

Terrie Gillen

From: Chris Wheaton <chris.wheaton@lgam.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Cynthia Koehler; Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson; Ben Horenstein
Subject: Rate increases and legal spending

During a pandemic, private businesses, state and local governments and individuals are tighten their belts and trying to live within their means. Special districts like the Marin Municipal Water District are doing the opposite... raising rates and then spending ratepayers dollars to defend the rate increases. Austerity is happening everywhere and now is not the time to be raising rates and/or aggressively defending them. Now is the time to get money into the pockets of ratepayers. By proposing to fund up to \$400,000 of legal expenses to defend large rate increases, you are forcing ratepayers to sue themselves and pay for both sides of the legislation. Come to your senses and scale back your spending and rates. Everyone else is and you should do the same.

Chris Wheaton, CPA, CFP®

Senior Advisor, Principal

chris.wheaton@lgam.com

Direct: 415-464-5802

| Client Line: 415-526-4380

Directions | https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f1eb4d5a/zh9YHIsz00CC3s_OL8HhsA?u=http://www.lgam.com/ 

Litman Gregory

ASSET MANAGEMENT

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mmwd,

i consider it highly unacceptable to hire outside council to defend this suit. the ratepayers of marin should not be considered a bottomless well of cash to support the stance of excessive rate hikes.

it would seem that instead of a steady improvement of infrastructure the board has somehow just realized that there are major improvements needed to continue to deliver the supply of water to the homes and businesses of our county.

get it together!

james phelan

fairfax

On Dec 15, 2020, at 10:38 AM, Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers
<CoalitionTaxpayers@gmail.com> wrote:

Email MMWD Board Today!

[View this email in your browser](#)



EMAIL MMWD DIRECTORS TODAY!

Tell MMWD: Stop Spending OUR Money Defending Rates that Are Unfair, Illegal and Wildly Unpopular.

Remind Directors: They Represent YOU.

The Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors has on its 12-15-20 Agenda approval for up to \$400,000 to engage an outside law firm through 12/31/2021 to defend its current unpopular customer rates. Those rates have been widely protested as unfair, unrelated to customer water usage and conservation, and challenged by CO\$T for these reasons and because they are illegal. CO\$T [initially filed suit](#) against MMWD in August 2019. In July 2020, CO\$T's expanded legal team advanced this to a [Class Action suit](#) that is now proceeding in Marin Superior Court.

Adding insult to ratepayers' bill injury, this legal expenditure that the MMWD Board proposes to approve will add to the District's costs which ultimately are passed on to its ratepayers in our water rates.

Please consider sending an e-Mail protest to the MMWD Board and to the District's General Manager,

Ben Horenstein protesting this expenditure, if possible, prior to the Board's meeting 7:30PM Tuesday 12/15.

**CO\$T urges you to send a letter to MMWD Directors and General Manager
TODAY objecting to Spending \$400,000 to Fight Ratepayers' Suit:**

ckoehler@marinwater.org

lbragman@marinwater.org

lrussell@marinwater.org

jgibson@marinwater.org

bhorenstein@marinwater.org

Please also cc us at: CoalitionTaxpayers@gmail.com

Donate Today to CO\$T to Support Our Legal and Other Activities

*******MORE INFO*******

You may also attend the MMWD Board meeting via Zoom (instructions below) and express your opinion during public comment on [agenda item 8 \(starts PDF page 74\)](#).

MMWD's instructions for attending and commenting are as follows:

MMWD Board Meeting Tuesday, December 15, 2020, Starts 7:30 PM

To participate online, go

to <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/c1f4f8bb/ZaOv94yhl0SYhthMU4J5uQ?u=https://zoom.us/j/91866755311>.

You can also participate by phone by calling 1-669-900-6833 and entering the webinar ID#: 918 6675 5311.

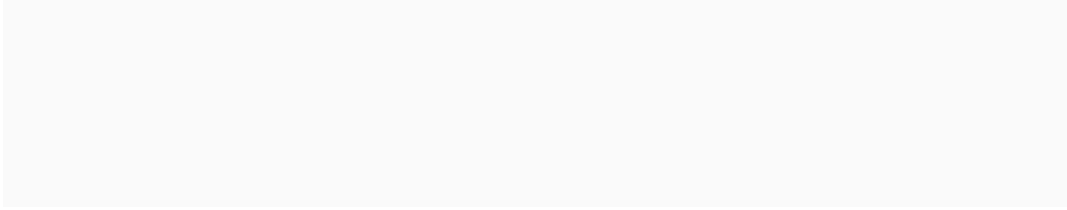
PARTICIPATION DURING MEETINGS: During the public comment periods, the public may comment by clicking the "raise hand" button on the bottom of the Zoom screen; if you are joining by phone and would like to comment, press *9 and we will call on you as appropriate.

EMAILED PUBLIC COMMENTS: You may submit your comments in advance of the meeting by emailing them to BoardComment@MarinWater.org. All emailed comments received by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. **Those emailed comments on approval items received by 3 p.m. will also be summarized by the board secretary at the board meeting. All emails will be posted on our website.** (Please do not include personal information in your comment that you do not want published on our website such as phone numbers and home addresses.)

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Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers · PO Box 253 · Kentfield, CA 94914-0253 · USA



Terrie Gillen

From: Judi Schellenberg <judi@lucasvalley.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Cynthia Koehler; Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson; Ben Horenstein
Cc: CoalitionTaxpayers@gmail.com
Subject: YOU MUST BE KIDDING!!

How you can even CONSIDER paying some Texas law firm **\$400,000** (for only 2 weeks work, no less) to **defend the proposed increase in rates?**

Aren't you aware of what's been going on for the last nine months? People have lost jobs, are unemployed, businesses are closing down, food lines are longer than ever, unemployment is running out. And you want to raise our rates?

Our last bill was close to \$300. That's for two old retired people with minimal water requirements. I can't even imagine what a family, especially with young children and/or a baby has been charged. If you can't run the water district with that sort of income you don't deserve to be on the board.

If the money is burning a hole in your pocket, put it towards the upgrades you say are necessary. Or better yet, donate it to the food bank, or to a local charity, if you must spend it.

Judi Schellenberg
1212 Idylberry Road
San Rafael, CA 94903

Terrie Gillen

From: Jan Stephens <jbstephens175@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson; Ben Horenstein
Cc: CoalitionTaxpayers@gmail.com
Subject: : Are you crazy?

From: Jan Stephens <JBStephens175@gmail.com>
Subject: Are you crazy?
Date: December 15, 2020 at 11:06:48 AM PST
To: ckoehler@marinwater.org

Spending \$400,000 to defend your rate increase? No wonder the rates are going up.
You want to get re elected? Stop this foolishness.
Bob Stephens San Rafael
MMWD rate payer since 1965.

Terrie Gillen

From: Mike Popovich <mspopovich55@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Cynthia Koehler; lbragman@marin; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson
Cc: Ben Horenstein; Mimi Willard
Subject: Outside Law Firm???

Dear MMWD Directors,

Engaging an outside law firm to defend YOU from the ratepayers that fund the operation and have questions about the fairness of your rate structure does not sound like a prudent or reasonable way to spend up to \$400,000 of working capital. As Directors of our Marin Municipal Water District, you represent the ratepayers, correct?

Mike Popovich
Larkspur, CA

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Mike Popovich
Larkspur, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Susan Kirsch <susankirsch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:00 AM
To: ckoehler@marinwater.org; Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson; Ben Horenstein
Cc: Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers
Subject: Reject spending \$\$ for outside law firm

Dear MMWD Board:

I join in support of CO\$T's opposition to you, OUR water Board, approving up to \$400,000 for an outside law firm to defend unfair water rates. I urge you to reject the proposal. Work towards rates that are fair and legal. Trim the MMWD budget and strive to protect, not attack, residents during this time of economic upheaval.

Best wishes,
Susan Kirsch
Mill Valley

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From: Susan Kirsch <susankirsch@hotmail.com>
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To: ckoehler@marinwater.org; Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson; Ben Horenstein
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Best wishes,
Susan Kirsch
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Donald Felipe <dfelipe@ggu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please pass Resolution 8607

Dear MMWB Board,

I am attaching here my story, a true story, about my experience with ebikes; this was sent to the Board a couple of years ago. I am very happy that the Board is revisiting this issue, and coming closer to coherent and just policy, in my opinion. I have also attached an addendum:

Sixteen years ago, at the age of 44, out of the blue, I had a heart attack. Shortly thereafter, I discovered mountain biking. It saved my life. I lost 30 pounds. My cardiologist was in perpetual amazement, and envy—he tried to take up cycling himself. My heart became healthy. I transformed myself into a vibrant, life-loving, middle-aged man, and among my greatest joys was climbing the picturesque hills and mountains of Marin county. It was none too easy, even when I became as healthy as an older horse can be. I cannot describe the life-giving sustenance of looking out over the bay from the top of Mount Tam, after climbing for two hours.

In the past four or five years, with age, and some lethargy, my ability to ride mountain bikes has waned. I could not climb like I used to, and I was unable to visit the places I enjoyed the most. I biked less and less. I gained weight. My lung capacity decreased. And, now at the age of 60, my weight approached what it was before my heart attack 16 years ago. I tried to get the passion back, and failed. It just became more and more difficult to get on the bike and ride.

Then, I discovered e-mountain bikes. My passion is back. These bikes do not have a throttle. The experience of riding them is very much like a regular bike, with one difference—the pedal is assisted with battery power, so that one can climb and climb, even with older legs. Suddenly, I find myself back at the top of the mountain, and I have fallen in love again.

These bikes do not cause more damage than regular bikes to trails, and to the fire roads in the MMWD district they pose absolutely no danger. On the contrary, these bikes bring the likes of me back into the neighborhood, a watchdog and friend of everything around me.

ADDENDUM

I am now 63 years old. My knees aren't what they used to be—to say the least. My lung capacity—can't make the climbs like I used to. But, an ebike keeps me going, and everything I say above remains true—I am just about to take a ride :) I cannot express my gratitude for those who develop this technology. Some technological developments are just plain good, and can be put to use in ways that creates life, joy, health—ebike technology is one. The technology is getting more and more advanced. There are already ebikes that are pretty much regular bikes with a little support unit you can turn on or off depending on your mood. Why buy a regular bike without support if you can get a bike with the option of support? That is a question some in Europe are asking—and a reasonable answer: it will not be long until ebikes are the norm in cycling. In America we are behind, backward in many ways—Ah! Those Americans.

Civility, kindness, joy, sharing, health, and just plain fun—these should be our ethos, and this is the ethos of ebikes, if approached in the right way. I do pray that the MMWB Board and all my brothers and sisters in Marin county, will embrace it and enjoy the paradise in which they live.

Regards,

Donald Felipe

Terrie Gillen

From: Aaron Thompson <aaront@bicyclebrustop.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

To the MMWD Water Board of Directors

My name is Aaron Thompson and am an avid mountain biker and bike shop owner who resides in Novato. My shop has sold dozens of Class-1 bikes and serviced countless others purchased elsewhere, and when talking with customers about how they ride, some consistent patterns emerge, and they support my and my shop's employees' conclusions after owning and riding eMTBs ourselves:

1. Class 1 e-bikes open the door for rewarding outdoor experiences to riders who wouldn't otherwise have the physical strength and/or endurance to enjoy on traditional bikes. This is especially true when one considers the steep off-road terrain that Marin County, and Mt Tam in particular, has to offer.
2. Class-1 mountain bikes are not faster coming down hill, the max speed is determined by the rider's aptitude & skill, trail conditions, and capped by applicable speed limits. This description is the same as could be said of a standard mountain bike, and the addition of a motor and battery do not alter that reality.
3. Class-1 electric mountain bikes are only marginally heavier than standard mountain bikes, typically 20-25lbs heavier than similar "acoustic" models. When you consider the combined weight of the rider + machine system, the weight of the rider has a far bigger contribution to the system weight than the addition of an assistance motor and a battery. In other words, a light rider on a medium e-bike puts less weight on a fireroad/trail than a heavy rider on ultralight carbon fiber race bike. So the claims of increased erosion and longer stopping distances are unfounded.

I urge you to support Resolution 8607, giving our community the opportunity to prove that eMTBs can and should be a part of the diverse experiences available on Marin's public lands.

Thank you for taking the time to consider public feedback.

Sincerely,

Aaron Thompson

2817 Topaz Dr

Novato CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Loring Casartelli <loringc16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: No motorized bikes!

Hello,

I am a third generation Marin County resident. I am an equestrian. My family is made up of mountain bikers and hikers. I have ridden, hiked and biked Marin trails for 50 years.

These days, equestrians and hikers, are being driven off of trails by new technology. Silent, light weight bikes are upon you in a second and with no real ability to stop momentum, when they can get up to speeds well above safety limits on a trail or fire road.

Brining in motorized bikes will endanger hikers and equestrians even more.

Mountain bikers argue that one else is using the trails....it because we are being driven off in order to stay safe. It is not pleasant to feel on alert the whole time I am on a multi use trail that any moment someone on a regular bike, much less a motorized one, will be barreling around the next corner. I have had to leave the trail frequently when n both foot and horse because of this, even though the bikes are supposed to yield. I no longer ride or even hike China Camp and the old rail road trail through Samuel P Taylor that years ago was a delight to ride via horse or even a regular bicycle out to Olema, is now a freeway of carbon steel mountain and road bikers who get up to 60 mile an hour in seconds!

Nature does not move fast...Neither should those of us traveling through it.

Loring Casartelli

Terrie Gillen

From: Rob Rowlands <rowlands47@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Dan Bech; Stephen Shoup
Subject: EBikes on MMWD trails

Thanks for considering this. I'm a 73 yr old bike rider that is back on the trails now I've got an ebike. My bike looks like a normal full suspension mountain bike and I'm sure I'm doing no more damage to the trails and trail users than I did aged 37!

Rob Rowlands
Mill Valley

Best regards,
Rob Rowlands
415 849 5667

Terrie Gillen

From: Tom Boss <tom@marinbike.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Marin County Bicycle Coalition supports MMWD Resolution No. 8607

Dear MMWD Board Directors,

Marin County Bicycle Coalition supports MMWD Resolution No. 8607, authorizing an interim special use permit for Class I pedal-assist e-bikes on watershed fire roads. The recommended three year trial--with monitoring and flexibility to adapt if needed--seems like the best path forward.

E-bikes make bicycling more accessible and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities. More people on bikes equals fewer people in cars. That's a good thing for public health, traffic congestion, and air quality. As more people are able to access and enjoy our public lands, the more support we will have to protect and steward these lands.

We encourage you to approve the resolution today. We look forward to working with staff, stakeholders and visitors toward a successful, safe, and respectful outcome.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Tom Boss
Off-Road & Events Director
Marin County Bicycle Coalition
(415) 272-2756 | marinbike.org
Pronouns: he, his, him

We're creating a healthy, connected, and sustainable Marin by promoting bicycling for everyday transportation and recreation. Love to ride? [Join us today.](#)

Terrie Gillen

From: Sam Lueck <samlueck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Comments opposed to Interim Special Use Permit for Electric Bicycles

Hello,

I'm writing regarding the Interim Special Use Permit for Electric Bicycles. I see that the Approval Item includes recommendations for direct staff to budget for additional funds for additional Ranger positions and funds to support a Watershed Recreation Management Plan in the FY 22/23 budget, but these costs are not considered in the Fiscal Impact section of the Item.

I don't understand why these costs aren't being considered if the approval of the Special Use Permit is predicated upon additional rangers and a broader recreation plan. I'm also confused about how the recommendations for more rangers, a broader recreation management plan, and expanding Project Restore activities were informed by the activities of the E-bike review process and the E-bike Advisory Committee.

These recommendations seem to be consequential policy changes but were not stated to fall within the scope or domain of this review process nor do they appear to have been methodically examined or considered. In fact I see that staff will present a review of Ranger activities to the committee in March and only at that point identify a plan for the increased staffing levels. Shouldn't the committee consider the increased Ranger activity plan before approving it?

Allowing for a three-year special use permit before analyzing any data on E-bike use also seems backwards. Why not capture and analyze existing data first before forming a plan? E-bikes are currently all over MMWD lands yet there doesn't seem to have been an effort to capture any of this existing to use in any part of this process. The CAC seemed tasked with considering hypotheticals instead of information that could have easily been obtained and productively applied to the process.

In summary I don't believe that these recommendations are supported by an adequate analysis of the issues, nor do I see any urgency that should compel the committee and the board to make a rushed decision based on such an inadequate analysis. At the very least this permit and plan should not be approved until you have the additional information about staffing plans and costs. I know that this issue is nearly immaterial relative to the greater management of the district, but I would be concerned if this process is representative of the management of more consequential matters.

Respectfully,

Sam Lueck

Fairfax

Terrie Gillen

From: ERIC WILCOX <ewilcox1@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi -

Thank you for the consideration. I do support resolution 8607. I have been riding mountain bikes on Tam and around Marin for 30 years. I am now 61 years old and still getting out on my bike. The issue is that riding with my younger friends is really starting to be more difficult, and my distance stamina in beginning to wane. I have the added complications due to a motorcycle accident I was in 13 years ago. Simply, I wish to continue riding but I am going to need an e-assist bike to continue to do so. Otherwise, I'm just not going to be able to enjoy our mountain on my bike as much.

I live in Kentfield and the areas nearby my house are largely watershed. I am really hopeful that it will be realized that e-assist bike riders are needing the help to remain active. Thank you.

Eric Wilcox
70 Westwood Dr.
Kentfield CA 94904
Cell 415-517-0266

Sent from my mobile device - apologies for any innovative spelling or punctuation.

Terrie Gillen

From: Cameron Stewart <cameron.stewart@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi MMWD Board of Directors – I 100% support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Ebikes are an important option for helping a broader cross section of our community access our beautiful public lands. Riding bikes shouldn't be an exclusive activity of the young and fit. While I personally don't own an ebike, I know that when my 71 yr old father comes to visit, he'd love to rent an ebike and ride MMWD fire roads with me. And I also enjoy riding with friends who aren't as fit as myself, but they enjoy getting out, getting exercise and enjoying our scenic land. And, anything we can do provide more cyclists with off-road options away from distracted and speeding drivers is a huge benefit.

I am passionate outdoor enthusiast. I ride bikes (both mountain and gravel), hike, backpack and spend as much time possible exploring our trails, usually with my family/kids in tow. I have also organized French Broom pulls with MMWD rangers via my company. I love giving back and strongly believe in leave no trace.

It has never been more clear than during shelter in place, how much our community loves our open space and trails. It has been wonderful to see so many people out and about (and still socially distanced!). It has been truly amazing to see so many different user groups happily and safely sharing our trails: hikers, equestrians, trail runners, cyclists, families, dog walkers, etc.

Lastly, please do not be dissuaded by the small but vocal minority of bike haters. These folks will try to deceive you with their red herring arguments that completely and utterly lack merit. Unfortunately, this small group of loud voices will continue to throw out reasons against bikes. These are the same folks that tied up the Marin County Open Space Road and Trail Management Plan in court, despite years of planning and hundreds of hours of community outreach. Fortunately, the court sided with MCOS and these baseless claims were soundly rejected. I am confident that logic, respect and reason will carry the day for the MMWD and enable the 3 year trial period to proceed so that the board can make a truly informed and educated decision in 2023.

Thank you,
Cameron
Mill Valley, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Laurel Nielsen <laurelnk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear MMWC;

I would strongly suggest that you allow Class 1 pedal assist e-bikes on your fire roads for a 2 or 3 year trial period.

I myself do not ride an e-bike (yet!). But a number of my bicycling friends who are no longer able to ride road or mountain bikes have switched to e-bikes.

Their impact on the land and on wildlife is really no different from other bicycles. They go a bit faster uphill than those of us on regular bikes, but certainly not fast enough to be considered a hazard.

It is crucial to our health, and the health of older individuals in particular, to be able to access natural areas safely. E-bikes allow my senior friends to do this.

Please give them a chance- don't ban them before you are sure that they should be banned!

Sincerely,
Laurel Nielsen

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael Gridley <magridley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

Dear Board Members:

My name is Mike Gridley and I have been mountain biking on Mt. Tam since I moved to Mill Valley in 1971. I spent 32 years in the Marin County District Attorney's office and 25 of those years as the Chief Asst. DA and the District Attorney which gave me the opportunity of working with many of the Rangers of MMWD and getting to know the unique and special beauty of the District Watershed. There are few areas of the District that I have not visited, mostly on my mountain bike.

