

## **Text for Racially Restrictive Covenant Modification program**

**July 2021 draft**

Backed by federal legislation in the 1930s, discriminatory covenants that systemically supported racism were used to keep people of color from buying houses in certain San Anselmo and Marin County neighborhoods. Although racial covenants are illegal today and cannot be enforced, they are an offensive and painful reminder of our history of racial hostility and exclusion.

San Anselmo is joining the County of Marin to provide information to the community about these racially restrictive covenants and how property owners can proactively modify the covenants. Together, by acknowledging this discrimination and modifying these covenants, we can build a foundation for more inclusive communities.

Find any restrictive covenants by looking at your title report, or obtaining them from the [Marin County Recorder's Office](#). Property owners may file a *Restrictive Covenant Modification* form that effectively records over the impermissible covenant. An alternative or additional option is to add a covenant with language that acknowledges the racist clause, repudiates the unlawful clause and states instead that neighbors of all races and ethnicities are welcomed with enthusiasm.

More information at the Town web site: <https://www.townofsananselmo.org/1480/Racial-Covenant-Modification>