1	BEFORE THE LAND USE BOARD OF APPEALS
2	OF THE STATE OF OREGON
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4	NORMAN C. MARTIN,
5	Petitioner,
6	
7	VS.
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9	CITY OF DUNES CITY,
10	Respondent.
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12	LUBA No. 2007-163
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14	FINAL OPINION
15	AND ORDER
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17	Appeal from the City of Dunes City.
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19	Norman C. Martin, Florence, filed the petition for review and argued on his own
20	behalf.
21	
22 23	No appearance by City of Dunes City.
23	DYAM D. 101 ' HOLOTINI D. 1M 1
24 25 26	RYAN, Board Chair; HOLSTUN, Board Member, participated in the decision.
25 26	DACCHAM D. 1M. 1. 111
	BASSHAM, Board Member, did not participate in the decision.
27	A PEID MED 07/22/2009
28	AFFIRMED 07/23/2008
29	Von an antitled to indicial navious of this Onder Indicial navious is accomed by the
30 31	You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review is governed by the
31	provisions of ORS 197.850.

#### NATURE OF THE DECISION

Petitioner appeals a city ordinance adopting new land use regulations implementing erosion control measures.

## **FACTS**

The City of Dunes City Code (DCC) has an existing chapter dealing with erosion control. The city became concerned that the existing erosion control measures were inadequate to control erosion and prevent environmental damage to waters within the city. The city began local proceedings to adopt a new erosion control ordinance. The process for adopting the new ordinance apparently began with a Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI), proceeded to the planning commission, and eventually went to the city council. The city council adopted the challenged ordinance over petitioner's objections. This appeal followed.

## INTRODUCTION

This appeal presents challenges in determining the issues for the Board to review. The petition for review is 47 pages long and includes eight designated assignments of error. The assignments of error repeat many of the same themes and arguments throughout the petition for review, and, to the extent we can understand them, do not appear to provide separate bases for reversal or remand. The city did not file a response brief.

Although petitioner's assignments of error are difficult to follow, to the extent we can discern petitioner's arguments from the petition for review, we will consider those arguments. *Freedom v. City of Ashland*, 37 Or LUBA 123, 124-25 (1999). For a substantial portion of the petition for review, we are unable to discern a cognizable argument providing a basis for reversal or remand, and we therefore will not consider those "arguments." *See Sommer v. Josephine County*, 54 Or LUBA 507, 511-12, *aff'd* 215 Or App 501, 170 P3d 8, 9 (2007) (LUBA will not consider arguments that are so poorly stated that they cannot

reasonably be responded to). We will address those portions of individual assignments of error that provide a cognizable argument, but any portions of the assignments we do not address are denied as not providing a reasonably understandable argument. Id.

Although petitioner makes no attempt to explain the nature of the challenged decision, the city's decision is a legislative decision. Under DCC 155.4.1.2(D), the city's Type IV procedures apply to legislative decisions. The applicable approval criteria or considerations are apparently found at DCC 155.4.1.7(E):

- 8 "Decision-Making Considerations. The recommendation by the Planning 9 Commission and the decision by the City Council shall be based on 10 consideration of the following factors:
- "1. 11 The Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines adopted under Oregon 12 Revised Statutes Chapter 197 (for Comprehensive Plan Amendments 13 only);
- 14 "2. Comments from any applicable federal or state agencies regarding applicable statutes or regulations;
  - "3. Any applicable intergovernmental agreements; and
- "4. Any applicable Comprehensive Plan policies and provisions of this 17 18 Code that implement the Comprehensive Plan. \* \* \*"

Under DCC 155.4.1.7(E)(1), if a legislative decision involves an amendment to the comprehensive plan, it must be consistent with the statewide planning goals. The challenged decision, however, is a new land use regulation that is an amendment to the DCC, not an amendment to the comprehensive plan. Although petitioner does not appear to recognize the distinction between comprehensive plan amendments and amendments to a land use

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DCC 155.4.1.2(D) provides:

<sup>&</sup>quot;Type IV Procedure (Legislative). Type IV Procedure applies to legislative matters. Legislative matters involve the creation, revision, or large-scale implementation of public policy (e.g., adoption of land use regulations, zone changes, and Comprehensive Plan amendments that apply to entire districts). Type IV matters are considered initially by the Planning Commission and Road Commission with final decisions made by the City Council. These procedures are typified by the requirement of passage of an Ordinance."

regulation, he does cite (at page 41 of the petition for review) ORS 197.835(7)(b), which provides that LUBA shall reverse or remand a new land use regulation if the comprehensive plan does not contain specific policies or provisions that provide the basis for the regulation *and* the regulation is not in compliance with the goals.<sup>2</sup>

