



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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LAND USE REGULATION COMPENSATION CLAIM

**PLANNING DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT and
RECOMMENDATION**

CASE FILE: 2-LURCC-06

DATE FILED: 02/09/06

CLAIMANT: Louis Woosley

REQUEST: The claimant seeks compensation for, or the modification or removal of, land use regulations that prohibit the establishment of a single family dwelling on the subject property.

A. REPORT OF FACTS:

1. **Lot Size:** 5.5 acres
2. **Property Location:** The property is located at 466 E. Buck Creek Road, and is further identified on Lincoln County Assessor's map #15-10-01-00 as tax lot 207.
3. **Zoning Designation:** A-C (Agricultural Conservation)
4. **Plan Designation:** Agricultural Land
5. **Surrounding Land Use:** Adjacent uses along Five Rivers Road and Buck Creek Road are comprised primarily of scattered rural residences, some small scale agricultural activities, and lands in commercial forest use.

6. **Topography & Vegetation:** The property consists of an alluvial terrace near the confluence of Buck Creek and Five Rivers. It is mostly open pasture.
7. **Existing Structures:** A small barn and a pole building/shop are located on the subject property.
8. **Utilities:** The following utilities are proposed to serve the subject property:
 - a. Sewer: On-site sewage disposal
 - b. Water: On-site well
 - c. Electricity: Consumers Power.
9. **Development Constraints:** None identified.

B. EVALUATION OF THE CLAIM:

1. Background:

Louis Woosley filed a Land Use Regulation Compensation Claim on February 9, 2006. This claim was filed with the Department of Planning and Development in accordance with the procedure established for Ballot Measure 37 claims by Lincoln County Board of Commissioners Order # 12-04-318. The Woosley property is located on Buck Creek Road in the Five Rivers area of Lincoln County. The current zoning of the property is A-C, Agricultural Conservation. The claimant asserts a diminution in the value of the property resulting from the restrictions of the A-C zone applied after his date of acquisition, more specifically, those restrictions that preclude the development of a residence on the subject property. The claimant states that the desired remedy to the claim is the removal or modification of the A-C zone restrictions in a manner that will permit the establishment of one single-family dwelling.

Planning staff has discussed in detail with claimant on several previous occasions the currently applicable restrictions on dwellings in the A-C zone. Based on these discussions, it does not appear that the subject property could be approved for the siting of a dwelling under current zoning. Deed records submitted with the claim document acquisition of the subject property by the claimant in 1977.

On May 23, 2006, a public hearing was held on the subject claim for the purpose of receiving facts and evidence related to determining the validity of the claim. Notice of the hearing was provided in accordance with Board of Commissioners order #4-05-120. There was no testimony in opposition to the claim.

2. Measure 37 Claim Requirements:

Measure 37 provides the following criteria for establishing eligibility for the supplemental right of compensation created by the measure:

- a. **Ballot Measure 37 provides for payment of compensation or relief from specific laws for “owners” of property, which is defined in Measure 37 as the “present owner of the property, or any interest therein.”**

The claimant, Louis Woosley, acquired his original interest in the property by land sales contract (dated February 14, 1977; unrecorded). Records of the Lincoln County Assessor’s office confirm that Louis Woosley remains the owner of the subject property.

- b. **A public entity enacts or enforces a land use regulation that restricts the use of private real property:**

The current A-C zone regulations (LCC 1.1373) at issue in the subject claim were enacted by Lincoln County in their present form by ordinance #347 in 1994. These regulations are applied to all private real property designated on the Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning maps as being within the A-C zone. These regulations restrict the use of this private real property to only those uses expressly authorized in the A-C zone.

- c. **The land use regulation has the effect of reducing the fair market value of the property:**

The currently effective requirements of the A-C zone restrict the placement of dwellings. The subject property is defined as “High Value Farmland” pursuant to LCC 1.1371 (1)(a). On land identified as high value farmland, dwellings customarily provided in conjunction with farm use are permitted only upon demonstration that the tract has produced at least \$80,000, in 1994 dollars, in gross annual income from the sale of farm products [LCC 1.1373 (4)(e)]. The claimant asserts that he has never produced gross annual income in this amount from the subject property.

Dwellings not provided in conjunction with farm use require a showing that the property is “generally unsuitable” for farm use. Given that the subject property is comprised entirely of NRCS capability class II soils, such a showing is highly improbable.

Stating that the currently effective land use regulations applicable to the subject property effectively prohibit the establishment of a dwelling, claimant asserts that this restriction reduces fair market value of the property. In support of this claim,

claimant has submitted a competitive market analysis and letter of opinion from a local real estate broker. This letter places a market value on the subject property under current regulations (i.e., absent the permissibility of placing a residence) of \$62,000. The letter estimates the current value of the property with the ability to secure approval for a residence to be in excess of \$135,000.

- d. **The land use regulation complained of is not a regulation; (a) restricting or prohibiting activities commonly and historically recognized as nuisances under common law; (b) restricting or prohibiting activities for the protection of public health and safety, such as fire and building codes, health and sanitation regulations, solid or hazardous waste regulations, and pollution control regulations; (c) required to comply with federal law; (d) restricting or prohibiting the use of a property for the purpose of selling pornography or performing nude dancing; or (e) enacted prior to the date of acquisition of the property by the owner or a family member of the owner.**

The regulations addressed by the subject claim are the restrictions on dwellings imposed by the A-C zone. The A-C zone was enacted to comply with Statewide Planning Goal 3, which mandates the placement of defined agricultural lands into exclusive farm use zones meeting the requirements of ORS Chapter 215. The purpose of the A-C zone is to preserve agricultural lands for agricultural uses. It does not directly address common nuisances, health and safety, adult businesses or activities, nor does it have any federal nexus.