I retired from the District Attorney's office in 2004 after 32 years and have continued mountain biking ever since.

Two years ago, when I turned 75, I purchased a Class-1 pedal-assisted mountain e-bike which has allowed me to continue to ride the beautiful trails and mountains in Marin County and in the mountains surrounding Truckee, California with my daughter, son-in-law and grandkids. The benefit of the e-bike for me is that it provides some additional wattage(power) when I am going up steeper inclines. It allows me to keep up with my family members and still get a great workout while riding and pedaling my e-bike.

For those who do not know, a Class-1 pedal-assisted mountain e-bike does NOT move if you are not pedaling. It is not a motor driven bike but a bike that you have to pedal but you can get some assisted power when going up the steeper grades. I can ride my Class-1 mountain e-bike with the power off and it just rides as a heavier mountain bike.

From my experience in riding around Marin County, my observations are that the people who are riding e-bikes are older in age and are NOT the mountain bikers who are riding fast down the roads or trails. E-bikes are heavier and are not meant for speed. They add assisted power to your pedal stroke to assist you up the steeper grades but you have to pedal or you do not move.

I hope that your Board approves Resolution 8607 so that any follow up studies will prove to you that Class-1 e-bikes should be allowed on MMWD lands.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Mike Gridley
415-505-8053

Terrie Gillen

From: Eric <eric.shaden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Comment on allowing electric bikes

Hello,

I would like to comment and push the board to allow electric bikes on trails that bikes are allowed on. These have allowed my father to get exercise during the pandemic. Due to prior surgeries he cannot get around as well on a regular bike.

Please allow them.

Thank you,
Eric Shaden
Mill Valley Resident

Terrie Gillen

From: Amy Ferhart <aferhart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: RE: e-bikes (revised/completed letter)

December 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern -

I am a public school teacher, working remotely, and I am a mother of two kids. I live out in Lagunitas and I am trying to navigate all that entails with life during a pandemic. I get exercise by running on nearby trails or running some of the pathways in the former San Geronimo Golf Course. I find exercise and nature to be my source of refuge and an essential component to my mental health.

Last summer, my in-laws who are in their 70's bought ebikes and have enjoyed new found freedom, fitness and joy exploring new trails in nature. Inspired by them, I recently purchased an off-road ebike (currently on back-order) and am eagerly anticipating going on local adventures. I was shocked and saddened to learn on one of my runs by Kent Lake that ebikes were not allowed. There is so much that I want to explore; I feel I am limited by foot, but being on a bike would open up so many more places to explore. I do not have the strength, skill or fitness level to ride the long trails on a mountain bike. With pedal assist, I would be able to access more trails that would normally be inaccessible given my skill level.

To me, this is an equity issue. Only allowing folks who have the strength and skills or the financial ability to afford an expensive mountain bike to ride up mountains without pedal assistance prevents a large range of people from accessing many of the trails in Marin. Having many trails accessible to folks of all ages, skill and fitness level creates opportunities for more people of different backgrounds to have access to these trails.

I strongly urge a vote that allows e-bikes to join other bikes on the trails in Marin County! I believe that by allowing more people access to trails in Marin county, it will help a wide range of people improve their fitness, increase their mental health and nourish their love and care for the environment!

Thank you for considering this request!

Sincerely,
Amy Ferhart

Terrie Gillen

From: Ray Brown <raynman10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Evokes in watershed

Just email and represent my family and their position absolutely against e-bikes on watershed fire roads. The legacy of the mmwd trails and fire roads has been compromised enough over the years from the original use.

Raymond and Sarah Brown
San Rafael

Terrie Gillen

From: Jason van den Brand <jvandenbrand@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: EMTB Access

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. As a resident of the Sorich Ranch neighborhood in beautiful San Anselmo, having access for emtb's is a critical component to the health and well-being of our communities and environment. Very simply, each car we can remove from our streets and highways is a good thing - less commutes, less stress, less congestion, and less pollution. Electric bicycles of all forms are a critical component to solving for the last mile challenge of day-to-day transportation needs.

Case in point, just this morning I rode my emtb up and over Sorich grade into Terra Linda, up and over Lucas Valley into Marinwood and ultimately, Novato. My destination? Ford of Novato to pickup my Ford Explorer from a smog check. The route I rode was completely on fire roads, and My alternative was to pack my young family into our other vehicle and have my wife drive me there and back. Instead, I got nearly 20 miles of mental and physical health, all while removing 40 unnecessary, and environmentally costly, miles of another vehicle on the road.

We must take into consideration these large scale environmental impacts such as air quality, now more than ever. Each electric bicycle on the road is a small step toward a cleaner, and healthier future.

Thank you,
Jason van den Brand
415.215.7165
San Anselmo

Terrie Gillen

From: Earl McCowen <emccowen@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: 'marty mccowen'
Subject: Resolution 8607- in FAVOR

Dear Marin County Water District Board,

I am writing today in FAVOR of approving Resolution 8607, to allow limited access to Class 1 e-Bikes on MMWD land on Mount Tamalpais.

My wife and I are both in our mid-seventies and, even though we can now enjoy hiking and riding our conventional mountain bikes on Mt. Tam, there may come a time in the future when this pleasurable activity will not be possible. We would like to know that, if we eventually need electrically-assisted bikes, that the option to ride on our beloved Mt. Tam will not be prohibited.

We have family, neighbors and dear friends who are in their late-seventies and mid-eighties who currently ride e-bikes because they can no longer make it up long, steep grades without the assistance of the electric power. One neighbor in particular was deeply involved with the Sierra Club. He used to lead multi-day backpacking trips in the Eastern Sierra. These are people who care deeply for the environment and derive great pleasure from being in nature. These are not people who will abuse the privilege of being able to ride their e-bikes on Mt. Tam.

This resolution will only authorize access for e-bikes for a three-year trial period and there are provisions in the resolution to "pull the plug" if significant problems occur during the that time.

I strongly urge that you vote "YES" on this resolution.

~Sincerely,
Earl and Marty McCowen
Novato

Terrie Gillen

From: David Carbonell <dacarbon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Public comment regarding 12/15/2020 MMWD meeting

I am an ER doctor and homeowner, and an avid mountain biker.

I understand that there's an MMWD meeting coming up on Dec 15 to discuss electric mountain bike access in the watershed, as well consideration of a watershed recreational management plan (long overdue).

I cannot stress how strongly I feel about the need for more access in our watershed for both regular and electric mountain bike access to both narrow trails and fireroads. Mountain biking is a safe and environmentally sustainable recreational opportunity for people of all ages. The fact that less than 10% of MMWD narrow trails are available to a user group that encompasses almost half of MMWD users is a recipe for conflict and stigmatization for a clearly legitimate user group.

I'm sure you'll be hearing from many parties about this issue, and I encourage you to consider models from across the country and internationally to show how a watershed can be managed to serve the needs of the whole community. Marin can provide clean water and environmental stewardship, and still support meaningful recreational opportunities for all users including mountain bikers.

Personally, I think the most relevant comparison is Vancouver, Canada - very similar topography to Marin and similar population size/density. They have fully embraced mountain biking as well as environmentalism. Similar US locales including Bellingham, WA, or the trail networks around Seattle.

Thanks for the consideration, and please know that I'd love to discuss further if you are interested. I am passionate about this topic, and it is a primary voting issue for me.

Dave Carbonell
dacarbon@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Lanny Lampl <lannylampl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Lanny Lampl
22 Prospect Ave
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Terrie Gillen

From: Dan Brousseau <daniel7245@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:33 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Dan Brousseau
109 Evergreen Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Thomas Ravina <thomasravina@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Thomas Ravina
305 Montego Ky
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: Tia Benjamins <benjamins.tia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Tia Benjamins
115 Emerson Ave
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: KELLY BENNETT <foodguy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

KELLY BENNETT
35 Canyon Rd
Fairfax, CA 94930

Terrie Gillen

From: Mark Friedman <mark@1610broadway.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Friedman
277 Via Monte
Saint Helena, CA 94574

Terrie Gillen

From: Anne Sands <annedogtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e bikes

Dear MMWD Board members,

My name is Anne Sands. I am past President of the Reclamation Board of the State of California, Past Chair of the Marin County Planning Commission, Past President of the Bolinas Fire Protection District Board, retired Environmental Consultant, retired Coordinator of the West Marin Disaster Council, bike rider, long distance equestrian and 28 year resident of West Marin.

My extensive background in water resources and land management throughout California and my experience as a long time trail user in Marin County have shaped my appreciation for the unique qualities of our parks, watersheds and open spaces.

Based on my observations and experiences, I strongly recommend against any form of motorized recreational equipment being allowed on MMWD trails. I strongly recommend denial of any e-bike use on MMWD trails. Hikers and horseback riders are particularly at risk from relatively fast moving conveyances due to the startling and sudden appearance of such vehicles which scare other trail users who are enjoying a quiet experience.

Please consider the fact that most of us who are out using trails right now during this pandemic are just trying to get away from noise and speed and find some place of sanity.

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Be Safe and Have a Peaceful New Year,

Anne

Anne Sands, Manager
Woodville Ranch in Dogtown
5755 Highway One
Bolinas, CA 94924
415.868.1618 Landline
415.847.0678 TEXT only
annedogtown@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: David Long <sfdlong@ix.netcom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Marin Chapter of CNPS opposition to December 15, 2020 MMWD Board Meeting Agenda Item 10. Recommendations regarding the Use of E-bikes on District

The Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (MCNPS) opposes this proposal to authorize E-bikes on MMWD land.

Eva Buxton, MCNPS Conservation Chair, submitted a comment in December 2018 in opposition to the original proposal to authorize E-bikes. These comments expand on those earlier comments.

The current E-bike proposal would authorize Class I E-bikes and prohibit Class II and Class III E-bikes. A Class I E-bike is limited to about 20 mph and uses a pedal-assist drive system; a Class II E-bike is similarly limited to about 20 mph but uses a throttle control; a Class III E-bike also uses a pedal-assist drive system but is a faster bike to about 28 mph.

The similarities in appearance of the different Classes of E-bikes makes enforcement of this proposal virtually impossible.

The three Classes of E-bikes are distinguished by speed limiting and how electric power is controlled – either by pedal-assist or throttle. Each of these Classes can come in a variety of flavors: road bikes, mountain bikes, commuter bikes, etc. There is no way to tell the E-bike Class at a distance. An E-bike going uphill without the rider pedaling may be a Class II E-bike. However, some Class II E-bikes also have pedal-assist powertrains in addition to throttles. In any case, all a Class II E-bike rider must do is keep the pedals turning to make that bike appear to be a Class I E-bike. And pedal-assisting does not identify Class I E-bikes for an additional reason: Class III E-bikes are also pedal-assisted.

E-bikes do not advertise or announce what Class of E-bike they are. Most E-bike technology is hidden away in bicycle frames or under cowling. In addition, all E-bikes, regardless of how powerful they are, are virtually silent. Even the most powerful E-bike will not be heard by Rangers and others except at close range. In contrast, off-road gas-powered motorcycles are very noisy and easy to hear from long distances, which in and of itself is a huge deterrence to their invading MMWD land illegally.

About the only way an MMWD ranger will be able to make a positive determination of E-bike Class is by a physical stop.

This E-bike proposal effectively opens the door to destructive E-motorcycles

E-bike technology is in its infancy and is rapidly changing. E-bikes will get faster and more powerful. This rapidly advancing technology is already blurring the boundaries between E-bikes and gas-powered dirt bikes and motorcycles.

The power is already here -- E-bikes are being made that go over 50 mph. These are expensive but as with most new technology, costs will come down. These fast and powerful “motorcycles with pedals.” will be attractive for hard core mountain bikers – and difficult to tell from other E-bikes.

It is particularly relevant that the most powerful E-bikes are being made specifically for off-road use (and in some cases off-trail use) because they are not currently legal for riding on the streets. Those now riding mountain bikes are likely to be riding these powerful motorcycles with pedals in the future.

Electrically powered vehicles can be very destructive of MMWD Land

Electric motors have great low speed torque. That is why most railroad engines are diesel electrics. The diesel engine runs the electric generator and electric motors power the wheels. Internal combustion engines lack the powerful torque of electric motors at low RPM. This low-end torque also makes electric cars a lot of fun to drive. With this torque, an electric powered vehicle on a sensitive dirt path on MMWD land can wreak havoc.

Approval of this E-bike proposal will open a Pandoras Box

Allowing E-bikes is opening a pandoras box for MMWD. Because of the difficulty of distinguishing between permitted and prohibited E-bikes, the approval of this proposal is likely to bring a whole motorized off-road culture to MMWD land. It will be like opening MMWD land to off-road vehicles. Electric powered vehicles predictably will tear up MMWD land and almost nobody will hear it. Once this box is opened, it will be difficult to close or regulate in the face of rapidly changing sophisticated, easily concealed, fast and powerful technology that will seriously threaten MMWD land, the plants that grow there and the people who still use their own legs for transportation.

The Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society urges you to not adopt this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment.

David C. Long
Co-president

Terrie Gillen

From: Susan Deardorff <s.deardorff@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: trails

I think people 70 or older. People with a medical note should be able to use an e-bike. So they can enjoy the water district. Other than that I think people should stick to a normal mountain bike.

Terrie Gillen

From: Linda Novy <lindanovy@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:14 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bike proposal

Dear Board:

I am not in favor of allowing any e bike program until the District has conducted its overall review of recreational impacts on the watershed and had public input. In addition, The Board recommends only a very modest increase in ranger staff to manage the e bike pilot program. It is insufficient to do the job given the number of traditional mountain Bikes already “using” the watershed, and the abuses of these visitors (riding on the watershed at night, riding bike recklessly – i.e. speeding, riding on trails not designated for bikes, and intensive mountain bike high school team Practices). Until the District has the ability to manage traditional mountain bike riders, there is no logic to opening the door for more.

For e bike riders, the challenges include the ubiquitous violations noted above, and also the screening of e bikes to Class 1, measuring speed, tracking down violators.

This is a foolish proposition, is not sequenced properly with the recreation study. It allows a developing cohort to solidify its place on the watershed, hard to eliminate if that were the ultimate decision.

Again, I am against this proposal, and believe the Directors are acting in bad faith as stewards of the watershed and with the Marin public.

Sincerely,

Linda Novy
P O Box 969
Fairfax CA94978

Terrie Gillen

From: Christian Jordan <caj92@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Public comment
Attachments: E-Bike_MMWD_Board_Letter.pdf

Hello,

I have attached a public comment letter below. Please confirm this will be read at the meeting tonight.

Thank you,

Christian Jordan

Terrie Gillen

From: Matthew Charles <mctahoe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Keep Access Open on Fire Trails

I just purchased a Mountain Ebike for my nephew and myself so that we could ride together specifically on fire trails. It is important to me to get my nephew out of the City and off the video games and into nature. The Ebike has made riding together a possibility. To imagine that someone is trying to prevent individuals from using public access fire trails because they have an ebike is surprising and saddening. Please keep the fire roads open to ebikes.

--

Matthew Charles
415-527-9755

Terrie Gillen

From: The Grid <ljclarke@thegrid.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bike proposal for fire roads

I absolutely do not agree with this proposal. E-bikes are motorized and travel up to 20 miles per hour. They do not mix with horses or hikers as ebikes are fast and silent.

Bike riders can go on all paved roads.. equestrians and pedestrians cannot.

Please vote against this.

Linda J. Clarke

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Nicolle Henneuse <nicolle@integralcommunication.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

It's so important to encourage family fitness. As a man older mom, I can't keep up with my guys, but an ebike allows me to be part of family.

Also it's NOT a motor bike, no noise, and I still am pedaling my hardest. It just gives me a little boost to keep up.

The ebike crew is not rowdy, they tend to be older like me (50+) who still want to ride but can't do crazy hills Marin is known for without a little help.

The ebike crew is more likely to be on wide fire trails or on roads where families can go with low traffic. Safer for family and older tax payers!

I treasure Marin and an ebike allows me to grow older and still enjoy biking with my family rather than being left behind.

This is only a trial but I'm sure at the end of 3 years you will see that great appreciation and respect has been given to the environment and surrounding bikers and walkers.

I also use my ebike instead of a car for small shopping trips, popping out for a treat with boys, etc. Thereby helping reduce emissions. But I can't without the assistance an ebike provides.

Believe me, I'm still huffing and puffing on an ebike, but it enables exercise, love of outdoors, being with my family, and reducing emissions from my car.

Please support older folks like me who want to exercise with my family and leverage the trial period to help show that an ebike is NOT a motor bike.

Thank you!

Nicolle Henneuse
San Rafael

Terrie Gillen

From: Isabella Heinemann <izzyheinemann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

E-bikes help my family mountain bike, exercise, and have fun together. It helps people overcome fitness barriers to allow everyone to enjoy the outdoors together.

As an avid mountain biker, I very much understand the importance of protecting our recreation areas. Being able to ride my mountain bike on Mt. Tam has given me so much joy and family bonding time that I want everyone to be able to experience. Allowing e-bikes will increase the number of advocates for our outdoor recreation spaces.

- Isabella Heinemann

Terrie Gillen

From: Jane Hirshfield <jhpac@pacbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: NO to e-bikes on MMWD fire roads

Dear MMWD Board,

I would like to express my hope that e-bikes not be allowed off road on MMWD lands.

The experience of hiking is drastically altered already by the enormous infusion of mountain bikes. Adding bikes that are faster and introduce that odd sound they make is one more diminishment of the experience that many of us turn to the Water District lands to experience--an experience of the natural world, not a human altered one.

While I have sympathy for aging mountain bikers who would like to continue using the same fire roads they did when they were younger, where does it end? This is not the same thing as providing public access for the differently abled. Aging is universal, and there are many things I myself once could do that I now cannot. This is part of the human experience. We age, our lives change.

During the decades I've hiked Marin's trails and fire roads I've seen the enormous increase of mechanized use that even non-motorized bicycles bring. During the pandemic, this has pretty much doubled. While that biking community is well organized and has the clout that its economic/business aspect brings, please do not ignore the experience of those of us (who all do pay our water bills!) who go to Marin's open space for quiet, for contemplation, for glimpsing wildlife and wildflowers. Bicyclists should not take precedence.

Some of us walk because we were never physically able to bike (bad knees, in my case.) For those whose strength or condition doesn't allow them to bicycle, walking is an option that remains open, if they want to enjoy the Open Space lands we all treasure. For walkers affected by already crowded trails that more and more frequently bring the experience of needing to leap to one side, no other option exists.

Yours,

Jane Hirshfield

We are each other's
business;
we are each other's
harvest;
we are each other's
magnitude and bond.

--Gwendolyn Brooks

Newly published: LEDGER (Knopf, March 2020)

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/9787e883/i5htv44pXEKoqfydRjmf7w?u=https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/612680/ledger-by-jane-hirshfield/>

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/eb50911d/RW0iPY4ANUaRy1ns2l3sIg?u=http://www.barclayagency.com/hirshfield.html>

Terrie Gillen

From: Cindy Swift <cindyswift@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: INTERIM SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR CLASS I E-BIKES ON THE WATERSHED - Dec 15 Board Meeting

Board:

I do not support the permitting of a e-bikes in the watershed as outlined in the staff report and Resolution.

The Watershed has seen increased usage in the last year and it is unclear if that usage has been assessed as to the impacts on the watershed.

The allowance of motorized transportation will increase that usage.

I do not believe that e-bikes on watershed lands provide increased access to the watershed for mobility limited and/or older members of the community.

There is not sufficient ranger staffing to address normal (prior) 2020 watershed safety and natural resource protection, let alone the increased usage occurring during 2020 and the addition of increased use types such as e-bikes.

A 3 year test of additional watershed use without sufficient resources or a recreation plan in place before hand is not appropriate management of the watershed.