Where a petitioner argues that a new land use regulation fails to comply with the statewide planning goals, we rely on the respondent to identify any specific provisions in the local comprehensive plan it contends provides the basis for the challenged land use regulation. If the respondent does not identify any such provisions, we will not search the comprehensive plan for them, and we will assume no such provision exist and reverse or remand the challenged decision if it does not comply with the goals or administrative rules implementing the goals. *1000 Friends of Oregon v. Marion County*, 27 Or LUBA 303, 305-06 (1994). As previously noted, the city has not filed a response brief and therefore has not identified any local comprehensive plan provisions that provide the basis for the challenged decision. Therefore, we will consider petitioner's arguments that the challenged decision violates the goals.

Petitioner argues throughout the petition for review that there are no comprehensive plan policies that provide the basis for the challenged decision and that it violates Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement), Goal 2 (Land Use Planning), and Goal 5 (Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Open Spaces).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> ORS 197.835(7) provides:

<sup>&</sup>quot;[LUBA] shall reverse or remand an amendment to a land use regulation or the adoption of a new land use regulation if:

**<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>**\*\*

<sup>&</sup>quot;(b) The comprehensive plan does not contain specific policies or other provisions which provide the basis for the regulation and the regulation is not in compliance with the statewide planning goals."

### FIRST ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

Under this assignment of error, we reasonably understand petitioner to argue that the challenged decision violates Goal 1, Goal 2, and Goal 5.

### A. Goal 1

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Petitioner's Goal 1 argument is more developed in his second assignment of error, and we address the Goal 1 argument under that assignment of error.

# B. Goal 5

Although petitioner argues that the challenged decision violates Goal 5, petitioner does not explain how Goal 5 is violated. Petitioner's only argument under Goal 5 is that the city did not adopt findings that specifically address Goal 5. It is well established that absent a specific legal requirement for findings in support of a legislative decision, the failure of a decision maker to adopt findings in support of a legislative decision is not a basis in itself for reversal or remand. Witham Parts v. ODOT, 42 Or LUBA 435, 450-51 (2002), aff'd 185 Or App 408, 61 P3d 281 (2002); Redland/Viola/Fischer's Mill CPO v. Clackamas County, 27 Or LUBA 560, 563-64 (1994). That rule does not apply however, where findings are necessary to allow LUBA or the appellate courts to perform their review function to determine whether a particular criterion is satisfied. Citizens Against Irresistible Growth v. Metro, 179 Or App 12, 16 n 6, 38 P3d 956 (2002). Although the city's findings do not specifically mention or address Goal 5, there are findings supporting the challenged decision. Record 34-37. More importantly, however, although petitioner faults the city for not adopting findings that specifically address Goal 5, petitioner does not explain how the challenged decision violates Goal 5.

Assuming the disputed erosion control measures implicate Goal 5 in some way, petitioner must explain how the challenged decision violates Goal 5 in order to provide a basis for reversal or remand. The only argument petitioner makes as to how the decision violates Goal 5 is that the city did not amend its inventory of Goal 5 resources in making the

challenged decision. A detailed discussion of Goal 5 is not warranted by petitioner's argument that the city must amend its Goal 5 inventory. As a general rule, unless the challenged decision itself amends an acknowledged Goal 5 inventory, a local government is not required to amend its acknowledged Goal 5 inventory until periodic review. *Urquhart v. Lane Council of Governments*, 80 Or App 176, 181, 721 P2d 870 (1986). It may be that the challenged erosion control measures add to or detract from the city's acknowledged Goal 5 program to protect inventoried Goal 5 resources, but petitioner does not argue that such is the case in any way that is sufficient for review. But even if that is the case, petitioner does not make any attempt to explain why such changes make amendments to the city's acknowledged Goal 5 inventory necessary.

Petitioner's argument that the decision violates Goal 5 is denied.

## C. Goal 2

What is commonly referred to as the "coordination requirement" of Goal 2 provides that "[e]ach plan and related implementation measure shall be coordinated with the plans of affected governmental units." Goal 2 defines "affected governmental units" as "those local governments, state and federal agencies and special districts which have programs, land ownerships, or responsibilities within the area included in the plan." Goal 2 and ORS 197.015(5) provide that a plan is "coordinated" when the "needs of all levels of governments \*\*\* have been considered and accommodated as much as possible." According to petitioner, the City of Florence, Lane County, the Siuslaw Watershed Commission, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Honeyman State Park are affected governmental units. We understand petitioner to argue the city failed to carry out its Goal 2 coordination obligations with these governmental bodies.

