



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (MEASURE 49) SUPPLEMENTAL REVIEW
OF MEASURE 37 CLAIM
Final Order of Denial

STATE ELECTION NUMBER: E122201

CLAIMANT: Sheri L. Ruegsegger

MEASURE 37 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION: Township 6S, Range 7W, Section 35
Tax lots 601 and 705
Polk County

AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION: Alice Propes
225 SE Walnut Avenue
Dallas, OR 97338

The claimant, Sheri Ruegsegger, filed a claim with the state under ORS 197.352 (2005) (Measure 37) on September 2, 2005, for property located at 23660 Gooseneck Road, near Sheridan, in Polk 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 claim 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.

This Final Order of Denial is the conclusion of the supplemental review of this claim.

I. ANALYSIS OF CLAIM

A. Maximum Number of Home Sites 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 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 claimant has requested two home site approvals in the election material. The Measure 37 waiver issued for this claim describes two home sites. Therefore, the claimant may qualify for a maximum of two home site approvals under Section 6 of Measure 49.

B. Qualification Requirements

To qualify for a home site approval under Section 6 of Measure 49, the claimant must meet each of the following requirements:

1. Timeliness of Claim

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.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions

The claimant, Sheri Ruegsegger, filed a Measure 37 claim, M122201, with the state on September 2, 2005. The claimant filed a Measure 37 claim, M05-58, with Polk County prior to November 23, 2005. The state claim was filed prior to December 4, 2006.

The claimant timely filed a Measure 37 claim with both the state and Polk County.

2. 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."

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

According to the deeds included with the claim, Sheri Ruegsegger is owner of fee title to the property as shown in the Polk County deed records and, therefore, is an owner of the property under Measure 49.

Polk County has confirmed that the claimant is the current owner of the property.

3. All Owners of the Property Have Consented in Writing to the Claim

All owners of the property must consent to the claim in writing.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

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

4. The Property Is Located Entirely Outside Any Urban Growth Boundary and Entirely Outside the Boundaries of Any City

The Measure 37 claim property must be located entirely outside any urban growth boundary and entirely outside the boundaries of any city.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

The Measure 37 claim property is located in Polk County, outside the urban growth boundary and outside the city limits of the nearest city, Sheridan.

5. One or More Land Use Regulations Prohibit Establishing the Lot, Parcel or Dwelling

One or more land use regulations must prohibit establishing the requested lot, parcel or dwelling.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

Tax lot 705 of the Measure 37 claim property is currently zoned Farm/Forest (FF) by Polk 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 lot or parcel less than 80 acres in size in a mixed farm/forest zone and regulate the establishment of dwellings on new or existing lots or parcels. 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 Polk County's FF zone, which requires a minimum lot size of 40 acres.

Tax lot 601 of the Measure 37 claim property is currently zoned Timber Conservation (TC) by Polk County, in accordance with ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 6, because the property is "forest land" under Goal 4. Applicable provisions of ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660 division 6, enacted or adopted pursuant to Goal 4, generally prohibit the establishment of a lot or parcel less than 80 acres in size in a forest zone and regulate the establishment of dwellings on new or existing lots or parcels.

The claimant's property consists of 10.20 acres. Therefore, state land use regulations prohibit the claimant from establishing on the Measure 37 claim property the two home sites the claimant may qualify for under Section 6 of Measure 49.

6. 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.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions

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 is prohibited by land use regulations described in ORS 195.305(3).

7. 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."

Findings of Fact and Conclusions

Polk County deed records indicate that the claimant acquired tax lot 705 on June 29, 1977 and tax lot 601 on October 12, 1992

The claimant acquired tax lot 705 after adoption of the statewide planning goals, but before the Commission acknowledged Polk County's comprehensive plan and land use regulations to be in compliance with those goals pursuant to ORS 197.250 and 197.251. At that time, the Measure 37 claim property was zoned Acreage Residential (AR-5) by Polk County. However, the Commission had not acknowledged that zone for compliance with the goals when the claimant acquired the property on June 29, 1977. 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 April 22, 1988, the Commission acknowledged the application of Polk County's Farm/Forest (FF) zone to tax lot 705 of the Measure 37 claim property. The Commission's acknowledgement of Polk County's FF zone confirmed that zone's compliance with Goals 3 and 4, and ORS chapter 215. Polk County's acknowledged FF zone required 40 acres for the creation of a new lot or parcel on which a dwelling could be established. Tax lot 705 of the Measure 37 claim property consists of 9.80 acres and is developed with a dwelling. Therefore, on the claimant's acquisition date, she could not have established any additional home sites in either the zone as it existed on the claimant's acquisition date or the zone that was ultimately acknowledged to comply with the statewide planning goals and implementing regulations. The claimant does not qualify for any home sites on tax lot 705 of the Measure 37 claim property.

The claimant acquired tax lot 601 on October 12, 1992. On October 14, 1992, the Commission acknowledged the application of Polk County's Timber Conservation (TC) zone to tax lot 601 of the Measure 37 claim property. The Commission's acknowledgement of Polk County's TC zone confirmed that zone's compliance with Goal 4 and ORS chapter 215. Polk County's acknowledged TC zone required 80 acres for the creation of a new lot or parcel on which a dwelling could be established. Tax lot 601 of the Measure 37 claim property consists of 0.40 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. The claimant does not qualify for any home sites on tax lot 601 of the Measure 37 claim property.

II. COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

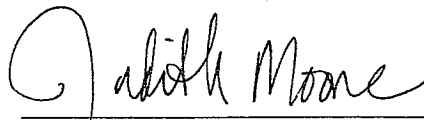
The department issued its Preliminary Evaluation for this claim on November 23, 2009. Pursuant to OAR 660-041-0090, the department provided written notice to the owners of surrounding properties. Comments received have been taken into account by the department in the issuance of this Final Order of Denial. The claimant's agent submitted a comment asserting that the zoning at the claimant's acquisition date would have allowed an additional home site. However, as stated in the analysis above, the zone that applied to the property when the claimant acquired it was not acknowledged for compliance with the statewide planning goals. Therefore, the statewide planning goals applied directly to the property at this time would not have allowed an additional home site on a property of this size already developed with one home site.

III. CONCLUSION

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

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Final Order of Denial is entered by the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development as a final order of the department and the Land Conservation and Development Commission under ORS 197.300 to ORS 195.336 and OAR 660-041-0000 to 660-041-0160.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND THE LAND
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION:



Judith Moore, Division Manager
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development
Dated this 25th day of January 2010

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL OR OTHER JUDICIAL RELIEF

You are entitled, or may be entitled, to judicial remedies including the following:

1. Judicial review is available to anyone who is an owner of the property as defined in Measure 49 that it the subject of this final determination, or a person who timely submitted written evidence or comments to the department concerning this final determination.
2. Judicial review under ORS 183.484 may be obtained by filing a petition for review within 60 days from the service of this order. A petition for judicial review under ORS 183.484 must be filed in the Circuit Court in the county in which the affected property is located. Upon motion of any party to the proceedings, the proceedings may be transferred to any other county with jurisdiction under ORS 183.484 in the manner provided by law for change of venue.
3. Judicial review of this final determination is limited to the evidence in the record of the department at the time of its final determination. Copies of the documents that comprise the record are available for review at the department's office at 635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150, Salem, OR 97301-2540. Judicial review is only available for issues that were raised before the department with sufficient specificity to afford the department an opportunity to respond.