

Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 17-1397

The findings set forth below include the supplemental findings of the Metro Council arising out of this proceeding regarding the amount of urban reserves and region-wide balance of urban and rural reserves under applicable state rules. The findings below will replace Section V of the findings adopted by the Metro Council in Ordinance No. 16-1368.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL FINDINGS REGARDING SUPPLY OF URBAN RESERVES AND REGIONWIDE BALANCE

The findings in this Section V supplement the findings adopted by the Metro Council in support of the original 2011 approval of urban and rural reserves via Metro Ordinance 11-1255. To the extent any of the findings in this section are inconsistent with other findings in this document that were previously adopted in 2011, the findings in this Section V shall govern. These findings address issues related to the regionwide supply of urban reserves and the overall balance of reserves in light of (a) the Metro Council's adoption of the current Urban Growth Report in 2015, and (b) the Oregon Legislature's enactment of House Bill 4078.

On April 21, 2011, Metro enacted Ordinance 11-1255 adopting the urban and rural reserve designations agreed upon by Metro and the three counties, and submitted that ordinance and accompanying findings to LCDC for acknowledgement. On August 19, 2011, LCDC voted to approve and acknowledge the reserve designations made by Metro and the counties, and LCDC issued Acknowledgment Order 12-ACK-001819 on August 14, 2012. Twenty-two parties filed appeals of the LCDC Order, and on February 20, 2014 the Oregon Court of Appeals issued its opinion in the *Barkers Five* case, affirming LCDC's decision regarding the majority of the 26 assignments of error raised by the opponents, and remanding the LCDC Order on three substantive issues.

First, the court concluded that LCDC incorrectly approved Washington County's application of the rural reserve factors pertaining to agricultural land, because the county relied on factors that were different from those required by statute for determining whether lands should be designated as rural reserve. The court held that the county's error required remand of all urban and rural reserves in Washington County for reconsideration.

Second, the court held that LCDC incorrectly concluded that Multnomah County had adequately considered the rural reserve factors pertaining to Area 9D. The court found that the county's findings were not sufficient to explain why its consideration of the applicable factors resulted in a designation of rural reserve for *all* of Area 9D, given the fact that property owners in that area had identified dissimilarities between the northern and southern portions of the study area.

Finally, the court held that LCDC did not correctly review Metro's urban reserve designation of the Stafford area for substantial evidence. The court concluded that Metro failed to adequately respond to evidence cited by opponents from Metro's 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

indicating that traffic in the Stafford area was projected to exceed the capacity of certain roads by 2035.

Immediately after the Court of Appeals issued its opinion, work began on legislation designed to resolve issues regarding the remand of urban and rural reserves in Washington County. On March 7, 2014 the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 4078, which legislatively approved Metro's 2011 UGB expansion, added an additional 1,178 acres of urban reserves to the UGB, and made other revisions to the reserves map in Washington County.

As described in Section IV of these findings, when Metro and the three counties adopted their maps of reserve areas, they agreed on a total of 28,256 acres of urban reserves, which reflected Metro's estimate of the acreage that would be required to provide a 50-year supply of urbanizable land as contemplated under ORS 195.145(4). The specific forecast described above in Section IV is for a range of between 484,800 and 531,600 new dwelling units over the 50-year period ending in 2060. Metro relied on the high point of that forecast range in estimating that the region would need a supply of urban reserves sufficient to provide for approximately 152,400 new dwelling units outside of the existing UGB through 2060.

After LCDC voted to approve Metro's findings and acknowledge the designation of 28,256 acres of urban reserves in August of 2011, Metro relied on those designations to expand the UGB onto approximately 2,015 acres of urban reserves in Washington County. However, that expansion was called into question by the Court of Appeals decision in *Barkers Five*, which reversed and remanded all of the urban and rural reserve designations in Washington County.

