



**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

**ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (MEASURE 49) SUPPLEMENTAL REVIEW
OF MEASURE 37 CLAIM
Preliminary Evaluation**

July 6, 2009

STATE ELECTION NUMBER: E118411B¹

CLAIMANTS: Radah A. Ralston²
513 N 6th Street
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**MEASURE 37 PROPERTY
IDENTIFICATION:** Township 1N, Range 2W, Section 18
Tax lot 1702
Washington County

I. ELECTION

The claimant, Radah Ralston, filed a claim with the state under ORS 197.352 (2005) (Measure 37) on May 11, 2005, for property located at south of NW Scotch Church Road and west of NW Jackson School Road, near Hillsboro, in Washington County. ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (Measure 49) entitles claimants who filed Measure 37 claims to elect supplemental review of their claims. The claimant has elected supplemental review of her Measure 37 claim under Section 6 of Measure 49, which allows the Department of Land Conservation and Development (the department) to authorize up to three home site approvals to qualified claimants.

II. SUMMARY OF PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

Based on the department's preliminary analysis, it appears that the claimant is qualified for one home site approval on the Measure 37 claim property. The claimant's property, including both the Measure 37 claim property and all contiguous property in the same ownership, currently appears to consist of one lot or parcel, which is developed with no dwellings. After taking into account the number of lots, parcels and dwellings currently located on the Measure 37 claim property and the contiguous property under the same ownership, it appears that the home site approval will allow the claimant to establish one dwelling on the Measure 37 claim property.

¹ Claim E118411 has been split into two claims, E118411A and E118411B, because the Measure 37 claim sought relief for two lots or parcels that are not in the same ownership. Claim E118411A addresses the claimants' eligibility for Measure 49 relief on tax lot 800 and E118411B addresses Radah Ralston's relief on tax lot 1702.

² Norman W. Ralston was also a Measure 37 claimant; however, he passed away since the filing of the Measure 37 claim.

III. THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOME SITE APPROVALS FOR WHICH THE CLAIMANT MAY QUALIFY

Under Section 6 of Measure 49, the number of home site approvals authorized by the department cannot exceed the lesser of the following: three; the number stated by the claimant in the election material; or the number described in a Measure 37 waiver issued by the state, or if no waiver was issued, the number of home sites described in the Measure 37 claim filed with the state. The claimant has requested one home site approval in the election material. The Measure 37 waiver issued for this claim describes an unspecified number of home sites. Therefore, the claimant may qualify for a maximum of one home site approval under Section 6 of Measure 49.

IV. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF QUALIFICATION FOR HOME SITE APPROVAL

1. Preliminary Analysis

To qualify for a home site approval under Section 6 of Measure 49, a claimant must have filed a Measure 37 claim for the property with either the state or the county in which the property is located on or before June 28, 2007, and must have filed a Measure 37 claim with both the state and the county before Measure 49 became effective on December 6, 2007. If the state Measure 37 claim was filed after December 4, 2006, the claim must also have been filed in compliance with the provisions of OAR 660-041-0020 then in effect.

The claimant, Radah Ralston, filed a Measure 37 claim, M118411, with the state on May 11, 2005. The claimant filed a Measure 37 claim, 37CL0185, with Washington County on May 13, 2005. The state claim was filed prior to December 4, 2006.

It appears that the claimant timely filed a Measure 37 claim with both the state and Washington County.

In addition to filing a claim with both the state and the county in which the property is located, to qualify for a home site approval under Section 6 of Measure 49 the claimant must establish each of the following:

(a) The Claimant is an Owner of the Property

Measure 49 defines "Owner" as: "(a) The owner of fee title to the property as shown in the deed records of the county where the property is located; (b) The purchaser under a land sale contract, if there is a recorded land sale contract in force for the property; or (c) If the property is owned by the trustee of a revocable trust, the settlor of a revocable trust, except that when the trust becomes irrevocable only the trustee is the owner."

According to the deed and county records submitted by the claimant, Radah Ralston is the settlor of a revocable trust into which she conveyed the Measure 37 claim property and, therefore, is an owner of the property under Measure 49.

(b) All Owners of the Property Have Consented in Writing to the Claim

It appears that the claimant is the sole owner of the property. Therefore, no additional consent is required.

(c) The Measure 37 Claim Property Is Located Entirely Outside Any Urban Growth Boundary and Entirely Outside the Boundaries of Any City

The Measure 37 claim property is located in Washington County, outside the urban growth boundary and outside the city limits of the nearest city, Hillsboro.

(d) One or More Land Use Regulations Prohibit Establishing the Dwelling

As stated in Section III above, the claimant may qualify for up to one home site approval.

The property is currently zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) by Washington County, in accordance with ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, because the property is "agricultural land" as defined by Goal 3. Goal 3 requires agricultural land to be zoned exclusive farm use (EFU). Applicable provisions of ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, enacted or adopted pursuant to Goal 3, provide standards for the establishment of a dwelling in an EFU zone. In general and subject to some exceptions, those standards require that the property be a minimum of 80 acres in size in an EFU zone and generate a minimum annual income from the sale of farm products.

