



**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

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

September 11, 2008

**STATE ELECTION NUMBER:** E118335-A

**CLAIMANTS:** Martin and Rowena Gass  
14660 NW Berry Creek Drive  
McMinnville, Oregon 97128

**MEASURE 37 PROPERTY  
IDENTIFICATION:** Township 4S, Range 5W, Section 2  
Tax lot 500<sup>1</sup>  
Yamhill County

### **I. ELECTION**

The claimants, Martin and Rowena Gass, filed a claim under ORS 197.352 (2005) (Measure 37) on April 20, 2005 for property located at 14660 NW Berry Creek Drive, near McMinnville, in Yamhill County. ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (Measure 49) entitles claimants who filed a Measure 37 claim to elect supplemental review of their claim under either Section 6 (Express option) or 7 (Conditional option) of Measure 49. The claimants have elected supplemental review of their Measure 37 claim under the Express option. The Express option authorizes the Department of Land Conservation and Development (the department) to issue 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 claimants may be qualified for up to three home site approvals on the Measure 37 claim property. The claimants' property currently appears to consist of one parcel, which is not developed. It appears that there is no contiguous property in the same ownership. After taking into account the number of lots, parcels and dwellings currently located on the Measure 37 claim property, it appears that the home site approvals may allow the claimant to establish three additional lots or parcels and three additional dwellings on the Measure 37 claim property.

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<sup>1</sup> Tax lot 500 was acquired by the claimants in three separate segments. According to the Yamhill county deed records, Martin Gass acquired a .26-acre segment in the SW corner of tax lot 500 on December 22, 1960. Rowena Gass is not an owner of this segment. This segment is separated from the balance of the tax lot by a county-owned road. The balance of tax lot 500 consists of approximately 48-acres and was acquired in two segments. Claimants Martin and Rowena Gass acquired a 15-acre portion of tax lot 500 on April 7, 1961, and a 33.62-acre portion of tax lot 500 on January 4, 1967. The .26-acre segment is not contiguous to, and not under the same ownership as, the balance of the tax lot for which claimants sought relief. This evaluation and the relief proposed herein will apply to tax lot 500, except the .26-acre segment. The Department has prepared a separate evaluation of the relief requested for the .26-acre segment under E118335-B.

### **III. THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOME SITE APPROVALS FOR WHICH THE CLAIMANT(S) MAY QUALIFY**

Under the Section 6 Express option, the number of home site approvals issued by the department cannot exceed the lesser of the following: three; the number stated by the claimants in the election materials; 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 claimants have requested three home site approvals in the election material. The Measure 37 waiver issued for this claim describes three home sites. Therefore, the claimants may qualify for a maximum of three home sites approvals under the Section 6 Express option.

### **IV. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF QUALIFICATION FOR HOME SITE APPROVAL**

#### **1. Preliminary Analysis**

To qualify for a home site approval under the Section 6 Express option, 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 claimants, Martin and Rowena Gass, filed a Measure 37 claim, M118335, with the state on April 20, 2005. The claimants filed a Measure 37 claim with Yamhill County, M37-56-05, on April 18, 2005. The state claim was filed prior to or on December 4, 2006.

It appears that the claimants timely filed a Measure 37 claim with both the state and Yamhill 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 the Express option the claimants must establish each of the following:

#### **(a) The Claimants Are 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 deeds submitted by the claimants, Martin and Rowena Gass are owners of fee title to the property and, therefore, owners of the property under Measure 49.

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

All owners of the property have consented to the claim in writing.

**(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, approximately 48 acres of tax lot 500, is located in Yamhill County, at 14660 NW Berry Creek Drive, outside the urban growth boundary and outside the city limits of the nearest city, McMinnville.

**(d) One or More Land Use Regulations Prohibit Establishing the Lot, Parcel or Dwelling**

As stated in Section III above, the claimants may qualify for up to three home site approvals.

The property is currently zoned Agriculture/Forestry (AF-40) by Yamhill County, in accordance with Goals 3 and 4, as implemented by OAR 660-006-0050. State land use regulations, including applicable provisions of ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6 and 33, generally prohibit the establishment of a dwelling on a lot or parcel less than 80 acres in size in a mixed farm/forest zone. Under ORS 215.780(2)(a), counties may adopt minimum lot sizes smaller than 80 acres, subject to approval by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (the Commission). The Commission has approved Yamhill County's AF-40 zone, which requires a minimum lot size of 40 acres.