The compromise reflected in House Bill 4078 included legislative approval and state acknowledgement of the 2,015 acres of 2011 UGB expansions in order to provide certainty to the cities regarding their ability to urbanize those expansion areas. In addition to acknowledging the UGB expansion areas already approved by Metro, House Bill 4078 included the following changes to the reserves map in Washington County:

- Converted 2,449 acres of urban reserves to rural and undesignated
- Converted 417 acres from rural reserve to urban reserve
- Converted 883 acres of undesignated areas to rural reserve
- Added 1,178 acres of urban reserve to the UGB

In the final accounting, HB 4078 resulted in the net reduction of 3,210 acres of urban reserves below the amount remaining after Metro's 2011 UGB expansion. The remaining acreage of urban reserves in the Metro region is now 23,031.

The legislature's removal of 3,210 acres of urban reserves via HB 4078 potentially implicates two elements of state law governing reserves. First, ORS 195.145(4) requires the designation of a sufficient amount of urban reserve areas to provide the Metro region with a 40 to 50 year supply of urbanizable land. Second, OAR 660-027-0040(10) requires Metro and the counties to

adopt findings explaining why the reserve designations achieve the objective stated in OAR 660-027-0005(2) of a balance in urban and rural reserves that “best achieves” livable communities, viability and vitality of farm and forest industries, and protection of important natural landscape features.

Regarding the requirement for a 40 to 50 year supply of urban reserves, the applicable state rule requires Metro’s estimate of the projected long-range need for urban reserve acreage to be based on the analysis in Metro’s most recent Urban Growth Report (UGR). The projected need for urban reserves adopted by Metro and the counties in 2011 was based on the regional growth forecast set forth in Metro’s 2009 UGR. Since that time, in 2015 the Metro Council adopted the current 2014 UGR, which provides the current residential and employment growth projections for the region.

The findings below address the status of existing urban reserve acreage in light of the newer growth projections in the 2014 UGR, as well as the impact of HB 4078 on both the amount of urban reserves and the regionwide balance of urban and rural reserves under the “best achieves” standard.

A. Amount of Land Designated Urban Reserve in the Metro Region

The state rules governing the designation of urban and rural reserves require that the amount of land designated as urban reserves must be planned to accommodate estimated urban population and employment growth in the Metro region for between 20 and 30 years beyond the 20-year period for which Metro has demonstrated a buildable land supply inside the UGB in its most recent Urban Growth Report. OAR 660-027-0040(2). The Metro Council adopted the current 2014 UGR via Ordinance No. 15-1361 on November 12, 2015.

In order to update the 50-year need analysis for urban reserves to 2065 by applying the most current growth projections, Metro planning staff prepared a memorandum dated February 22, 2017, which was attached to the staff report for Metro’s public hearing on March 2, 2017. That memorandum provides an updated assessment of potential long-term demand for urban reserves, and concludes that the existing amount of urban reserves, combined with buildable land already inside the UGB, can provide a sufficient amount of land to accommodate expected urban growth.

Specifically, the staff memorandum includes an analysis of projected long-term need for residential and employment land, and concludes that the existing 23,031 acres of urban reserves can reasonably be expected to accommodate projected household and employment growth over the next 40 to 50 years. The staff analysis forecasts a potential need for 24,827 acres of urban reserves by 2065. Only for demonstrative purposes of placing that acreage in perspective on a 50-year planning horizon, assuming that an equal amount of urban reserve acreage is converted annually over 50 years, the existing 23,031 acres of urban reserves would provide a 46-year supply of land for urban growth in the Metro region. However, for the reasons described above in Section IV of these findings regarding more efficient use of land, including the likelihood of

land developing at densities of higher than 10 dwelling units per net developable acre, the Metro Council finds that the existing 23,031 acres of urban reserves are intended to provide a supply of land for 50 years from the date of adoption of the 2014 UGR in 2015.

As explained in the staff memo, any prediction about how much land will be required for urban growth in the region over a 50-year planning horizon is necessarily a rough estimate. The nature of this exercise requires Metro to predict what growth and development trends might look like over the next 50 years, based on the available data. State law does not provide any particular formula or methodology for estimating the future need for urban reserves. As explained by LCDC in its 2012 order regarding Metro's compliance with the requirement to provide a 40 to 50-year supply of urban reserves, the statutes and rules provide Metro "a substantial degree of discretion concerning ... the methods and policy considerations that Metro uses to project future population and employment." (LCDC Compliance Acknowledgment Order 12-ACK-001819, page 26).

