



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

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November 25, 2014

Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
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Traffic Operations

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**SUBJECT:** Ordinance establishing the speed limit on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Larkspur

Dear Board Members:

**RECOMMENDATION:** Read ordinance by title only and schedule a merit hearing for December 16, 2013, at 10:30 AM.

**SUMMARY:** The Larkspur Fire Department, who observed an increase in collisions on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, requested the Department of Public Works review traffic operations on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. They were particularly concerned with approach speeds to certain curves on the road. Several rear end collisions have also occurred. The portion of East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in the unincorporated area of Marin County extends east from the Larkspur city limits (approximately 0.5 miles east of Larkspur Landing) to the San Rafael city limits (Anderson Drive).

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 22357 states that the local authority may establish appropriate speed limits to facilitate the orderly movement of traffic that is reasonable and safe. The Marin County Department of Public Works (DPW) conducted an Engineering and Traffic Study (E&TS) in accordance with the provisions of CVC section 627. The most recent data shows the 85th percentile speed decreased from 45 to 43 mph since the last time the speed limit was evaluated in 2010. Between February 2010 and May 2014, however, the collision rate increased from 0.57 to 1.51 and is now above the statewide average for similar roads (1.50). Of the 62 collisions that occurred during this period, 38 (61%) were speed related. While many drivers have adjusted their speeds due to changed conditions (increased congestion, pavement conditions and weather variability) others have not. We believe that a lower speed limit, which would be consistent with guidelines established in the California Vehicle Code (CVC), would be beneficial. DPW recommends the speed limit on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard be reduced from 45 to 40 mph. The attached ordinance

meets the criteria for radar enforcement as established in section 40802 of the California Vehicle Code.

**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.

<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,



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

c: Undersheriff Mike Ridgway  
Deputy Rich Johnson, Marin County Sheriff's Office  
Officer Nate Campbell, Marin CHP Radar Coordinator, California Highway Patrol  
Mary Grace Houlihan, Director of Public Works, City of Larkspur,  
Robert Sinnott, Fire Chief, City of Larkspur Fire Department

