

**ORS 197.352 (BALLOT MEASURE 37) CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION**  
**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Draft Staff Report and Recommendation**

July 18, 2006

**STATE CLAIM NUMBER:** M122452

**NAMES OF CLAIMANTS:** James C. and Viola F. Rasmusan

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 18445 S. Cadle Road  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION:** Township 03S, Range 02E, Section 01  
Tax lot 4500

Township 03S, Range 02E, Section 01AD  
Tax lots 1400, 1401 and 1402

Clackamas County

**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION:** Edward H. Trompke  
Jordan Schrader, PC  
PO Box 230669  
Portland, Oregon 97281

**DATE RECEIVED BY DAS:** September 23, 2006

**180-DAY DEADLINE:** August 8, 2006<sup>1</sup>

**I. SUMMARY OF CLAIM**

The claimants, James and Viola Rasmusan, seek compensation in the amount of more than \$100,000 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 49.74-acre property into 1-acre parcels for residential development. The subject property is located at the geographic coordinates listed above, near Oregon City, in Clackamas County. (See claim.)

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<sup>1</sup> This date reflects 180 days from the date the claim was submitted, as extended by the 139 days that all timelines under Measure 37 were suspended during the pendency of *MacPherson v. Dept. of Admin. Svcs.*, 340 Or 117 (2006).

## II. SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the preliminary findings and conclusions set forth below, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (the department) has determined that the claim is valid. Department staff 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 1) James and Viola Rasmusan's division of the 40-acre tax lot 4500 into 1-acre parcels and to their development of a dwelling on each parcel: applicable provisions of Statewide Planning Goals 3 (Agricultural Lands) and 4 (Forest Lands), ORS 215 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 660 divisions 6, and 33, enacted or adopted after October 24, 1975, and 2) James and Viola Rasmusan's division of tax lots 1400, 1401 and 1402, totaling 9.74 acres, into 1-acre parcels for residential development: Goal 4 (Urbanization) and OAR 660-004-0040 adopted after October 24, 1975. These laws will not apply to the claimants only to the extent necessary to allow them to use the subject property for the use described in this report, and only to the extent that use was permitted when they acquired the property in 1975. (See the complete recommendation in Section VI. of this report.)

## III. COMMENTS ON THE CLAIM

### Comments Received

On May 11, 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, four written comments were received in response to the 10-day notice.

The comments do not address whether the claim meets the criteria for relief under ORS 197.352. Comments concerning the effects a use of the subject property may have on surrounding areas are generally not something that the department is able to consider in determining whether to waive a state law. If funds do become available to pay compensation, then such effects may become relevant in determining which claims to pay compensation for instead of waive a state law. (See the comment letters in the department's claim file.)

## 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 23, 2005, for processing under OAR 125, division 145. The claim identifies Clackamas County RA-2 and AG/F zones, ORS 215.780 and OAR 660-003-0010 to 660-033-0160 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**

The claimants, James and Viola Rasmusan, acquired the subject property on October 24, 1975, as reflected by a contract and an April 29, 1977, fulfillment warranty deed included with the claim. On June 22, 1998, the claimants transferred tax lots 1400, 1401 and 1402 into a revocable trust with themselves as trustees. They transferred tax lot 1402 from the trust to themselves on August 24, 2004.<sup>2</sup> A September 6, 2005, lot book service report submitted with the claim establishes the claimants’ current ownership of the subject property.

### **Conclusions**

The claimants, James and Viola Rasmusan, are “owners” of the subject property as that term is defined by ORS 197.352(11)(C), as of October 24, 1975.

### **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.

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<sup>2</sup> Transfer of property to and from a revocable trust does not result in a change in ownership for the purposes of ORS 197.352.

## **Findings of Fact**

The claim indicates that the claimants desire to divide the subject 49.74-acre property into 1-acre parcels and to develop a dwelling on each parcel. The claim identifies Clackamas County's RA-2 and AG/F zones, ORS 215.780 and OAR 660-003-0010 to 660-033-0160 as restricting the desired use.

The claim is based, in part, on Clackamas County's current AG/Forest District (AG/F) zone and the applicable provisions of state law that require such zoning (for tax lot 4500) and, in part, on the county's current Rural Area Single Family Residential District (RA-2) zone, and the applicable provisions of state law that require such zoning (for tax lots 1400, 1401 and 1402).