The 50-year regional growth estimate provided in the February 22, 2017 Metro staff memorandum is based on the analysis and projections in the 2014 UGR. The UGR forecast is then subjected to a series of predictions about what will happen in the future, based on multiple levels of assumptions regarding an array of factors that affect how much residential and employment growth might be expected in the region, such as capture rate, vacancy rate, and projected share of single-family and multifamily housing types. Minor changes in the underlying assumptions regarding these factors will necessarily change the results.

The Metro Council also notes that the intergovernmental agreements between Metro and each of the three counties regarding the designation of reserves provide for a review of existing urban reserves in each county 20 years after the date of adoption, or sooner if agreed to by Metro and all three counties. Therefore, the adequacy of the amount of land designated for future urbanization can and will be revisited, and additional lands may be added if necessary, much sooner than 2065.

Based on the analysis and projections provided in the Metro staff memorandum dated February 22, 2017, the Metro Council concludes that the existing 23,031 acres of urban reserves across the region, combined with buildable land already inside the UGB, will provide a sufficient amount of land for urban growth in the region until 2065.

B. Balance in the Designation of Reserves that "Best Achieves" Certain Goals

Included among the state rules governing urban and rural reserves is a requirement that Metro and the counties must explain how the urban and rural reserve designations achieve the following objective:

"The objective of this division is a balance in the designation of urban and rural reserves that, in its entirety, best achieves livable communities, the viability and

vitality of the agricultural and forest industries and protection of the important natural landscape features that define the region for its residents.” OAR 660-027-0005(2).

During the proceedings before LCDC regarding its adoption of the remand order in 2015, some parties argued that the reduction in urban reserve acreage in Washington County via House Bill 4078 created a shift in the balance of urban reserves that implicates the “best achieves” standard. The following two sections of these findings address the application of the best achieves standard in light of HB 4078.

First, in adopting HB 4078 the legislature enacted a new statute that acknowledged the new balance of urban and rural reserves across the region as being in compliance with state law, and therefore a new analysis by Metro and the counties is not required. Second, in the event such an analysis is required, that standard is still met.

1. The “best achieves” rule is satisfied through HB 4078

The enactment of HB 4078 resulted in the legislative acknowledgement of the new amount of urban reserves and the new balance of urban and rural reserves as being in compliance with all aspects of state law. Therefore, in the absence of any changes to the existing mapped acreage of urban and rural reserves in Clackamas County and Multnomah County, the existing balance of reserves across the region meets all applicable state requirements and there is no need for Metro to revisit the standards related to the “best achieves” requirement as part of these findings.

In the *Barkers Five* opinion, the Court of Appeals remanded the designation of all urban and rural reserves in Washington County for reconsideration. As a result of this wholesale remand of the entire Washington County reserves package, the court also noted that “any new joint designation” of reserves by the county and Metro on remand would also require new findings addressing the “best achieves” standard in OAR 660-027-0005(2). *Barkers Five* at 333.

Thus, the court’s opinion provides that the best achieves standard would only be triggered in the event there are any *new* designations of reserve areas on remand that are different from what was approved in the original decision. That is because the stated purpose of the best achieves standard is to ensure that the overall “balance in the designation of urban and rural reserves” across the entire region “best achieves” liveable communities, vitality of farm and forest uses, and protection of natural features that define the region. Thus, any changes in the “balance” of those designations by Metro and the counties on remand would require a reassessment of whether and how those objectives are still met. But, in the absence of any changes to the reserve maps, no further assessment would be required.

This aspect of the Court of Appeals decision was overridden with respect to Washington County by the enactment of HB 4078, which legislatively established a new map of the locations of the UGB and urban and rural reserves in Washington County. This legislative action negated the

court's directive requiring remand to Metro and Washington County for reconsideration of the reserve designations. The enactment of HB 4078 also negates any need to reconsider or reapply the best achieves standard, which is an administrative rule requirement that was necessarily preempted by the legislature as part of its decision to redesignate substantial portions of the Washington County reserve areas. As long as the remand proceedings regarding Clackamas County and Multnomah County do not result in changes to the reserves maps in those counties, there is no need to reconsider the best achieves standard to account for the HB 4078 revisions.