Respectfully,

Cindy Swift

Terrie Gillen

From: Renata Ravina <rravina@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Renata Ravina
147 Del Oro Lagoon
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: Bill Ravina <ignaciomotorsports@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Bill Ravina
147 Del Oro Lagoon
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: smulvey9@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

To whom it may concern,

As a 65 year old female who has been biking for over 40 years, I want to ensure I can remain fit and healthy by continuing to exile on the fore trails using my Class 1 ebike. Having this bike keeps me outdoors in our wonderful “backyard”, while being social with friends who join me, and stay healthy! All of these benefits would be gone if you stopped this 3 year trial from moving forward.

I have also been a nature conservationist and align myself with groups protecting our natural habitat so animals and humans can peacefully live together and thrive. I believe we all can enjoy these trails and roads and respect each other at the same time. A few speed rules would be helpful for the occasional speed demon, but we all have done well together, thus far.

Please, please have this trial go forward and allow us to use our men and bikes on the fire roads of Mt Tamalpais!

Regards,
Susan Mulvey
Larkspur resident

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

Terrie Gillen

From: Dane Moler <dane.moler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes on Fire Roads on Mt. Tam

Hello,

I am writing to provide strong support to the proposal of a 3 year trial period for class 1 pedal assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed land. As avid hikers and conservationist e-bikes have allowed us access to much more land in Marin County. Our parents, who are lifelong Marin residents and in their 70's, have due to e-bikes been able to join the rest of our family on these important family outings. I have seen no evidence of increased trail erosion due to e-bikes. In addition the speed of these bikes downhill is generally slower than traditional mountain bikes so overall safety of our community would not be negatively impacted.

As a Marin homeowner and parent I feel strongly we need to allow access to nature to as many residents as possible, especially in the increasingly digital age. Pedal assist e-mountain bikes are the best possible inclusion of off-road transportation to allow this to happen and should be allowed on bike legal fire roads throughout Marin county.

Thank you

--

Dane Moler
Division Manager | NMLS 222498
Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc.

Terrie Gillen

From: Chris Ravina <chrisravina@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Chris Ravina
147 Del Oro Lagoon
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: Braberg, Hannes <Hannes.Braberg@ucsf.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear MMWD board,

I am writing to express my support for resolution 8607.

E-bikes are important to me personally because they allow my wife and me to enjoy nature and exercise together. I bike much more than my wife does, and the ability to use an e-bike allows her to join me on longer rides in the very hilly terrain we are surrounded by.

Due to the hilly nature in our area, it is very difficult for most people to do longer excursions on a regular bicycle, and e-bikes open up such an opportunity to allow more people to enjoy our surroundings away from traffic and stress.

I greatly appreciate the bay area nature, and it is in fact one of the main reasons I live here. I stop frequently on my rides to watch birds or just take in the beauty of it all. I typically pick up any trash I come across when biking (or hiking), and I know many other bicyclists who do the same.

I am aware that there are polarized opinions regarding bicycles on trails in Marin. I always stay out of the way for hikers, and firmly believe in their right of way. For me, the joy is not about going fast, but rather going far and exploring. In my experience, the vast majority of bicyclists and hikers/equestrians get along really well and these interactions greatly contribute to the joy I feel after a ride.

Best wishes,
Hannes Braberg

Terrie Gillen

From: david milano <dcmilano@aaeroheating.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

david milano
686 Tamalpais Ave
Novato, CA 94947

Terrie Gillen

From: Ashley Seaward <ashley@peopleforbikes.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Ashley Seaward
13 San Clemente Dr
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Terrie Gillen

From: Judith Rogers <judithrogers94@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes 12/15/20 Board Meeting
Attachments: E-bike MMWD letter - Google Docs.webloc; MMWD Cover ltr 12-15 - Google Docs.webloc

Dear MMWD,
Attached please find two letters from Sierra Club Marin Group for public comment at this evening's meeting.
Thank you,
Judy Rogers

Terrie Gillen

From: Stephen Marks <skmarksphd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Stephen Marks
32 Eucalyptus Knoll St
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Maggie Odonnell <maggieod@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am writing to voice my support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

The notion that class-1 pedal assist bikes with no throttle pose some kind of threat similar to motor vehicles is really inaccurate. If I am not pedaling my ebike I am falling over same as on any bike. Moreover the pedal assist function is not one which in mountain bikes is used to gain speed. Rather the pedal assist simply helps to flatten the hills for older riders, dis-advantaged riders or those who are trying to get in better shape or training. They are also safer for these riders because there is less risk that a rider will hit a rock or other small obstacle that might otherwise cause them to fall because they have the little bit of extra power needed to get over that ledge or root that might appear in the trail. Riding these bikes on trails is still a challenge and a workout, not some kind of wild ride.

I have been hiking and riding mountain bikes in Marin County for decades and I appreciate the natural beauty of our trails and surroundings. What I love about my e-bike is that it continues to enable me access to fire trails that I might now be able to reach any longer. It is almost impossible to discern a class-1 e-bike rider climbing up the trail as compared with one on a regular bike. However I will say on the downhills e-bike riders are usually far more considerate than the young people bombing down the trails on their endure or downhill bikes. E-bike riders tend to be older and more safety conscious.

To tell the truth, I was quite surprised to learn that the MMWD was so far behind in its rules regarding class-1 pedal assist bikes. I ride all over the headlands, in Tahoe and elsewhere in Marin and e-bikes are just another part of the trail landscape – essentially indistinguishable from any other bike. In fact, class-1 pedal assist bikes do not meet the definition of a motorized vehicle under California law and are allowed on virtually all bike paths. While I 100% do not support allowing motorized vehicles (which use throttles) other than perhaps electric wheelchairs on the trails, I wholly support the inclusion of the Class 1 pedal assist e-bike as a legitimate use on fire roads withing the MMWD. I believe I am in the overwhelming majority of all our citizens and that among cyclists – particularly older cyclists – this sentiment is unanimous.

Please pass Resolution 8607!

Thank you,

Maggie O'Donnell
323 Seymour Lane
Mill Valley, CA 94941
C: (415) 250-2567

Terrie Gillen

From: Cassie Daro <pdaro@fico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Cassie Daro
8 Vasco Dr
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: `Hans Fallant <hans_fallant@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members,

I am an 86 year old man who is an avid cyclist and has been for many years. For medical reasons I have been forced to give up road biking . I am now limited to mountain biking. My new e- mt. bike literally gave me a new lease on biking and I am very grateful for that.

The bike is completely none invasive as far as peoples comfort zone is concerned.It is quiet and does not give the biker the ability to race up and down the hills and carry on all kinds of irritants to walkers and hikers.

As bikers(to the ,most part) we are considerate of others on the trail and the addition of e-bike capabilities is not going to change that. This new generation of mountain bikes is a real gift to an older generation that really loves our hills and mountains.I urge you to take on sa view that goes beyond that of people who think that they and they only matter for whatever reason they think they do.

Thank you very much for your concern.

Sincerely

Hans Fallant

Terrie Gillen

From: Kerry Ettinger <krettinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e-bike access on Mt. Tam fire roads

Hi there,

Please consider allowing clase-1 pedal assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3-year trial period.

E-bikes are extremely important for those with disabilities or other issues so that they can equally access the open space that others have access to. Additionally, riding an e-bike helps me be more active, increasing my health and fitness, and help our family ride and enjoy the beautiful Marin outdoors together.

Please at least allow the 3-year trial period to commence. Please support Resolution 8607.

Thank you,
Kerry Ettinger

[Kerry Ettinger](#)

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Terrie Gillen

From: Mike Samuels <samuelslaw@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Mike Samuels
17 Summerhill Way
San Rafael, CA 94903

Terrie Gillen

From: Tim Blofeld <timblofeld@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Tim Blofeld
115 Emerson Ave
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: Pete Sutherland <pete@grooveunit.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I support measure 8607 - eBikes in the watershed

I would like you to move forward with the 3 year trial plan for allowing eBikes to share the MMWD with other users.

I have been an advocate for sharing the open spaces of Marin County for as long as I have lived here, and am an avid mountain biker. over the last 10 years. I believe that the impact of allowing eBikes to ride on fire roads on Mt Tam will be minimal.

We have seen such a large increase in outdoor use since the pandemic, and all user groups, equestrians, hikers, bikers etc. have pulled together to continue to enjoy our natural treasure in respectful ways.

Please allow eBikes to join this group of all outdoor activity advocates and enthusiasts in a respectful sharing manner.

Thank you for your service of helping to maintain Marin's natural beauty for all

Sincerely

Pete Sutherland

Terrie Gillen

From: Mark Chamberlain <mark.chamberlain202@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Chamberlain
240 Elm Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Wolfe Birkie <wbirkie@kcc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Wolfe Birkie
177 Morningside Dr
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Terrie Gillen

From: Bill Black <billspoolsvc@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Bill Black
348 School Rd
Novato, CA 94945

Terrie Gillen

From: Marcella Scott <marcy.scott@autodesk.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Marcella Scott
111 Emerson Ave
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: liz <writingliz@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebikes proposal

Questions:

Why a 3-year trial? Isn't one year long enough? What if there are accidents and you are committed to the 3 year trial?

Is the water district going to assume liability for any injuries that may occur? For example, what if an ebike spooks a horse and the rider is thrown and suffers injuries?

Is the district going to patrol the trails to make sure bike riders are courteous and obeying the rules?

Those are just a few questions that come to mind. I think motorized bikes should not be allowed on trails.

Liz Harris
160 Willow Ave.
Fairfax

Terrie Gillen

From: Charles Scott <cscott@futureprospectsbaseball.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Charles Scott
111 Emerson Ave
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: Julia Evans <evansjulia@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

BoardComment@MarinWater.org

Hello,

I am a 22 year Mill Valley resident and an avid hiker and mountain biker. I do not use an E bike myself, but think that E bikes should be allowed access to the mountain, and agree with a 3 year trial. I walk my dog, ride horses, run trails, mountain bike, walk and meditate, alone and in groups, on these hills and ridges, and on Mt Tam. All can co- exist. I have seen 75 year olds out on top of the mountain on their E bikes- no way most would have made it there otherwise. They can also keep up with their “ sprightly” 50 year old offspring! And I could ride with my pack of 20 something year old sons. That’s fabulous family time!
Please support this resolution.

Many thanks,

Julia Evans
2 Lincoln Avenue
MV

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Stephen P. Lambe <stephenlambe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

E-bikes are an important part of increasing access to our natural resources to more people. Though I typically ride analog bikes, I have several friends with health conditions for whom this is not an option. Their ability to ride e-bikes is the difference between being able to appreciate the beauty of Marin and being stuck at home.

As a longtime hiker, trail runner, and cyclist in Marin, I care deeply about access and respect for our natural resources, particularly those in the MMWD lands. By thoughtfully allowing e-bikes to access these trails, we will give more people a chance to explore them in an environmentally sustainable way that also respects other trail users.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephen Lambe

Terrie Gillen

From: Tippet, Phillip @ San Francisco DT <Phil.Tippet@cbre.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I am writing in support of Resolution 8607. I am a 64 year guy with a horrible low back and was never able to ride on mount tam because of it. When the E Bike came out it opened up a whole new world for me as it enables me to go out and enjoy my back yard for the first time since moving to Marin in 1993. To my experience the people I see riding E Bikes are largely older and in need of the assist. They aren't going any faster and in most cases, they, like myself are going slower down the mountain than the average rider.

Please support Resolution 8607

Phillip S. Tippet | Executive Vice President
CBRE | Lic. 00849777 | Advisory & Transaction Services
415 Mission Street, 46th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94105
T +1 415 772 0239
phil.tippet@cbre.com |
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/8ecb0a3d/44gyMqtV8Ea8akK7wzoOrg?u=http://www.cbre.com/phil.tippet>

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Terrie Gillen

From: Victor Etienne <ve.arcd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

E-bikes are an incredible way to experience the breadth and beauty of Marin. In addition to the benefit of good health & exercise, there is a great community of riders that extends & supports networks of friends and families throughout the area. Please allow for the continued access for e-bikes on the trails of Marin so that it can be appreciated by all outdoor enthusiasts. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Victor Etienne
Essential Habitat Architecture
(Designer/Draftsman)

Terrie Gillen

From: Stephen Abedon <sa@abedon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi,

I'd like to voice support for Class 1 ebike use on fire roads in Marin County. These safe and speed limited pedal assist bikes allow recreational use, exercise and access to the outdoors.

Sincerely

Steve Abedon, MD

Terrie Gillen

From: Kari Chao <karichao@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Against e-bikes on MMWD fire roads

Hello MMWD Board,

I'd like to weigh in as a no vote against allowing e-bikes on MMWD fire roads for all trail users **except rangers/sheriff/search and rescue employees.**

The speed differential that the e-bikes bring to the equation of already heavily-used fire roads is hazardous. And I can see how they could be a true danger in surprising a horse and causing the animal to spook.

Please keep trail user traffic restricted to non-motorized vehicles only (except for the categories mentioned above).

Thank you for requesting public input.

Sincerely,
Kari Chao
700 Bolinas Road
Fairfax CA 94930

Terrie Gillen

From: Laura Effel <laura.ettel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Larry Bragman; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson; Ben Horenstein; Board Comment
Cc: Miriam Cutler Willard
Subject: Proposal to permit ebikes (item 10)

I strongly urge you not to approve the proposal to permit ebikes on MMWD watershed property, not even as a pilot project.

Such a project will require the hiring of an unknown number of additional rangers as employees and thus a large expenditure of an unknown amount. This is not a prudent way to manage a budget. At the very least, an estimate of the cost should be taken into consideration before considering the proposal.

If the environmental concerns can be overcome, and I don't see that they have been, there is also an issue of the appropriateness of charging these unknown costs to our water bills. MMWD is not a public charity obligated to provide benefits to ebike riders. Have the proposed beneficiaries offered to raise funds to pay for this service? No, I thought not.

I am a resident of Larkspur and an MMWD ratepayer. I am also a director of the Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers (CO\$T). I would have brought this up sooner, but I am in the hospital at UCSF and less able to respond quickly.

Laura Effel

Terrie Gillen

From: Paul Smith <paulsmith145@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support approval of Resolution 8607. I am a 67-year-old mountain biker who has been enjoying Mt. Tam on a regular mountain bike for decades, and will have to trade to an e-bike in the foreseeable future. My experience is that e-bike riders are almost all people who just need a bit of an assist, and are generally a cautious lot who are not tearing up the trails or running over animals. I think the more people who get to use and appreciate the mountain, the more support there will be for conservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Smith
415-307-4624

Terrie Gillen

From: Kate Courtney <business@katecourtney.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:07 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes in Marin County

Hello,

My name is Kate Courtney and I am a professional mountain bike racer born and raised in Marin County. I am writing today to voice support for Resolution 8607 which would allow pedal assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads.

As a professional athlete, I am incredibly grateful for access to the many roads and trails in Marin County that make my training possible and keep my sport fun. What makes these trails and roads most special, however, is being able to share them with others in the community - especially my dad! My dad originally got me into the sport riding on the back of a tandem bike which we rode to and from Mountain Home Inn. Years later, we had the joy of taking that same ride while I wore the rainbow jersey as World Champion. Recently, the ebike has become a critical tool in allowing my dad and me to continue to ride together no matter how long or hard my training rides get. Riding with my dad is one of the greatest joys of my life and career and the ebike will enable us to ride together for years to come. Over the last six months in particular, I have heard from so many parents, kids and other members of our community excited about riding together because they just got an ebike.

For my mom, the ebike has similarly expanded opportunities to experience the outdoors. As a resident of Marin county for more than 20 years, she had never ridden her bike on the famous seven sisters road. She began riding an ebike this year which helped put that goal in reach and during the pandemic worked hard to expand her range on Marin's fire roads. By June, she was able to do a big loop including that beautiful, scenic road. I look forward to being able to ride that loop together with her on an ebike.

This year in particular, I have come to appreciate our open spaces more than ever. I have seen more people taking to the roads and trails of Mt. Tam on bikes. It is an opportunity to spend time with family, explore our beautiful outdoor recreational spaces and - critically - get kids out and active. It also provides the chance for kids to interact with nature and gain an appreciation for the valuable resources that we must all work together to protect. For families in particular, ebikes provide an opportunity for riders of different skill levels to get out together. For many, these outdoor spaces would be completely inaccessible without ebikes.

Finally, I find it critical to mention the role that ebikes play in giving outdoor accessibility to those with disabilities. My friend and former Red Bull Rampage participant Paul Bas recently released a film called "Any One of Us" that highlights the challenges many face with spinal cord injury. Riding an ebike was a critical component of his recovery. With the ebike, Paul was able to come back to the sport he loved and ride his bike again on trails. This is just one example of a disability and there are many in our community who would be physically unable to experience our outdoor spaces without pedal assistance. If we want our outdoor spaces to be truly accessible and serve our entire community - including those that struggle with disabilities, are aging, or are still working hard to gain fitness - we absolutely must allow ebikes.

Thank you,

Kate Courtney

Terrie Gillen

From: Gedge Knopf <GKnopf@bigge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Please pass Resolution 8607!!

Being able to access trails in Marin on an eBike will allow me to continue to enjoy my local outdoor resources while growing older and attempting to deal with health and injury issues.

My experience with eBikes has been overwhelmingly positive and I have had zero issues interacting with hikers or with other eBikers while I've been hiking myself.

I'm looking forward to a positive outcome resulting from this vote.

Thank you,

Gedge Knopf
2826 Las Gallinas Ave
San Rafael 94903

Terrie Gillen

From: janet demaio <yyabba2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes on the trails

Please do not allow E bikes on the trails. It's dangerous, and not what they were intended for. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Janet Demaio
16 Hill Ave., Fairfax, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Al BAUMANN <alb6@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution No. 8607

To: Board and Staff of Marin Municipal Water District

Subject: Resolution 8607, Action Item 10, Agenda of 12/15/20

Position: To encourage adoption

8607 - WHAT'S IN IT FOR MMWD?

Thank you for reading these brief comments and thanks to the Staff for coalescing a convoluted process into a coherent and workable proposal. As an EBike user on selected rides and a past Marin Parks and Open Space Commissioner, I've been involved in the MTB issues including the Open Space Inclusive Action Plan, State and Federal E policies, and the MMWD process. I agree with the many points you're hearing in favor of 8607. I think that the Disabilities Act/Privacy Act and it's supporting Federal Judicial opinion will mean Class 1 EBikes will be on our trails despite the PEER/MCL litigation. And, that management of this change will work better than attempted prohibition or limiting use to those needing a mobility device.

Comments:

The more similar E policies are on adjacent trail jurisdictions, the easier it will be for Rangers to manage use. The County's various Jurisdictional Codes of use and behavior are very similar and Class 1 E's are progressively regulated the same as non-E MTBs. ADA qualification is becoming a non-issue. For Staff not having to verify or debate ADA qualifications is a real advantage. Much less stress!

Keeping the option of cancelling or reconsidering in 3 years is comparable to the State and Federal/NPS Parks "Local Manager" discretion policy. MMWD Staff has provided the extensive public input opportunities necessary in these times. Passing 8607 will mean no repeat of the process for ADA mobility device approval or if the Recreation Plan later recommends Class 1 become same codes as non-E.

It's doubtful that the volume of E riders will change rapidly and significantly as most of the 8607 advocates have been E riding the MMWD roads for over 5 years. E users are mostly not new, but riders who have switched bikes. A more likely increase will be the number of non-E "gravel riders". The "use permit" period will give the WD a chance to survey all use as well as the EBike volume. [The hiring of unbiased rangers is an opportunity, good for the usage cited, and will facilitate truthful data for the Recreation Plan, but I see no evidence it's justified by E bike inclusion on service roads.]

All user groups are on the rise and wider distribution, separation, and trail user designations are being used by many Jurisdictions. The next 3 years can be used to study these techniques for Recreation Plan inclusion. The increased range of E's often puts them in less populated areas - good for conflict avoidance, reporting of property problems, rescue,..... EBikes make great members for a "Trail Watch" group such as that of Marin Open Space and they were recently incorporated in Marin Rescue.

The demographic of E riders, increasing demand for outside activity, ease of rescinding the permit, advantages to MMWD, and presented real evidence that this is a low impact change, persuades me to ask you approve Resolution 8607

Al Baumann, M.D.