The combined effect of the standards for the establishment of a dwelling in an EFU zone is to prohibit the claimant from establishing a dwelling on the Measure 37 claim property.

(e) The Establishment of the Dwelling Is Not Prohibited by a Land Use Regulation Described in ORS 195.305(3)

ORS 195.305(3) exempts from claims under Measure 49 land use regulations:

- (a) Restricting or prohibiting activities commonly and historically recognized as public nuisances under common law;
- (b) Restricting or prohibiting activities for the protection of public health and safety;
- (c) To the extent the land use regulation is required to comply with federal law; or
- (d) Restricting or prohibiting the use of a property for the purpose of selling pornography or performing nude dancing.

Based on the documentation submitted by the claimant, it does not appear that the establishment of the one home site for which the claimant may qualify on the property would be prohibited by land use regulations described in ORS 195.305(3).

(f) On the Claimant's Acquisition Date, the Claimant Lawfully Was Permitted to Establish at Least the Number of Dwellings on the Property That Are Authorized Under Section 6 of Measure 49

A claimant's acquisition date is "the date the claimant became the owner of the property as shown in the deed records of the county in which the property is located. If there is more than one claimant for the same property under the same claim and the claimants have different acquisition dates, the acquisition date is the earliest of those dates."

Washington County deed records indicate that the claimant acquired the property on January 28, 1974.

On January 28, 1974, the Measure 37 claim property was subject to state statutes and Washington County's General Farm Use (GFU-38) zone. Washington County's GFU-38 zone allowed a farm dwelling as a permitted use. On October 19, 2005, the claimant received a Measure 37 waiver from Washington County for one single-family dwelling on the 7.75 acre property pursuant to the 1973 standards. Based on the findings adopted by Washington County in evaluating the requested single-family dwelling for compliance with the zoning then in effect, the claimant lawfully could have established one home site on the Measure 37 claim property under local zoning on her date of acquisition.

State law in effect when the claimant acquired the property, specifically ORS 197.175(1) and 197.280 (1973 edition), required that counties exercise their planning responsibilities in accordance with the interim land use planning goals set forth in ORS 215.515 (1973 edition). Those interim land use planning goals included: "To preserve the quality of the air, water and land resources of the state"; "To conserve prime farm lands for the production of crops"; "To provide for the orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use"; "To protect life and property in areas subject to floods, landslides and other natural disasters"; and "To develop a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development" ORS 215.515 (1973 edition).

The applicable provisions of the interim goals are furthered by provisions of Section 6 of Measure 49, which limits the number of home sites authorized, and by Section 11(3), which regulates the size and location of lots or parcels on high-value farm or forest land. Measure 49 Section 11(3) requires new parcels on high-value farm or forest land to be no larger than two acres and "clustered so as to maximize suitability of the remnant lot or parcel for farm or forest use."

The claimant seeks through this process only to develop a dwelling on a previously existing vacant lot or parcel. The relevant provisions of ORS chapter 197 and ORS 215.515 would not have prohibited the county from approving development of one dwelling on the Measure 37 claim property on the claimant's acquisition date.

2. Preliminary Conclusion

Based on the preliminary analysis, it appears that the claimant, Radah Ralston qualifies for one home site approval on the Measure 37 claim property under Section 6 of Measure 49.

V. NUMBER OF LOTS, PARCELS OR DWELLINGS ON OR CONTAINED WITHIN THE PROPERTY

The number of dwellings that a claimant is authorized to establish pursuant to a home site authorization is reduced by the number of dwellings currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property and any contiguous property under the same ownership according to the methodology stated in Section 6(2)(b) and 6(3) of Measure 49. However, if a claimant otherwise qualifies for relief under Section 6 of Measure 49, the claimant will be able to establish one additional dwelling, regardless of the number of dwellings currently in existence.

Based on the documentation provided by the claimant and information from Washington County, the Measure 37 claim property appears to currently include one lot or parcel and no dwellings. There is no contiguous property under the same ownership. Therefore, the one home site approval the claimant appears to qualify for under Section 6 of Measure 49 will allow the claimant to establish one dwelling on the Measure 37 claim property.

VI. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF PROPOSED LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS ON THE NUMBER AND SCOPE OF HOME SITE APPROVALS

The department has identified the following limitations and conditions that may affect the number or scope of the home site approvals that the claimant would otherwise be entitled to under Section 6 of Measure 49. This list may not be comprehensive and does not preclude the possibility that other considerations, not yet identified by the department, may affect the establishment of a dwelling authorized by a home site approval.

