November 25, 2014

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Ordinance establishing the Speed Limit on a Portion of Muir Woods Road in Muir Woods National Monument and Mount Tamalpais State Park

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Conduct the merit hearing; and 2) adopt the ordinance.

SUMMARY: Muir Woods Road currently does not have an established speed limit. In accordance with the California Vehicle Code (CVC), without a speed limit established by an Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS), the basic speed law applies which states, “no person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed which is greater than is reasonable or prudent.” The specific speed is undefined and difficult to enforce.

Due to a large number of roadway users, including visitors to Muir Woods National Monument parking along the roadway and pedestrians walking along the edge of the roadway, State and Federal Parks staff requested that an official enforceable speed limit be established. The procedure to set speed limits is specified in the CVC section 40802. The Marin County Department of Public Works conducted an E&TS pursuant and determined that a 25 mph speed limit between Panoramic Highway (milepost 0.00) to the northerly entrance to Santos Meadow (milepost 3.20) would be appropriate and enforceable. The Muir Beach Community Services District (MBCSD) reviewed and supports the proposed speed limit. The MBCSD requested that no speed limit be established between Santos Meadow and Highway 1 since shoulder parking and pedestrians walking alongside the roadway does not often occur in this portion of Muir Woods Road. Establishment of a speed limit is not proposed for this section of road at this time.

The recommended speed limit is the lowest that can be posted and still legally be enforceable. The attached ordinance meets the criteria for radar enforcement as established in Section 40802 of the CVC. A first reading of the ordinance was conducted by your Board on October 28, 2014.
FISCAL IMPACT: This action will result in the installation and ongoing maintenance of signs and markings. Existing funds are budgeted and available in Road Fund 20100, Fund Center 4100061000, and Commitment Item #5220500. There is no impact to the General Fund.

REVIEWED BY:

[ ] Department of Finance  [ X ] N/A
[ ] County Counsel  [ X ] N/A
[ ] Human Resources  [ X ] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Goralka
Principal Civil Engineer, P.E., T.E.

C: Undersherrif Mike Ridgway
   Deputy Doug Allen, Marin County Sheriffs Office
   Officer Nate Campbell, California Highway Patrol
   Victor Bjelac, California State Parks
   Darren Brown, Nation Parks Service
   Leighton Hills, Muir Beach Community Services District