



**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

**ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (MEASURE 49) SUPPLEMENTAL REVIEW
OF MEASURE 37 CLAIM
Preliminary Evaluation**

October 10, 2008

STATE ELECTION NUMBER: E118396

CLAIMANTS: Lyle and Ruth McAlexander
6670 Trout Creek Ridge Road
Parkdale, Oregon 97041

**MEASURE 37 PROPERTY
IDENTIFICATION:** Township 1N, Range 10E, Section 30
Tax lots 4500, 4501 and 4502¹
Hood River County

I. ELECTION

The claimants, Lyle and Ruth McAlexander, filed a claim under ORS 197.352 (2005) (Measure 37) on May 5, 2005 for property located at 6670 Trout Creek Ridge Road near Parkdale, in Hood River County. ORS 195.300 to ORS 195.336 (Measure 49) entitles claimants who filed a Measure 37 claim to elect supplemental review of their claim under either Section 6 or 7 of Measure 49. The claimants have elected supplemental review of their Measure 37 claim under the Section 6 option. The Section 6 option authorizes the Department of Land Conservation and Development (the department) to issue up to three home site approvals to qualified claimants.

II. SUMMARY OF PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

Based on the department's preliminary analysis, it appears that the claimants are qualified for up to three home site approvals on the Measure 37 claim property. The claimants' property, including both the Measure 37 claim property and all contiguous property in the same ownership, currently appears to consist of five lots or parcels², which are developed with one dwelling. After taking into account the number of lots, parcels and dwellings currently located on the Measure 37 claim property and the contiguous property under the same ownership, it

¹ The Measure 37 claim property consisted of tax lots 4500, 4501, 4502, 500 and 1200. The claimants did not elect supplemental review for tax lots 500 and 1200 because they transferred those tax lots to another owner. Therefore, the claimants are no longer entitled to relief under Measure 49 for tax lots 500 and 1200. As a result, all references to the "Measure 37 Claim Property" in this Preliminary Evaluation are to the remaining property owned by the claimants—tax lots 4500, 4501 and 4502.

² According to the M37 Hood River County staff report tax lots 4500, 4501 and 4502 consist of five separate legal lots.

appears that the home site approvals will allow the claimants to establish no additional lots or parcels and two additional dwellings on the Measure 37 claim property.

III. THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOME SITE APPROVALS FOR WHICH THE CLAIMANT(S) MAY QUALIFY

Under the Section 6 option, the number of home site approvals issued 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 three home site approvals in the election material. The Measure 37 waiver issued for this claim describes approximately 10 home sites. Therefore, the claimants may qualify for a maximum of three home site approvals under the Section 6 option.

IV. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF QUALIFICATION FOR HOME SITE APPROVAL

1. Preliminary Analysis

To qualify for a home site approval under the Section 6 option, 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.

The claimants, Lyle and Ruth McAlexander, filed a Measure 37 claim, M118396, with the state on May 5, 2005. The claimants filed a Measure 37 claim with Hood River County on May 5, 2005. The state claim was filed prior to or on December 4, 2006.

It appears that the claimants timely filed a Measure 37 claim with both the state and Hood River County.

In addition to filing a claim with both the state and the county in which the property is located, to qualify for a home site approval under the Section 6 option the claimants must establish each of the following:

(a) 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."

According to the land sale contract submitted by the claimants, Lyle and Ruth McAlexander are the purchasers under a recorded land sale contract and, therefore, are owners of the property under Measure 49.

(b) All Owners of the Property Have Consented in Writing to the Claim

It appears that the claimants are the sole owners of the property. Therefore, no additional consents are required.

(c) The Measure 37 Claim Property Is Located Entirely Outside Any Urban Growth Boundary and Entirely Outside the Boundaries of Any City

The Measure 37 claim property, tax lots 4500, 4501 and 4502, are located in Hood River County, at 6670 Trout Creek Ridge Road (Township 1N, Range 10E, Section 30) outside any urban growth boundary and outside any city limits near the unincorporated community of Parkdale.

(d) One or More Land Use Regulations Prohibit Establishing the Lot, Parcel or Dwelling

As stated in Section III above, the claimants may qualify for up to three home site approvals.

The property is currently zoned EFU-HVFL (Exclusive Farm Use High-Value Farmland) by Hood River County, in accordance with ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, because the property is “agricultural land” as defined by Goal 3.³ Goal 3 requires agricultural land to be zoned exclusive farm use (EFU). Applicable provisions of ORS chapter 215 and OAR 660, division 33, enacted or adopted pursuant to Goal 3, generally prohibit the establishment of a dwelling on a lot or parcel less than 80 acres in size in an EFU zone.

The claimants’ property consists of 50.37 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.

