

**Memo Date:** March 27, 2007  
**Hearing Date:** April 17, 2007



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**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works Dept./Land Management Division

**PRESENTED BY:** BILL VANVACTOR, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
KENT HOWE, PLANNING DIRECTOR

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** In the Matter of Considering a Ballot Measure 37 Claim and Deciding Whether to Modify, Remove or Not Apply Restrictive Land Use Regulations in Lieu of Providing Just Compensation (PA06-7169, Mentzer)

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**BACKGROUND**

**Applicant:** Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer

**Current Owner:** Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer

**Agent:** Steve Cornacchia, Hershner Hunter, LLP

**Map and Tax lot(s):** 17-08-09-00-200,500,600 & 17-08-09-22-1001

**Acreage:** Approximately 122 acres

**Current Zoning:** F2 (Impacted Forest), /FP (Floodplain Combining Zone)

**Date Property Acquired:** November 9, 1973, tax lots 200,500 & 600 are acquired by Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer (WD #8029249)

March 20, 1974, tax lot 1001 is acquired by Richard L. Mentzer (WD #7411368)

**Date claim submitted:** November 30, 2006

**180-day deadline:** May 29, 2007

**Land Use Regulations in Effect at Date of Acquisition:** In November, 1973 and March 1974, the Unzoned Area Development Permit (LC 9.00-.765) applied to the subject property.

**Restrictive County land use regulation:** Minimum parcel size of eighty acres and limitations on new dwellings in the F2 (Impacted Forest) zone (LC 16.211).

**ANALYSIS**

To have a valid claim against Lane County under Measure 37 and LC 2.700 through 2.770, the applicant must prove:

**1. Lane County has enacted or enforced a restrictive land use regulation since the owner acquired the property, and**

Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer acquired an interest in a portion of the subject property (17-08-09, tax lots 200, 500 and 600) on November 9, 1973, via Warranty Deed #8029249. On March 20, 1974, Richard L. Mentzer acquired an individual interest in the remaining portion of the subject property (17-08-09-22, tax lot 1001), via Warranty Deed #7411368. On the dates the property was acquired by the current owners, the Unzoned Area Development Permit (LC 9.00-.765) applied to the subject property. Currently, the property is zoned F2 (Impacted Forest).

**2. The restrictive land use regulation has the effect of reducing the fair market value of the property, and**

The minimum lot size and limitations on new dwellings in the F2 zone prevent the current owners from developing the property as could have been allowed when they acquired it. The alleged reduction in fair market value is \$2,025,000, based on the submitted appraisal.

The applicant is also claiming that the following sections of Lane Code have restricted the use of the subject property:

LC10.100-10, 30 & 40– These provisions only apply to those EFU (Exclusive Farm Use District) zoned properties within the Urban Growth Boundaries of a city and are not applicable to the subject property.

LC13.050 – These provisions apply to subdivision and partitioning of property. No evidence has been provided that demonstrates how these regulations have lowered the fair market value of the property.

LC15.070, 15.080, 15.137 & 15.138 – These provisions apply to road and driveway approach spacing standards and building setbacks from roads. No evidence has been provided that demonstrates how these regulations have lowered the fair market value of the property.

**3. The restrictive land use regulation is not an exempt regulation as defined in LC 2.710.**

The minimum lot size and restrictions on new dwellings in the F2 zone do not appear to be exempt regulations.

The regulations found within the /FP (Floodplain Combining Zone) of LC16.244 are exempt regulations as defined by LC 2.710 (2) and cannot be waived.

**CONCLUSION**

It appears this is a valid claim.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The County Administrator recommends the Board adopt the attached order to waive the restrictive land use regulations of the F2 zone.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY,  
OREGON**

**ORDER No.** ) IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERING A BALLOT  
                  ) MEASURE 37 CLAIM AND DECIDING  
                  ) WHETHER TO MODIFY, REMOVE OR NOT  
                  ) APPLY RESTRICTIVE LAND USE  
                  ) REGULATIONS IN LIEU OF PROVIDING JUST  
                  ) COMPENSATION (Mentzer, PA06-7169)

**WHEREAS**, the voters of the State of Oregon passed Ballot Measure 37 on November 2, 2004, which added provisions to Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 197 to require, under certain circumstances, payment to landowner if a government land use regulation restricts the use of private real property and has the effect of reducing the property value; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County enacted Ordinance No. 18-04 on December 1, 2004, to establish a real property compensation claim application process in LC 2.700 through 2.770 for Ballot Measure 37 claims; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator has reviewed an application for a Measure 37 claim submitted by Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer (PA06-7169), the owners of real property described in the records of the Lane County Assessor as map17-08-09, tax lots 200, 500 and 600, as well as map 17-08-09-22, tax lot 1001, consisting of approximately 122 acres in total, located in Lane County, Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator has determined that the application appears to meet all of the criteria of LC 2.740(1)(a)-(d), appears to be eligible for just compensation and appears to require modification, removal or not applying the restrictive land use regulations in lieu of payment of just compensation and has referred the application to the Board for public hearing and confirmation that the application qualifies for further action under Measure 37 and LC 2.700 through 2.770; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator has determined under LC 2.740(4) that modification, removal or not applying the restrictive land use regulation is necessary to avoid owner entitlement to just compensation under Ballot Measure 37 and made that recommendation to the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the evidence and confirmed the application appears to qualify for compensation under Measure 37 but Lane County has not appropriated funds for compensation for Measure 37 claims and has no funds available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2007, the Board conducted a public hearing on the Measure 37 claim (PA06-7169) of Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer and has now determined that the restrictive F2 (Impacted Forest) zone dwelling and land division requirements of LC 16.211 were enforced and made applicable to prevent Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer from developing their property as might have been allowed at the time a portion of it was acquired jointly on November 9, 1973, and the Board has also determined that the same restrictive provisions have been applied to Richard L. Mentzer to prevent him from developing the portion