Tax lot 4500 is zoned AG/F, which is a mixed agricultural and forest land zone, as required by Goal 4 and the implementing provisions of OAR 660, division 6 (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 January 1, 1993, tax lot 4500 is subject to either the requirements for dwellings applicable under Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) 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 minimum lot size specified in ORS 215.780. Under ORS 215.780(2)(a), the minimum lot size in Clackamas County's AG/F zone is 80 acres. The claimants' property cannot be divided into parcels smaller than 80 acres.

Tax lots 1400, 1401 and 1402 are zoned RA-2, which is a rural residential zone consistent with Goal 14, which generally requires that land outside of urban growth boundaries be used for rural uses.

Goal 14 was also effective on January 25, 1975, and requires that local comprehensive plans identify and separate urbanizable land from rural land in order to provide for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use. In 2000, as a result of a 1986 Oregon Supreme Court decision,<sup>4</sup> the Commission amended Goal 14 and adopted OAR 660-004-0040 (Application of Goal 14 to Rural Residential Areas), which was effective on October 4, 2000.

The rule states that the area of any new lots or parcels in a rural residential zone in effect on October 4, 2000, must be at least two acres. If a county rural residential zone specifies a minimum lot or parcel size smaller than two acres, the area of any new lot or parcel shall equal or exceed two acres (OAR 660-004-0040(5)(b) and (7)(d)). The creation of any new lot or

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

<sup>4</sup> *1000 Friends of Oregon v. LCDC (Curry County)*, 301 Or 447 (1986).

parcel smaller than two acres in a rural residential zone is considered an urban use, and may be created only if an exception to Goal 14 is taken (OAR 660-004-0040(7)(a)). Some relief from these provisions is available for lots or parcels having more than one permanent habitable dwelling pursuant to OAR 660-004-0040(7)(h). Because Clackamas County's rural residential zone was in effect on October 4, 2000, and allows a lot or parcel size less than two acres, OAR 660-004-0040 requires that all new lots or parcels have a minimum lot or parcel size of two acres or more, unless an exception to Goal 14 is taken.

The claimants acquired the subject property (tax lots 1400, 1401, 1402 and 4500) after the adoption of the statewide planning goals, but before the Commission acknowledged Clackamas County's land use regulations to be in compliance with statewide planning goals pursuant to ORS 197.250 and 197.251.<sup>5</sup> All of the subject property was recognized as resource land when the claimants acquired it, and because the Commission had not acknowledged Clackamas County's plan and land use regulations when the claimants acquired the subject property in 1975, the statewide planning goals, and particularly Goals 3 and 4, in addition to Goal 14, applied directly to the claimants' property when the claimants acquired it.<sup>6</sup>

As adopted in 1975, Goal 3 required that agricultural lands be preserved and zoned for EFU pursuant to ORS 215. Goal 4, as adopted in 1975, required that forest lands be designated for forest uses. Depending on whether the property would have been subject to Goal 3 or 4 when acquired, it would have been subject to either EFU zoning pursuant to ORS 215 or forest zoning adequate to retain forest lands for forest uses.

If subject to Goal 3, the state standards for a division of land required that the created lots or parcels be of a size "appropriate for the continuation of the existing commercial agricultural enterprise within the area."<sup>2</sup> (See Goal 3.) Further, ORS 215.263 (1975 edition) required that all land divisions subject to EFU zoning comply with the legislative intent in ORS 215.243 (Agricultural Land Use Policy). Thus, under Goal 3, the opportunity to divide the subject property when acquired by the claimants on October 24, 1975, was limited to new lots or parcels that were (1) appropriate for the continuation of the existing commercial agricultural enterprise in the area, and (2) shown to be consistent with the legislative intent in ORS 215. At that time, under Goal 3, farm dwellings were allowed if they were determined to be "customarily provided in conjunction with farm use" under ORS 215.213(1)(e) (1975 edition),<sup>7</sup> and non-farm dwellings

<sup>5</sup> Clackamas County's Comprehensive Plan was acknowledged on December 31, 1981.