I'd appreciate acknowledgment of receipt.
12/15/20

Terrie Gillen

From: ccb700 <cbottone@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Dear board members,

I love the outdoors. Our parks our open spaces are a true treasure for the public in this modern age. Marin is extra special to have such wonderful open and wild space just a stones throw from the metropolises in the Bay Area. To fully access and appreciate our wonderful open spaces however takes fitness to hike or bike the 10, 20 30 miles up and down the steep grades to fully visit the trails and fire roads all over this beautiful area.

I, probably like many other outdoors lovers am not fit enough to hike more than 3 or 4 miles, or bike more than 6 or 7 miles. This means I can only access a fraction of our parks and public lands and am constrained to just the trails within my fitness capability of the trailheads. However I can ride an e-mountain bike at the same pace of my regular mountain bike for some 20 - 30 miles. This is a new wonderful development for me. It could open up our parks and trails to me and others like me who need assistance to visit farther into the interior of our lands. The beauty of an e-mountain bike is it is in all other respects just like my traditional mountain bike. The beauty for me is that it is a bicycle, not a electric moped or motorbike, and I ride it the same way I ride my mountain bike, at the same speed and with the same impact. Just it take take me farther for longer for the amount of physical effort I can put into it.

Please consider opening up our fire roads and trails to class 1 e-bike use. As these bicycles grow in popularity it will enable access to the farther interiors of our parks and open spaces to so many more outdoors lovers like myself.

Terrie Gillen

From: lotusheart@2910.org
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:49 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Importance: High

Dear MMWD~

I am enthusiastically voicing my support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

For me, being out in nature while commuting by bike (on and off road) started with my first job at the age of 15 working for the Chicago Daily News. At 19 I served in the Army Security Agency in Augsburg Germany and commuted to and from work via countryside trails and cobblestone street. Later, in the rainy city of Seattle, where I never owned a car, one of my jobs entailed commuting by bike at night on the Burke Gilman trail to work an 11 pm-7 am shift as a pediatric aide at Children's Orthopedic Hospital. Later while living on Capitol Hill, an area with steep hills, I rode a mountain bike.

When I moved to Marin in 2010, I discovered Mt Tamalpais the "mountain" behind the mountain bike movement. As a founding board member of the Marin Museum of Bicycling and Mountain Bike Hall of Fame, I learned that **early mountain bike pioneers Joe Breeze and Charlie Kelly, were skilled botanists – having studied the wildflowers they so appreciated seeing while out riding on the fire roads. NOTE: I am not speaking on behalf of the museum and these are my own personal reflections:**

My greatest joy in life is being immersed in nature, surrounded by the wildlife that abounds here. I have been in the service of Mother Nature through the following:

Master Gardener – 10 years in Seattle – Staffing clinics and going out to middle schools to teach kids about gardening
WildCare Ambassador - 5 years San Rafael – Caring for our captive wildlife Ambassadors and going out to schools to educate children about living well with wildlife

Docent Audubon Canyon Ranch – 4 years Stinson Beach - Going out to schools to introduce kids to the joys of nature, and leading them on hikes at the ranch.

We should be encouraging and celebrating all the people who are getting out of their cars and on to E-bikes! I strongly believe that there should be access to our fire roads for cyclists of all abilities, and E-bikes are an equalizer that can help provide the level of assistance that each unique individual needs!

How heartbreaking it would be for responsible E-cyclists to be deprived of access to some of the most beloved MMWD fire roads in Marin because of the errant few. **Cyclists on E-bikes respect nature and do live well with wildlife, and are naturals for being great stewards of the land they love.**

Please do not deny access to the MMWD watershed for me and cyclists of varying abilities who at times need to use an electric assist.

Thank you for listening,

Ilena maria estrella

Celebrating all things cycling!

Terrie Gillen

From: John Berg <bergwater@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Do not allow e-bikes

Honorable Board-

Please do not allow e-bikes on the MMWD watershed.

My wife and I hike, walk our dogs, and ride horses on the watershed.

We see too many bikes on single track trails, and they can be dangerous.

Regular bikes exceed the speed limit on all downhill slopes and continue to speed through the flats.

This speeding is especially troublesome near trail-heads.

Allowing e-bikes will increase this speeding problem and will likely create a new danger - speeding uphill!

Please do not allow e-bikes on the MMWD watershed.

-John Berg

Fairfax, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: marc@2910.org
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: YES on E-Bike Resolution 8607

Dear MMWD,

As one of the early pioneers of mountain biking, and one of the founders of Marin Museum of Bicycling, I've been riding on Mt. Tam and MMWD lands since 1970. I'm a lifelong cyclist and naturalist. I am writing today to advocate here personally and not on behalf of the museum.

These days, in order to keep riding and enjoying nature via the sport I love, I have gradually been transforming my stable of bikes into e-bikes. I find that e-bikes allow me to control my level of exertion in a way not possible without the electric assist. It is especially important to help keep my heart-rate from exceeding healthy levels for me.

Over the years, the vast majority of riders I have known are all committed to conservation, maintenance and the protection of the lands we ride in— and are also keen in respecting other trail users. Opponents of e-bikes (and bikes in general) magnify the few exceptions in a contrived attempt to keep all users from enjoying the same access they do. It is illogical and deceitful for these opponents to try and convince MMWD that all user groups cannot peacefully co-exist on Marin County lands when there is an abundance of examples of management strategies in place elsewhere across the country that attest to successful cooperative sharing by all groups.

I wholeheartedly support resolution 8607. Please do not let the loud voices of a fearful few dictate policy that will have an adverse effect on a large group of responsible users.

Thank you,
Marc Vendetti

Marc Vendetti marc@2910.org
Phone: 415-450-5309

*Speak I love you in ten thousand ways without using the words
and the words will speak themselves without using the voice.*

~Michael Bridge

[SevaChild International](#) | [Marin Museum of Bicycling](#) | [2910 LLC](#)



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Terrie Gillen

From: Mark Epstein <mwe@seilerepstein.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e-bike Resolution 8607

Dear Board, as a 28 year Marin resident and very active user of the Marin outdoors, I wanted to express my support for Resolution 8607. Although I do not have an e-bike currently, I know I will want one sometime soon and will want to keep using the Marin mountain bike trails I currently frequent. I have ridden e-bikes before and found them to be very safe and importantly, a way for people who are rehabbing from injuries or perhaps getting on in years to still enjoy the Marin outdoors! Every few months, a new and better version of an e-bike is released. The bikes are not only good for the environment, but also using top notch and new technology to make them as safe as possible.

I think it is important for our community to continue to provide access to the individuals that have support Marin outdoors for decades. An e-bike can allow an individual to get to the top of the occasional steep hill that would otherwise prevent them from getting outside and enjoying the Marin outdoors. The trial program being supported by the resolution will allow well reasoned rules and regulations to be adopted that will continue to keep Marin trails safe and accessible for everyone.

Thank you!

Mark

Mark W. Epstein
Seiler Epstein LLP
275 Battery St, Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94111

[\(415\) 979-0500](tel:(415)979-0500) Tel
[\(415\) 979-0511](tel:(415)979-0511) Fax

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Terrie Gillen

From: karrie@3ringcircus.us
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: MMWD e-bike support

Dear Commissioners,

I ride an e-MTB because it is the only bike I am physically capable of riding at this time.

I was an avid mountain bike rider, have worked in the industry, and have competed both regionally and internationally. I have always loved my riding my bikes.

4 years ago, I was struck by a truck while riding in a bike lane in Mill Valley. Since that time I have undergone 3 surgeries to help repair the damage caused by an irresponsible driver.

My e-MTB is the only bike I can currently ride. Without its assistance, I wouldn't be able to partake in the one sport that makes me happy and keeps me healthy or enjoy Marin's recreational areas or have access to non-water district fire roads and bike legal trails.

Please authorize the use of e-MTBs on Water District Lands.

I am a 49-year-old, athlete, ratepayer, property taxpayer, and Marin County voter who relies on my e-MTB.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Karrie Hovey

Terrie Gillen

From: gerald sax <gsax@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes

Please do not allow this. Anyone thinking this is in anyway ok spends no time hiking the many trails on MMWD property. If one spends time on these trails one knows that mountain bikers already break the rules consistently. Not all. But. Most. Too fast. Creating their own trails. Never calling out. There are already e-bike violators on many trails despite signage. Never. Ever. And I hike minimally once a week for decades have I seen a Ranger. Never. These bikers ride excessively fast aided by batteries. They too are off road, creating ruts and dangerous erosion. It is madness to allow this. Bikers and equestrians are losing more and more access to safe hiking/riding trails every year to bikers. I have severe sciatica from a broken tailbone when my horse had a mountain biker go down right in front of us and throwing me. I do not ride anymore but am an avid hiker. This is an activity taking on the usual abundant and abusive popularity just like the introduction of the mountain bike.

And with pandemic Marin is inundated with massive numbers of recreation seekers. Add a motorized vehicles to this and get ready to call in the ambulances.

Donna Wayne
San Rafael, CA 94901

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael Cooper <curlycoop@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Re: I Support Resolution 8607!

Sorry to bother you, may I ask you to consider people with health issues be permitted to ride pedal assist bikes. I'm sure anyone with a legitimate issue would be willing to verify their health issue from a reputable Doctor.

Thanks again.

Michael Cooper

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Cooper <curlycoop@aol.com>
To: boardcomment@marinwater.org <boardcomment@marinwater.org>
Sent: Tue, Dec 15, 2020 10:28 am
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members,

As a resident of Marin County I'm asking for your support of Resolution 8607. I worked 34 years for the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers Local 16 San Francisco, California. Several years ago my lung capacity diminished and I was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis. along with spotting on my lungs. My wife and I have always been avid cyclists. When mountain biking I became extremely winded and would need to stop multiple times. A fun ride became a frustrating difficult ride.

We purchased a pedal assist mtb bike and it has been a game changer. I can now ride and keep up with my wife. The ebike has made our enjoyment of the Marin fire roads a reality. Without it, I would not be able to ride. It allows us to enjoy each other as well as the beauty and wildlife in Marin.

I encourage you to approve Resolution 8607. I believe it is a trial period and we'd be happy to help in anyway if needed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Cooper

Terrie Gillen

From: Eric Anderson <eanderson13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:21 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Letter of Support for Resolution 8607 - access for persons with disabilities

Dear MMWD Directors,

Thank you for your service to the County and for protecting the water supply and essential open space for the enjoyment of all.

I'm writing to express my support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

This trial period is critically important to preserve access to our precious open space for everyone, regardless of their level of physical ability. A few years ago, a close friend of my wife's was diagnosed with a chronic illness that has severely limited her mobility. This otherwise healthy hiker and cyclist is now mostly confined to sitting in her car in the parking lot at Lake Lagunitas. She would be one of the first people to buy an e-bike and use it to visit the beloved fire roads of the lake district, as she once did during healthier times. This gentle soul is not an aggro adrenaline junkie or any other stereotype of mountain biking - she is someone who takes great comfort in being among the trees and nature that MMWD directors and staff have worked so hard to protect.

From a personal perspective as someone who hikes and bikes the watershed, I also feel a strong connection to the outdoors. As a hiker and a cyclist I have a very strong interest in resource protection, respecting wildlife and the safety of every other user of the trails. Indeed, every visit to the watershed whether on foot or by bike strengthens my connection to the beauty of this place and my commitment to support preserving it. Allowing ebikes on watershed lands will not threaten these goals, which I hold sacred. In fact, by allowing more people of diverse abilities to experience these lands, we increase and diversify public support for protecting them. In this way, the interests of mountain biking and ebiking and conservationists in protecting the outdoors are aligned.

Really we are all on the same team trying to protect the lands we love. Please don't let a small number of divisive voices exclude our most vulnerable and least physically-able residents!

Thank you for supporting this important resolution!

Stay safe and be well,

Eric Anderson

Terrie Gillen

From: Scott Amundson <scott.amundson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Many of my friends have gotten older or have health issues which doesn't allow them to access the parks on bicycles anymore. They love the parks and riding e-bikes still keeps them healthy. I may be in the same situation in the near future.

I do all I can to protect our natural resources. My friends and I respect the care and maintenance of trails and the protection of our water resources. We avoid bothering wildlife and other users of the parks, always riding at a slow speed when near.

Please support Resolution 8607.

Regards,
Scott Amundson
Oakland, California

Terrie Gillen

From: David Breuner <dave@breuner.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Board Comment; Robin Breuner
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi,

Please vote to allow Ebikes on Marin watershed. For the life of me, I cannot imagine why anyone would be against a pedal assisted bike that is 100% clean, quiet, and enhances access to the outdoors. I am 59 years old, and have been riding on MT for 20 years. I do NOT own an EBIKE, but I know that in the coming years, it will motivate me to get out and get some exercise, contribute to my mental health, and enjoy the beauty of Mount Tam.

I have never understood the argument against Ebikes. They are pedal assisted. They are quiet. I cannot "speed" when going on the flats any more than I could if I wanted to pedal hard to go faster. Going uphill - not possible to speed! So therefore the argument that they take away from the enjoyment of non-bikers, or are dangerous in any way is beyond ridiculous.

PLEASE. Use common sense and vote YES to this resolution.

David Breuner

Terrie Gillen

From: Katie LaVigna <kt1255@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Regarding opposition to e-bikes on Mt. Tam and MMWD trails.

I vehemently oppose the e-bike proposal for letting them go on the trails of Mt Tam or the MMWD and wish to have my vote counted as a big NO! This is simply not conducive to the presence of equestrians, hikers or even other pedal bike riders.

Some of these e-bikes are more like motorcycles and I know the park department does not have the staff and ability to police what speed and caliber of e-bike are going on the trails.

Is this really where we want to head in preserving our last remaining wilderness and wildlife area??

Our parks should not be turned into a racetrack of e-bikes and I do not want to even have the trial time enacted.

This is a very poor proposal and we all should be in opposition to it in preserving our trails!!

I am:

Kathleen Lavigna
1250 San Antonio Rd.
Petaluma, Ca. 94952

707 9534425

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Terrie Gillen

From: Linda Nero <l_nero@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Opposed to ebikes on Marin trails

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an equestrian at Ocean Riders in Muir Beach.
We practice sharing our beautiful and single track trails with bikes and hikers alike.

My encounters while riding my horse with ebikes have not been favorable.
Ebike riders have generally not been familiar with the trails, trail etiquette or rules of the park.
For example, descending the Midde Green Gulch trail towards the Zen Center, my horse starting acting very upset and snorting. I could not figure out what the problem was since I did not hear or see any disturbance. Suddenly, an ebike was right behind us coming down the trail. The young person on the ebike was not experienced with our trails to know this was a violation. He did not seem to care. Bikes are not permitted to ride downhill on that trail. He continued on the trail. My horse was terrified and it took a long time to calm him down as the ebike had literally snuck up behind us. It could have been a very dangerous situation.

For me, it's a safety issue. Most ebikers do not take the time to familiarize themselves with the trails or rules of the trails. I'm not sure why this is.

Please reconsider opening the trails to ebikes for safety reasons. The trails are my refuge and not all who use them respect them.

Sincerely,
Linda Nero

Terrie Gillen

From: Marlia Berg <marliaberg@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please don't allow E-bikes!

Greetings,

Please please please do not allow E-bikes on MMWD fire roads or trails.

As a hiker and equestrian, it is already difficult enough to negotiate the fire roads and trails with the number of bicyclists that ride on the fire roads and single track trails. Most of them don't slow down to pass. I've also encountered bicyclists speeding down single track trails numerous times.

I agree that people with mobility issues need to get out and exercise, but they can use the numerous beautiful bike paths that taxpayers pay for.

Also, if you are going to allow an E-bike trial, then a three-year trial period is much too long. At the most the trial should last one year.

Thank you for considering my comment and Happy Holidays!

Marlia Berg

Terrie Gillen

From: Ken Cook <ken@ewg.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Don't Ride An eBike on MMWD Roads--But I STRONGLY Support Resolution 8607!

To the Members of the MMWD Board,

I ride my mountain bike almost every week—and often several times a week—on MMWD watershed fire roads. And on many occasions I have had the opportunity while on a ride to chat with people riding ebikes, usually on Eldridge Grade.

Yes, I realize those bikes are not allowed now. I'm not sure if the people riding ebikes up there are always aware of the prohibition, which Resolution 8607 would lift for a 3-year trial period.

What I do know is that without exception the ebikers I meet, men and women alike, are having a glorious, joyful experience! They tend to be a bit older. Most of them tell me that they had given up on cycling when the realities of age and the responsibilities of adulthood made mountain bike-fitness elusive.

But when ebikes came along, I was told, these bikers got a new lease on their youthful passion—a new chance to once again experience the thrill of riding up the fire roads to Mt. Tam. Their smiles are always a mile wide.

Yes, they are able to ride up a fire road much faster than I can. So are a lot of other people on regular bikes. It doesn't bother me in the least as they whiz by—I'm happy to see them (or anyone) out experiencing our glorious Marin. In my observation ebikers ride downhill no faster (and no more dangerously) than people on regular bikes. As a group they are anything but reckless, compared to some of the hot-rodders I come across on regular bikes.

I recognized how lucky I am to be able to ride up and down Eldridge and other MMWD roads at the age of 69, and I hope that luck stretches many years into the future. Someday, I'm betting, I'll want an electric bike to be able to keep playing outdoors as I do now. Indeed, I am convinced that ebikes are vital to the future of mobility in Marin.

But even if that is not the case, I strongly and respectfully urge the commission to approve the three-year trial for qualifying ebikes that is embodied in Resolution 8607.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken Cook
335 Fawn Drive
San Anselmo, CA
415.448.5280

—

Ken Cook

President & Co-Founder

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3b58137d/5DoTuCVqf0ixn5S4sFJlkQ?u=http://www.ewg.org/> / @ewgprez



Know your environment.
Protect your health.

Terrie Gillen

From: Lou Klein <louhiker1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Jody Newman; Norm Romich; Contini Nora; Truce Peter
Subject: Re: E bikes in watershed

Dear Director,

I have responsibly been leading hikes in Marin for 47years . It is sad to see what the biking communities have done to our beautiful trails and environment over these years.

I invite you or someone who is able to join us on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday hike to see the destruction of your wonderful and pristine properties. Please do not allow e- Bikes.

Sadly,
Lou KLein

Sent from: Lou's
iPad Pro

On Dec 15, 2020, at 10:59 AM, Truce Peter <peter@stdesigninc.com> wrote:

Hi!

As a long time resident of Marin and a frequent hiker, I am not sure what your meeting tonight hopes to accomplish. You must be aware that E-bikes are already using and damaging the trails in the watershed. Note the reality for these things:

No enforcement = no rules.