(e) 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

³ The claimants’ property is “agricultural land” because it contains Natural Resources Conservation Service Class I-IV soils and is located in western Oregon.

pornography or performing nude dancing.

Based on the documentation submitted by the claimants, it does not appear that the establishment of home sites on the property would be prohibited by land use regulations described in ORS 195.305(3).

(f) 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."

Hood River County deed records indicate that the claimants acquired the property on June 15, 1974.

On June 15, 1974 the Measure 37 claim property was subject to state statutes and Hood River County's A-1 zone. Hood River County's A-1 zone required at least five acres for the establishment of a dwelling on a lot or parcel. On the claimants' acquisition date, the claimants lawfully could not have established a dwelling on a lot or parcel of less than five acres under the zone then in effect. The claimants' property consists of 50.37 acres. Therefore, under the local zoning then in effect, the claimants lawfully could have established the maximum limit of three home sites on their date of acquisition.

State law in effect on the claimants' date of acquisition, namely ORS 197.175(1) and 197.280 (1973) required, in addition to any local plan or zoning provisions, that counties exercise their planning responsibilities in accordance with the interim land use planning goals set forth in ORS 215.515 (1973). Under ORS 215.515, one of the interim planning goals was to "conserve prime farm land for the production of crops." This goal is furthered under Measure 49 Section 11(3)(b), which limits the size and location of development on prime farmland. Measure 49 Section 11(3) requires new parcels on high-value land to be no larger than two acres and "clustered so as to maximize suitability of the remnant lot or parcel for farm or forest use." Soil types are a critical determinant of prime farm land.

The claimants' property includes high-value, prime farmland. Therefore, when the claimants acquired the property, the claimants lawfully could have established the requested three home sites on the property, provided they were developed in a manner that conserved the prime farmland for the production of crops. In order to meet this requirement, the three home sites to which the claimants appear to be entitled must be located on lots or parcels no larger than two acres, and clustered so as to maximize the suitability of the remnant lot or parcel for farm use.

2. Preliminary Conclusion

Based on the preliminary analysis, it appears that the claimants, Lyle and Ruth McAlexander, qualify for up to three home site approvals under the Section 6 option of Measure 49.

V. NUMBER OF LOTS, PARCELS OR DWELLINGS ON OR CONTAINED WITHIN THE PROPERTY

The number of lots, parcels or dwellings that a claimant is authorized to establish pursuant to the home site approvals is reduced by the number of lots, parcels or dwellings currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property and any contiguous property under the same ownership. However, if a claimant otherwise qualifies for relief under the Section 6 option, the claimant will be able to establish at least one additional lot, parcel or dwelling regardless of the number of lots, parcels or dwellings currently in existence.

Based on the documentation provided by the claimants and documentation obtained from Hood River County, the Measure 37 claim property appears to currently include five lots or parcels and one dwelling.⁴ There is no contiguous property under the same ownership. Therefore, the three home site approvals the claimants appear to qualify for under the Section 6 option will allow the claimants to establish no additional lots or parcels and up to two additional dwellings on the Measure 37 claim property. The claimants must alter the configuration of the lots or parcels currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property if they intend to develop additional dwellings pursuant to their home site approvals. Each additional dwelling must be sited on a separate lot or parcel, a maximum of two acres in size, and must be contained within the Measure 37 claim property.

VI. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF PROPOSED LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS ON THE NUMBER AND SCOPE OF HOME SITE APPROVALS

The department has identified the following limitations and conditions that may affect the number or scope of the home site approvals that the claimants would otherwise be entitled to under Section 6 of Measure 49. This list may not be comprehensive and does not preclude the possibility that other considerations, not yet identified by the department, may affect land divisions or the establishment of dwellings authorized by the home site approval.

1. The establishment of a land division or dwelling based on a Measure 49 home site approval must comply with all applicable standards governing the siting or development of the land division or dwelling. However, those standards must not be applied in a manner that prohibits the establishment of the land division or dwelling, unless the standards are

⁴ The documentation for this claim indicates that there may be one temporary dwelling that was permitted as an accessory farm dwelling, and six seasonal farm labor housing units currently located on the subject property or on contiguous property in the same ownership. Temporary dwellings are not considered in determining the number of dwellings currently existing on the property. The claimants may choose to convert a temporary dwelling currently located on the property to an authorized home site through the Measure 49 home site approval. Otherwise, the temporary dwellings are subject to the terms of local permit requirements under which they were approved, and are subject to removal at the end of term for which they are allowed.

reasonably necessary to avoid or abate a nuisance, to protect public health or safety, or to carry out federal law.