<sup>6</sup> The statewide planning goals became effective on January 25, 1975, and were applicable to legislative land use decisions and some quasi-judicial land use decisions prior to the Commission's acknowledgment of each county's land use regulations. *Perkins v. City of Rajneeshpuram*, 300 Or 1 (1985); *Alexanderson v. Polk County*, 289 Or 427, rev den 290 Or 137 (1980); *Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn. v. Clackamas County*, 280 Or 569 (1977); *Jurgenson v. Union County*, 42 Or App 505 (1979); and *1000 Friends of Oregon v. Benton County*, 32 Or App 413 (1978). After the county's plan and land use regulations were acknowledged by the Commission, the statewide planning goals and implementing rules no longer directly applied to such local land use decisions. *Byrd v. Stringer*, 295 Or 311 (1983). However, statutory requirements continue to apply, and insofar as the state and local provisions are materially the same, the local provisions must be interpreted consistent with the substance of the goals and implementing rules. *Foster v. Polk County*, 115 Or App 475 (1992); *Kenagy v. Benton County*, 115 Or App 131 (1992).

<sup>7</sup> Under ORS 215.213, a farm dwelling could be established on agricultural land only if the farm use to which the dwelling relates exists (*Newcomer v. Clackamas County*, 92 Or App 174, modified 94 Or App 33 (1988) and *Matteo v. Polk County*, 11 Or LUBA 259, 263 (1984), affirmed without opinion 70 Or App 179 (1984)). Guidance on the application of the statutory standards for farm and non-farm dwellings in EFU zones can be found in the

were subject to ORS 215.213(3) (1975 edition).<sup>8</sup> Other uses were authorized and governed by the applicable provisions under Goal 3 and ORS 215.213.

If subject to Goal 4, the state standards required uses to “conserve forest lands for forest uses.” Specifically, Goal 4 only allowed land divisions that would protect commercial forest lands for commercial forest uses. Dwellings in forest zones could only be allowed if found to be “necessary and accessory” to one of the enumerated forest uses listed in Goal 4.<sup>9</sup>

### Conclusions

The current zoning requirements, minimum lot size and dwelling standards established under Goal 4 for lands zoned for mixed farm-forest use and the statutory and rule restrictions under applicable provisions of ORS 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6, and 33, were enacted or adopted after the claimants acquired the subject property in 1975, and do not allow the claimants’ desired division and development of tax lot 4500. Likewise, the minimum lot size requirements for rural residential lots or parcels established by Goal 14 and OAR 660-004-0040 were adopted after the claimants acquired the subject property in 1975 and do not allow the desired division of tax lots 1400, 1401 and 1402. However, when the claimants acquired the subject property in 1975, the statewide planning goals, and in particular, the general requirements of Goals 3, 4 and 14 applied directly to the property. The claim does not establish whether or to what extent the claimants’ desired use would have been permitted under the laws in effect in 1975 when the claimants acquired the subject property.

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 uses that the claimants have identified. There may be other laws that currently apply to the claimants’ use of the subject property, and that may continue to apply to the claimants’ 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 subject property until there is a specific proposal for that use. When the claimants seek a building or development permit to carry out a specific use, it may become evident that other state laws apply to that use.

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Commission rules (OAR 660, division 5, adopted on July 21, 1982, amended on June 7, 1986, and repealed on August 7, 1993).

<sup>8</sup> When determining whether land is “generally unsuitable for the production of farm crops and livestock” under ORS 215.213(3), the entire parcel or tract must be evaluated rather than a portion thereof. *Smith v. Clackamas County*, 313 Or 519 (1992).

<sup>9</sup> Goal 4 prohibited uses that were not enumerated by Goal 4 as permissible uses for forest lands as well as those that were not necessary and accessory to an enumerated forest use. *Lamb v. Lane County*, 7 Or LUBA 137 (1983). Dwellings in forest lands were required to be “necessary and accessory” to show that such dwellings complied with the Goal 4 requirement that local land use regulations must “conserve forest lands for forest uses.” *1000 Friends v. LCDC (Curry County)*, 301 Or 447 (1986). A dwelling that may “enhance” forest uses is not “necessary and accessory” to a forest use to the extent required by Goal 4. *1000 Friends of Oregon v. LCDC (Lane County)*, 305 Or 384 (1988). For additional guidance, the Goal 4 provisions were interpreted under OAR 660, division 6, effective on September 1, 1982, in *1000 Friends of Oregon v. LCDC (Lane County)* and in *1000 Friends v. LCDC (Curry County)*.