Petitioner does not argue that the city did not respond to concerns of affected governmental units, but rather that the city did not attempt any coordination with these governmental bodies at all. A local government must clearly explain the nature of the

proposed action, and comments of the affected governmental agencies must be solicited.

Sanders v. Yamhill County, 34 Or LUBA 69, 77 (1998). A local government is not required

to drag a response out of an affected governmental agency if it does not respond. *Id.* at 79.

4 Because the present appeal appears to present a situation in which there was no response to

5 the city's proposal from the alleged affected governmental agencies, the question is whether

those affected governmental agencies were given an adequate opportunity to comment had

they wished to do so.

Although petitioner asserts that the above-listed entities are affected governmental units, he does not explain why they are affected governmental units.<sup>3</sup> Even assuming that some of the listed entities are affected governmental units, the city did provide general notice of its activities regarding the erosion control ordinance. The city was in repeated contact with the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), whose attorney represented the city early in these proceedings. Record 384-85, 495, 525-27, 948, 1004-32, 1189, 1215-17, 1286, 1300. The city provided notice of its proceedings and public service announcements regarding its meetings in a newspaper of general circulation in the area. Record 1161, 1212, 1298, 1310, 1325. The city also sent public service announcements regarding proceedings on the erosion control ordinance to a local media outlet to broadcast. Record 1197, 1213, 1238, 1311, 1326. Finally, the city provided notice of the proposed decision to the Department of Land Conservation and Development. Record 1150-60.

The present appeal is similar to the situation in *Bernard Perkins Corp. v. City of Rivergrove*, 34 Or LUBA 660 (1998), where the petitioner argued that the city failed to comply with the Goal 2 coordination requirement because it failed to extend opportunities to comment to nearby jurisdictions. We held that the city's coordination with DLCD and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For instance, we fail to see how ODOT would be affected by the erosion control ordinance absent some further explanation, and although the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is the state agency that owns and operates Honeyman State Park, Honeyman State Park itself is not a governmental unit.

Metro, which was the governmental unit responsible for regional planning, and the publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation was sufficient to satisfy the coordination requirement. *Id.* at 680. In the present appeal, the city coordinated with DLCD and LCOG. Like Metro, LCOG has regional planning responsibilities. The city also published notices in the newspaper and through public service announcements. While we might perhaps find differently if one of the alleged affected governmental units were claiming that these notices and contacts were inadequate to put it on notice or provide an adequate opportunity to comment, that is not the case. In essence, petitioner's argument is that the city should have individually contacted each allegedly affected governmental unit, those allegedly affected governmental units *might* have had concerns with the challenged decision, those allegedly affected governmental units might have requested changes to the proposed erosion control ordinance, and thereby the city would have been required to either amend the ordinance or explain its reasons for not amending the ordinance in response to such expressed concerns. In the present case, we believe that is too slender a reed upon which to conclude a violation of the Goal 2 coordination requirement has occurred. As in Bernard Perkins, the city satisfied the coordination requirement.

The first assignment of error is denied.

## SECOND ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

Under this assignment of error, petitioner presents his Goal 1 argument. Goal 1 requires a local government to adopt a citizen involvement program (CIP), which the city has done. Where amendments to a local government's comprehensive plan or land use regulations do not amend or affect the local government's acknowledged CIP, which the challenged decision does not, the city complies with its Goal 1 obligation by complying with the acknowledged CIP. *Casey Jones Well Drilling, Inc. v. City of Lowell*, 34 Or LUBA 263, 284 (1998).

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1	It appears to us that the city's CIP is located in chapter one of the Dunes City		
2	Comprehensive Plan (DCCP). Policy A1 under Citizen Involvement and Land Use Planning		
3	provides:		
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	"Citizens involvement. Dunes City's citizen involvement program shall insure that the citizens of Dunes City have the opportunity to be involved in all phases of the planning process. The City Council may appoint members to serve on the Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI). All interested parties, by their attendance at the meetings of the CCI, shall become voting members of the CCI for that meeting. The CCI shall make recommendations to the Planning Commission, who themselves shall make recommendations to the City Council, on matters pertaining to post acknowledgment Plan amendments and periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan.		
13 14		citizen involvement program shall incorporate the following onents:	
15	"1.	Citizen Involvement; to provide for widespread citizen involvement.	
16 17	"2.	Communication; to [as]sure effective two-way communication with citizens.	
18 19	"3.	Citizen Influence; to provide the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.	
20 21	"4.	Technical Information; to assure that technical information is available in an understandable form.	
22 23	"5.	Feedback Mechanism; to assure that citizens will receive a response from policy-makers.	
24 25	"6.	Financial Support; to assure funding for the citizen involvement program."	
26	The planning recommendations provide:		
27 28 29	"a.	The CCI will include the City Council, the Planning Commission, and citizens-at-large. Citizens will be members of the committee upon meeting attendance.	
30	"b.	Participation by elected officials in the CCI should be encouraged.	
31	"c.	Greater efforts will be made to increase participation by the public."	
32	Petitioner's arguments that the city failed to follow its CIP are very difficult to		
33	follow. Petit	ioner levels numerous accusations and allegations of wrongdoing and bias on	
	Page 9		

