 180 days after the present owner of the property has made written demand for compensation under ORS 197.352, the present owner of the property, or any interest therein, shall have a cause of action in the circuit court in which the real property is located.

(Copies of the documents that comprise the record are available for review at the Department's office at 635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97301-2540)

### **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

The Oregon Department of Justice has advised the Department of Land Conservation and Development that “[i]f the current owner of the real property conveys the property before the new use allowed by the public entity is established, then the entitlement to relief will be lost.”

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES,  
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE STATE OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM FOR ) FINAL ORDER B  
COMPENSATION UNDER ORS 197.352 ) CLAIM NO. M129993  
(BALLOT MEASURE 37) OF )  
Wes E. and Melissa J. Padgett, CLAIMANTS )

Claimants: Wes E. and Melissa J. Padgett (the Claimants)

Property: Township 7N, Range 8W, Section 7, Tax lot 1100  
Township 7N, Range 8W, Section 18, Tax lot 2100  
Clatsop County (the property)

Claim: The demand for compensation and any supporting information received  
from the Claimants by the State of Oregon (the Claim).


Claimants submitted the Claim to the State of Oregon under ORS 197.352. Under OAR 125-145-0010 *et seq.*, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) referred the Claim to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) as the regulating entity. This order is based on the record herein, including the Findings and Conclusions set forth in the Final Staff Report and Recommendation of DLCD (the DLCD Report) attached to and by this reference incorporated into this order.

ORDER

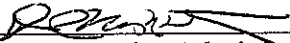
The Claim is denied as to laws administered by DLCD and the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for the reasons set forth in the DLCD Report.

This Order is entered by the Director of the DLCD as a final order of DLCD and the Land Conservation and Development Commission under ORS 197.352, OAR 660-002-0010(8), and OAR chapter 125, division 145, and by the Administrator for the State Services Division of the DAS as a final order of DAS under ORS 197.352, OAR chapter 125, division 145, and ORS chapter 293.

FOR DLCD AND THE LAND  
CONSERVATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

  
Lane Shetterly, Director  
DLCD  
Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2007.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

  
David Hartwig, Administrator  
DAS, State Services Division  
Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2007.

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL OR OTHER JUDICIAL RELIEF**

You are entitled, or may be entitled, to the following judicial remedies:

1. Judicial review under ORS 183.484: Judicial review under ORS 183.484 may be obtained by filing a petition for review within 60 days from the service of this order. A petition for judicial review under ORS 183.484 may be filed in the Circuit Court for Marion County or the Circuit Court in the county in which you reside.
2. A cause of action under ORS 197.352 (Measure 37 (2004)): If a land use regulation continues to apply to the subject property more than 180 days after the present owner of the property has made written demand for compensation under ORS 197.352, the present owner of the property, or any interest therein, shall have a cause of action in the circuit court in which the real property is located.

(Copies of the documents that comprise the record are available for review at the Department's office at 635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97301-2540)

**ORS 197.352 (BALLOT MEASURE 37) CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION**

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
Final Staff Report and Recommendation**

March 2, 2007

**STATE CLAIM NUMBER:** M129993

**NAMES OF CLAIMANTS:** Joyce M. Morrell  
Wes E. and Melissa J. Padgett

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 90212 Lillenas Road  
Astoria, Oregon 97103

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION:** Township 7N, Range 8W  
Section 7: tax lot 1100  
Section 18: tax lot 2100  
Clatsop County<sup>1</sup>

**DATE RECEIVED BY DAS:** September 7, 2006

**180-DAY DEADLINE:** March 6, 2007

**I. SUMMARY OF CLAIM**

The claimants, Joyce Morrell and Wes and Melissa Padgett, seek compensation in the amount of \$2,805,000 for the reduction in fair market value as a result of land use regulations that are alleged to restrict the use of certain private real property. The claimants desire compensation or the right to divide the 59.6-acre subject property into two approximately 4-acre parcels and 51 approximately 1-acre parcels and to develop a dwelling on each resulting undeveloped parcel.<sup>2</sup> The subject property is located north of Nehalem Highway 202 at 90212 and 90254 Lillenas Road, near Astoria, in Clatsop County. (See claim.)

