

Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Renaming FAQ

12/16/2020

1. Who is responsible for deciding if SFD Blvd. name will be changed?

Supervisors Rice and Rodoni (District 2 and District 4 respectively) have convened a cross jurisdictional “Working Group” comprised of council representatives from each of the city/towns through which Sir Francis Drake Blvd. runs – Larkspur, Ross, San Anselmo and Fairfax – in addition to unincorporated areas along the SFD Corridor. A small portion of the road runs through San Rafael. The City of San Rafael has agreed to incorporate whatever decision is made by the Working Group.

This Working Group agreed to go back to their respective councils/individual jurisdictions to take up the issue at the local level of whether to move forward with the road renaming of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Each of the five jurisdictions is in the process of engaging their respective communities consistent with their practices. The process will conclude with a public hearing in each jurisdiction to decide whether to rename the road within that jurisdiction. The five agencies agreed to complete this “Phase 1” process by March 31, 2021.

2. What is the County’s process for Phase 1 and how can I participate?

Note that each jurisdiction will have its own process including opportunities for residents and other stakeholders to participate. County of Marin process for the communities along SFD Blvd. in the unincorporated area will be as follows:

- January 25 (6pm) - Zoom Informational meeting for residents/businesses along SFD corridor in the unincorporated area of both the Ross Valley (District 2) and West Marin (District 4). Meeting will include a summary of outreach to date, presentation of the research gathered (e.g. cost, impact to businesses/residents), historical information on naming of road, Q/A from residents.
- February – multiple community level “zooms” to hear from residents
- March – tentative Board of Supervisors hearing on March 9 for discussion/direction on whether to move forward with renaming.

3. What happens if not all jurisdictions decide to move forward with a name change?

If that’s the case, parts of SFD could remain Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and other portions of the road could have a new name. Discretion over street names sits with the planning jurisdiction. That said, the Working Group felt strongly that uniformity of name would be the preferred outcome.

4. If a name change moves forward, when, and how will that be decided?

In April 2021, the SFD Working Group (those jurisdictions that decide to move forward with a name change) will determine a name selection process. The goal would be to determine a new name prior to the completion of the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Improvement Project (fall 2021).

5. How much will it cost to change the name?

Costs for the name change would depend on the number of standard and traffic signal signs to be replaced and staff time to manage/coordinate in all jurisdictions – unincorporated Marin, Larkspur, Ross, San Anselmo, Fairfax, Caltrans (signs on 101), San Rafael (freeway on and off ramp). Estimated total cost (if all jurisdictions agreed to name change) would be \$134,000. Breakout of costs per jurisdiction varies depending on number of signs/type of signage along with any other potentially related needs.

6. Where will the funds come from to change the name?

That has yet to be determined. Each jurisdiction could be responsible for their own costs or grants or other funding could be sought.

7. How many homes and businesses would be directly affected if the name changes?

A total of 641 parcels, including both residential and commercial would be affected (Breakdown - Fairfax: 69; Larkspur: 17; Ross: 52; San Anselmo: 153; Unincorporated: 350).

8. What would resident and businesses need to do if name changed?

No government filings would be required of property owners. Assessor and recorder use APN's, not street addresses, to log documents. These offices would record whatever ordinances/resolutions the jurisdictions pass and simply reference them as needed.

Jurisdictions also notify USPS of name changes, so residents/businesses wouldn't have to notify the Post Office. After the effective date of the name change, USPS guarantees 18-month "forwarding period" and "forwards" mail the same as if a resident or business filed a change of address. In most cases, after the 18-month period, the local postmaster continues to deliver mail that uses the old address, but this service is not guaranteed. ZIP+4 will not change. If the ZIP+4 is correct on the address label, the mail will be delivered regardless of what street name is on the item.

Most delivery services and internet map programs rely on USPS database and will slowly pick up the name change.

It will be advisable for residents to obtain a new driver's license (and any other form of identification) within 18-months of the effective date of the name change to coincide with the USPS process. Residents would be responsible for changing their driver's license, passport, and other forms of identification.

9. Where can I learn more? What resources are available?

In June, the SFD Working Group hosted a community wide “Zoom” listening session. Community members were invited to voice their opinions on the zoom, or via email. [Click here to view](#).

In August, in response to the range of comments, questions, varying historical accounts coming out of listening session, the Working Group partnered with the Marin County Free Library (MCFL) to host a [learning session](#). The Forum, via zoom, provided perspective/historical account on Drake the man, SFD the road, and the Coast Miwok people. Visit the [Marin County Free Library's Drake Boulevard History Resource Page](#) to review the [learning session](#) in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) as well as online resources about Sir Francis Drake, about the Boulevard ([click here](#) for Dewey Livingston's “Sir Francis Drake Boulevard: Road of Many Names”) and about Coast Miwok history.

10. Where can I send comments or suggestions? And where do I sign up for updates?

Please send comments to krice@marincounty.org or drodoni@marincounty.org and put SFD in the subject. To subscribe for updates, subscribe for the [District 2 newsletter](#) and/or the [District 4 newsletter](#).