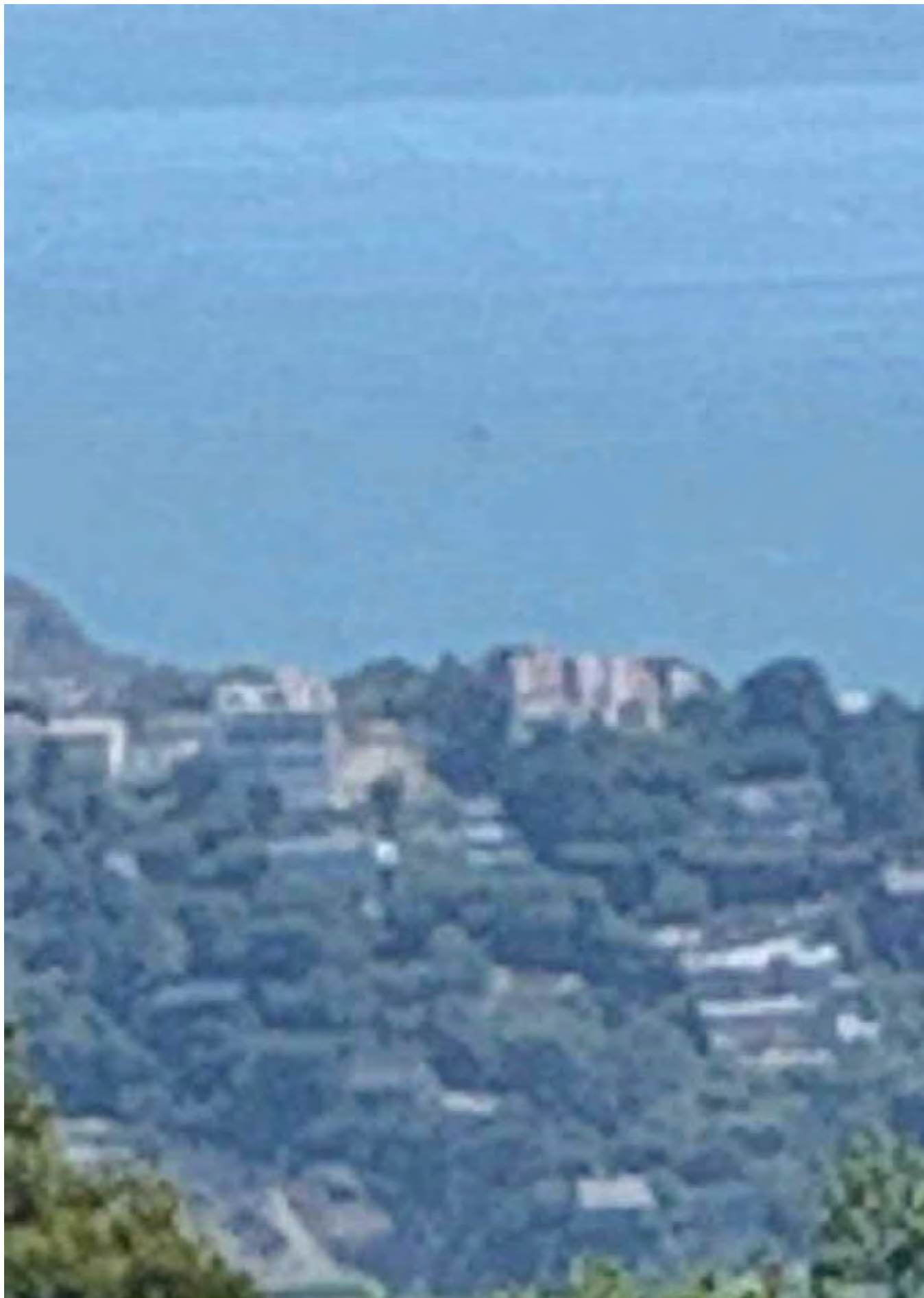
The bikers are well aware that there is no consequence for riding illegally on the trails. just check the International trail on Mt Tam to se some of the damage that a few thoughtless bikers have done in just a few weeks. Although it is a minority that is spoiling it for the rest, that minority is a frequent danger on the trails and the lack of enforcement of the rules has protected this activity for a while now.

Please do not allow the E-bikes on the trails and please enforce the rules by confiscating the e-Bikes when they illegally destroy our trails.

Please see attached for a photo of a motorcycle on Alta trail in May of this year. This is what will be next after the 20mph(!) bikes you are recommending. Do you really think that the bikers will limit themselves to 20mph? I predict 50mph e-bikes on the trails within a year ...

Thank you.

Peter Truce
12 Dominican Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901



Terrie Gillen

From: Damien Filiatrault <damien626@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e-bikes in MWD

Hi,

I'm writing to express my support for a 3 year trial period for e-bikes in the water district. I'm a resident of San Rafael with a wife and 2 year old son. For me, being able to ride our e-bikes up the fire roads wouldn't be nearly as doable as a family outing without being able to put my son in a bike seat and carry supplies in a pannier. It let's our whole family experience nature together more easily which is super important to me. I don't think our bikes are damaging the environment or anyone else's experience out there. In fact, it's keeping me from driving up to the lake are and crowding the roads and parking lot. I hope you won't ban e-bikes without carefully and thoroughly examining what harm they are causing (if any).

Thanks,
-Damien

Terrie Gillen

From: Steve Riter <Steve@mckinleycp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: My Support for Resolution 8607

Dear Board Members,

I have been a mountain bike rider for 25 years and have enjoyed the use of your road systems for active riding to which I am grateful. The advent of electric bicycles and rapid popularity has the potential to benefit many new participants who only need modest mechanical assistance provided by the e-bike to enjoy the outdoors, whereas unable in the past. I am 63 years old and over the next couple decades I will find myself using my e-bike more frequently. The benefit that this pending resolution will provide to myself, family and the community will be longlasting.

Please support this resolution

Steve Riter and Family

Steve Riter

McKinley Partners, LLC

2121 N. California Boulevard, Suite 1010
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

M: 925.413.4446 O: 925.322.6262

E-Mail: steve@mckinleycp.com

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Terrie Gillen

From: Colin Thomas <thomascolin80@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I want to voice my support for this resolution. Electric bikes allow everyone the same opportunity to explore outside, whether age or ability. Connecting with the outdoors especially in this time should not limit someone's choice for where to go but allow them to explore more of our beautiful state and county.

Please recognize my decision to show my support.

Best,

Colin Thomas

Terrie Gillen

From: JohnRMittelstadt <john@travelrest.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members,

As a thirty plus year resident of Mill Valley I have seen these trail conflict issues ebb and flow. But the through line in all of them is that people of all stripes love and enjoy the ability to get away from city life and commune with nature. And just as back when mountain bikes came on the scene, educating the uninitiated to a new activity takes time and patients. I'm confident that over time folks will begin to understand that allowing this new type of bicycle is not much different than having a few lower gears that help get you up a steep hill.

As the years have past I have watched my own body decline through injury, age and plain old wear and tear. This progression has seen me transition from an avid trail runner and backpacker into a mountain biker and now an e-bike owner. I cannot express strongly enough how this bicycle advancement has allowed me to still access the mountain I love. Outlawing this pedal-assist feature will likely reduce my access to the mountain to driving to one of the many crowded trailhead turn outs on Tam and walking a few hundred yards and sitting on a bench.

At 61 years old, I'm hoping that "activity" is still 20 years in the future and with the help of my pedal assist bicycle I will have many more years of exercise and adventure before I'm confined to benches near scenic turn outs.

Thank you for considering continued access of pedal assist bikes in the watershed.

Sincerely,
John Mittelstadt
20 Val Vista Rd.
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Phillip Tweedie <phil1marin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I fully support the Resolution 8607 to allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads.

The negative perspectives to not allow them seems unfounded as I see only the positive of allowing older citizens to enjoy the watershed as well as people with physical disabilities a chance to get out and improve their health.

My wife is a keen mountain bike rider and constantly on the watershed, she recently discovered she has a genetic heart condition. The class 1 e-bike allowed her to continue her riding and being next to the watershed and not be able to use the new technology does not seem right.

I hope the District will approve of this 3 year trial and put to rest the concerns of allowing them.

Thank You,

-Phil Tweedie

Terrie Gillen

From: mark kane <kane_usmc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Greetings,

I enthusiastically **support passing of Resolution 8607**, allowing class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads.

E-bikes may grant access to a population of our citizens who otherwise couldn't cycle or hike due to physical limitations such as chronic joint pain and is a great opportunity to increase awareness and support of our precious resource from another segment of the local population. Furthermore, this mode of recreation places no more risk to the watershed, wildlife or hikers than does conventional cycling or horseback riding. I am looking forward to the passing of this landmark resolution.

Very best,

Mark Kane
San Rafael, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Jeffrey Neal <jk.neal@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Allow Electric Bikes

Dear MMWD Board,

With regard to your vote on Resolution 8607, I ride a Class-1 pedal assist e-bike on MMWD fire roads at least four days a week.

I am an aging an aging outdoorsman and avid mountain biker, having respectfully ridden the trails for 20 plus years. In November I had a total shoulder replacement and in 2005 my knees were reconstructed. I've been hard on my body, that's why I have successfully transitioned to an e-bike. My e-bike gives me access to Mt.Tam and allows me to enjoy the outdoors as if I'm 25 years old all over again, pure joy and a lot less impact on my body.

Since I am riding to the mountain on my e-bike, rather than driving, I am also conserving gasoline. Mt Tamalpais is a sacred place for me, and I am in support of resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. I see no reason why pedal assist Class-1 e-bikes are not aligned with all of these interests.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Neal

Greenbrae, CA

Cheers,
Jeffrey

408-219-7881

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Terrie Gillen

From: Alljs2 <Alljs2@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Item 10 motorized vehicles/E-bikes

I sincerely hope that this issue is rejected. The watershed is the home of a rich variety of wildlife not to mention the primary source of mental health maintainability. We already have issues sharing paths with hikers, horses, and over-zealous bike riders, we do not need more potential problems. What happens when the motorized vehicles crash or the battery dies? Even if the vehicles are silent, just the idea of fast moving vehicles on paths and fire roads is crazy. Bikes already cause enough erosion and gouging tracks. The only motorized vehicle that should be on these fire roads is ranger, fire department, and motorized wheelchair if the road is useable.

My opinion. Thanks for reading.

Janet Duncan
Hooper Lane
San Anselmo

Terrie Gillen

From: Bob Lenz <lenz.bob@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

I am writing in strong support of Resolution 8607. Having an e-bike has offered me the opportunity to ride on trails again after an injury to my bike. It has filled a hole in my life that I thought was lost to injury.

I am a strong proponent for conservation of our beautiful resources and natural setting. In addition, my wife and I both hike the watershed trails and believe that e-bikes, traditional mountain bikes, horses and hikers can and do safely share the same trails.

Thank you,

Robert Lenz

Terrie Gillen

From: larry cragg <larryc555@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Class 1 e-bike Resolution 8607
Attachments: Class 1_e-bike_Resolution 8607.pdf

Dear MMWD Board of Directors:

I understand that your Board will soon be voting on Resolution #8607, which could allow Class 1 e-bikes to be used on MMWD fire roads (at least for a 3-year trial period to collect data upon which longer term rules could be created). I sincerely hope you will vote "YES" to allow this activity.

Having attended and spoken at the MMWD Public Meetings during which this topic has been discussed, I am aware of the many opinions surrounding this issue. I believe it is possible and important that we find a way for hikers, runners and e-bike riders, all to get their exercise on the fire roads of Mt Tam.

As one of the original mountain bikers "Klunkers" in the mid-seventies, I have spent hours riding on the mountain, but with time and age, it became increasingly difficult. Now, as a seventy-two year old, with the assistance provided by the small motor on my Class 1 e-bike, I ride up Eldridge grade almost daily, from my house in the flats of San Anselmo. I am a careful and respectful rider, and regularly receive thank-yous from hikers, for the ringing of my bell and now with covid, the wearing of my mask.

As a long-time Marin County taxpayer and MMWD rate payer, I strongly urge you to vote YES on Resolution #8607.

Thank you for your support on this upcoming vote,
Sincerely,

Larry Cragg - 78 Madrone Ave, San Anselmo

Terrie Gillen

From: Eric Miller <emiller@millerhauser.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:44 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Dear Board Members.

I am 68 years old and a resident of Larkspur. I strongly support proposed resolution 8607 for a 3 year trial period that would allow ebike riders the same privileges as other mountain bike riders in the watershed lands.

I have been riding the fire roads on Mt. Tam for some 40 years now. A few years ago I switched to an ebike because the long uphill climbs were simply too demanding. My ebike has made it possible for me to continue to enjoy the natural beauty of the mountain as I have for so many years. Please consider the following points:

1. For the most part ebikers switched from regular bikes. I have not noticed an increase in ridership on the mountain.
2. My ebike lets me climb grades steadily without having to take so many breaks but it would be difficult if not impossible to exceed the 15 mile per hour speed limit. For the most part climbs are at about 5 miles per hour.
3. Downhill I find I go slower than on a regular bike because the ebike is heavier and does handle as well.
4. For the most part ebikers are older riders or riders with physical impairments. Ebikers are not the riders who ride too fast.
5. I have participated in the "Slow and say hello program". All bike riders need to be courteous and ride at safe speeds.
6. I believe that I am a good steward of the public lands.
7. Allowing me and other senior riders on the watershed lands helps to improve safety for all who use the paths.

Sincerely,

Eric Miller
Larkspur

Terrie Gillen

From: Adams, Chris @ Walnut Creek <Chris.Adams@cbre.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I encourage the Board to pass Resolution 8607. I have spent much of my life hiking and biking on Mt. Tam and love this part of Marin and its expansive, beautiful open space. But, as I am getting older, I recognize that my physical endurance is declining. Having the ability to use a Class-1 e-bike (traveling at safe speeds) will allow me to continue w/ one of my favorite outdoor activities – mt. bike riding with friends and my son on Mt. Tam.

I have a good friend who injured his back several years ago and had to stop riding a mt. bike. Recently he tried an e-bike and was delighted to learn that the motor assist was all that he needed to be back riding on Mt. Tam. E-bikes open up this activity to older folks (me) as well as a population of people with physical constraints. Your support of this trial program would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Chris Adams
6340 Pinehaven Road
Oakland, CA 94611
510-697-2755

Terrie Gillen

From: Pete Billington <petebill88@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:42 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

E-Bikes provide access to a group of people that would be normally limited by the strenuous nature of our fireroad systems. The grades are far too difficult for the average person to take advantage of.

Ebikes have been adopted by many national and regional forest and land management groups throughout the US and do not pose any threat or impact than other forms of currently approved use.

This is an opportunity for Marin to recognize that its user-base is changing and evolving.. The number of E-bikes sold in the area has expanded exponentially. Citizens are gravitating away from costly and environmentally expensive activities like golf, and migrating towards low impact outdoor activities like e-biking, but because of an aging population in Marin, traditional access will need to be expanded to accommodate this change. Prejudicial and entitled opposition is loud, but clearly the minority.

E-bikes would limit the number of cars at the trailhead, because they enable users to ride to the fireroad systems from their houses, reducing the amount of traffic and pollution in the county and reducing the cost of maintenance in the parking areas.

These trail systems are fire roads are a sacred space and responsible users should not be denied access based on their fitness or ability levels.

Please consider this evaluation period so that families can continue to exercise together and experience the resources that we all contribute toward equally.

thank you..

Terrie Gillen

From: Ken Meislin <ken@meislin.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Jon Yolles; Board Comment
Subject: Re: Support of Resolution 8607

Awesome! THANK YOU!

ken@meislin.net

Kenneth Meislin - Principal
Meislin Investments
P.O. Box 489
Mill Valley, CA 94942

Direct Line 415 273 2170
415 652-0178 (cell)
Fax – 415 449 3655



From: Jon Yolles <jonyolles@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 10:35 AM
To: "boardcomment@marinwater.org" <boardcomment@marinwater.org>
Cc: "ken@meislin.net" <ken@meislin.net>
Subject: Support of Resolution 8607

Dear MMWD,

I write as a Mill Valley resident, active hiker and cyclist, and Mill Valley Planning Commissioner to my voice support for Resolution 8607, allowing class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD's watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

First, kudos on the community process in which you've engaged a diverse group of stakeholders leading to the proposed Resolution and trial period.

Clearly, Marin is a highly active community, in large part thanks to the open space offerings so close to it, most notably the MMWD. By providing this trial period to a large new group of recreational e-bike users, MMWD would be continuing to support health, fitness and recreational opportunities that are so important to all who can take advantage of them.

As a Mill Valley Planning Commissioner, partnering with MMWD in a way that preserves and promotes access to immediately adjacent open space, in a way that is both consistent with MMWD's Mission and Goals, as well as Mill

Valley's land use principles, which seek to protect and promote access to the natural environment, will serve the interests of both of our stakeholders well.

On a personal level, in addition to hiking, I alternate between traditional and pedal assist e-mountain biking, and confess that e-bikes are more fun, and enable me to see more of Mount Tam than I otherwise would, which contributes toward getting me (and many friends) exercising more often, which promotes better health outcomes, something that should be at the forefront of our decision making, especially in these challenging times.

I hope you agree that the use of class I pedal-assist ebikes is not inconsistent with MMWD's Mission or Goals. The watershed can still be protected, user conflicts minimized with the benefit of signage and other measures, and erosion minimized with the benefit of educational signage, which frankly could be informative to all cyclists.

As a hiker, biker and conservationist, resource protection is important to me, and like most other hikers and cyclists, I take care in minimizing impacts to trails, recognizing they are only as good to us as we are to them.

Thank you for considering this vote of support in favor of Resolution 8607.

Sincerely,
Jon Yolles

Terrie Gillen

From: Maureen Pinto <oceanriders@prodigy.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes on MMWD

Dear Board,

I am opposed to e-bikes for anyone under 70 years of age and feel identification with age must be carried at all times. I understand the benefits of the elderly being able to continue enjoying the beauty of our Marin Trails as long as they are not single track. The elderly are less likely to break speed limits and are generally more inclined to follow safety protocol. I feel e-bikes in the hands of the young is a disaster, and will encourage even more bikes on our already over run trails which have displaced hikers and horsemen.

There has been such an increase in mountain bike use on all trails in Marin and with it has come a sense of entitlement and rudeness, replacing the 'share the trail' policies we have all tried to promote. The heavy e-bikes take longer to slow down on the downhill, should the rider follow protocol when meeting hikers or horses.

PLEASE DO allow e-bikes to the elderly (with ID) but do not increase bike use on our already crowded trails with the acceptance of e-bikes for anyone. Poaching is already an issue and enforcement and recourse is non-existent.

Thank you
Maureen Pinto

Terrie Gillen

From: Mike Howe <Mike@prgonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Members of Marin Municipal Water District:

I moved to San Geronimo Valley in 1975 and have been hiking and riding mountain bikes on the Watershed ever since. I am now 80 years young and recently purchased an eBike as I no longer can climb the steep watershed hills in and around the Valley because of a heart condition.

I am a former director of the Marin Parks and Open Space Commission and was Chair in the 1980's and have long been committed to conservation and wise use of our beautiful Marin environment.

Please pass 8607 so that I can continue to enjoy riding my new eBike and enjoy the entire Marin watershed while still able to do so. I would appreciate being informed when 8607 is being considered by the MMWD Board.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Resolution 8607.

Michael Howe
POB 155
440 Meadow Way
San Geronimo, CA 94963
Cell: 415-265-4048

Terrie Gillen

From: Jody Newman <jody@newmanfp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Peter Truce
Cc: Board Comment; Lou Klein; Norm Romich; Contini Nora
Subject: Re: E bikes in watershed

That's great Peter. I'll try to attend the meeting tonight and send an email in advance.

Jody Newman, CFP®
Newman Financial Planning
301 529-1879
58 Marinero Circle
Tiburon, CA 94920

On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 10:59 AM Truce Peter <peter@stdesigninc.com> wrote:
Hi!

As a long time resident of Marin and a frequent hiker, I am not sure what your meeting tonight hopes to accomplish. You must be aware that E-bikes are already using and damaging the trails in the watershed. Note the reality for these things:

No enforcement = no rules.

