

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

July 24, 2006

**STATE CLAIM NUMBER:** M122534

**NAME OF CLAIMANT:** Roscoe E. Watts

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 3434 SW Water Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97239

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION:** Township 1N, Range 4W, Section 22  
Tax lot 500  
Washington County

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

**DATE RECEIVED BY DAS:** September 29, 2005

**180-DAY DEADLINE:** August 14, 2006<sup>1</sup>

**I. SUMMARY OF CLAIM**

The claimant, Roscoe Watts, seeks compensation in the amount of \$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 claimant desires compensation or the right to divide the 40.5-acre subject property and to develop a dwelling on each parcel. The subject property is located on NW Davis Road, near Forest Grove, in Washington County. (See claim.)

**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 Roscoe Watts' division of the 40.5-acre property and to his development of a dwelling on each parcel: applicable provisions of Statewide Planning Goal 3

---

<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).

(Agricultural Lands), ORS 215 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 660, division 33, enacted or adopted after August 27, 2002. These laws will not apply to the claimant only to the extent necessary to allow him to use the subject property for the use described in this report, and only to the extent that use was permitted when he reacquired the property on August 27, 2002. The department acknowledges that the relief to which the claimant is entitled under ORS 197.352 will not allow the claimant to use the subject property in the manner set forth in the claim. (See the complete recommendation in Section VI of this report.)

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

#### **Comments Received**

On May 22, 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, one written comment was received in response to the 10-day notice. The comment is relevant to whether the claimant is an owner. The comment has been considered by the department in preparing this report. (See the comment letter 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 29, 2005, for processing under OAR 125, division 145. The claim identifies Washington County's AF-20 zone, 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

The claimant, Roscoe Watts, and his wife Jean Watts acquired the subject property on February 28, 1963, as evidenced by a warranty deed included with the claim. The claimant conveyed the subject property to his wife on December 28, 1972, as evidenced by a bargain and sale deed included with claim.<sup>2</sup> The claimant reacquired the subject property on August 27, 2002, as trustee of the Jean Watts Testamentary Trust after his wife’s death, as reflected by probate documents included with the claim. The Washington County Assessor’s Office confirms the claimant’s current ownership of the subject property.

### Conclusions

The claimant, Roscoe Watts, is an “owner” of the subject property as that term is defined by ORS 197.352(11)(C), as of August 27, 2002. The claimant’s wife, Jean Watts, is a “family member” as defined by ORS 197.352(11)(A). The claimant’s family has owned the subject property since February 28, 1963.

### 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 claimant’s 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 claimant or a family member acquired the property.

### Findings of Fact

The claim indicates that the claimant desires to divide the 40.5-acre subject property and to develop a dwelling on each parcel and that Washington County’s AF-20 zone, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, do not allow the desired use.

The claim is based generally on Washington County’s current AF-20 zone and the applicable provisions of state law that require such zoning. The claimant’s property is zoned AF-20 as required by Goal 3, in accordance with ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, because the claimant’s property is “agricultural land” as defined by Goal 3.<sup>3</sup> Goal 3 became effective on

<sup>2</sup> The claimant asserts that he transferred his interest in the subject property to his wife “only” for estate planning purposes and that he should be considered an owner since 1963, notwithstanding that transfer. However, the deed by which he conveyed the subject property to his wife does not indicate that the claimant retained any ownership interest in the property following that conveyance.

<sup>3</sup> The claimant’s property is “agricultural land” because it contains National Resources Conservation Service Class I-IV soils.

January 25, 1975, and required that agricultural lands as defined by the Goal be zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) pursuant to ORS 215.

Current land use regulations, particularly ORS 215.213, 215.263 and 215.780 and OAR 660, division 33 adopted pursuant to Goal 3, prohibit the division of EFU zoned land in marginal lands counties into parcels less than 80 acres and establish standards for development of dwellings on existing or proposed parcels on that land.