The claimants' property consists of approximately 48 acres. Therefore, state land use regulations prohibit the claimants from establishing on the Measure 37 claim property the three home sites.

**(e) The Establishment of the Lot, Parcel or 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 claimants, it does not appear that the establishment of home sites 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 Lots, Parcels or 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.”

Yamhill County deed records indicate that claimants Martin and Rowena Gass acquired a 15-acre portion of tax lot 500 on April 7, 1961, and a 33.62-acre portion of tax lot 500 on January 4, 1967.

On both April 7, 1961 and January 4, 1967 the Measure 37 claim property was not subject to any local or state laws that would have prohibited the claimants from establishing at least three lots or parcels and at least three dwellings. Therefore, the claimants lawfully could have established the three home sites claimants appear to qualify for under Section 6 of Measure 49.

**2. Preliminary Conclusion**

Based on the preliminary analysis, it appears that the claimants, Martin and Rowena Gass, qualify for up to three home site approvals under the Section 6 Express option of Measure 49.

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

The number of additional lots or parcels that a claimant may establish pursuant to the home site approvals is reduced by the number of lots, parcels or dwellings currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property and any contiguous property under the same ownership. However, if a claimant otherwise qualifies for relief under the Section 6 Express option, the claimant will be able to establish at least one additional lot, parcel or dwelling regardless of the number of lots, parcels or dwellings currently in existence.

Based on the documentation provided by the claimants, the Measure 37 Claim Property appears to currently include one parcel and no dwellings. There is no contiguous property under the same ownership. Therefore, the three home site approvals the claimants may qualify for under the Express option will allow the claimants to establish up to three lots or parcels and three dwellings on the Measure 37 claim property. Each dwelling must be on a separate lot or parcel, and must be contained within 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(s) 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 land divisions or the establishment of dwellings authorized by the home site approval.

1. The establishment of a land division or dwelling based on a Measure 49 home site approval must comply with all applicable standards governing the siting or development of the land division or dwelling. However, those standards must not be applied in a manner that prohibits the establishment of the land division or 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 approval will not authorize the establishment of a land division or 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 lots, parcels or dwellings a claimant may be eligible to establish under a Measure 49 authorization is reduced by the number of lots, parcels and permanent 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 lots, parcels or permanent dwellings currently exist on the Measure 37 claim property or on contiguous property under the same ownership and the lots, parcels or permanent dwellings have not been disclosed to the department, then the number of additional lots, parcels or dwellings a claimant may establish pursuant to the home site approval must be reduced according to the methodology stated in Section 6(2)(b) and 6(3) of Measure 49.
5. Temporary dwellings are not considered in determining the number of existing dwellings currently on the property. The claimants may choose to convert any temporary dwelling currently located on the Measure 37 claim property to an authorized home site pursuant to the 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 one or more new lots, parcels or dwellings on the Measure 37 claim property. No additional development is authorized on contiguous property for which no Measure 37 claim was filed. Each lot or parcel established pursuant to a home site approval must either be the site of a dwelling that is currently in existence or be the future site of a dwelling that will be established pursuant to the home site approval. The home site approval does not authorize the establishment of a new dwelling on a lot or parcel that already contains one or more dwellings. The claimants may be required to alter the configuration of the lots or parcels currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property and contiguous property so that each additional dwelling established on the Measure 37 claim property, pursuant to the home site approval, is sited on a separate lot or parcel.

7. Once the department issues a final home site approval, the home site approval will run with the property and will transfer with the property. The home site approval will not expire, except that if a claimant who received a home site approval 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 lots, parcels and dwellings within 10 years of the conveyance. A lot or parcel lawfully created based on the home site approval will remain a discrete lot or parcel, unless the lot or parcel lines are vacated or the lot or parcel is further divided, as provided by law. A dwelling lawfully created based on a home site approval is a permitted use.
8. Because the property is located in a mixed farm and forest zone, the home site approval will not authorize new lots or parcels that exceed five acres. Before beginning construction in one of these zones, the owner must comply with the requirements of ORS 215.293. Further, the home site approval will not authorize new lots or parcels that exceed two acres if the new lots or parcels are located on high-value farmland, on high-value forestland or on land within a ground water restricted area.
9. Because the property is located in a mixed farm and forest zone, Measure 49 requires new home sites to be clustered so as to maximize suitability of the remnant lot or parcel for farm or forest use. Further, 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.

## VII. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

A claimant or the claimants' 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 claimants and the claimants' 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 claimants and the claimants' agent. A claimant or a claimants' 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 claimants and the claimants' 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.**