

ORS 197.352 (BALLOT MEASURE 37) CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Draft Staff Report and Recommendation**

July 26, 2006

STATE CLAIM NUMBER: M122598

NAMES OF CLAIMANTS: William and Georgena Elting

MAILING ADDRESS: 38008 Sodaville Cutoff Drive
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION: Township 12S, Range 2W, Section 36
Tax lot 900
Linn County

DATE RECEIVED BY DAS: October 3, 2005

180-DAY DEADLINE: August 18, 2006¹

I. SUMMARY OF CLAIM

The claimants, William and Georgena Elting, seek compensation in the amount of \$130,000 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 6.5-acre property into three parcels and to develop a dwelling on each parcel. The subject property is located at 38008 Sodaville Cutoff Drive, near Lebanon, in Linn 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 William and Georgena Elting's division of the 6.5-acre property into three parcels and to their development of a dwelling on each parcel: applicable provisions of Statewide Planning Goal 3 (Agricultural Lands), ORS 215 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 660, division 33. 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 on June 25, 1969. (See the complete recommendation in Section VI. of this report.)

¹ 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).

III. COMMENTS ON THE CLAIM

Comments Received

On October 12, 2005, 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 does 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 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 October 3, 2005, for processing under OAR 125, division 145. The claim identifies Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning 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, William and Georgena Elting, acquired the subject property on June 25, 1969, as reflected by a contract included with the claim. The Linn County Assessor’s Office confirms the claimants’ current ownership of the subject property.

Conclusions

The claimants, William and Georgena Elting, are “owners” of the subject property as that term is defined by ORS 197.352(11)(C), as of June 25, 1969.

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.

Findings of Fact

The claim indicates that the claimants desire to divide the 6.5-acre property into three parcels and to develop a dwelling on each parcel and that the property’s EFU zoning prohibits the desired use.

The claim is based generally on Linn County’s current EFU zone and the applicable provisions of state law that require such zoning. The claimants’ property is zoned EFU as required by Goal 3, in accordance with ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, because the claimants’ property is “agricultural land” as defined by Goal 3.² Goal 3 became effective on January 25, 1975, and required that agricultural lands as defined by the Goal be zoned EFU pursuant to ORS 215.

Current land use regulations, particularly ORS 215.263, 215.284 and 215.780 and OAR 660, division 33, enacted or adopted pursuant to Goal 3, prohibit the division of EFU-zoned land 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 on November 4, 1993 (Chapter 792, Oregon Laws 1993). ORS

² The claimants’ property is “agricultural land” because it contains Natural Resources Conservation Service Class I-IV soils.