1. The establishment of a dwelling based on a Measure 49 home site authorization must comply with all applicable standards governing the siting or development of the dwelling. However, those standards must not be applied in a manner that prohibits the establishment of the dwelling, unless the standards are reasonably necessary to avoid or abate a nuisance, to protect public health or safety, or to carry out federal law.
2. A home site authorization will not authorize the establishment of a dwelling in violation of a land use regulation described in ORS 195.305(3) or in violation of any other law that is not a land use regulation as defined by ORS 195.300(14).
3. A claimant is not eligible for more than 20 home site approvals under Sections 5 to 11 of Measure 49 regardless of how many properties a claimant owns or how many claims a claimant filed.

4. The number of dwellings a claimant may be eligible to establish under a Measure 49 home site authorization is reduced by the number of dwellings currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property and contiguous property in the same ownership, regardless of whether evidence of their existence has been provided to the department. If, based on the information available to the department, the department has calculated the number of currently existing dwellings to be either greater than or less than the number of dwellings actually in existence on the Measure 37 claim property or contiguous property under the same ownership, then the number of additional dwellings a claimant may establish pursuant to this home site authorization must be adjusted according to the methodology stated in Section 6(2)(b) and 6(3) of Measure 49. Statements in this preliminary evaluation regarding the number of lots, parcels or dwellings currently existing on the Measure 37 claim property and contiguous property are not a determination on the current legal status of those lots, parcels or dwellings.
5. Temporary dwellings are not considered in determining the number of existing dwellings currently on the property. The claimant may choose to convert any temporary dwelling currently located on the property on which the claimant is eligible for Measure 49 relief to an authorized home site pursuant to a Measure 49 home site approval. Otherwise, any temporary dwelling is subject to the terms of the local permit requirements under which it was approved, and is subject to removal at the end of the term for which it is allowed.
6. A home site approval only authorizes the establishment of a new dwelling on the property on which the claimant is eligible for Measure 49 relief. No additional development is authorized on contiguous property for which no Measure 37 claim was filed.
7. The claimant may use a home site approval to convert a dwelling currently located on the property on which the claimant is eligible for Measure 49 relief to an authorized home site. If the number of dwellings existing on the property on which the claimant is eligible for Measure 49 relief exceeds the number of home site approvals the claimant qualifies for under a home site authorization, the claimant may select which existing dwellings to convert to authorized home sites.
8. The claimant may not implement the relief described in a Measure 49 Home Site Authorization if a claimant has been determined to have a common law vested right to a use described in a Measure 37 waiver for the property. Therefore, if a claimant has been determined in a final judgment or final order that is not subject to further appeal to have a common law vested right as described in section 5(3) of Measure 49 to any use on the Measure 37 claim property, then any Measure 49 Home Site Authorization for the property will be void. However, so long as no claimant has been determined in such a final judgment or final order to have a common law vested right to a use described in a Measure 37 waiver for the property, a use that has been completed on the property pursuant to a Measure 37 waiver may be converted to an authorized home site.
9. A home site approval does not authorize the establishment of a new dwelling on a lot or parcel that already contains one or more dwellings.

10. Because the property is located in an exclusive farm use zone, the owner must comply with the requirements of ORS 215.293 before beginning construction.
11. If an owner of the property is authorized by other home site approvals to subdivide, partition, or establish dwellings on other Measure 37 claim properties, Measure 49 authorizes the owner to cluster some or all of the authorized lots, parcels or dwellings that would otherwise be located on land in an exclusive farm use zone, a forest zone or a mixed farm and forest zone on a single Measure 37 claim property that is zoned residential use or is located in an exclusive farm use zone, a forest zone or a mixed farm and forest zone but is less suitable for farm or forest use than the other Measure 37 claim properties.
12. Once the department issues a final home site authorization, a home site approval granted under that authorization will run with the property and will transfer with the property. A home site approval will not expire, except that if a claimant who received a home site authorization later conveys the property to a party other than the claimant's spouse or the trustee of a revocable trust in which the claimant is the settlor, the subsequent owner of the property must establish the authorized dwellings within 10 years of the conveyance. A dwelling lawfully created based on a home site approval is a permitted use.

VII. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

A claimant or a claimant's authorized agent, a county and any third party may submit written comments, evidence and information in response to the preliminary evaluation. The comments, evidence and information must be filed with the department no more than twenty-eight (28) calendar days after the date this evaluation is mailed to the claimant and the claimant's agent and notice of this evaluation is mailed to third parties.

The department will mail a copy of all materials timely filed by a county or a third party with the department to the claimant and the claimant's agent. A claimant or a claimant's authorized agent may then file written comments, evidence or information in response to the materials filed by the third party or county. That response must be filed no more than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the date the department mails the materials to the claimant and the claimant's authorized agent.

All comments, evidence and information in response to the preliminary evaluation and all responses to materials filed by a third party or a county shall be delivered to Supplemental Measure 49 Claim Review, 635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97301-2540 and will be deemed timely filed either (1) if actually delivered to the department before the close of business on the final eligible calendar day, or (2) if mailed on or before the final eligible calendar day.

Note: Please reference the claim number and claimant name and clearly mark your comments as "Preliminary Evaluation Comments." Comments must be submitted in original written form only. Comments submitted electronically or by facsimile will not be accepted.