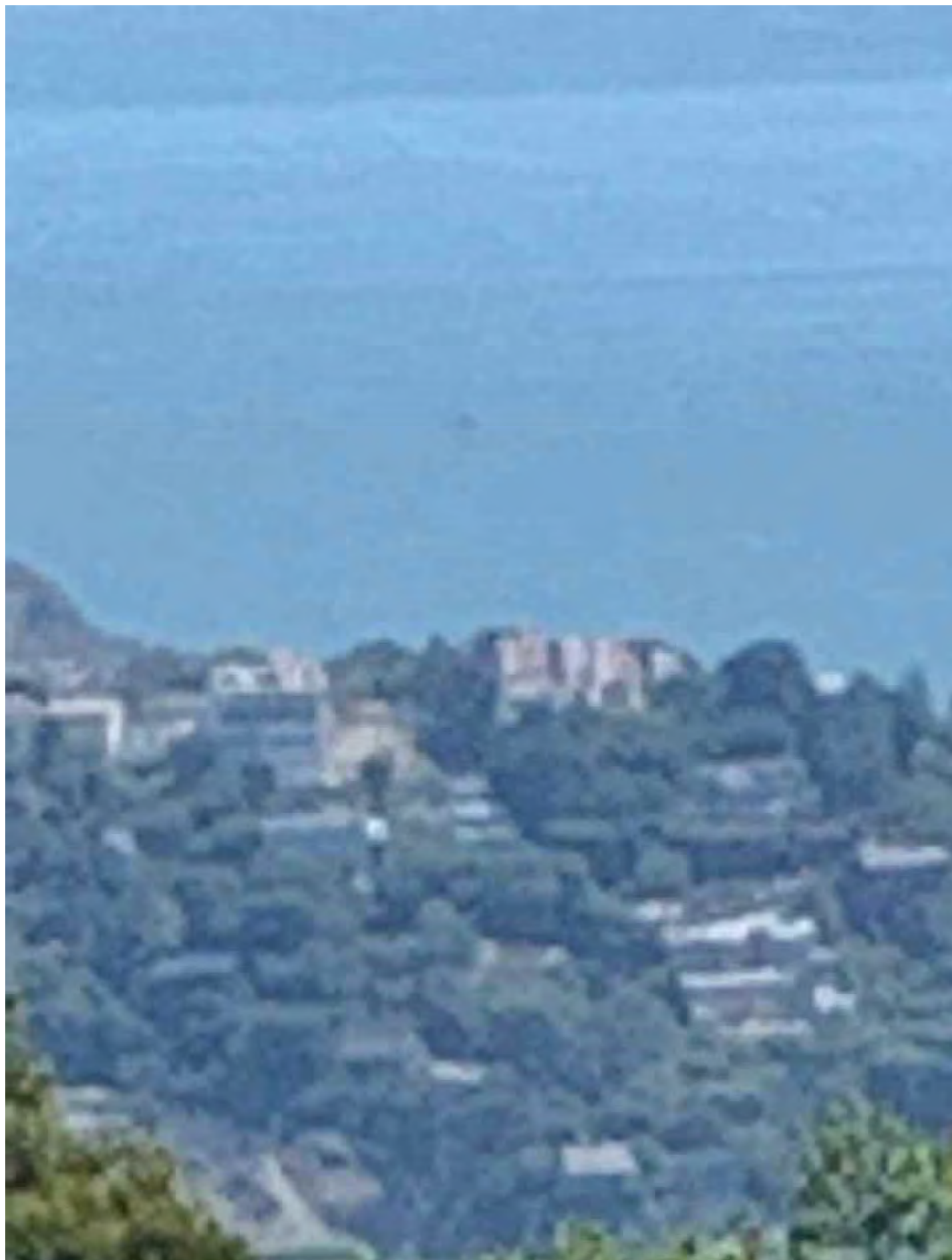
The bikers are well aware that there is no consequence for riding illegally on the trails. just check the International trail on Mt Tam to see some of the damage that a few thoughtless bikers have done in just a few weeks. Although it is a minority that is spoiling it for the rest, that minority is a frequent danger on the trails and the lack of enforcement of the rules has protected this activity for a while now.

Please do not allow the E-bikes on the trails and please enforce the rules by confiscating the e-Bikes when they illegally destroy our trails.

Please see attached for a photo of a motorcycle on Alta trail in May of this year. This is what will be next after the 20mph(!) bikes you are recommending. Do you really think that the bikers will limit themselves to 20mph? I predict 50mph e-bikes on the trails within a year ...

Thank you.

Peter Truce
12 Dominican Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901



Terrie Gillen

From: David Redlin <dpr517@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: in support of ebike proposal

I am a resident of Kentfield, CA and love nothing more than spending time outside on MMWD land. I access the mountain frequently on foot or by mountain bike. I don't yet have an electric mountain bike, but I feel strongly that ebike access to fireroads should be allowed and encouraged. Its an environmentally friendly way for folks to access open space. With the electric assist, many people may be able to ride directly from their homes, reducing traffic, emission and crowds at parking lots. E-bikes offer great exercise and an opportunity to improve mental health. E-bike access will be good for the overall health of our community.

However, I don't support the link to increased ranger hires. Why does access to ebikes mean that we need to spend more rate payer dollars for rangers? This doesn't make any sense.

Thanks so much,
David

Terrie Gillen

From: Craig Nielsen <craign Nielsen@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Class 1 ebikes

Dear MMWB board,

I have been riding a Class 1 pedal assist bike for almost two years and as I have aged it has afforded me the ability to stay active. I am 65 and no longer able to keep up with my younger riding partners.

Pedal assist bikes have seemed like a God send to me as it has allowed me to continue to enjoy the mountains and sport I love and stay physically active.

I hope you will consider the interests of aging bikers and continue to maintain access for ebikes.

Sincerely,

Craig Nielsen

Terrie Gillen

From: Grant Rudolph <grantrudolph@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Board Comment; Stephen Perelson; ifish9@arksf.com
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support resolution 8607 for ebikes on Mt Tam.

I moved to Mill Valley 25 years ago because it offered easy access to the tranquility of nature and the glory of Mt Tam. For years I was on a quest to hike every trail. Walking and picnicking on Tam was a big part of my children's education, and my son still goes camping most weekends at age 29. I led nature identification hikes for the cub scouts, and helped trips for kids introduce the mountain we love to inner city kids on bikes so they could feel its power as well.

As a trained host for the West Point Inn, I have organized many gatherings that introduced others to the delight of a sunrise from the cabins, or looking down on a fog bank.

I have worked on numerous volunteer trail maintenance crews, and routinely pick up litter and move rocks that have rolled onto fire lanes. My friendships have been deepened by regular Saturday bike rides, usually with a stop for meditation in a breathtaking vista spot. Riding on Tam is my main form of exercise that balances a sedentary job in the mental health field.

When I contracted lyme disease from a tick--picked up lying on a mossy log--my health declined because I could not ride up the gateway climbs anymore. I saved up and bought a pedal assist bike, and my health and stamina are returning. Now I can ride with my son again.

I am hurt by the prejudice that throws me in a category with speeding yahoo teenagers just because we both ride bicycles. It's like banning horseback riders because they must all carry dangerous six-shooters. I ride slowly because jolts inflame my joints.

I'm 70 years old. For decades I have loved exercising while being fed by the mountain's tranquility and majesty. Denying me access to Tam on a pedal assist bike will quite literally shorten my life. Please honor my loyalty to conservation of the mountain by supporting my access as an elder.

Grant Rudolph
30 Catalpa Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941
415 302-4848

Terrie Gillen

From: Martin Sinai Rayman <drmartyrayman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Bjorn Gripenburg
Subject: Resolution 8607

I support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I bicycle commuted to work from 1973 until June 2018. I have been mountain biking since the early 1980's.

I am now 74+ y.o.a. & know that soon I will need a pedal assist e-bike to continue to enjoy my biking, on the road & mountain.

I have friends who are approaching 80 or already 80 whose company I could not enjoy on bicycle rides if they did not have pedal assist e bikes.

Thanks,

Marty Rayman

Martin Sinai Rayman
Kentfield, California

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/eb0e8b51/XChhukKWVU2nQeYCVUbu8Q?u=http://www.snappymarty.com/>

"It was a condensed explanation, but I came to understand him to mean you could stop it, not at all, but most of the moments of your life, stop for one heartbeat and, no matter what the state of your head or heart, say 'this is happiness' because of the simple truth that you were alive to say it."

THIS IS HAPPINESS-A Novel by Niall Williams

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael Reese <mjreese27@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 867

I am copying a letter written by my friend (Brandon Hemley) as it reflects my exact position.

Dear Board Members,

I am an avid mountain biker and hiker in Corte Madera. I write to voice my support for Resolution 8607, to permit Class I electric bikes in the Mt. Tam Watershed. I mainly ride an analog mountain bike, but I have many friends riding e-bikes now, as we are not getting any younger. I have also ridden them myself. I know from experience that “excessive speed” is not really an issue with these bikes. They may go uphill slightly faster than regular pedal bikes, but they are no faster going downhill. Downhill speeds are effectively the same on analog and electric bikes, naturally regulated by the rider’s self-interest in safety. Most riders use e-bikes not to “go fast” but to require less physical effort to go at normal bicycle speeds, to get up steep hills, and to cover longer distances. Speeds for e-bikes can and should be regulated with posted speed limits if necessary (say 10 or 15 mph) in any “flattish” areas where riders might be tempted or able to push them to their maximum speed limits of 20 mph. I firmly believe there is ample room for e-bikes on the Marin County trail system, subject to appropriate speed limits.

Thanks for considering these comments. I hope you will vote in favor of allowing e-bikes.

Sincerely,

Mjr

Michael Reese
223 Marina Vista Ave
Larkspur Ca 94939

Terrie Gillen

From: Richard. Mogensen <rhmogensen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I have lived in Kentfield for 44 years and Marin for 48 years.. I used to run and bike throughout Mt Tam. Soon I will turn 77. I get an IV for Psoriatic arthritis and have high blood pressure. I use an e bike . I can no longer walk long distances or run. However I can bike. It is important for me to be able to use my bike in the watershed area. The majority of e bike users are older and do not pose a threat to the environment and safety. We respect what we have. Please respect us .
Richard Mogensen 415-235-2745 mogensn@comcast.net

Terrie Gillen

From: Scott torgan <scotttorgan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes on Tam - Yes

I support allowing ebikes on Tam. I am a frequent non-ebike rider and I see no problem with the ebikes. And I hope that someday when or if I need assistance, I will be allowed to ride an ebike on the mtn and it will keep me riding longer.

Ebikes can go faster uphill but that's not a problem (except sometimes humiliating to get passed as I grind up the hill); and it doesn't change the down hill.

Thank you.

Scott Torgan

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Larry Stratton <larry_stratton@norcalpublicmedia.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607 supports informed decisions

Hello,

I write to encourage the MMWD Board of Directors to support the approval of Resolution 8607 to establish a three year Special use Permit for Electric Bicycles. Approval of the resolution would enable the Board to make informed decisions, based upon real world data and information, rather than speculation and anticipation, when regulating E-bikes on district lands.

I have been a Fairfax resident for the last 32 years. During that time my family and I have enjoyed hiking and bicycling on the MMWD Lands.

While I applaud the District's efforts in keeping the hiking trails free from bicycles, I disagree with prohibiting Class 1 E-bikes from the fire protection roads. This plan unduly restricts access to these public lands by people like me who may not be able to access them otherwise.

During a hike on Mt Tam I suffered a major stroke. Fortunately due to the rapid response of a MMWD Ranger and others I was able to timely undergo a surgical thrombectomy allowing me to regain mobility on my left side, which had been paralyzed by a clot in my brain. Since the stroke, it has been a daily ongoing challenge to regain my strength. I didn't have the stamina to return to mountain biking on the fire roads.

I purchased a Class 1 E-bike which allows me to access the mountain protection roads by assisting me in the sections where the grade is more than I can otherwise handle. I fail to see how anyone would think that a device that helps someone up the hill would be a problem. It is helping me regain my health and stamina. I can once again enjoy the beauty of the district lands. And most importantly, it has helped me regain a more positive outlook on life.

The current regulations prohibiting Class 1E-bikes on the protection roads denies these benefits to other members of the public with health and mobility challenges. I urge the Board to approve resolution 8607 so that decisions regarding E-Bikes on district lands can be based upon actual experiences.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint.

Larry Stratton

Fairfax Resident and MMWD Customer

Terrie Gillen

From: Urban Carmel <urbancarmel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Allow e-bike access to fire roads on Mt. Tamalpais

Dear Board Members:

I urge you to support Resolution 8607.

I am an avid mountain biker. I don't ride an e-bike on the mountain but I see many others enjoying the outdoors in this way. E-bikes allow those who might not otherwise get out on the mountain and in the fresh air to do so. I have never seen an e-bike rider act irresponsibly or ride too quickly. I see no valid reason to prohibit their use and feel that doing so would unnecessarily harm those who wish to enjoy Mt Tam but need an e-bike to do so.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Urban

Urban Carmel
urbancarmel@gmail.com
m. 415 548 3111

Terrie Gillen

From: Fareday Hemingway <faredayhemingway@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Hello,

My husband and I plus about 20 of our friends have ebikes. We are all over 60 and have retired our cars and use our bikes for everything including grocery shopping. Our roads and some drivers are very dangerous. Therefore riding on roads such as Marin Water District roads are safe and give us great pleasure during these challenging times.

I am writing to you in support of resolution 8607 to allow electric bikes on Marin Water District fire roads. Please don't take that away from us.

Ebikes are becoming more popular because they give people wonderful new access to many places including fire roads to those who otherwise would not be able to enjoy them. I personally, can not go far on a regular bike. Being 65 and having arthritis. Having an ebike has given me hope and flexibility especially during the pandemic. I would love to ride it on a regular basis on safe roads such as Marin water District roads. We are no threat to the environment and anything else. Please don't deprive us from a safe outdoor experience. Thank you so much.

Warm wishes,

Fareday Hemingway
CA Licensed Fiduciary &
Asset Based Loans Examiner
(415) 272-6930

Terrie Gillen

From: Charlie Christensen <charlie@emgmortgage.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I super-duper support Resolution 8607. Before I got my ebike, my health was deteriorating but now I can ride for extended periods of time and my health has improved dramatically. The other benefit is being able to ride with my younger (and older) friends that are more physically able and I get to see parts of the watershed that I have been paying for for a long long time. I never use the ebike to jam past someone going uphill on a normal bike and I ride slowly. I also like that if I get in a situation where a mountain lion thinks I look like a big rib-eye steak, I could potentially escape whereas on my regular bike, I might be dinner. I love Mt. Tam and have been fishing at Phoenix Lake since 1970 and totally respect the mountain, natural resources etc. Please don't take this away from me as my ebike has changed my life dramatically.

Sincerely,

Charlie Christensen - NMLS #233543
Sales Manager & Senior Loan Officer
415-517-5926 Mobile | 415-464-8295 Office

American Pacific Mortgage DBA Equitable Mortgage Group
1101 Fifth Ave., Suite 220 San Rafael, CA 94901

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Terrie Gillen

From: Alexis White <alexismwhite@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: bulletin@marinbike.org; Pete Sutherland
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I would like to add my fervent wish for e-bikes to be allowed on Mt. Tam.

I am an avid mountain biker who has had significant injuries that have curbed my riding. Riding an e-bike has allowed me access to locations I have not been able to ride in years. Mountain biking is my main hobby and exercise and I love being able to go further and longer than on my regular bike. I belong on the bike and on the mountain, and it is sensible for me to be able to use my e-bike to enjoy the outdoors.

Additionally, my sons are avid bikers as well, and it has brought me much pleasure to be able to ride with them on family rides. We have been out for hours and miles together, which is the greatest pleasure a mom can have. I am so grateful that they are willing and I am able!

I am a law-abiding, polite mountain biker. I am thoughtful of hikers and equestrians, as most mountain bikers are. I am not doing anything different than I was on my regular bike, just going further.

Please allow me to have access to the outdoors, which is right outside my door, in the way I love the most. Please grant e-bikes access to Mt. Tam and all trails already open to biking. We all want to enjoy and have access to the outdoors, especially during these challenging times when so many activities are not allowed, and we are trapped at home.

Many thanks for your consideration
alexis

Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude.

Terrie Gillen

From: Kevin Barnes <kbarnes3131@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Marin resident in support of Resolution 8601

To Whom it may concern,

I am a Marin resident with address 16 Buckeye Road in Belvedere. I am in support of Resolution 8601 allowing class 1 e-assist bikes in MMWD areas. I am an avid mountain e-biker and have been for several years, riding 2-3 times per week. I have health conditions which would prevent me from enjoying mountain biking on a regular non e-bike. I have server joint pain in my hip and knees, including two surgeries in the past two years. Riding an e-bike makes the ride much more gentle on my joints.

I am an avid nature lovers and riding my e-bike in the Marin Headlands is the main way I enjoys nature.

Sincerely,

Kevin

Kevin Barnes
(415)328-2840 mobile
16 Buckeye Road
Belvedere, CA. 94920

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: William Cullison <b_cullison@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I would like to voice my support for Resolution 8607. I am a 27 year Marin resident (San Rafael) and have enjoyed Mountain Biking as my primary exercise for this time. Two years ago I had a serious Mountain bike accident on a regular bike. I broke my collar bone, ribs and tore my left hamstring. The torn hamstring has effected my riding ability most from that accident. I do not have the strength that I had prior to the accident. My eBike has allowed me to ride more than I ever have. I am 52 years old and consider myself a very considerate rider (as are my riding friends). I have always practiced the slow and say hello program.

Thank you,
Bill Cullison

2710 Heatherstone Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Terrie Gillen

From: Gregory Wajnowski <gregory.wajnowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Just wanted to register my support for Resolution 8607 and the trial permission period for ebikes on watershed fire roads.

I spend considerable time hiking and biking in the watershed with friends and family. My son, who is disabled (and who rides horses as part of his therapy program), rides a tandem with me several times a week. The addition of the ability to use an ebike would diversify and expand the fire road options for us on and around Tam, especially as I near my mid-60s and begin to feel the effects of age.

Being members of all three user groups, we understand the need for hikers, bikers and equestrians to share the open spaces while at the same time protecting our environment.

Greg Wajnowski

Terrie Gillen

From: Brett McPherson <bmcpherson@thelandcollaborative.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:39 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: info@marinbike.org
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I strongly support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I recently started using a class 1 Specialized Levo bike, after many years of s standard mountain bike. I needed to make the change as a 48 year old dad that has many years of riding, love for the outdoors and nature. My body has sustained multiple injuries over the years of knee surgery, broken collar bone, and general wear and tear. Now I can keep up with my more fit and uninjured friends on the uphill sections. I'm able to get the exercise I desperately need for a long life with my family and staying mentally happy during this difficult time with Covid 19 restrictions.

The ebike has allowed me to get back into the nature spaces I love and protect through my actions, donations and political support. I typically ride to a mountain top and take my daily meditation time. Being quiet in nature in the hills of Marin is recharging and magical to my spirit. I moved to Marin after growing up in Menlo Park and going to college at Cal Poly SLO. I moved to Marin for access to the openspaces and as it's the home of mountain biking. I have been mountain biking since it originated as a child and Marin is mecca for people like me.

I was a bit skeptical of ebikes when they came out. Just like when bikes got front shocks, then back shocks ect.. As I tried each of the new improvements over the years. I quickly said this is wonderful each time. This is so true with the class 1 ebikes. Once I rode one as a demo from Mikes Bikes in SR, I was convinced they are just like standard mountain bikes in so many ways. I would hope any skeptic like me would try one for a day before making an uninformed decision that they are somehow bad for trails, people and nature. They do not go any faster downhill. They simply help give you access get up the hills, get out into the beautiful Marin open space and bring the JOY back to riding that I was able to experience in my youth.

I am a Landscape Architect and Landscape Contractor. I am educated in stewardship of the land and love our outdoors. I am available for professional consultation and discussions to MMWD and the Marn community at large.

Sincerely,
Brett McPherson
The Land Collaborative
415-819-5263

Terrie Gillen

From: Noah Berry <noahbeery@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know! Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Terrie Gillen

From: Tania Kennedy <tzwave@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello Board members

Please do not ban pedal assist mt bikes on Mt Tam! My 80 year old father get to experience the Mt because of his and I'm planning on getting one too as it would allow me to be able to ride and keep up with my husband uphill. Without an ebike, I have to leave 45 minutes before him as he is just that much stronger than I am. I am 4th generation Mill Valley and it would be really sad if I wasn't able to ride on the beautiful Mt that I grew up on!

Please allow us to ride and enjoy natural and my mountain!

-Tania Cagwin Kennedy

Terrie Gillen

From: Elizabeth Forster <elizabethland@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Electric bikes

I am writing to urge you NOT to permit electric bikes on the Mt Tam watershed trails.

I have been and walker in the area since a child, and my two brothers have been hikers and bikers, so I am not anti-mountain bikers since I know there are many considerate and safe riders.

Over the years, I have been deeply disturbed by reckless bikers not only on the permitted trails, but also on the non-bike trails. I have accompanied walking elder parents who practically had heart attacks when almost barreled over by bikers leaving shock and dust in their trails.

Many once soft paths under foot have been eroded by bikes, and the once serene refuge that was Mt Tam has been accessible to me only at night, after the bikers with all their headlamps have gone home.

I beg you not to permit electric bikers who may have little experience on the bikes and trails to put themselves and others in danger. I have seen one biker airlifted from a tree where he landed and hope such incidents can be avoided in the future.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Forster
Marin resident and lover of Mt Tam since 1970

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Keith Forsman <keithforsman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Beth Forsman
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607

I'm a 62 yr old resident of Mill Valley and use my Type 1 pedal assist ebike to stay in shape and enjoy our district's water shed fire roads around Mt. Tam. Please vote yes on Resolution 8607 to endorse the 3 year trial. It would be a shame to disallow Type 1 pedal assist bikes on these roads when so many outdoor exercise paths are already exclusively available to only pedestrians and equestrians.