**II. SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the findings and conclusions set forth below, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (the department) has determined that the claim is valid in part. Department staff

---

<sup>1</sup> The subject property includes two tax lots. Tax lot 1100 consists of 26.06 acres, and tax lot 2100 consists of 33.54 acres.

<sup>2</sup> The claim also indicates that the claimants desire to sell the newly created parcels for development. In effect, the claimants request that a decision of the department to "not apply" (waive) certain laws as set forth in this report be transferable with the property. ORS 197.352 only authorizes a state agency to waive a law in order to allow the current owner a use of the property permitted at the time that owner acquired the property. A determination of transferability is beyond the scope of relief that the department may grant under ORS 197.352. The Oregon Department of Justice has advised the department that "[i]f the current owner of the real property conveys the property before a new use allowed by the public entity is established, then the entitlement to relief will be lost."

recommends that, in lieu of compensation, the requirements of the following state laws enforced by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (the Commission) or the department not apply to Joyce Morrell's division of the 59.6-acre subject property into two approximately 4-acre parcels and 51 approximately 1-acre parcels and to her development of a dwelling on each resulting undeveloped parcel: applicable provisions of Statewide Planning Goals 3 (Agricultural Lands), 4 (Forest Lands) and 14 (Urbanization), ORS 215 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 660, divisions 6, and 33. These laws will not apply to Joyce Morrell only to the extent necessary to allow her to use the subject property for the use described in this report, and only to the extent that use was permitted when she acquired the property in 1972.

The department has further determined that the claim is not valid as to Wes and Melissa Padgett because they are not owners of the subject property. (See the complete recommendation in Section VI. of this report.)

### **III. COMMENTS ON THE CLAIM**

#### **Comments Received**

On December 14, 2006, pursuant to OAR 125-145-0080, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) provided written notice to the owners of surrounding properties. According to DAS, no written comments were received in response to the 10-day notice.

### **IV. TIMELINESS OF CLAIM**

#### **Requirement**

ORS 197.352(5) requires that a written demand for compensation be made:

1. For claims arising from land use regulations enacted prior to the effective date of Measure 37 (December 2, 2004), within two years of that effective date, or the date the public entity applies the land use regulation as an approval criteria to an application submitted by the owner, whichever is later; or
2. For claims arising from land use regulations enacted after the effective date of Measure 37 (December 2, 2004), within two years of the enactment of the land use regulation, or the date the owner of the property submits a land use application in which the land use regulation is an approval criteria, whichever is later.

#### **Findings of Fact**

This claim was submitted to DAS on September 7, 2006, for processing under OAR 125, division 145. The claim identifies Clatsop County Land and Water Development and Use Ordinances and provisions of ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, as the basis for the claim. Only laws that were enacted or adopted prior to December 2, 2004, are the basis for this claim.

## **Conclusions**

The claim has been submitted within two years of the effective date of Measure 37 (December 2, 2004), based on land use regulations enacted or adopted prior to December 2, 2004, and is therefore timely filed.

## **V. ANALYSIS OF CLAIM**

### **1. Ownership**

ORS 197.352 provides for payment of compensation or relief from specific laws for “owners,” as that term is defined in ORS 197.352. ORS 197.352(11)(C) defines “owner,” as “the present owner of the property, or any interest therein.”

### **Findings of Fact**

Claimant Joyce Morrell acquired the subject property on January 12, 1972, as reflected by a warranty deed included with the claim. The Clatsop County Assessor’s Office confirms Joyce Morrell’s current ownership of the subject property.

Wes and Melissa Padgett are identified on the claim form as claimants and assert that they “reside in farm help dwelling.” However, they do not establish they have any ownership interest in the subject property, and there is no other indication in the claim or county records to establish their ownership of the property.