the part of various city officials and organizations. How these accusations and allegations relate to the CIP, however, is not clear. As far as we can tell, the CIP provides that the city may appoint committees for citizen involvement (CCIs) that make recommendations to the planning commission. The CIP further provides that the CCIs' composition includes the city council, planning commission, and any citizens who attend CCI meetings. It appears that the city appointed a CCI to work on the new erosion control ordinance and that numerous meetings were held. It also appears that petitioner was present at most of those meetings and apparently was a citizen-at-large member of the CCI. As near as we can tell, the CCI recommended approval of the erosion control ordinance to the planning commission by a vote of 28 to 6, with petitioner presumably being in the minority. Record 761-62. While we are without the assistance of the city in this appeal, the appointed CCI appears to have functioned as the CCI component of the CIP is supposed to function.

Petitioner also argues that another citizens group, the Moratorium Support Committee (MSC) contributed to the drafting of the erosion control ordinance. According to petitioner, allowing the MSC to work on the erosion control ordinance violates Dunes City Rules of Procedure (DCRP) 7.2, which requires, among other things, that a citizen committee "shall cease to exist upon the accomplishments of the special purpose for which it was created." According to petitioner, the "special purpose" for which the MSC had been created had concluded, and the MSC should have been disbanded. While the extent of the MSC's involvement in the drafting of the erosion control ordinance is unclear, even if the city somehow ran afoul of DCRP 7.2, that rule of procedure is not part of the CCI provisions or the CIP. In other words, violation of DCRP 7.2 would not in and of itself necessarily be a violation of the city's CIP and, therefore, would not necessarily constitute a violation of Goal 1. Petitioner's arguments regarding the DCRP are not sufficiently developed to provide a basis for reversal or remand.

As to the CCI and the CIP, we fail to see how the city violated those provisions.

Even if there were deviations from the requirements set out in those provisions, petitioner does not establish that any such deviations prejudiced his substantial rights, including the opportunity to prepare and submit his case to the city. *Muller v. Polk County*, 16 Or LUBA 771, 775 (1988). As far as we can tell, petitioner participated in the CCI, presented his case to the planning commission, and presented his case to the city council. In fact, it appears that petitioner was at least as involved in this matter as anyone else. The record is replete with

9 The second assignment of error is denied.

#### THIRD ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

Petitioner argues that the city committed numerous violations of the Public Meetings Law, ORS 192.610 *et seq.* According to petitioner, the city violated the Public Meetings Law regarding notices, agendas, meetings, quorums, and decision making. The short answer to petitioner's argument is that even assuming all of petitioner's allegations are accurate, the exclusive remedy for violation of the Public Meetings Law is to file suit in circuit court.

petitioner's submissions, arguments, and testimony in opposition to the challenged decision.

ORS 192.680 provides in pertinent part:

"(2) Any person affected by a decision of a governing body of a public body may commence a suit in the circuit court for the county in which the governing body ordinarily meets, for the purpose of requiring compliance with, or the prevention of violations of ORS 192.610 to 192.690, by members of the governing body, or to determine the applicability of ORS 192.610 to 192.690 to matters or decisions of the governing body.

24 "\*\*\*\*\*

25 "(6) The provisions of this section shall be the exclusive remedy for an alleged violation of ORS 192.610 to 192.690."

It may be that the alleged violations of the Public Meetings Law also constitute violations of other statutory or local procedural requirements that might provide a basis for reversal or remand of the challenged decision if the alleged violation resulted in prejudice to

- 1 petitioner's substantial rights. However, petitioner does not develop such an argument.
- 2 Petitioner's arguments therefore do not provide a basis for reversal or remand.
- 3 The third assignment of error is denied.

