



SPEED ZONES IN THE RANCH

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

BASIC SPEED LAW

Roads in Rancho Santa Fe are governed by the “Basic Speed Law.” “No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property. In other words, a driver violates the basic speed law if he or she is driving at unsafe speeds, even if that speed is lower than the posted regulatory speed limit sign.” Several roads have speed limits set by the County and have radar certification for enforcement. The California Highway Patrol is the main traffic law enforcement agency that enforces traffic laws on Covenant roads.

WHO SETS SPEED LIMITS?

The County Traffic Engineer is responsible to set speed limits according to state law and engineering guidelines. When speeds are to be lowered based on an Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS) on the State Highways, the District Traffic Engineer is charged with determining speed limits. On local roads, the local agency has this function (County of San Diego).

HOW OFTEN ARE SPEED ZONES UPDATED?

Speed Zone Surveys are valid for 5 years and may be extended to 7 years if specific criteria on radar operator certification, equipment calibration, and training have been met. A survey may be extended to 10 years if the engineer determines all above criteria have been met and no significant changes in roadway or traffic conditions have occurred.

WHY CAN'T THE COMMUNITY VOTE TO SET SPEED LIMITS?

When speed limits are lowered arbitrarily without an (E&TS), speeding violations issued to drivers may be thrown out in court. In addition, setting the speed limit arbitrarily low often makes violators of a disproportionate number of drivers, does not facilitate the orderly movement of traffic, and requires constant enforcement to maintain compliance.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHANGE A SPEED LIMIT?

Many roads in Rancho Santa Fe have posted speed limits. Some roads have too low of traffic volume to set a speed limit. But they are less traveled and have a safe operational history. If you have questions, or would like to request an E&TS, please contact the County roads division at: 858-694-3845



Village Speed Limits

Within the densely populated business district, the speed limit is 25 MPH.

School Speed Limits

When approaching or passing the R Roger Rowe School grounds during school hours or when children are present, the speed limit is 25mph.

APPROACHING GOLFERS

Please slow speed along Avenida Acacias during daylight hours. If golf carts are present, please stop to allow carts to cross.

APPROACHING HORSES

Please be considerate of our equestrian community. When you see a horse, **please slow down**. Be patient. Don't sound your horn or rev your engine. Pass the horse wide and slow. Drive away slowly.

PASSING CYCLISTS

Be vigilant. Adjust speeds to anticipate unexpected movements. Keep a distance of **AT LEAST** three feet when passing. You cannot cross the center double yellow line when passing. You may have to wait until it is safe to pass.