### **Conclusions**

Claimant Joyce Morrell is an “owner” of the subject property, as that term is defined by ORS 197.352(11)(C), as of January 12, 1972. Claimants Wes and Melissa Padgett are not owners of the subject property.

### **2. The Laws That are the Basis for This Claim**

In order to establish a valid claim, ORS 197.352(1) requires, in part, that a law must restrict the claimants’ use of private real property in a manner that reduces the fair market value of the property relative to how the property could have been used at the time the claimants or a family member acquired the property.

### **Findings of Fact**

The claim indicates that the claimants desire to divide the 59.6-acre subject property into two approximately 4-acre parcels and 51 approximately 1-acre parcels and to develop a dwelling on each resulting undeveloped parcel, and that the desired use is not allowed under current land use regulations.

The claim is based generally on the applicable provisions of state law that require mixed farm-forest zoning and restrict uses on land zoned mixed farm-forest. The subject property is zoned Agriculture and Forestry (AF-80), which is a mixed agricultural and forest land zone, as required

by Goal 4 and the implementing provisions of OAR 660-006-0050 (effective on February 5, 1990), subsequently amended on March 1, 1994, to comply with the provisions of House Bill 3661 (Chapter 792, Oregon Laws 1993).

Under OAR 660-006-0050, all the uses permitted under Goals 3 and 4 are allowed in mixed agriculture and forest zones except that for dwellings, either the Goal 3 or 4 standards are applicable based on the predominant use of the tract on January 1, 1993.<sup>3</sup> Depending on the predominant use on that date, the property is subject to either the requirements for dwellings applicable under exclusive farm use zoning required by Goal 3 and OAR 660, division 33, or forest zone provisions required by Goal 4 and OAR 660, division 6.

For land divisions, OAR 660-006-0055 authorizes the creation of new parcels based on the standards applicable to farm or forest zones that implement the 80-acre minimum lot size specified in ORS 215.780. Under ORS 215.780(2)(a), the minimum lot size in Clatsop County's AF-80 zone is 80 acres. The subject property cannot be divided into parcels smaller than 80 acres.

Goal 14, which became effective on January 25, 1975, would likely apply to the division of the subject property into parcels less than two acres. Goal 14 generally requires that land outside of urban growth boundaries be used for rural uses.

Claimant Joyce Morrell acquired the subject property on January 12, 1972, prior to the adoption of statewide planning goals and their implementing statutes and regulations. At this time, the subject property was zoned by Clatsop County as Agricultural and Forestry District (A-1), which established a minimum of 10,000 square feet for the creation of new parcels with access to public sewer and water, or a minimum of one-acre parcels without access to public sewer and water.

### **Conclusions**

The current zoning requirements, minimum lot size and dwelling standards established under Goals 4 and 14 and the statutory and rule restrictions under applicable provisions of ORS 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6, and 33, were enacted or adopted after Joyce Morrell acquired the subject property in 1972, and do not allow the desired division and development of the property.

Claimants Wes and Melissa Padgett are not owners of the subject property. Therefore, no state land use regulations restrict their use of the property with the effect of reducing its fair market value.

This report addresses only those state laws that are identified in the claim, or that the department is certain apply to the subject property based on the use that the claimants have identified. There may be other laws that currently apply to Joyce Morrell's use of the subject property, and that may continue to apply to her use of the property, that have not been identified in the claim. In some cases, it will not be possible to know which laws apply to a use of the subject property until there is a specific proposal for that use. When Joyce Morrell seeks a building or development permit to carry out a specific use, it may become evident that other state laws apply to that use.

---

<sup>3</sup> No information was provided to the department regarding the predominant use of the property on January 1, 1993.

### **3. Effect of Regulations on Fair Market Value**

In order to establish a valid claim, ORS 197.352(1) requires that the land use regulations (described in Section V.(2) of this report) must have “the effect of reducing the fair market value of the property, or any interest therein.”