#### FOURTH ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

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Petitioner argues that the city did not adopt sufficient findings to support the challenged decision. As we explained above in our disposition of petitioner's Goal 5 arguments, the failure of a decision maker to adopt findings in support of a legislative decision is not necessarily a basis in itself for reversal or remand. Under Goal 2, a legislative decision must be based upon an "adequate factual base." The Goal 2 requirement for an adequate factual base essentially requires that the decision be supported by substantial evidence that relevant approval criteria are satisfied. 1000 Friends of Oregon v. City of North Plains, 27 Or LUBA 372, 377-78, aff'd 130 Or App 406, 882 P2d 1130 (1994). The Goal 2 adequate factual base requirement, however, does not exist in a vacuum. A petitioner must establish that there is some applicable statewide planning goal or other applicable criterion that requires such an adequate factual base. OCAPA v. City of Mosier, 44 Or LUBA 452, 462 (2003). As discussed earlier, the only statewide planning goals that petitioner argues the city violated are Goal 1, Goal 2, and Goal 5. As discussed earlier, petitioner has not established that the city violated any requirement that is imposed by those goals. In making his adequate factual base argument, petitioner has failed to identify any legal requirement under the cited goals for which the city must ensure that its decision is supported by substantial evidence to demonstrate that such legal requirement is satisfied. Petitioner's arguments do not provide a basis for reversal or remand.

The fourth assignment of error is denied.

# FIFTH ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

Petitioner argues that the challenged decision constitutes a taking of private property without just compensation and is therefore unconstitutional. Petitioner devotes considerable

- 1 length to arguing that the challenged decision is a taking under the analysis that is required 2 under the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Dolan v. City of Tigard*, 512 US 374, 3 114 S Ct 2309, 129 L Ed 2d 304 (1994). Petitioner's arguments, however, are misplaced. 4 While an extended discussion of takings law is unnecessary, it is sufficient to note that *Dolan* 5 applies to exactions, where, in general, an applicant is required to give up property as a 6 condition of approval of a development. The *Dolan* analysis simply does not apply to so-7 called regulatory takings where a local government's regulation simply restricts a property 8 owner's ability to develop property. The disputed erosion control measures do not impose 9 any exactions. Any takings argument regarding the challenged erosion control measures 10 would have to be a regulatory takings argument. We will not develop a regulatory takings 11 argument for petitioner. Therefore, petitioner's arguments do not provide a basis for reversal 12 or remand.
- The fifth assignment of error is denied.

# SIXTH ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

- Petitioner's arguments under this assignment of error essentially repeat arguments made elsewhere in the brief, particularly regarding compliance with the statewide planning goals. As we discussed in the first assignment of error, petitioner does provide here the basis for his assertion that the goals apply to the challenged decision under ORS 197.835(7)(b). Petitioner's arguments that the city violated the goals, however, merely repeat the general allegations we rejected in the first and second assignments of error. We reject those arguments for the same reasons.
- The sixth assignment of error is denied.

#### SEVENTH ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

- As far as we can tell, this assignment of error adds nothing to the arguments made elsewhere in the petition for review. We reject those arguments for the same reason.
- The seventh assignment of error is denied.

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## EIGHTH ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

Petitioner argues that LUBA must remand the challenged decision because the city did not provide DLCD with at least 45 days notice before the first evidentiary hearing as required by ORS 197.610(1).<sup>4</sup> As far as we can tell from the record, petitioner is correct that the city did not provide DLCD with 45 days notice. The city only provided DLCD with 16 days notice. Record 1150.

Where there is a complete failure to provide notice to DLCD under ORS 197.610(1), that is a substantive error, not a procedural error, and remand is required. *Oregon City Leasing, Inc. v. Columbia County*, 121 Or App 173, 177, 854 P2d 495 (1993). In cases where a local government actually provides the notice required by ORS 197.610(1) but deviates from the statutory notice requirement in some way, such as not providing 45 days notice, in order to provide a basis for reversal or remand, a petitioner must demonstrate that the deviation prejudiced his substantial rights. *Bryant v. Umatilla County*, 45 Or LUBA 653, 657 (2003). Petitioner does not argue that the city's failure to provide timely notice to DLCD prejudiced his substantial rights, and we do not see that he could, as he participated at every stage of the proceedings below. Therefore, petitioner's arguments provide no basis for reversal or remand.

The eighth assignment of error is denied.

The city's decision is affirmed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ORS 197.610(1) provides:

<sup>&</sup>quot;A proposal to amend a local government acknowledged comprehensive plan or land use regulation or to adopt a new land use regulation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development at least 45 days before the first evidentiary hearing on adoption. The proposal forwarded shall contain the text and any supplemental information that the local government believes is necessary to inform the director as to the effect of the proposal. The notice shall include the date set for the first evidentiary hearing. The director shall notify persons who have requested notice that the proposal is pending."