The claimant has provided documentation that the claimant's interest in the property was acquired by land sales contract in 1977 (unrecorded). The A-C zone, in its present form, was enacted in 1994, so the regulation giving rise to the claim was enacted after the date of acquisition by the current owner.

- e. **For claims arising from land use regulations enacted prior to December 3, 2004 (the effective date of Ballot Measure 37), written demand for compensation shall be made within two years of the effective date of the act.**

The land use regulations for which compensation is sought, the A-C zone restrictions on dwellings, were enacted in their present form in 1994, prior to the effective date of Ballot Measure 37. The subject claim was filed on February 9, 2006, within two years of the December 3, 2004 effective date of Ballot Measure 37.

C. Recommended Findings and Conclusions:

The director recommends for the Board's consideration the following findings and conclusions:

Findings:

1. Louis Woosley filed a Land Use Regulation Compensation claim with the Lincoln County Department of Planning and Development on February 9, 2006.
2. According to records of the Lincoln County Assessor, Louis Woosley is the current owner of the subject property.
3. The claim is based on an assertion of a reduction in fair market value of real property due to the enforcement of land use regulations by Lincoln County.
4. The subject property is identified as tax lot 207 on Lincoln County Assessor's map 15-10-01, which is taxed as real property by Lincoln County.
5. The A-C zone provisions (LCC 1.1373) applicable to the subject property are land use regulations enacted and enforced by Lincoln County, a public entity.
6. The A-C zoning restricts uses; specifically, the A-C zone standards, as applied to the subject property, prohibit the establishment of a single-family dwelling.
7. The claimant has submitted evidence of a diminution in value caused by the A-C zone restrictions in the form of a competitive market analysis prepared by a licensed real estate broker. The resulting letter of opinion states that the land use regulations that prohibit the establishment of a dwelling on the subject property have the effect of reducing the fair market value of the subject property by at least \$75,000.
8. According to documents submitted with the claim, the claimant first acquired an interest in the subject property in 1977 and has maintained an ownership interest continuously since that time.
9. The currently effective A-C zone regulations governing the establishment of dwellings were enacted by Lincoln County in 1994 (Ordinance # 347), after the claimant's date of acquisition.

10. The A-C zone restrictions are not encompassed within the definition of regulations excluded from compensation requirements, as set forth in Subsection (3) of Ballot Measure 37.
11. The subject claim was filed on February 9, 2006, which is less than two years from the December 3, 2004 effective date of Ballot Measure 37.

Conclusions:

Based on the above findings of fact, the Board reaches the following conclusions:

1. The subject claim for compensation for reduction in value of private real property from the enforcement of land use regulations was timely filed by the owner, Louis Woosley pursuant to Subsection (5) of Ballot Measure 37.
2. The land use regulations which are the subject of the claim, specifically the restrictions on dwellings imposed by LCC 1.1373 (A-C zone), are land use regulations enacted by Lincoln County prior to the effective date of Ballot Measure 37; they restrict the use of the subject private real property; and they have the effect of reducing the fair market value of the property.
3. The owner of the property, Louis Woosley is therefore entitled to the payment of just compensation equal to the reduction in the fair market value of the subject property caused by the enforcement of the A-C zone restrictions or, in lieu of the payment of just compensation, the Board, as the governing body responsible for the enactment of the A-C zone restrictions, may modify, remove or not apply these restrictions in order to permit the owner to use the property for a use permitted at the time of his acquisition.

D. Recommended Decision

Based on the preceding findings and conclusions that the subject claim is valid, resolution of the claim requires the payment of just compensation, or the modification, removal or non-application of the offending land use regulations. The selection of the remedy is at the discretion of the Board. Staff recommends that the Board choose the non-application of the subject land use regulations as the appropriate resolution for this claim. Specifically, staff recommends that the Board direct that the current restrictions on dwellings in the A-C zone not be applied to the subject property. This would allow the claimant to be issued a building permit for a single family dwelling on the subject property, as permitted by the Lincoln County land use regulations (Ordinance #34) in

effect on February 14, 1977. This would, in accordance with the requirements of Subsection (8) of Ballot Measure 37, allow the owner to use the property for a use permitted at the time of the owner's acquisition. This recommendation is based on the following considerations:

1. No funds are currently budgeted in the county general fund for the payment of monetary compensation.
2. Not applying the current dwelling restrictions of the A-C zone would permit the claimant owner to apply for approval of one single family dwelling on a parcel of approximately 5.2 acres, which would not be inconsistent with the prevailing land use pattern in the area.
3. Not applying the current dwelling restrictions of the A-C zone in order to permit the establishment of one single-family residence is the claimant's desired resolution.

This recommended resolution would be subject to the following limitations:

- The non-application of regulations would be limited to the current restrictions on dwellings provided for in LCC 1.1373. Instead, an application for approval of a dwelling would be subject to the provisions of the A-1 zone in effect on February 14, 1977, the claimant's date of acquisition. All other provisions of the Lincoln County Code would continue to apply.
- Establishment of the permitted single-family dwelling would be subject to all applicable public health and safety regulations, including but not limited to building codes, on-site sewage disposal rules and requirements, flood hazard area regulations, and county road approach permit requirements.

If the Board concurs with the above recommendation, you may direct staff to prepare an order for your adoption implementing this recommendation. This order will incorporate the above recited findings of fact and conclusions, and the appropriate directives for the application of the A-1 zone provisions in effect in 1977, subject to applicable public health and safety regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Spangler
Director