The Oregon legislature is presumed to be aware of existing law when it enacts new legislation. *Blanchana, LLC v. Bureau of Labor and Industries*, 354 Or 676, 691 (2014); *State v. Stark*, 354 Or 1, 10 (2013). This presumption also applies to administrative rules adopted by LCDC. *Beaver State Sand & Gravel v. Douglas County*, 187 Or App 241, 249-50 (2003). When the legislature adopted revisions to the Washington County reserves map as part of HB 4078, it is presumed to have been aware of LCDC's administrative rule requiring that there be a balance in reserve designations that "best achieves" the stated goals. The adoption of HB 4078 created a statutory requirement regarding the location of reserves in Washington County that takes precedence over LCDC's "best achieves" rule and does not require subsequent action by LCDC, Metro or the counties to explain why the statute satisfies an administrative rule requirement, because statutes necessarily control over administrative rules.

The express terms of HB 4078 also indicate a legislative intent to preempt existing land use law. Each section of HB 4078 that establishes new locations for reserve areas or the UGB begins with the phrase "*For purposes of land use planning in Oregon*, the Legislative Assembly designates the land in Washington County..." HB 4078, Sec 3(1), (2), (3) (2014). The legislature was aware that its actions in redrawing the UGB and reserve maps had the effect of acknowledging the new maps as being in compliance with state law, and thereby preempting other land use planning rules (including for example LCDC's Goal 14 rules regarding UGB expansions). The legislature included this language to clearly state that its action in adopting the new maps constituted acknowledgment of compliance with state law, and that it need not demonstrate compliance with other existing land use statutes, goals or rules, including the "best achieves" rule and the statutory requirement to provide a 40 to 50 year supply of urban reserves.

For these reasons, so long as there are no revisions on remand to the reserve maps in Clackamas County or Multnomah County, the HB 4078 revisions to the reserve designations in Washington County do not create a need to reconsider compliance with the "best achieves" standard or the sufficiency of the supply of urban reserves.

2. The balance in the designation of reserves still achieves the stated goals

The meaning and application of the "best achieves" rule was the subject of considerable debate in the appeals filed with LCDC in 2011 and with the Court of Appeals in 2012. Ultimately, in the *Barkers Five* opinion, the Court of Appeals agreed with the positions taken by LCDC and Metro

that the “best achieves” standard provides significant discretion to Metro and the counties, and is satisfied through their site-specific findings concerning the application of the urban and rural reserve factors. Specifically, the Court of Appeals identified and agreed with the following four legal premises regarding the application of the standard.

First, the best achieves standard is a qualitative standard, rather than a quantitative one. The court agreed with LCDC that the standard “is not a balance in terms of the quantitative *amount* of urban and rural reserve acreage, but a balance between encouraging further urban expansion versus land conservation.” The court explained that Metro and the counties are not required to justify a quantitative “balance” in the specific amount of acreage of urban reserves and rural reserves.

Second, the best achieves standard applies to Metro and the counties’ designation of reserves “in its entirety” and not to the designation of individual properties or areas as urban or rural reserves.

Third, the best achieves standard allows for a range of permissible designations, and not a single “best” outcome. The court agreed with LCDC and Metro that the standard does not require a ranking of alternative areas from worst to best. The court specifically rejected arguments presented by the cities of West Linn and Tualatin that the word “best” requires a comparative analysis that identifies a single highest-ranked designation.

Fourth, the court held that Metro and the counties must explain how the designation satisfies the best achieves standard through their findings concerning the application of the urban and rural reserve factors to specific areas. The court agreed with LCDC that there is a close relationship between the “factors” that Metro and the counties must consider for urban and rural reserve designations and the overall “best achieves” objective, and that the best achieves standard is satisfied through findings explaining why particular areas were chosen as urban or rural reserves.