#### **Findings of Fact**

The claim includes an estimate of \$2,805,000 as the reduction in the subject property’s fair market value due to the regulations that restrict the claimants’ desired use of the property. This amount is based on the claimants’ assessment of the property’s value.

#### **Conclusions**

As explained in Section V.(1) of this report, the claimants are Joyce Morrell, who acquired the subject property on January 12, 1972, and Wes and Melissa Padgett, who are not owners of the subject property. Because claimants Wes and Melissa Padgett have no ownership interest in the subject property, they are not entitled to compensation under ORS 197.352. Under ORS 197.352, claimant Joyce Morrell is due compensation for land use regulations that restrict the use of the subject property and have the effect of reducing its fair market value. Based on the findings and conclusions in Section V.(2) of this report, laws enacted or adopted since Joyce Morrell acquired the subject property restrict her desired use of the property. The claimants estimate that the effect of the regulations on the fair market value of the subject property is a reduction of \$2,805,000.

Without an appraisal or other documentation, it is not possible to substantiate the specific dollar amount by which the land use regulations have reduced the fair market value of the subject property. Nevertheless, based on the evidence in the record for this claim, the department determines the fair market value of the subject property has been reduced to some extent as a result of land use regulations enforced by the Commission or the department.

### **4. Exemptions Under ORS 197.352(3)**

ORS 197.352 does not apply to certain land use regulations. In addition, under ORS 197.352(3), certain types of laws are exempt from ORS 197.352.

#### **Findings of Fact**

The claim is based on state land use regulations that restrict the use of the subject property, including applicable provisions of Goals 3, 4 and 14, ORS 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6, and 33, which Clatsop County has implemented through its AF-80 zone. All of these land use regulations were enacted or adopted after Joyce Morrell acquired the subject property.

#### **Conclusions**

Without a specific development proposal for the subject property, it is not possible for the department to determine all the laws that may apply to a particular use of the property, or

whether those laws may fall under one or more of the exemptions under ORS 197.352. It appears that none of the general statutory, goal and rule restrictions on residential division and development of the subject property were in effect when Joyce Morrell acquired it in 1972. As a result, these laws are not exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E).

Laws in effect when Joyce Morrell acquired the subject property are exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E) and will continue to apply to her use of the property. In addition, the department notes that ORS 215.730 and OAR 660, division 6, particularly OAR 660-006-0029, include standards for siting dwellings in forest zones. The provisions include fire protection standards for dwellings and for surrounding forest zones. ORS 197.352 (3)(B) specifically exempts regulations "restricting or prohibiting activities for the protection of public health and safety, such as fire and building codes. . . ." To the extent they are applicable to the subject property, the siting standards for dwellings in forest zones in ORS 215.730 and OAR 660, division 6, are exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(B).

There may be other laws that continue to apply to Joyce Morrell's use of the subject property that have not been identified in the claim. In some cases, it will not be possible to know which laws apply to a use of the subject property until there is a specific proposal for that use. When Joyce Morrell seeks a building or development permit to carry out a specific use, it may become evident that other state laws apply to that use. In some cases, some of these laws may be exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(A) to (D).

Claimants Wes and Melissa Padgett are not owners of the subject property. Therefore, the issue of whether any land use regulations are exempt is not relevant to their claim.

This report addresses only those state laws that are identified in the claim, or that the department is certain apply to the subject property based on the use that the claimants have identified. Similarly, this report only addresses the exemptions provided for under ORS 197.352(3) that are clearly applicable, given the information provided to the department in the claim. The claimants should be aware that the less information they has provided to the department in the claim, the greater the possibility that there may be additional laws that will later be determined to continue to apply to Joyce Morrell's use of the subject property.

## **VI. FORM OF RELIEF**

ORS 197.352(1) provides for payment of compensation to an owner of private real property if the Commission or the department has enforced one or more laws that restrict the use of the property in a manner that reduces its fair market value. In lieu of compensation, the department may choose to not apply the law in order to allow the present owner to carry out a use of the property permitted at the time the present owner acquired the property. The Commission, by rule, has directed that if the department determines a claim is valid, the Director of the department must provide only non-monetary relief unless and until funds are appropriated by the legislature to pay claims.