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

In order to establish a valid claim, ORS 197.352(1) requires that the land use regulation(s) (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 more than \$100,000 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’ review of real estate listings for similar properties in Clackamas County.

#### **Conclusions**

As explained in Section V.(1) of this report, the claimants are James and Viola Rasmusan who acquired the subject property on October 24, 1975. Under ORS 197.352, the claimants are 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 the claimants acquired the subject property restrict the claimants’ 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 more than \$100,000.

Without an appraisal or other documentation and without verification of whether or the extent to which the claimants’ use of the subject property was allowed under the standards in effect when they acquired the property, it is not possible to substantiate the specific dollar amount by which the land use regulations have reduced the fair market value of the property. Nevertheless, based on the evidence in the record for this claim, the department determines that 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 660-004-0040 and OAR 660, divisions 6, and 33, which Clackamas County has implemented through its current RA-2 and AG/F zones. With the exception of provisions of Goals 3, 4 and 14 and ORS 215 in effect on October 24, 1975, these laws were not in effect when the claimants 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 the statutory, goal and rule restrictions on residential division and development of the subject property are not exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E) to the extent they were enacted or adopted after the claimants acquired the property on October 24, 1975. Provisions of Goals 3, 4 and 14 and ORS 215 in effect when the claimants acquired the subject property in 1975 are exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E) and will continue to apply to the property.

Other laws in effect when the claimants acquired the subject property are also exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E) and will continue to apply to the claimants' use of the property. In addition, the department notes that ORS 215.730 and OAR 660, division 6, include standards for siting dwellings in forest zones. These provisions include fire protection standards for dwellings and for surrounding forest lands. 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 claimants' 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 the claimants' 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 subject property until there is a specific proposal for that use. When the claimants seek 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).

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 uses 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 have 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 their 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 restrict the claimants' 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 more than \$100,000. 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 property was allowed under the standards in effect when they 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 James and Viola Rasmusan to use the subject property for a use permitted at the time they acquired the property on October 24, 1975.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the record, the department recommends that the 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 1) James and Viola Rasmusan's division of the 40-acre tax lot 4500 into 1-acre parcels and to their development of a dwelling on each parcel: applicable provisions of Goals 3 and 4, ORS 215 and OAR 660, divisions 6, and 33, enacted or adopted after October 24, 1975, and 2) James and Viola Rasmusan's division of tax lots 1400, 1401 and 1402, totaling 9.74 acres, into 1-acre parcels for residential development: Goal 14 and OAR 660-004-0040 adopted after October 24, 1975. These land use regulations will not apply to the claimants only to the extent necessary to allow them to use the subject property for the use described in this report, and only to the extent that use was permitted when they acquired the property on October 24, 1975.
2. The action by the State of Oregon provides the state's authorization to the claimants to use the property for the use described in this report, subject to the standards in effect on October 25, 1975. On that date, the property was subject to applicable provisions of Goals 3, 4, and 14 and ORS 215 then in effect.
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 the claimants first obtain 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 property by the claimants 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 for the claimants to use the subject property, it may be necessary for them 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 the claimants 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 a use of the subject property by the claimants.

## **VII. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

This staff report is not a final decision by the department and does not authorize any use of the property that is the subject of this report. OAR 125-145-0100 provides 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. Such response must be filed no more than 10 calendar days after the date this report is mailed to the claimants and any third parties.

Responses to this draft staff report and recommendation will be considered only as comments related to the claim described in this report. All responses must be delivered to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Measure 37 Unit, Risk Management--State Services Division, 1225 Ferry Street SE, U160, Salem, Oregon 97301-4292 and will be deemed timely filed if either postmarked on the tenth day, or actually delivered to DAS by the close of business on the tenth day. Note: Please reference the claim number, claimant name and clearly mark your comments as "Draft Staff Report comments." Comments must be submitted in writing only. Those comments submitted electronically or by facsimile will not be accepted.