



**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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

March 15, 2010

STATE ELECTION NUMBERS: E130906 and E131087¹

CLAIMANT: Helen M. Thomas
1570 South 2nd Street
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

**MEASURE 37 PROPERTY
IDENTIFICATION:** Township 12S, Range 2W, Section 20
Tax lots 400 and 401
Linn County

**AGENT/
PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:** William R. Thomas
Morley, Thomas & McHill LLC
80 East Maple Street
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

I. ELECTION

The claimant, Helen Thomas, filed claims with the state under ORS 197.352 (2005) (Measure 37) on November 20, 2006 and November 22, 2006 for property located on and south of Denny School Road, near Lebanon, in Linn 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 claims 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 up to one home site approval on tax lot 400 of 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 two lots or parcels, which are undeveloped. After

¹ E130906 has been combined with E131087 because the Measure 37 claims addressed contiguous parcels under the same ownership.

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 one home site approval will allow the claimant to establish one dwelling on tax lot 400.

Based on the department's preliminary analysis, it appears that the claimant is not eligible for any relief under Measure 49 on tax lot 401 because the claimant would not have been lawfully permitted to establish any home sites when she acquired the property.

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 for E130906, and one home site approval in the election material for E131087. The Measure 37 waivers issued for each claim describe one home site. Therefore, the claimant may qualify for a maximum of two home site approvals under Section 6.

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, Helen Thomas, filed a Measure 37 claims, M130906 with the state on November 20, 2006, and M131087 with the state on November 22, 2006. The claimant filed Measure 37 claims, M37-155-06 and M37-156-06, with Linn County on November 16, 2006. The state claims were filed prior to December 4, 2006.

It appears that the claimant timely filed Measure 37 claims with both the state and Linn 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 deeds submitted by the claimant, Helen Thomas is the owner of fee title to the property as shown in the Linn County deed records and, therefore, is an owner of the property under Measure 49.

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

The deeds by which the claimant acquired the property indicate that there is one non-claimant owner. The claimant has submitted consent forms signed by the non-claimant owner.

(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 Linn County, outside the urban growth boundary and outside the city limits of the nearest city, Lebanon.

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

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

The property is currently zoned Farm/Forest (F/F) by Linn 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, provide standards for the establishment of a dwelling in a mixed farm/forest zone. In general and subject to some exceptions, those standards require that the property be a minimum of 80 acres and generate a minimum annual income from the sale of farm or forest products.

The combined effect of the standards for the establishment of a dwelling in a mixed farm/forest zone is to prohibit the claimant from establishing one dwelling on each tax lot of 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 two home sites 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."

Linn County deed records indicate that the claimant acquired tax lot 400 on October 23, 1967, and tax lot 401 on May 6, 1985.

On October 23, 1967, tax lot 400 of the Measure 37 claim property was not subject to any local or state laws that would have prohibited the claimant from establishing one dwelling on a vacant lot or parcel. Therefore, the claimant lawfully could have established the one home site on tax lot 400 of the Measure 37 claim property that the claimant may qualify for under Section 6 of Measure 49.

The claimant acquired tax lot 401 of the Measure 37 claim property after adoption of the statewide planning goals, but before the Land Conservation and Development Commission (the Commission) acknowledged Linn County's comprehensive plan and land use regulations to be in compliance with those goals pursuant to ORS 197.250 and 197.251. On May 6, 1985, the Measure 37 claim property was zoned Farm/Forest (F/F) by Linn County. Linn County's F/F zone included a fixed minimum acreage standard of 40 acres.² However, the Commission had not acknowledged that zone for compliance with the goals when the claimant acquired the property on May 6, 1985. Accordingly, the statewide planning goals, and in particular Goals 3 and 4, and ORS chapter 215, applied directly to the Measure 37 claim property when the claimant acquired it.

On July 18, 1985, the Commission acknowledged the application of Linn County's Farm/Forest (F/F) zone to the Measure 37 claim property. The Commission's acknowledgement of Linn County's F/F zone confirmed that zone's compliance with Goals 3 and 4 and ORS chapter 215. Linn County's acknowledged F/F zone required 40 acres for the creation of a new lot or parcel on which a dwelling could be established. The claimant's property consists of 7.64 acres. Therefore, on the claimant's acquisition date, she could not have established any home sites in the zone that was ultimately acknowledged to comply with the statewide planning goals and implementing regulations.

However, because of uncertainty during the time period between adoption of the statewide planning goals in 1975 and each county's acknowledgment of its plan and land use regulations

² While the F/F zone did not generally have a specific minimum lot size, the zone did specify a minimum acreage requirement of 40 acres for the development of a farm or forest dwelling on a lot or parcel.

regarding the factual and legal requirements for establishing compliance with the statewide planning goals, the 2010 Legislative Assembly amended Measure 49. Senate Bill (SB) 1049 (2010) specifies the number of home sites considered lawfully permitted, for purposes of Measure 49, for property acquired during this period unless the record for the claim otherwise demonstrates the number of home sites that a claimant would have been lawfully permitted to establish. Those amendments provide, in relevant part, that eligibility for a home site approval is subject to consistency with local land use regulations in effect when the claimant acquired the subject property.

The Measure 37 claim property was subject to Linn County's F/F zone on the claimant's date of acquisition. That zone included a fixed minimum acreage standard of 40 acres.

The Measure 37 claim property consists of 7.64 acres. Therefore, based on the analysis under SB 1049 (2010), the claimant was not lawfully permitted to establish any home sites on tax lot 401 of the Measure 37 claim property on her date of acquisition.

2. Preliminary Conclusion

Based on the preliminary analysis, it appears that the claimant, Helen Thomas, qualifies for up to one home site approval on tax lot 400 of the Measure 37 claim property under Section 6 of Measure 49.

Based on the preliminary analysis, the claimant does not qualify for any Measure 49 home site approvals on tax lot 401 because the claimant was not lawfully permitted to establish the lots, parcels or dwellings on the claimant's date of acquisition

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. 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 Linn County, the Measure 37 claim property appears to currently include two lots or parcels 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 tax lot 400 of 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 lots, parcels or dwellings a claimant may establish under a Measure 49 home site authorization is reduced by the number of lots, parcels and 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 lots, parcels or dwellings to be either greater than or less than the number of lots, parcels or dwellings actually in existence on the Measure 37 claim property or contiguous property under the same ownership, then the number of additional lots, parcels or 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 a mixed farm and forest 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.