

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES,
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE STATE OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM FOR) FINAL ORDER
COMPENSATION UNDER ORS 197.352) CLAIM NO. M129398
(BALLOT MEASURE 37) OF)
Jack Alley, CLAIMANT)

Claimant: Jack Alley (the Claimant)

Property: Township 12S, Range 12E, Section 26, Tax lots 100 and 101
Jefferson County (the property)

Claim: The demand for compensation and any supporting information received
from the Claimant by the State of Oregon (the Claim).

Claimant submitted the Claim to the State of Oregon under ORS 197.352. Under OAR 125-145-0010 *et seq.*, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) referred the Claim to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) as the regulating entity. This order is based on the record herein, including the Findings and Conclusions set forth in the Final Staff Report and Recommendation of DLCD (the DLCD Report) attached to and by this reference incorporated into this order.

ORDER

The Claim is denied as to laws administered by DLCD and the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for the reasons set forth in the DLCD Report.

This Order is entered by the Deputy Director of the DLCD as a final order of DLCD and the Land Conservation and Development Commission under ORS 197.352, OAR 660-002-0010(8), and OAR chapter 125, division 145, and by the Administrator for the State Services Division of the DAS as a final order of DAS under ORS 197.352, OAR chapter 125, division 145, and ORS chapter 293.

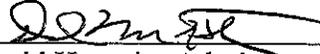
FOR DLCD AND THE LAND
CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:
Lane Shetterly, Director



Cora R. Parker, Deputy Director
DLCD

Dated this 15th day of November, 2006.

FOR the DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:



David Hartwig, Administrator
DAS, State Services Division

Dated this 15th day of November, 2006.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL OR OTHER JUDICIAL RELIEF

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

1. Judicial review under ORS 183.484: 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 may be filed in the Circuit Court for Marion County or the Circuit Court in the county in which you reside.
2. A cause of action under ORS 197.352 (Measure 37 (2004)): If a land use regulation continues to apply to the subject property more than 180 days after the present owner of the property has made written demand for compensation under ORS 197.352, the present owner of the property, or any interest therein, shall have a cause of action in the circuit court in which the real property is located.

(Copies of the documents that comprise the record are available for review at the Department's office at 635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97301-2540)

ORS 197.352 (BALLOT MEASURE 37) CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION

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

November 15, 2006

STATE CLAIM NUMBER: M129398

NAME OF CLAIMANT: Jack Alley

MAILING ADDRESS: 11760 SW Green Drive
Culver, Oregon 97734

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION: Township 12S, Range 12E, Section 26
Tax lots 100 and 101
Jefferson County

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION: Phillip E. Grillo
Miller Nash, LLP
111 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 3400
Portland, Oregon 97204

DATE RECEIVED BY DAS: May 26, 2006

180-DAY DEADLINE: November 22, 2006

I. SUMMARY OF CLAIM

The claimant, Jack Alley, seeks compensation in the amount of \$40 million 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 claimant desires compensation or the right to divide the 403.79-acre subject property into approximately one- to ten-acre parcels and develop a dwelling on each parcel. The subject property is located at the geographic coordinates listed above, near Culver, in Jefferson County. (See claim.)

II. SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings and conclusions set forth below, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (the department) has determined that the claim is not valid because the claimant's desired use of the subject property was prohibited under the laws in effect when the claimant acquired the property in 1997. (See the complete recommendation in Section VI. of this report.)

Comments Received

On September 8, 2006, 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, no written comments were received in response to the 10-day notice.

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 May 26, 2006, for processing under OAR 125, division 145. The claim identifies "ORS 197, 215, Oregon Statewide Planning Goals and all administrative rules implementing them" 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 claimant, Jack Alley, states in the claim that he acquired the subject property on January 16, 1960, as reflected by a land sale contract included with the claim. However, on August 24, 1994,

the claimant conveyed the subject property to James and Frances Davis. On October 6, 1997, James and Frances Davis conveyed the subject property back to the claimant.¹ The Jefferson County Assessor's Office confirms the claimant's current ownership of the subject property.

Conclusions

The claimant, Jack Alley, is an "owner" of the subject property as that term is defined by ORS 197.352(11)(C), as of October 6, 1997.

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 claimant's 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 claimant or a family member acquired the property.

Findings of Fact

The claim indicates that the claimant desires to divide the 403.79-acre subject property into approximately one- to ten-acre parcels and develop a dwelling on each parcel, and that the desired use is not allowed under current land use regulations.

¹ The claimant asserts that for purposes of ORS 197.352, he should be considered the "owner" of the subject property from the date he first acquired an interest in the property on January 16, 1960, notwithstanding the fact that on August 24, 1994, the claimant conveyed title to the subject property to James O. Davis and Frances Helen Davis (hereinafter "the Davises"), husband and wife, by statutory warranty deed. (On October 6, 1997, the Davises conveyed title to the subject property back to the claimant by special warranty deed.)

The claimant asserts that the August 24, 1994, deed to the Davises was not a "genuine transfer" of his ownership interest in the subject property, that the conveyance was merely intended to be a mortgage to secure a loan from the Davises to the claimant. The claimant cites *French v. Boese*, 50 Or App 369, 623 P.2d 1070 (1981) and *Umpqua Forest Ind. v. Neenah-Ore. Land Co.*, 188 Or. 605, 217 P.2d 219 (1950) as authority for the proposition that if the intent of the parties in transferring title to real property is solely to secure an obligation from the grantor to the grantee, the form of the instrument (in this case a statutory warranty deed) may be disregarded and the transaction treated as a mortgage.

