



**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:

E133868¹

CLAIMANTS:

Laverne and Mary Jean Ratzlaff
15391 Airlie Road
Monmouth, OR 97361

**MEASURE 37 PROPERTY
IDENTIFICATION:**

Township 9S, Range 5W,
Section 18, Tax lot 101
Section 7, Tax lot 508
Polk County

The claimants, Laverne and Mary Jean Ratzlaff, filed a claim with the state under ORS 197.352 (2005) (Measure 37) on December 4, 2006, for property located at 15375 Airlie Road, near Monmouth, 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 claimants have elected supplemental review of their 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 Claimants 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 claimants have requested four home site approvals in the election material. No waiver was issued for this claim. The Measure 37 claim filed with the state describes more than three home sites. Therefore, the claimants may qualify for a maximum of three home site approvals under Section 6 of Measure 49.

¹ The claimants also have submitted claims for properties not contiguous to the subject property which are identified as E119597 and E133893.

B. Qualification Requirements

To qualify for a home site approval under Section 6 of Measure 49, the claimants 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 claimants, Laverne and Mary Jean Ratzlaff, filed a Measure 37 claim, M13386801, with the state on December 4, 2006. The claimants filed a Measure 37 claim, M06-256, with Polk County on December 4, 2006. The state claim was filed prior to December 4, 2006.

The claimants 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 trust documents submitted by the claimants, Laverne Ratzlaff is the trustee of an irrevocable trust into which the Measure 37 property has been conveyed and, therefore, is an owner of the property under Measure 49.

According to the information submitted by the claimants, Mary Jean Ratzlaff has not established her ownership of the property for the purposes of Measure 49. The claimants transferred their entire interest to an irrevocable trust on September 3, 1985, of which Laverne Ratzlaff is the only trustee, as reflected by the bargain and sale deed included with the claim. Therefore, Mary Jean is no longer an owner of the subject property for purposes of Measure 49.

Polk County has confirmed that claimant Laverne Ratzlaff 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, Monmouth.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

The property is currently zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) by Polk County, in accordance with ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, because the property is "agricultural land" as defined by Goal 3. Goal 3 requires agricultural land to be zoned exclusive farm use. Applicable provisions of ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, enacted or adopted pursuant to Goal 3, generally prohibit the establishment of a lot or parcel less than 80 acres in size in an EFU zone and regulate the establishment of dwellings on new or existing lots or parcels.

The claimant's property consists of 9.84 acres. Therefore, state land use regulations prohibit the claimants from establishing on the Measure 37 claim property the three home sites the claimants 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 three 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 claimant Laverne Ratzlaff acquired the property on September 3, 1985.²

The claimant acquired the Measure 37 claim property after adoption of the statewide planning goals, but before the Land Conservation and Development Commission (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 Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) by Polk County. Polk County's EFU zone did not include a fixed minimum acreage standard. However, the Commission had not acknowledged that zone for compliance with the goals when the claimant acquired the property on September 3, 1985. Accordingly, the statewide planning goals, and in particular Goal 3 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 Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zone to the Measure 37 claim property. The Commission's acknowledgement of Polk County's EFU zone confirmed that zone's compliance with Goal 3 and ORS chapter 215. Polk County's acknowledged EFU zone required 80 acres for the creation of a new lot or parcel on which a dwelling could be established. The claimant's property consists of 9.84 acres and is developed with one dwelling. Therefore, on the claimant's acquisition date, they could not have established any additional 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 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

² Polk County deed records indicate that claimants Laverne and Mary Jean Ratzlaff initially acquired the property on November 11, 1976. However, the claimants subsequently transferred their entire interest to an irrevocable trust on September 3, 1985, of which Laverne Ratzlaff is the only trustee.

(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 a claimant would have been lawfully permitted to establish, including existing development. Those amendments provide, in relevant part, that subject to consistency with local land use regulations in effect when they acquired the Measure 37 claim property, claimants whose property consists of less than 20 acres were lawfully permitted to establish one home site.

The Measure 37 claim property consists of 9.84 acres and is developed with one dwelling. Therefore, claimant Laverne Ratzlaff does not qualify for any additional home sites under Measure 49, as amended.

II. COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

The department issued its Preliminary Evaluation for this claim on March 23, 2010. 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. Specifically claimant Laverne Ratzlaff submitted comments arguing that he originally acquired the property on December 28, 1970, via a recorded land sale contract and should be entitled to an acquisition date as of the date of the contract. While Laverne Ratzlaff originally acquired an interest in the subject property on that date, he subsequently conveyed his interest as an individual to Laverne Ratzlaff, Trustee of an irrevocable trust. Conveyance of property into an irrevocable trust is a break in ownership for purposes of Measure 49. Therefore, for purposes of Measure 49, the claimant's acquisition date is September 3, 1985.

III. CONCLUSION

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

Based on the department's analysis above claimant Mary Jean Ratzlaff is not eligible for any relief under Measure 49 because she is no longer an owner of the subject property for purposes of Measure 49.

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 ____ day of May 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 is 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.