Under the four legal premises stated by the Court of Appeals in *Barkers Five*, Metro and the counties have broad discretion in reaching a conclusion regarding whether the regionwide balance of urban and rural reserves achieves the identified objectives of creating livable communities while protecting farms, forest, and natural landscape features.

Some parties have argued that the reduction in urban reserve acreage in Washington County via House Bill 4078 inherently caused a shift in the “balance” of urban reserves that runs afoul of the best achieves standard. However, under the above-stated first premise of the Court of Appeals, that is incorrect. The court held that the best achieves standard does not require quantitative balancing of the specific amount of urban reserve acreage in one county or another. Thus, the reduction of urban reserves in Washington County by 3,210 acres does not inherently raise concerns under this standard.

Metro and the counties have adopted detailed findings regarding the consideration of all urban and rural reserve factors, explaining why particular areas were chosen as urban or rural reserves,

and explaining how the regional partners came to agree that the overall package of urban and rural reserves reflects a balance that best achieves the objectives of creating livable communities while protecting farms, forest, and natural landscape features. Those findings are consistent with the fourth premise identified by the Court of Appeals regarding compliance with the best achieves standard, and the findings continue to demonstrate that the objectives stated in the rule are being achieved through the selected designations.

Metro and the counties have also adopted detailed findings that explain why the urban and rural reserves adopted by the region satisfy the best achieves standard, which are set forth above in Section II of these findings. Those findings note that urban reserves, if and when added to the UGB, are likely to take some land from the farm and forest base. However, Metro and the counties also recognized that some of the same characteristics that make an area suitable for agriculture also make it suitable for livable communities under the best achieves standard, including mixed-use pedestrian and transit-supportive urban development, as well as industrial uses. For the reasons described below, the findings in Section II are still valid and are not impacted by the reduction of urban reserves in Washington County under House Bill 4078.

The designation by Metro and the counties of urban and rural reserves achieves the objectives required under the state rule, in part, by adopting 266,628 acres of rural reserves across the region that establish the long-term limits of urbanization in the Metro area. As described above, consistency with the “best achieves” standard does not require a quantitative balancing of the amount of rural and urban reserve acreage. However, the designation of a significant amount of rural reserve areas around the region, with the vast majority (248,796 acres) being foundation and important agricultural land, demonstrates the region’s commitment to achieving the objectives of ensuring viability and vitality of the agricultural and forest industries and corresponding protection of important natural landscape features. As described in the Court of Appeals opinion, LCDC’s intent when it created the best achieves standard was to provide another level of review specifically designed to protect foundation farmland in the region:

“[Commissioner Worrix] explained that the best achieves standard was seen as ‘the best solution’ for the agricultural industry that had expressed ‘a strong concern ... that there needed to be something that highlighted the importance of foundation land and gave them that little extra bit of scrutiny.’” *Barkers Five*, 261 Or App at 312.

Regarding important natural landscape features, the process associated with achieving a balance in the designation of urban and rural reserves also provided a significant amount of weight to the protection of natural features. Three of the urban reserve factors – (5), (7) and (8) – seek to direct urban development away from important natural landscape features, and away from farm and forest practices. This provides an example of the close relationship between the factors for urban and rural reserve designations and the “best achieves” objective (as described in the fourth premise adopted by the Court of Appeals), and demonstrates how the best achieves standard may

be satisfied through findings explaining why particular areas were chosen as urban or rural reserves. Similarly, the rules that apply to rural reserve designations include very specific directives regarding how natural landscape features must be reviewed and considered. OAR 660-027-0060(3). Section II of these findings includes a bullet-point list of areas where important natural landscape features are located that are protected with rural reserve designations.

Two of the three objectives that the best achieves standard requires to be balanced are primarily achieved through rural reserve designations: (a) protection of farm and forest and (b) protection of important natural resource features. The region's ability to achieve these two objectives through rural reserve designations is not impacted by the reduction of urban reserve acreage that occurred via House Bill 4078. In fact, that legislation enhanced the region's ability to achieve those two standards by adding approximately 2,780 acres of new rural reserves in Washington County, all of which is foundation agricultural land.