### **Findings of Fact**

Based on the findings and conclusions set forth in this report, laws enforced by the Commission or the department do not restrict Wes and Melissa Padgett's use of the subject property because

they are not owners of the subject property. Laws enforced by the Commission or the department do restrict Joyce Morrell's desired use of the subject property. The claim asserts that existing state land use regulations enforced by the Commission or the department have the effect of reducing the fair market value of the subject property by \$2,805,000. However, because the claim does not provide an appraisal or other relevant evidence demonstrating that the land use regulations described in Section V.(2) reduce the fair market value of the subject property, a specific amount of compensation cannot be determined. In order to determine a specific amount of compensation due for this claim, it would also be necessary to verify whether or the extent to which the claimants' desired use of the subject property was allowed under the standards in effect when Joyce Morrell acquired the property. Nevertheless, based on the record for this claim, the department has determined that the laws on which the claim is based have reduced the fair market value of the subject property to some extent.

No funds have been appropriated at this time for the payment of claims. In lieu of payment of compensation, ORS 197.352 authorizes the department to modify, remove or not apply all or parts of certain land use regulations to allow Joyce Morrell to use the subject property for a use permitted at the time she acquired the property on January 12, 1972.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the record, the department recommends that Wes and Melissa Padgett's claim be denied because they are not owners of the subject property. The department further recommends that Joyce Morrell's claim be approved, subject to the following terms:

1. In lieu of compensation under ORS 197.352, the State of Oregon will not apply the following laws to Joyce Morrell's division of the 59.6-acre subject property into two approximately 4-acre parcels and 51 approximately 1-acre parcels and to her development of a dwelling on each resulting undeveloped parcel: applicable provisions of Goals 3, 4 and 14, ORS 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6, and 33. These land use regulations will not apply to Joyce Morrell only to the extent necessary to allow her to use the subject property for the use described in this report, and only to the extent that use was permitted when she acquired the property on January 12, 1972.
2. The action by the State of Oregon provides the state's authorization to Joyce Morrell to use the property for the use described in this report, subject to the standards in effect on January 12, 1972.
3. To the extent that any law, order, deed, agreement or other legally enforceable public or private requirement provides that the subject property may not be used without a permit, license or other form of authorization or consent, the order will not authorize the use of the property unless Joyce Morrell first obtains that permit, license or other form of authorization or consent. Such requirements may include, but are not limited to: a building permit, a land use decision, a "permit," as defined in ORS 215.402 or 227.160, other permits or authorizations from local, state or federal agencies and restrictions on the use of the subject property imposed by private parties.
4. Any use of the subject property by Joyce Morrell under the terms of the order will remain subject to the following laws: (a) those laws not specified in (1) above; (b) any laws enacted or enforced by a public entity other than the Commission or the department; and (c) those laws not subject to ORS 197.352 including, without limitation, those laws exempted under ORS 197.352(3).

5. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing terms and conditions, in order Joyce Morrell to use the subject property, it may be necessary for her to obtain a decision under ORS 197.352 from a city and/or county and/or metropolitan service district that enforces land use regulations applicable to the property. Nothing in this order relieves Joyce Morrell from the necessity of obtaining a decision under ORS 197.352 from a local public entity that has jurisdiction to enforce a land use regulation applicable to her use of the subject property.

#### **VII. COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STAFF REPORT**

The department issued its draft staff report on this claim on February 7, 2007. OAR 125-145 0100(3), provided an opportunity for the claimants or the claimants' authorized agent and any third parties who submitted comments under OAR 125-145-0080 to submit written comments, evidence and information in response to the draft staff report and recommendation. In response to the draft staff report dated February 7, 2007, pursuant to OAR 125-145-0080, on February 14, 2007, the claimants' agent submitted a letter. The Department has considered the comment.