Although the department acknowledges recognition of the common law doctrine of "equitable mortgage" in this state, the party asserting that a deed absolute on its face was merely intended to be a mortgage must establish the same by clear and convincing evidence. *French*, supra at page 375. Clear and convincing evidence is evidence "establishing that the truth of the facts asserted is highly probable." *In re Cohen*, 316 Or 657, 659, 853 P.2d 286 (1993).

The record before the department includes some evidence of the intent of the parties relative to the 1994 deed. However, based on the record before the department at this time, the department is unable to conclude that the evidence presented establishes that the 1994 conveyance to the Davises was an equitable mortgage under the applicable evidentiary standard. In order for a claimant to meet the standard of clear and convincing evidence, the record would need to include evidence such as sworn statements of both parties to the transaction setting forth the mutual intent of the parties to the conveyance, copies of all relevant documentation supporting the sworn statements, including but not limited to, the deeds, the promissory note(s), appraisals, tax returns and/or financial statements, proof of payment of principal, interest and real property taxes by the alleged mortgagor and documents evidencing the mortgagor's use and occupation of the property during the term of the mortgage.

The claim is based generally on the applicable provisions of state law that require Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning and restrict uses on EFU-zoned land. The claimant's property is zoned by Jefferson County as EFU, as required by Goal 3, in accordance with ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, because the claimant's 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 Goal 3 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 215.263 establishes standards for the creation of new parcels for non-farm uses and dwellings allowed in an EFU zone.

OAR 660-033-0135 (applicable to farm dwellings) became effective on March 1, 1994, and interprets the statutory standard for a primary dwelling in an EFU zone under ORS 215.283(1)(f). OAR 660-033-0130(4) (applicable to non-farm dwellings) became effective on August 7, 1993, and was amended to comply with ORS 215.284(4) on March 1, 1994. The Commission subsequently adopted amendments to comply with House Bill 3326 (Chapter 704, Oregon Laws 2001, effective on January 1, 2002), which were effective on May 22, 2002. (See administrative rule history for OAR 660-033-0100, -0130 and -0135.)

At the time the claimant acquired the subject property on October 6, 1997, it was zoned EFU by Jefferson County and subject to the current lot size and dwelling standards under Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33.

Conclusions

The current zoning requirements, minimum lot size and dwelling standards established by Goal 3 and provisions applicable to land zoned EFU in ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, were all enacted or adopted before the claimant acquired the subject property on October 6, 1997. These land use regulations do not allow the desired division and development of the subject property. Laws enacted or adopted since the claimant acquired the subject property in 1997 do not restrict the claimant's desired use of the property relative to uses allowed when the claimant acquired it in 1997.

3. Effect of Regulations on Fair Market Value

In order to establish a valid claim, ORS 197.352(1) requires that the land use regulation(s) (described in Section V.(2) of this report) must have "the effect of reducing the fair market value of the property, or any interest therein."

² The claimant's property is "agricultural land" because it contains Natural Resources Conservation Service Class I-IV soils.

Findings of Fact

The claim includes an estimate of \$40 million as the reduction in the subject property's fair market value due to the regulations that restrict the claimant's desired use of the property. This amount is based on the claimant's assessment of the subject property's value.

Conclusions

As explained in Section V.(1) of this report, the claimant is Jack Alley who acquired the subject property on October 6, 1997. No state laws enacted or adopted since the claimant acquired the subject property restrict the use of the property relative to the uses allowed in 1997. Therefore, the fair market value of the subject property has not been reduced since the claimant acquired the property as a result of land use regulations enforced by the Land Use Conservation and Development Commission (the Commission) or the department.

4. Exemptions Under ORS 197.352(3)

ORS 197.352 does not apply to certain land use regulations. In addition, under ORS 197.352(3), certain types of laws are exempt from ORS 197.352.

Findings of Fact

The claim is based on state land use regulations that restrict the use of the subject property, including applicable provisions of Goal 3, ORS 215 and OAR 660, division 33, which Jefferson County has implemented through its EFU zone. As set forth in Section V.(2) of this report, these state land use regulations were in effect when the claimant acquired the property in 1997. The claim does not identify any state land use regulations enacted or adopted since the claimant acquired the subject property that restrict the use of the property relative to what would have been allowed when he acquired it on October 6, 1997.

Conclusions

All of the state land use regulations that restrict the claimant's desired use of the subject property were in effect when the claimant acquired the property. Therefore, these state land use regulations are exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E), which exempts laws in effect when the claimant acquired the subject property.

VI. FORM OF RELIEF

ORS 197.352(1) provides for payment of compensation to an owner of private real property if the Commission or the department has enforced one or more laws that restrict the use of the property in a manner that reduces its fair market value. In lieu of compensation, the department may choose to not apply the law in order to allow the present owner to carry out a use of the property permitted at the time the present owner acquired the property. The Commission, by rule, has directed that if the department determines a claim is valid, the Director of the department must provide only non-monetary relief unless and until funds are appropriated by the legislature to pay claims.

Findings of Fact

Based on the findings and conclusions set forth in this report, laws enforced by the Commission or the department do not restrict the claimant's desired use of the subject property relative to what was permitted when the claimant acquired it in 1997 and do not reduce the fair market value of the property. All state laws restricting the use of the subject property are exempt under ORS 197.352(3)(E).

Conclusions

Based on the record and the foregoing findings and conclusions, the claimant has not established that he is entitled to relief under ORS 197.352(1) as a result of land use regulations enforced by the Commission or the department. Therefore, the department recommends that this claim be denied.

VII. COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STAFF REPORT

The department issued its draft staff report on this claim on October 27, 2006. OAR 125-145-0100(3), provided an opportunity for the claimant or the claimants' authorized agent and any third parties who submitted comments under OAR 125-145-0080 to submit written comments, evidence and information in response to the draft staff report and recommendation. No comments were received.