The third objective that must be balanced as part of the best achieves analysis is "livable communities." This objective is primarily achieved by designating areas across the region that will be the best locations to build "great communities" through application of the urban reserve factors. As discussed in Section II of these findings, great communities are those that offer residents a range of housing types and transportation modes from which to choose. To that end, urban reserve factors (1), (3), (4) and (6) are aimed at identifying lands that can be developed in a compact, mixed-use, walkable and transit-oriented pattern, supported by efficient and cost-effective services.

The reduction of urban reserves in Washington County by 3,210 acres does not impact the region's ability to build livable communities across the region over the next 40 to 50 years. The quantitative aspect of urban reserve planning is addressed by the rule discussed above that requires sufficient acreage for up to 50 years of urban growth. Meanwhile, the directive of the best achieves standard to provide livable communities is aimed at designating highest *quality* of locations that can provide a range of housing types and transportation modes, as well as efficient public services. As discussed above, the existing urban reserve acreage in the region still provides a sufficient amount of land for urban growth over the next 40 to 50 years. The fact that House Bill 4078 reduced the amount of urban reserves from 26,241 to 23,031 acres has no effect on the region's ability to plan and build livable communities on those 23,031 acres over the next several decades. Therefore, the balance in the designation of urban and rural reserves, in its entirety, still achieves the goals of providing livable communities, viability and vitality of farm and forest industries, and the protection of important natural landscape features that define the region.

In 2011, the region concluded, acting together, that the agreed-upon urban and rural reserve designations provide a balance that achieves the objectives of building livable communities while protecting farms, forests, and natural features. The findings adopted by Metro and the counties support a conclusion that the best achieves standard has been met, and that conclusion is

not impacted by the changes to urban and rural reserve acreage that occurred via House Bill 4078.

C. Responses to Issues Raised by Opponents

During the proceedings leading up to the Metro Council's adoption of Ordinance No. 17-1397, several parties submitted testimony raising legal issues regarding the Metro staff analysis set forth in the February 22, 2017 memorandum to the Metro Council concerning the amount of urban reserves remaining in the region. Responses to these arguments are provided in the Metro staff memorandum dated March 23, 2017, which is included in the record and hereby incorporated as part of these findings.

A common theme in letters submitted by attorneys for the Maletis Brothers and Barkers Five, LLC arises out of Metro's reliance on the 2014 UGR for purposes of determining whether the amount of urban reserves is sufficient to provide a 40 to 50 year supply of urbanizable land. These parties contend that the 2014 UGR is flawed for various reasons and therefore does not provide an adequate basis to forecast the future need for residential and employment land between now and 2065.

A fundamental problem with arguments about the adequacy of the future growth projections in the 2014 UGR is that those projections were developed through a multi-year and extensively peer-reviewed process culminating in adoption of the 2014 UGR by the Metro Council via Ordinance No. 15-1361. That decision was not appealed by any party, and therefore the UGR is acknowledged by LCDC as providing a legally valid forecast that is in compliance with all state requirements. To the extent that opponents are attempting to challenge the adequacy of the assumptions and projections in the adopted and acknowledged 2014 UGR, those arguments are impermissible collateral attacks. The applicable rule establishing the requirement for a 40 to 50 year supply of urbanizable land does not require Metro to generate a new UGR for purposes of estimating the future need for urban reserves. Rather, it directs Metro to rely on the land supply analysis in the most recently adopted 2014 UGR, which is exactly what Metro has done.

Many of the staff responses in the memorandum dated March 23, 2017 to issues raised by counsel for the Maletis Brothers also apply to issues raised by counsel for Barkers Five, LLC in a letter dated March 23, 2017. Nearly all of the issues raised by Barkers Five are based on arguments regarding why they believe the 2014 UGR is not accurate. As addressed above, Metro is entitled to rely on the adopted and acknowledged 2014 UGR forecast and to apply that forecast to the urban reserve analysis. Responses to specific issues raised by counsel for Barkers Five, LLC are included in a separate memorandum from Metro staff dated April 6, 2017, which is included in the record and hereby incorporated as part of these findings.