of the property that he owns exclusively as might have been allowed when he acquired that property on March 20, 1974, and that the public benefit from application of the current F2 dwelling and division land use regulations to the applicants' property is outweighed by the public burden of paying just compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer request up to \$2,025,000 as compensation for the reduction in value of their property, or waiver of all land use regulations that would restrict the division of land into multiple lots and placement of a dwelling on each lot, uses that could have otherwise been allowed at the time they acquired the property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that under LC 2.760(3) the public interest would be better served by modifying, removing or not applying the challenged land use regulations of the F2 zone to the subject property in the manner and for the reasons stated in the report and recommendation of the County Administrator incorporated here by this reference except as explicitly revised here to reflect Board deliberation and action to allow Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer to make application for development of the subject property in a manner similar to what they could have been able to do under the regulations in effect when they acquired an interest in the property; and

**WHEREAS**, this matter having been fully considered by the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the applicants, Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer, made a valid claim under Ballot Measure 37 by describing the use being sought, identifying the county land use regulations prohibiting that use, submitting evidence that those land use regulations have the effect of reducing the value of the property, showing evidence that they acquired an interest in the property before the restrictive county land use regulations were enacted or enforced and the Board hereby elects not to pay just compensation but in lieu of payment, the request of Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer shall be granted and the restrictive provisions of LC 16.211 that limit the development of dwellings and the division of land in the F2 (Impacted Forest) Zone shall not apply to Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer so they can make application for approval to develop the property they own located at 92285 Nelson Mountain Rd., Greenleaf, OR and more specifically described in the records of the Lane County Assessor as map 17-08-09, tax lots 200, 500 and 600, and map 17-08-09-22, tax lot 1001, in a manner consistent with the land use regulations in effect when they jointly acquired a portion of the property on November 9, 1973, (tax lots 200, 500 and 600) and when Richard L. Mentzer acquired a portion of the property (tax lot 1001) exclusively, on March 20, 1974.

**IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer still need to make application and receive approval of any division of the property or placement of a dwelling under the other land use regulations applicable to dividing the property or placing a dwelling that were not specifically identified or established by Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer as restricting the division of the property or placement of a dwelling, and it would be premature to not apply those regulations given the available evidence. To the extent necessary to effectuate the Board action to not apply the dwelling or division restrictions of the applicable zone described above, the claimant shall submit appropriate applications for review and approval of a new dwelling to show the specific development proposals and in the event additional county land use regulations result in a restriction of those uses that have the effect of reducing the fair market

value of the property, the County Administrator shall have the authority to determine those restrictive county land use regulations that will not apply to that development proposal to preclude entitlement to just compensation under Measure 37, and return to the Board for action, if necessary. All other Lane Code land use and development regulations shall remain applicable to the subject property until such time as they are shown to be restrictive and that those restrictions reduce the fair market value of the subject property.

**IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that this action making certain Lane Code provisions inapplicable to use of the property by Richard L. Mentzer and Fredric Mentzer not constitute a waiver or modification of state land use regulations and does not authorize immediate division of the subject property or immediate construction of a dwelling. The requirements of state law may contain specific standards regulating development of the subject property and the applicants should contact the Department of Administrative Services (DAS - State Services Division, Risk Management - Measure 37 Unit, 1225 Ferry Street SE, U160, Salem, OR 97301-4292; Telephone: (503) 373-7475; website address: <http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/Risk/M37.shtml> ) and have the State of Oregon evaluate a Measure 37 claim and provide evidence of final state action before seeking county land use approval.

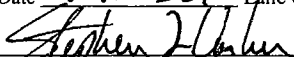
**IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that the other county land use regulations and rules that still apply to the property require that land use, sanitation and building permits be approved by Lane County before any development can proceed. Notice of this decision shall be recorded in the county deed records. This order shall be effective and in effect as described in LC 2.770 and Ballot Measure 37 to the extent permitted by law. This order does not resolve several questions about the effect and application of Measure 37, including the question of whether the right of applicant to divide or build dwellings can be transferred to another owner. If the ruling of the Marion County Circuit Court in *MacPherson v. Dept. of Administrative Services*, (Marion County Circ. Ct. Case No. 00C15769, October 14, 2005) or any other court decision involving Ballot Measure 37 becomes final and that decision or any subsequent court decision has application to Lane County in a manner that affects the authority of this Board to grant relief under Ballot Measure 37 and LC 2.700 through 2.770 then the validity and effectiveness of this Order shall be governed by LC 2.770 and the ruling of the court.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

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Faye Stewart, Chair  
Lane County Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 4-10-2007 Lane County

  
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OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL