

AGENDA ITEM 1(b)

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT**

September 18, 2003

For the Meeting of September 23, 2003

TO: Town Council

FROM: Lisa Wight, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: **Zoning Ordinance Amendment to the Merger Ordinance,
SAMC 10-3.2703(b)(4)**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Town Council: 1) refer this item back to the Planning Commission to be heard at the Commission's regular meeting on October 6, 2003; and 2) continue the Council's hearing of this item to the Council's regular meeting on October 14, 2003 for introduction of this ordinance amendment.

BACKGROUND

September 15, 2003: Planning Commission heard the item and recommended approval of the ordinance amendment to the Town Council and announced it would be heard by the Town Council on September 23, 2003. However, since then it was discovered that the staff report and agenda had a typographical error in each, in conflict with the proposed ordinance amendment.

AGENDA ITEM 2

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**
For the meeting of 9-23-03

DATE: 9-16-03

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rabi Elias, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Drainage Improvements project on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. from El Cerrito Ave. to Cordone Dr. Award of Contract.

RECOMMENDATION

Award the contract to the lowest bidder who will be announced at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Town Council at the meeting of 8-26-03 approved the project and authorized soliciting informal bids.

DISCUSSION

The lowest bidder and the bid list will be presented to the council at the meeting. Due to time constraints the bids are scheduled to be opened the morning of the meeting day at 10:00 AM.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding will be from Measure G 2003-04 budget. The engineers estimate was \$44,000.

AGENDA ITEM 3

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT**

September 17, 2003

For the Meeting of September 23, 2003

TO: Town Council

FROM: Lisa Wight, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Adopt an Urgency Interim Ordinance amending the Sign Ordinance in SAMC Section 10-9.303 to reinstate language (inadvertently omitted during the 1999 ordinance revisions) pertaining to regulations for temporary political signs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Town Council adopt an Urgency Interim Ordinance amending the Sign Ordinance to be effective September 23, 2003 and waive reading.

Staff Comments

Staff is recommending adoption of this Urgency Interim Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1010 to include language related to temporary political signs. Ordinance No. 1010, adopted in 1999, inadvertently removed language in place related to temporary signs.

Although staff is currently preparing a regular ordinance to reinstate *all* the temporary sign language, the earliest date a regular ordinance would take effect would be November 27th, after the November 4th election. That would mean that political signs would be uncontrolled.

This ordinance would be in effect on September 23, 2003. In the meantime, language is being drafted to place all temporary signs on the Planning Commission's October 6th agenda, and subsequently on the Town Council's October 14th and October 28th agendas.

Attachments: Proposed Urgency Interim Ordinance
Previously adopted excerpt Ordinance No. 1010 (1999)
Previously adopted Ordinance No. 723 (1977)

AGENDA ITEM 4

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT
For the meeting of 9-23-03

DATE: 9-16-03

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rabi Elias, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Acknowledge and file the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Corridor Study.

RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge and file report.

BACKGROUND

The Town Council at the meeting of 4-9-02 approved the consulting firm of Whitlock and Weinberger Transportation Inc. to prepare the study. The object of the study was to undertake a systematic look at circulation on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (SFD). The following elements were evaluated:

- Traffic Signals Timing and Coordination.
- Traffic Safety and Improvement measures.
- Reversible Flow Lane.
- Parking on SFD.
- Drake High School Parking.

DISCUSSION

The consultant was not able to get all the data needed before the 2002 school summer break. The analysis was done in the winter of 02/03. The report was completed in May 2003 but further timing refinements were needed which could not be completed before school summer break. Now that school is back the timing is completed. The Hub intersection is the focal point as it processes 66,000 cars a day. It is saturated and we have just about done all we can timing wise. The AM peak South bound SFD is the primary issue with a 50 second time out of 130-second cycle. Staff has observed that when the green appears the first eight cars go through quickly. After that the gap between cars starts to widen. An average of 55 cars can go through during the period, which is much less than expected at a regular intersection. Staff concluded that two factors are causing the reduction. One is the geometry of the intersection, which is unfeasible to change. The other is the inattention of drivers to the signal change, mainly because the light is not visible from further back. In order to make the signal more visible, a new pole with a signal head will be installed in the median.

The rest of the report studies other issues related to the corridor and the parking, which are summarized at the beginning of the consultant's report (attached).

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the study is \$39,000 and paid through the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund.

AGENDA ITEM 5

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT
September 18, 2003

For the meeting of September 23, 2003

TO: Town Council

FROM: Debra Stutsman, Town Administrator

SUBJECT: Statewide Ballot Initiative

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider approval of resolution supporting a statewide ballot initiative to require voter approval before state government may take local tax funds.

BACKGROUND

The General Assembly of Voting Delegates of the League of California Cities at its September 10, 2003 meeting voted to sponsor a statewide ballot initiative to empower the voters to limit the ability of state government to confiscate local tax funds to fund state government. The League has requested that cities/towns offer support for a November 2004 ballot initiative that will allow voters to decide whether state government may appropriate local tax funds to fund state government operations and responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

In adopting the state budget this year the Legislature and Governor appropriated local vehicle license fee backfill and redevelopment property tax funds that are needed to finance critical city and town services such as public safety, parks, street maintenance, housing and economic development. The deficit spending plan in the state budget depends on a local property and sales tax swap that leaves city services vulnerable if the state's economic condition fails to improve. In addition, the state government annually seizes over \$800 million in city/town property tax funds (ERAF) statewide, costing cities over \$6.9 billion in lost revenues over the past 12 years. This shifting of property tax moneys to fund education has cost San Anselmo in excess of \$500,000 annually.

ANALYSIS

The League's measure will amend the state constitution to make it harder for the state to take away local resources. Most probably it will require a super-majority vote of the legislature before local funds can be taken, and allow the state's voters to decide if they want local funds taken for state purposes. The measure would **not** raise taxes, try to undo actions the state has already taken, try to get ERAF property taxes back, try to carve out a bigger share of the state general fund pie for local government, or try to take funds away from other stakeholder groups.

The measure would:

- Help cities/towns protect the revenue they have right now – property tax, sales tax, vehicle license fees, and other local taxes such as business license taxes and utility user's taxes – so that cities/towns will have stable, predictable funds it needs to plan for current and future needs.

- Make it harder for the state to take local funds.
- Help reduce the pressure for increased local fees or taxes that could otherwise be needed to fund local services after state raids of local revenues.
- Keep the state from shifting state program costs to local agencies.

Getting a measure to the ballot is a costly venture – anywhere from \$7 to \$15 million, depending upon levels of opposition. The League and cities/towns will partner with other organizations concerned about protecting local services. These groups can contribute or help raise the funds needed for the measure. **No public funds may be used in support of campaign activities. No public facilities or equipment may be used to plan or promote ballot measure activities, including fundraising. Campaign activities must take place on personal time.**

CONCLUSION

California cities/towns are standing together to take positive action to ensure that local revenues are protected against further takeaways, so that San Anselmo and all other California cities will have the stable, predictable funding needed to plan for current and future local services. The measure will protect our police, fire and other community services without taking a bigger share of state funds and without taking money away from education, health and welfare, or any other group.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Stutsman
Town Administrator