Thank you.
Keith Forsman

Terrie Gillen

From: Jan Tharsing <tharsing.j@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: 'Aldo Gigliotti'
Subject: E-bikes

Hello Marin Water Board

As a local equestrian, member of local horse clubs (Tamalpais Trail Riders, Novato Horsemen Inc.) and supporter of the Marin Horse Council I hereby submit my concern to opening up fire roads in our watershed to motorized vehicles/E-bikes. I personally believe that it is a bad idea to allow a Special Use Permit to allow E-bikes onto district fire roads for a 3-year "trial period." I also believe that motorized vehicles (e-bikes) on non-paved trails should be prohibited. E-bikes are a new user group on our trails and will displace hikers and horseback riders. These motorized vehicles are a danger, possibly causing personal injury to pedestrians and equestrians not to mention the e-bike users themselves. There is also the issue of negative environmental impacts.

Please NO e-bikes on MMWD non-paved fire roads and trails!

Thank you

Jan Tharsing, Treasurer Tamalpais Trail Riders

Terrie Gillen

From: romich@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Jack Gibson
Cc: peter@stdesigninc.com; louhiker1@gmail.com
Subject: Electric Bikes

Dear Director/President Gibson,

Several times I have seen that the Water District is considering allowing electric bikes on the hiking trails. I am a hiker and sometimes bicyclist and I urge you to not allow this "nose of the camel in the tent." In my experience a healthy % of cyclists already abuse their access by using trails that are not open to them, making new trails which aid erosion, expecting hikers to always yield to them even if it means moving quickly off a single file trail on a hillside, and recently in the Covid era, not wearing face masks. Giving them motorized power seems an insane invitation to further abuse and disrespect nature and the limited resources we have to enjoy nature.

Norman Jensen

600 Deer Valley Rd, Apt GC

San Rafael, 94903

415 454 5478

Terrie Gillen

From: Noah Berry <noahbeery@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:41 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Please support this resoulution! I am a 60 year old with poor joints and injuries that prevent me from hiking downhill or cycling uphill without a pedal assist bike. I love to enjoy the watershed and would love to be able to ride my E-Bike on fire roads at a sedate pace. Please allow me the chance to enjoy the beauty of our watershed on my EBike!!!

Noah Berry San Anselmo

Terrie Gillen

From: Bernard Dunayevich <flyingstamina@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:41 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Please allow the use of ebikes. They are a great addition to the battery of tools we need to combat global warming. They are not a danger to hikers or the environment.

Thanks.....

Terrie Gillen

From: Tom Borden <tomborden7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:41 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

To the Board,

I strongly support the approval of Resolution 8607. I think that the opponents are not well informed about class I e-bikes. The word "motorized" is a misnomer in describing these pedal assist bikes. I have had one for six months and have ridden several hundred miles on Marin trails so I have a lot of experience. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible to exceed the 15 mph speed limit while climbing up hill. The pedal assist is unnecessary when descending. The speed limit issue is the same with regular bikes.

I am a 71 year old retired person who had been riding bikes on Marin trails for years prior to having 3 shoulder operations and bilateral knee replacements (3 on one knee). I had been unable to ride with my wife and adult children for several years. Now I'm able to get back on the mountain and share rides. This is invaluable for my conditioning and mental health.

Most of the people I have seen on e-bikes are older and use them to assist in climbing while minimally using the assist in order to get a good workout. I've yet to see someone on an e-bike abusing the speed limit as I have said previously. In fact, with the newer streamlined models you have to look closely to tell the difference between e-bikes and regular bikes.

While I would like to see e-bikes permanently allowed on fire roads I'm confident that a three year trial will demonstrate that these bikes are safe for the riders as well as the hikers.

Respectfully,

Tom Borden

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Jeff Jungsten <jeffj@jungsten.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: FW: ebikes

To whom it may concern,

Just a quick reach out to discuss ebikes...you know me, no drama just a quick update on what they are and how they are being used and represented to me.

For efficiency (and for fun) sake, i have one. I use it all the time. I use it to get in sunrises mainly but that's not the only reason I have one. It does however save me 20 minutes of sleep on early rides to grab a sunrise. It also allows me to ride and discover without having to stress on training. It is capped at 19mph, it does nothing on downhills, and adds a bit of relief on the climbs. I often ride with cancer patients, older people, people with disabilities, and those who just want to get out in the fresh air but arent in as good a shape. I also ride with professional cyclists who have them for active recovery rides and its great to be able to keep up on a ride with them. It is amazing to see people like Kate Courtney (local and World champion mnt biker) being able to ride with her father (for safety) and her mom both who accompany her on ebikes, and for the many other people who simply wouldnt be able to ride with others and now have the ability to do so. Its amazing. Also, I am a big fan of the rangers having ebikes. I think it helps to provide some empathy to the enforcement in that the rangers understand how great it is to be out riding. I mean, you have to peddle them. They are not motorcycles. They are super fun, great for just getting out and seeing the sights, and I will always have one. I also use it for commuting and riding the "long way" to the office. Ill have meetings on my ebike with prospective clients who ride a little but don't want to worry about keeping up with the fitness as much. Its all in all a great add to the community. More access to the outdoors for those who may not be able to do so otherwise is an amazing asset to the county!

You may see people saying that they go 60 mph etc, but thats just hooey. Ive had one for 4 years and ride it all the time. I see a few here and there and the ones i do see are from people who would not otherwise be able to go where they allow them to go. For that i am forever grateful to those who created them. How great is it that someone who is not able to peddle up tam due to a disability is able to enjoy the open spaces just like anyone else who is able bodied. Amazing. Until you have ridden one, you may not understand. Its freedom for many, and time saving for others like me, but it also allows me to go when i dont feel like exercising hard but i still want to ride. Europe is far ahead of us on this, and with the number of options and types of ebikes these days its just a good thing to get on board with. They are here to stay.

:)

Jeff Jungsten



Jeff Jungsten President
Jungsten Construction Inc.
B.I.G. CGBP, GHRR Advanced CGBP
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GREEN CERTIFIED BUSINESS

"Please note my new email address (jeffj@jungsten.com)"

Be Green. Think before you print.



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Terrie Gillen

From: Jim Philson <jamesphilson2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

As an avid Class I e-bike rider for the past three years, I support passing resolution 8607.

At age 70, after mountain biking for over thirty years, I found that due to my age and physical problems I could no longer continue an outdoor activity that I loved.

My e-bike has enabled me to reconnect with the outdoors and get greatly needed exercise while doing it. Fire roads are key to this.

Thank you,
James Philson

Terrie Gillen

From: Robert Berry <bobberry@bobberry.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

As an 86 year old biker, I support allowing bikes on your fire roads . Without an ebike I would not be able to ride especially steep portions, so please for me and others in ageing Marin give your older citizens a break.

Robert G Berry
1010 B Street Suite 330
San Rafael, CA 94901
415-699-6066
RE#00321149
Bobberry@bobberry.net

Terrie Gillen

From: Stephen Saude <stephensaude@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:41 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebike access on public lands

Hello, I'm a San Rafael resident and father of 2 young girls. Living here we get to enjoy all of the wonderful conservation land around Marin County. From the beaches to the upper watersheds we love to hike, bike and engage with the natural areas that are so vibrant with ecology and wonder. Every outing is a teaching lesson in how we coexist with so many plants and animals - and how our actions have an impact on the land and precious resources.

We encourage MMWD to allow class 1 pedal assist ebikes on mount tam fire roads. I know that with the simple and quiet assist the ability to access areas not normally seen without a strenuous hike can be experienced by my wife and young girls, who are not high level fitness folks, nor am I, but pedal assist bikes gives us the ability to be a part of our outdoors in a reasonable and respectable way. Marin fire roads are steep and pedal assist bikes are the perfect way to utilize a simple technology to help with access without loud motors or powerful machines (Jeeps quads etc.).

We believe in proper trail/road planning, use and maintenance. We help pull broom brush and hope everyone who participates in using the public lands gives back by helping too. Safety is part of every user's responsibility and hiking and biking in the hills is so much safer then even commuting on 101. We all need to get out and appreciate our public lands, hikes and bike rides are the best ways.

Thank you for hearing my voice and I hope to see you out on the trails and fire roads!
Stephen Saude

Terrie Gillen

From: EarthLink <awby@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:47 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

To the esteemed Board Members,

I strongly want to voice my support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I feel very strongly that e-bikes are important to me because having had a recent knee replacement, I had almost completely given up mountain biking for several years, and now the E bike gives me, and others similarly with physical ailments or limitations, access to the sport that I love so much in a place that I love to do it: the trails and parks of Marin County.

Not only does riding my E bike improve my connection to the outdoors, but I find myself doing local errands and shopping on my E bike, rather than getting in my car. This pragmatic and healthful act serves to decrease both the traffic and emission production of automobiles that is so prevalent in Marin County.

Contrary to what is stated in the press and social media, most of us who are on the E-bikes really are quite respectful of both the environment and others on the trail, always trying to have a pleasant communication with other users, and try to keep a safe speed at all times. My E biking has allowed me to access these trails despite the aging process and despite various physical challenges that would otherwise have prevented me from being out there in the beautiful outdoors of Marin county. Clearly, our interests in the outdoors are aligned with maintaining harmony and beauty of the trails and fire roads of Marin County for EVERYBODY'S benefit.

Thanks for letting me share my voice about this topic that I am very passionate about. I hope that you act favorably to keep access to the beautiful landscape of Marin County Available to all.

Sincerely,

Richard Bodony MD
(Emergency Physician at Novato Community Hospital for 27 years)
180 Toyon Dr.
Fairfax
510-697-1730

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: steve@secventures.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: 'Stephen Chen'
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi,

I want to voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

My friends and I both regular and ebike on the fire roads – my son was part of the Tam High MTB team and we go out of our way to be respectful to hikers (we're also avid hikers).

Keeping the watershed accessible especially during COVID when people have fewer options is key. There are more bikers, hikers and ebikers out there – I'm on the mountain a lot and never see issues. I've also helped out and provided medical support to much older hikers and bikers that have run into issues. (Ex just saw a biker go over the bars last week and I made sure he was good and got him down the mountain to his family.)

Best,

Steve

Terrie Gillen

From: Gary Lam <garysansfo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello,

I support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

This allows me to exercise and commune with nature. My mental health benefits from being in nature.

Thanks,

Gary

Terrie Gillen

From: Tim Scherer <tim@aptpcap.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Dear MMWD Board,

With regard to your vote on Resolution 8607, I ride a Class-1 e-bike on MMWD fire roads at least four days a week. I am an aging mountain biker, having respectfully ridden the trails for 30 years. My knees and back are failing, I am slowing down, and my e-bike gives me access to the mountain and allows me to ride with my more fit children and friends. Since I am riding to the mountain on my e-bike, rather than driving, I am also conserving gasoline. Mt Tamalpais is a sacred place for me, and I am in support of resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. I see no reason why pedal assist Class-1 e-bikes are not aligned with all of these interests.

Sincerely,

Tim Scherer

Kentfield, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Joshua Lance <freelancetech@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am writing to you to support Resolution 8607 to allow class-1 ebikes on the fire roads.

Since March, I have been riding my ebike on the fire roads on a regular basis.
I am able to ride more frequently and have been successful in lowering my blood pressure.
I made the transition from my standard mountain bike to the eMTB specifically to address health issues.

I have also looked into research on trail impact and have found the studies do not show that eMTB's cause any more erosion than a standard bike.
I understand that some people will argue that the bikes are heavier... If I was 15 or 20 lbs heavier, should I not be allowed to ride my standard bike.
Some may say that the fatter tires cause more erosion... eMTB's are not using fatter tires than standard mountain bikes.
Additionally, the weight being distributed over a larger space has been proven to cause less erosion in some studies.

During this pandemic, having the ebike has gotten me out into nature on a regular basis.
It has kept me healthy and helped keep me connected to nature.
I cannot imagine a better place to be in these times than out on our trails, in the fresh air and trees.

It is important to a large community of trail users to allow class1 bikes on the fire roads.

I understand the biases and prejudices towards ebikes. We need more time to study this and give people time to learn and get familiar... so they can get past their personal beliefs.

Terrie Gillen

From: Ricardo <ricardo.nojima@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:55 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

To whom it may concern,

I want to send a note voicing my support for Resolution 8607 allowing access for class 1 emtbs on Mt Tamalpais. They enable me to go out and enjoy the outdoors on a bicycle in spite of my leg injury that stopped me from being able to ride my acoustic bike. Class 1 emtbs are no more of a risk to others or trails than a normal motorless bicycle because they are limited to 20mph of motorized assistance, have low power and torque levels, and require the rider to pedal (pedal assist only).

Thanks,
Ricardo Nojima
ricardo.nojima@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Lori Lerner <lorillerner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:55 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Friends at MMWD,

I fully support Resolution 8607 allowing Class I ebikes access to MMWD watershed fire roads.

My husband and I have ridden bikes for years in Marin. With our advancing age and health concerns (my husband has severe Rheumatoid Arthritis) we've chosen more recently to ride ebikes as it allows us to continue doing what we've always done!

Being able to easily access Marin's natural beauty is one of the primary reasons we live here.

Thank you.

Lori Lerner

Terrie Gillen

From: Grant Welling <grantmwelling@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board

I am a 66-year old local firefighter who has received disabling injuries from two (2) industrial accidents resulting in 3 spine surgeries. Utilizing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II, and the District's equal access policy, I continue to ride and enjoy various protection roads in the watershed using my Class 1 Riess Muller ebike.

Even the most ardent critic would cite –

1. While riding his ebike he is courteous to others using the watershed
2. He doesn't ride carelessly or use excessive speed
3. When he sees a mount, he stops and asks the horseperson if they are ok if he rides on

As a chief officer responsible for drafting policies and procedures, I appreciate the challenge the District faces when working diligently to create and maintain a safe watershed environment. I believe many of the most effective policies are those which are concise, crystal clear, and easily enforceable. That said, I submit for your consideration the following concept...

Regardless whether an individual(s) is on foot, horseback, mountain bike, or using an ADA compliant mobility device, if anyone is acting in a manner that is unsafe, i.e., excessive speed or displaying a lack of care and courtesy for the safety of others in the watershed, or are hiking, riding, or running off trail in environmentally sensitive areas, etc., then I believe the district ranger(s) should cite the offending individual(s) based on the quantifiable behavior. I.e., if I could still ride a regular mountain bike, and I'm bonsai-ing through the watershed recklessly, I should be cited. However, if I were on my class 1 ebike, demonstrating the aforementioned items 1, through 3, then my behavior would fall well within the District policy for safe and appropriate conduct.

The abovementioned concept distilled, I believe an individual should be cited based on behavior that is in violation of district policy, rather than the medium the individual(s) employs to enjoy the watershed.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Wishing you and yours healthy, safe, happy holidays!

Best,
Grant

Terrie Gillen

From: SCOTT HOCHSTRASSER <slh1ipa@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I want to add my voice and support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I have been a Fairfax resident for 40 years ridding my Mt bike on watershed fire roads with my friends and family. I am 70 now, still ridding and find the hill climbs much more of a task than when I started. My 3 grandsons and granddaughter want Papa to show them the joys of riding in Marin. They have dreams of ridding where the Mt bike was founded.

I have been a practicing land use planner in Marin for 35 years working with local governments and private land owners to add open space and trail connections to District properties with great success. I am proud to be able to show the results of this work to my grandkids. My E-bike use allows me to do this.

Let's continue to lead, give our followers access to our amazing wild places in Marin. The outdoor opportunity for young and old alike bonds us as families in healthy outdoor activities. The 21st century's here, the e-bike technology allows all of us equal access let's give it a try.

Scott Hochstrasser @ IPA, Inc.
415-572-2777 - slh1ipa@aol.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Tom Persons <tpersons@piedpg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support 8607

I have been away from mtn biking for quite a few years We all value the watershed areas and Marin mtn biking and hiking It is a good mental release especially during the pandemic We can all respectfully share the fire roads

I am able to bike again with assist as the uphill doesnt tweak my back like it used to

Lets try a three year run

These bikes dont go any faster down as we dont use assist Its only uphill and u cant go very fast even with assist so i dont see any difference really

Thank you all for your efforts and concern

Tom Persons

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Donald Herzog <donalddherzog@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:02 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

Dear MMWD Board Members,

Please enact Resolution 8607 permitting E-bikes on watershed fire roads.

I have enjoyed hiking and bicycling the MMWD for almost 60 years. I am now 78 years old with the physical limitations that come with aging. I desperately want to continue enjoying the watershed and exercising, and an e-bike is my only viable option.

I have watched and participated in the trail wars for decades and am appalled that bicyclists are still treated as second class citizens when it comes to access. It is time for that to change. Let's start now. Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Donald Herzog
45 E Manor Dr,
Mill Valley, Ca 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Jonathan <jerbesq@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Oppose Electric Bikes on Mt. Tam

Dear Board,

As a Mill Valley resident and mountain biker for over 30 years, and e-bike enthusiast, I do not believe pedal assist ebikes or any ebikes should be allowed on Mt. Tam *without a permit*. Pedal assist Ebikes are ridden too fast uphill. They are too easy to get on the trail by unskilled riders.

If people are willing to take a two hour course, virtually, (there are ways to check compliance) and pay a modest annual fee to fund an ebike traffic control person to give tickets or revoke permits and provide education, that would be good.

You could also have designated ebike trails or designated hours, or days to ride an ebike.

There is no automatic right to use new technology however you want. As a society, we need to be more willing to compromise absolute freedom for reasonable regulations for the good of all. If you can afford a \$2,000 minimum mountain ebike, you can afford a \$50 annual permit.

You should be at least 14 years old to obtain a solo use permit without an adult accompanying you. We have two kids. Before age 14, they did have enough sense to ride a motorized vehicle safely.

Thank you for considering this point of view. I know you have a thankless task.

Jonathan Erb
14 Midway Ave.
Mill Valley, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: MARK STRAUSS <f64doc@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear board members,

Using an E bike for me is the only way I can access so many beautiful trails in Marin. My knee does not allow me to go any other way. I am 62 and still wanted to have experiences in nature. Please allow three bikes. There are not any more dangerous than mountain bikes since you're going up the hill slow and when you come down you can only go so fast. Thank you for your consideration.

I Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Mark Strauss
San Rafael California

Terrie Gillen

From: lani green <lanigreen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know! Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Terrie Gillen

From: Craig Herzog <herzoggeo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please Pass Resolution 8607

I am writing in support of Resolution 8607. I have been hiking and biking MMWD lands my whole life, and e-bikes have recently allowed two of my family members in poorer health to access these areas with me. My interactions with e-bike users have been very positive, and I have noted them to be respectful of the environment and other trail users. I am hopeful that they can continue to share the trails, and that age and health issues need not prevent the enjoyment and appreciation of these wilderness areas.

Thank you,

Craig Herzog
70 Woodside Lane
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: liz bernstein <lizbernstein@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am in support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

My husband was a quadriplegic from a genetic disease and had a eroad bike and it changed his and my life. We were able to ride together again which we had not been able to do for about 6-7 years. I would have loved for him to be on the trails with me. Please consider.

Terrie Gillen

From: paul daro <paul_daro@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I would like to voice my support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. I am an avid hiker and biker in watershed lands. As I get older, I find the long and steep hills of Marin difficult to climb on a bike. A class One pedal-assist has been instrumental in keeping me fit and outdoors in my 60's.

Having ridden self-powered bikes for decades, and now an e-bike for 2+ years, I don't see any difference in impact on trails or other users. Using an e-bike just turns me into a younger and fitter version of myself!

I think many opponents of e-bikes do not actually understand what they are, and are simply thinking of them as motorcycles. Please keep this in mind as you evaluate feedback.

THank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Paul Daro
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Mad Dogs & Englishmen <info@maddogsenglishmen.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Please do not fall prey to the haters! Please don't even consider banning class one ebikes on Mount Tam.

I encourage each of you to ride up Mount Tam on a Specialized Turbo Levo. If you haven't done this ride on an ebike you will have a hard time fully appreciating the experience and what it is truly all about. It's basically a regular bike that just gives you optional assistance on climbing the hills. I am almost 50 and would be challenged to try to do this ride on a regular bike.