2. A home site approval will not authorize the establishment of a land division or dwelling in violation of a land use regulation described in ORS 195.305(3) or in violation of any other law that is not a land use regulation as defined by ORS 195.300(14).
3. A claimant is not eligible for more than 20 home site approvals under Sections 5 to 11 of Measure 49 regardless of how many properties a claimant owns or how many claims a claimant filed.
4. The number of lots, parcels or dwellings a claimant may be eligible to establish under a Measure 49 authorization is reduced by the number of lots, parcels and dwellings currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property and contiguous property in the same ownership, regardless of whether evidence of their existence has been provided to the department. If lots, parcels or dwellings currently exist on the Measure 37 claim property or on contiguous property under the same ownership and the lots, parcels or dwellings have not been disclosed to the department, then the number of additional lots, parcels or dwellings a claimant may establish pursuant to the home site approval must be reduced according to the methodology stated in Section 6(2)(b) and 6(3) of Measure 49.
5. Temporary dwellings are not considered in determining the number of existing dwellings currently on the property. The claimants may choose to convert any temporary dwelling currently located on the Measure 37 claim property to an authorized home site pursuant to the Measure 49 home site approval. Otherwise, any temporary dwelling is subject to the terms of the local permit requirements under which it was approved, and is subject to removal at the end of the term for which it is allowed.
6. A home site approval only authorizes the establishment of one or more new lots, parcels or dwellings on the Measure 37 claim property. No additional development is authorized on contiguous property for which no Measure 37 claim was filed. Each lot or parcel established pursuant to a home site approval must either be the site of a dwelling that is currently in existence or be the future site of a dwelling that will be established pursuant to the home site approval. The home site approval does not authorize the establishment of a new dwelling on a lot or parcel that already contains one or more dwellings. The claimants may be required to alter the configuration of the lots or parcels currently in existence on the Measure 37 claim property and contiguous property so that each additional dwelling established on the Measure 37 claim property, pursuant to the home site approval, is sited on a separate lot or parcel.
7. Once the department issues a final home site approval, the home site approval will run with the property and will transfer with the property. The home site approval will not expire, except that if a claimant who received a home site approval later conveys the property to a party other than the claimant's spouse or the trustee of a revocable trust in which the claimant is the settlor, the subsequent owner of the property must establish the authorized lots, parcels and dwellings within 10 years of the conveyance. A lot or parcel lawfully created based on the home site approval will remain a discrete lot or parcel, unless the lot or parcel lines are

vacated or the lot or parcel is further divided, as provided by law. A dwelling lawfully created based on a home site approval is a permitted use.

8. Because the property is located in an exclusive farm use zone, the home site approval will not authorize new lots or parcels that exceed five acres. Before beginning construction, the owner must comply with the requirements of ORS 215.293. Further, the home site approval will not authorize new lots or parcels that exceed two acres if the new lots or parcels are located on high-value farmland, on high-value forestland or on land within a ground water restricted area.
9. Because the property is located in an exclusive farm use zone, Measure 49 requires new home sites to be clustered so as to maximize suitability of the remnant lot or parcel for farm or forest use. Further, if an owner of the property is authorized by other home site approvals to subdivide, partition, or establish dwellings on other Measure 37 claim properties, Measure 49 authorizes the owner to cluster some or all of the authorized lots, parcels or dwellings that would otherwise be located on land in an exclusive farm use zone, a forest zone or a mixed farm and forest zone on a single Measure 37 claim property that is zoned residential use or is located in an exclusive farm use zone, a forest zone or a mixed farm and forest zone but is less suitable for farm or forest use than the other Measure 37 claim properties.

VII. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

A claimant or the claimant's authorized agent, a county and any third party may submit written comments, evidence and information in response to the preliminary evaluation. The comments, evidence and information must be filed with the department no more than twenty-eight (28) calendar days after the date this evaluation is mailed to the claimants and the claimants' agent and notice of this evaluation is mailed to third parties.

The department will mail a copy of all materials timely filed by a county or a third party with the department to the claimants and the claimants' agent. A claimant or a claimant's authorized agent may then file written comments, evidence or information in response to the materials filed by the third party or county. That response must be filed no more than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the date the department mails the materials to the claimants and the claimants' authorized agent.

All comments, evidence and information in response to the preliminary evaluation and all responses to materials filed by a third party or a county shall be delivered to Supplemental Measure 49 Claim Review, 635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97301-2540 and will be deemed timely filed either (1) if actually delivered to the department before the close of business on the final eligible calendar day, or (2) if mailed on or before the final eligible calendar day.

Note: Please reference the claim number and claimant name and clearly mark your comments as "Preliminary Evaluation Comments." Comments must be submitted in original written form only. Comments submitted electronically or by facsimile will not be accepted.