ORS 215.780 establishes an 80-acre minimum size for the creation of new lots or parcels in EFU zones and became effective November 4, 1993 (Chapter 792, Oregon Laws 1993). ORS 215.263 (2005 edition) establishes standards for the creation of new parcels for non-farm uses and dwellings allowed in an EFU zone.

OAR 660-033-0135 (applicable to farm dwellings) became effective on March 1, 1994, and interprets the statutory standard for a primary dwelling in an EFU zone in a marginal lands county under ORS 215.213. OAR 660-033-0130(4)(e) (applicable to non-farm dwellings in marginal lands counties) became effective on August 7, 1993. The Commission subsequently adopted amendments to comply with House Bill 3326 (Chapter 704, Oregon Laws 2001, effective on January 1, 2002), which were effective on May 22, 2002. (See administrative rule history for OAR 660-033-0100, -0130 and -0135.)

The claimant's family first acquired the subject property in 1963, prior to the adoption of the statewide planning goals and their implementing statutes and regulations. No county zoning applied to the subject property in 1963.

### **Conclusions**

The current zoning requirements, minimum lot size and dwelling standards established by applicable provisions of Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, were all enacted or adopted after the claimant's family acquired the subject property. These laws restrict the use of the subject property relative to the uses allowed when the claimant's family acquired the property.

### **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 \$100,000 as the reduction in the subject property's fair market value due to the regulations that restrict the claimant's desired use of the property. This amount is based on the claimant's assessment of the subject property's value.

## **Conclusions**

As explained in Section V.(1) of this report, the claimant is Roscoe Watts whose family acquired the subject property in 1963. Under ORS 197.352, the claimant is due compensation for land use regulations that restrict the use of the 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 claimant's family acquired the subject property restrict the claimant's desired use of the property. The claimant estimates that the effect of the regulations(s) on the fair market value of the subject property is a reduction of \$100,000.

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 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 since the claimant's family acquired the property.

### **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 relative to the uses permitted when the claimant's family acquired the property, including applicable provisions of Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, which Washington County has implemented through its current AF-20 zone. All of these land use regulations were enacted or adopted after the claimant's family acquired the subject property.

## **Conclusions**

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 the claimant's family acquired the property on February 28, 1963, with the exception of parts of ORS 215. As a result, these laws are not exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E). Laws in effect when the claimant's family acquired the subject property are exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E) and do not provide a basis for compensation. In addition, other land use laws enacted or adopted for a purpose set forth in ORS 197.352(3)(A) to (D) are also exempt and would not provide a basis for compensation.

## **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 claimant'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 \$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 claimant's desired use of the subject property was allowed under the standards in effect when his family 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 Roscoe Watts to use the subject property for a use permitted at the time he acquired the property on August 27, 2002.

At the time the claimant reacquired an interest in the subject property, it was zoned EFU by Washington County and subject to the current lot size and dwelling standards under Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, and as described in Section V.(2) of this report.

In addition to the applicable provisions of Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, in effect on August 27, 2002, and other laws in effect when the claimant acquired the subject property, there may be other laws that apply to the claimant's use of the property that have not been identified in the 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 uses that the claimant has 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 claimant should be aware that the less information he has provided to the department in his claim, the greater the possibility that there may be additional laws that will later be determined to continue to apply to his use of the subject property.

### **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 Roscoe Watts' division of the 40.5-acre property and to his development of a dwelling on each parcel: applicable provisions of Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, enacted or adopted after August 27, 2002. The department acknowledges that the relief to which the

claimant is entitled under ORS 197.352 will not allow the claimant to use the subject property in the manner set forth in the claim.

2. The action by the State of Oregon provides the state's authorization to the claimant to use the property subject to the standards in effect on August 27, 2002. At that time, the property was subject to applicable provisions of Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, currently 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 claimant 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 the claimant 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 claimant to use the subject property, it may be necessary for him 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 claimant 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 claimant.

## **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 claimant or the claimant's 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 claimant 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.