Almost all you see going up the fire roads these days is Specialized Levo mountain bikes. We see so many couples riding together. We see families of all ages and abilities riding together. Why would anyone want to prevent this? Unless they just don't want to share access. Let's face it, that's what this is really all about. Increased access and use of the trails and parklands is perceived as a negative by many that don't want to share. Instead, we should be applauding people for getting out of their homes and cars and enjoying our beautiful parklands.

I get that there are a lot of riders that don't want to share the trails, and they see ebike riders as cheaters. They also know that ebikes allow others the opportunity to get out and ride on the trails that they have had all to themselves. Not too long ago the cheaters were anyone that dared to ride a mountain bike with suspension. Change is hard for many people. And people that are used to having it their way don't like to share. And if you go way back, the cheaters would have been the folks that got to the top of Mount Tam in a gravity car pushed by a train. How dare they not hike to the top.

Seriously, the parks and trails should be for everyone to enjoy. I pay a lot in taxes. This land is our land, not this land is for the select few. If cyclists don't want to share, let them pay membership fees to ride on private lands. But public lands should be just that- public.

Who rides ebikes-

Older people that don't have the endurance or stamina they did in the past

People of all ages that want to ride with friends, but their friends are better athletes than they are and they can't keep up on the same rides without some assistance

Handicap people and people with physical disabilities

Women that want to ride with their spouses but can't keep up (and this could also be said in reverse)

Families that want to level the playing field so all riders in the family can enjoy the same experience together no matter what their endurance or skill level is

Endurance riders that want to ride farther and longer

People who want to have fun and enjoy the beauty of our natural parklands

Young people who opt for an ebike in lieu of their first car- like the captain of the Mount Tam Basketball Team

Overweight people looking to improve their health and get outdoors

Competitive people that want to embrace the latest cutting edge technology

Moms (and dads) that ditch the car to bike their kids around

I swear, for a community that loves cycling so much, it is mind blowing that this is even being considered! How can a community love cycling yet in the same breath want to hinder or discourage others from cycling? Why? Because they choose to ride a bike that gives them optional assistance with climbing hills? Really?

News flash... not everyone that rides does so to get in shape or be competitive. Some people just like to ride bikes and have fun, and enjoy the beauty of our magical natural setting. That's me. That's most of my friends and family. That's why, as a female, I chose to open a bike shop that specializes in ebikes in Mill Valley.

Every day people come in to rent or buy bikes. They bike up Mount Tam to West Point Inn and come back with an amazing grin saying the ride was life changing and so empowering. Do you really want to squash this? Why? To appease the haters. I sure hope not.

I will offer complimentary rides to anyone that wants to see what this is all about. I would love for the entire board to go on a group ride. We would be happy to facilitate this.

Here are two bikes- one is a regular bike and one is a class 1 ebike. There is virtually no difference. Specialized makes by for riders, by riders. They have been making ebikes for 10 years. The Federal Parklands opened up trails to ebikes last year. Bikes are evolving, please support this exciting evolution that gets more people on bikes!



SPECIALIZ

STUMPJUMPER

S-Works Stumpjumper

\$9,500

+ COMPARE





SPECIALIZ

TURBO LEVO

+ COMPARE



Best,
Jennifer, owner
Mad Dogs & Englishmen
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/d77a8b73/8vF15ogbb0ea5YFq8YzfsA?u=http://www.maddogsenglishmen.com/>
Jennifer @maddogsenglishmen.com

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Harry Shulman <hshulman@HEALTH-LAW.COM>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bike Access to Trails

To the Board:

I have been an avid mountain bike rider in Marin for over 25 years. Now, I am 71 years old, and I can no longer enjoy the trails without the help of my e-bike, which is an essential piece of equipment for this activity. Mountain bike riding is very important to me, as a matter of both physical and mental health. I know that there are many others who share this perspective. I see more and more e-bikes on the trails, and I have never seen them operated irresponsibly. I also do not believe that they can be any harder on the trails than other uses. I weigh less than 150 pounds, which combined with the weight of my e-bike is no heavier than many other riders on conventional bikes, to say nothing of hikers and horse back riders. I urge you to recognize officially that e-bike riders are valued members of our community and should have the same access to local trails that other users enjoy.

Regards,
Harry Shulman 415-307-3464

Terrie Gillen

From: George Tanaka <ghtanakamd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am writing to voice my support for this bill.

I am a middle aged bike enthusiast who isn't in as great shape as he used to be. I need some assistance in getting up those hills and ebikes have been a godsend to me, so that I may continue to enjoy the beautiful trails that make Marin County such an enjoyable place to live.

Please allow ebikes access on MMWD watershed fire roads -- the health and well being of countless Marin County residents depends on continued access to these valuable recreational areas!

Sincerely,
H. George Tanaka, MD

Terrie Gillen

From: Noah Budnick <noahbudnick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I support Resolution 8607

Dear Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors,

I support allowing class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on Marin Municipal Water District fire roads and urge you to support Resolution 8607.

I walk, hike, bike and walk my dog on designated trails in the watershed. It's a very special place, and I love being able to experience it in different ways. I also love seeing a wide variety of others use this amazing open space, and I strongly believe that class-1 pedal assist e-bike users should be among them.

Class-1 pedal assist e-bikes are safe, environmentally-friendly and healthy forms of recreation and transportation. They empower people who are unable to access the outdoors under their own power to experience the majesty of the watershed and take advantage of the physical and mental health benefits of exercise.

Allowing people to use class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on Marin Municipal Water District fire roads is a step towards greater social equity. Prohibiting them would be regressive and deprive many in our communities from the quality of life benefits of enjoying the Water District.

Please support Resolution 8607. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Noah Budnick
Berkeley, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Tom Fischer <tsfischer@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Cyndi Devereaux
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

Dear Board

I wanted to express my support for Resolution 8607 to allow class 1 pedal assist bikes on MMWD watershed roads.

I've been an avid road and mountain biker for many years. I've recently incurred a knee injury, and having an e-bike allows me to continue to enjoy my passion and stay healthy. It also allows me to ride with my wife and family. We've always been respectful of the trails and safety of others, and using an e-bike rather than the traditional mountain bike doesn't affect our judgement at all... it simply allows us to keep riding.

I strongly urge you to pass this resolution.

Respectfully,

Tom

Tom Fischer
415.384.0100 W
415.505.5428 C
tsfischer@icloud.com

Terrie Gillen

From: AJ <agtis88@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Motorized Bikes

Marin Water District Board of Directors

It has come to my attention that the Marin Water District is considering a 3 year trial period to allow motorized Bikes or E-Bikes on District fire roads. As a long time supporter of the Water District and a member of the Equestrian Community including Novato Horsemen, Inc. (past President and President Elect), Tamalpais Trail Riders, Inc. (President) and other equine groups, the current proposal to allow E-Bikes on fire roads is not safe for hikers and horses and their riders. I would ask that you reject this proposal.

These motorized bikes are not compatible with people hiking/walking or riders and their horses. What is next, is the Water District going to permit ATVs, Dirt Bikes or motorized carts. There are ample opportunities for people to experience and enjoy the district's property. The Board has a responsibility to consider the safety of all users and allowing motorized or ebikes is dangerous and will jeopardize the safety of hikers and equines and their riders.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important topic.

Aldo J. Gigliotti

Terrie Gillen

From: Thompson, Tracy (AGCS) <tracy.thompson@agcs.allianz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebike's on trails

I have to voice my concern having ebikes on the trails. These are "motorized vehicles" that can go up to 25 miles per hour. Now we will have bike's flying uphill as well as downhill. I have already had several ebikes flying by me on the trail and had to jump out of the way. Can't imagine being on horseback. What's the different in just opening up the trails to motorcycles? This is just opening up more trail accidents.

Please, please keep our trails safe, we all have to share. No motorized vehicles!!!!

Tracy Thompson
2385 Center Road
Novato, CA 94947

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Terrie Gillen

From: alex buck <alex_pb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: bulletin@marinbike.org; The New Wheel; Tom Boss
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Honorable Members of the Marin Municipal Water District Board,

I am a 59 year old Marin County resident who has been riding an eBike since the autumn of 2016, writing in support of Resolution 8607.

I've found on average I'm actually one of the younger folks on an eBike. Most of the other riders I encounter are older longer term riders who have switched to eBikes so they can keep pedaling and maintain their health. This is the reason why I switched to an eBike.

I have found most eBike riders to be as or more mindful of the rules of the road and etiquette than many other younger riders on human powered bicycles.

I have found my eBike to be more environmental friendly as it is more stable and less flickable than my old light mountain bike, thus doing less damage to the trail itself. The stability also adds to a better sense of safety.

I follow the rules of the road as illustrated by the sign below. I pick up litter whenever I see it on the mountain. We are fortunate and blessed to live in such a beautiful place.

Personally, I hope MMWD would consider class 1 eBikes be allowed on the trails without a permit. I will get a permit during the 3-year trial period if that is what the board mandates.

Respectfully yours,

Alexander Buck
Tam Junction resident



Terrie Gillen

From: Tim Gilbert <timagilbert@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

My wife and I have enjoyed hiking and biking on Water District lands for 30 years. As we are now in our 70's we have shifted to ebikes. Ebikes allow us to extend our range and explore our County in ways we were unable to as hikers or bikers.

We were disappointed and perplexed that the Water District banned access District fire roads for our slow, safe e bike rides. It's time to dispel the myth that hordes of crazy e bikers will descend on Water District roads with this 3-year trial.

We support your careful inclusion of e-bikes, enabling seniors like us to enjoy the resources of Water District Lands.

Tim and Suzanne Gilbert
Sun Valley, San Rafael

Terrie Gillen

From: Kevin Pratt <kpratt@prattcompany.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi,

I live in Corte Madera, and at 56 years of age, I can't quite handle the steep hills it takes to get up Mt. Tam on my old bike. E-bikes are a revelation! They allow me to continue biking and enjoying the outdoors, and stay healthy. Please try the experience, and I'm confident you'll see they're much more like regular bikes, than mopeds or motorcycles.

I love Marin for it's outdoors; let's keep it accessible to all of us!

Kevin Pratt
The Pratt Company
591 Redwood Highway
Suite 2150
Mill Valley, CA 94941
415-381-5000 x 12
415-606-1494 (cell)
kpratt@prattcompany.com

Terrie Gillen

From: STEVEN KAYSER <srkayser@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Dear members of the Board,

I would like to express my strong support for Resolution 8607 which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3-year trial period. I have been an advocate for the recreational use of the MMWD lands by hikers, equestrians and bicyclists for 50 years. When I moved to Marin County in 1970 I began to use the lands and to develop a strong conservancy of its beauty. Cyclists share, along with all users, an interest in resource protection, respect for wildlife and the safety of others. Pedal assist e-bikes provide access to the environment for an increasing number of people, especially those with any kind of physical disability who have not been able to enjoy access. They also allow access to family groups of all ages. I strongly agree that they must be used safely and responsibly, as should all other cyclists, equestrians and hikers who use these lands.

A three-year trial period to evaluate and to seek input on the environmental and social impact is important. I believe we can all participate and contribute to meeting this goal.

Sincerely

Steve Kayser
Novato

Terrie Gillen

From: Margaret Rodgers <mroddersmd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e bikes

Dear MMWD;

This letter is to voice my support for 8607 authorizing a trial period of e-bikes in the watershed.

I am 64 years old and a Life Member of the Sierra Club. I love being outside in our beautiful county and appreciate the wonderful landscapes, flora and fauna. Every day I am grateful for our preserved open space.

I have a foot injury that makes hiking impossible. I work and work to maintain the fitness required to climb Marin's hills on a bike but at best am very slow and unable to keep up with my friends. At worst, I am unable to get up the hills at all. My e-bike, which I use legally, allows me to climb and join my mostly younger friends, and my children. The current restrictions on e-bike use mean I cannot join them on most rides. It is such a joy to ride through our grasslands and woodlands and to see the amazing views. E-biking has restored my soul during this time of Covid 19.

I am grateful you are considering allowing e-bikes in the watershed. The findings of locations that have allowed e-bike use, and multiple studies of their effects on the environment lead me to believe you will not regret the trial. Please give us a chance.

Sincerely,

Margaret Rodgers MD

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael <michael@visualpursuit.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Naturalist and photographer brought in by Casey May...

Dear MMWD Board Members,

I am the naturalist and professional nature photographer (National Geographic, Smithsonian, Audubon, etc.) that was brought in by then Superintendent Casey May back in the 1990s. I had ATV access to the back country all around Kent Lake and Bolinas ridge for 10 years. I produced photographs which I shared with the district for educational purposes. During that time I notified the district (for the first time) that mountain yellow-legged frogs (endangered)were on the property, I notified the district where the nesting spotted owls were primarily located, discovered homeless encampments, fire pits, illegal trails being built and notified the rangers numerous times of motorcycles on the property as well.

I am dedicated to the environmental health and well-being of the watershed as well as the concept of fair use and access for all. I myself own an E bike and feel there is absolutely no impact difference between a bike with some assist and a standard bike. In fact, it addresses an access issue that was created a couple of years ago when the steep erosion prevention swales were put in on the fire roads dramatically changing access for older people and those with physical limitations.

Sincerely, Michael Sewell

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/fccb28a4/SxBP7EtwJk63T5xHA7BIHA?u=http://www.visualpursuit.com/>

Terrie Gillen

From: Clark French <clarkfrench@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Dear MMWD Board,

With regard to your vote on Resolution 8607, I ride a Class-1 pedal assist e-bike on MMWD fire roads at least four days a week. I am an aging mountain biker, having respectfully ridden the trails for 30 years. My knees and back are failing, I am slowing down, and my e-bike gives me access to the mountain and allows me to ride with my more fit children and friends. Since I am riding to the mountain on my e-bike, rather than driving, I am also conserving gasoline and reducing congestion on the road. Mt Tamalpais is a sacred place for me, and I am in support of resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. I see no reason why pedal assist Class-1 e-bikes are not aligned with all of these interests.

Sincerely,

Clark French

Stinson Beach, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Terry Bunton <trtcake@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:37 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi water district board, as and older rider (I'm 87) I find it difficult to ride the trails I once did.

Being able to enjoy the mountain on an E-bike, while staying healthy would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration, Terry Bunton.

Terrie Gillen

From: Jon Yolles <jonyolles@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Ken Meislin
Subject: Support of Resolution 8607

Dear MMWD,

I write as a Mill Valley resident, active hiker and cyclist, and Mill Valley Planning Commissioner to my voice support for Resolution 8607, allowing class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD's watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

First, kudos on the community process in which you've engaged a diverse group of stakeholders leading to the proposed Resolution and trial period.

Clearly, Marin is a highly active community, in large part thanks to the open space offerings so close to it, most notably the MMWD. By providing this trial period to a large new group of recreational e-bike users, MMWD would be continuing to support health, fitness and recreational opportunities that are so important to all who can take advantage of them.

As a Mill Valley Planning Commissioner, partnering with MMWD in a way that preserves and promotes access to immediately adjacent open space, in a way that is both consistent with MMWD's Mission and Goals, as well as Mill Valley's land use principles, which seek to protect and promote access to the natural environment, will serve the interests of both of our stakeholders well.

On a personal level, in addition to hiking, I alternate between traditional and pedal assist e-mountain biking, and confess that e-bikes are more fun, and enable me to see more of Mount Tam than I otherwise would, which contributes toward getting me (and many friends) exercising more often, which promotes better health outcomes, something that should be at the forefront of our decision making, especially in these challenging times.

I hope you agree that the use of class I pedal-assist ebikes is not inconsistent with MMWD's Mission or Goals. The watershed can still be protected, user conflicts minimized with the benefit of signage and other measures, and erosion minimized with the benefit of educational signage, which frankly could be informative to all cyclists.

As a hiker, biker and conservationist, resource protection is important to me, and like most other hikers and cyclists, I take care in minimizing impacts to trails, recognizing they are only as good to us as we are to them.

Thank you for considering this vote of support in favor of Resolution 8607.

Sincerely,
Jon Yolles

Terrie Gillen

From: charles merrill <merrill.c.a@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I support Resolution 8607

Hello,

I fully support the use of Class 1 eBikes on MMWD watershed roads as allowed under Resolution 8607.

I am a 60+ year old age group competing cyclist. I have been a Marin resident for 50+ years and have been hiking/riding/running MMWD lands several times a week since 1970.

My wife (also a former competitive age group cyclist and runner) was run down by a truck while in a bike path and after 4 years of surgeries and rehab is just now able to ride an eBike.

She will never feel safe on a road again but needs the outdoor experience that eBikes provide.

She requires safe, connected routes between communities that include MMWD fireroads.

As a member of Nature Friends Tourist Club, Project Thorn (Tangible Help Our Rhinos Need) and other Wildlife Advocacy groups I find the Sierra Clubs position specious.

My cycling friends are hyper aware of wildlife on MMWD lands. I personally stopped and moved 6+ snakes (Rattlers and a King) from harms way on Fireroads this year.

In 50 years of cycling in Marin I have only seen one snake that appeared to have been hit by a bike (or horse) and have seen dozens hit by cars on the roads of Mt Tam.

A few weeks ago I passed within 10 feet of a Red Shouldered hawk sitting on a boulder alongside Rocky Ridge fireroad. It did not budge. It would not have allowed a hiker nor dog that close without flying away but it did not see a bicycle as a threat.

Marins' population is aging. eBikes provide access to the outdoors with little/no impact.

I encourage you to approve Resolution 8607 allowing the trial period.

Best regards,
Charles Merrill
Fairfax, CA

--

I support [ProjectThorn](#)'s mission to fund tangible projects protecting endangered Rhinos in South Africa.

Terrie Gillen

From: Arkell Rasiah <arkellrasiah@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board,

I am writing to express my support for resolution 8607 towards a 3-year trial program for ebikes.

Bike riding to me is a recreational and wellness preserving activity.

Im in my mid 50s and I have found it a great way to maintain good cholesterol levels. ;) Ive been an emtb rider since 2017 but am also a road bike rider.

That said the primary reason I off-road (emtb) or road ride (road bike)... is to be outdoors and explore Marin... the sights, sounds, flora, fauna and wildlife.. over the seasons.

It connects me to place which has now been home to me for some 20years.

Sincerely,
Arkell Rasiah
Ross, CA 94957
EMTB: Specialized Levo
Road Bike: Pinarello

Terrie Gillen

From: Andrew Bogardus/USA <Andy.Bogardus@cushwake.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607! Class-1 pedal assist ebikes should be allowed on MMWD watershed

I am very much in favor of Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I am a 60 year old retired mountain biker with two hip replacements. Ever since I purchased a class-1 mountain ebike I have again been able to enjoy the sport. The class-1 assist gives me that little extra to get be up the hills and try to keep up with my 25 year old son. Turns out he still typically is ahead of me on the flats and the gradual up hills, but when it gets steeper, I can usually stay with him or go ahead. It has been so much fun to be able to ride a mountain bike again and enjoy getting out into nature and the great outdoors of Marin.

I have lived in Marin for most of my life and grew up with a nature loving mother who was an avid birder and took us on hikes all over Marin. I spent many days as a youth with Mrs. Terwilliger out in nature and was even in one of her educational movies, so I have a passion to keep Marin County as pristine as possible.

I can promise you that I will help police the other ebike riders on the trails who may not be observing the rules.

Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Andy Bogardus

415 269-0599

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Terrie Gillen

From: Brandon Hemley <brandon.hemley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Brandon Hemley
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

Dear Board Members,

I am an avid mountain biker and hiker in Corte Madera. I write to voice my support for Resolution 8607, to permit Class I electric bikes in the Mt. Tam Watershed. I mainly ride an analog mountain bike, but I have many friends riding e-bikes now, as we are not getting any younger. I have also ridden them myself. I know from experience that “excessive speed” is not really an issue with these bikes. They may go uphill slightly faster than regular pedal bikes, but they are no faster going downhill. Downhill speeds are effectively the same on analog and electric bikes, naturally regulated by the rider’s self-interest in safety. Most riders use e-bikes not to “go fast” but to require less physical effort to go at normal bicycle speeds, to get up steep hills, and to cover longer distances. Speeds for e-bikes can and should be regulated with posted speed limits if necessary (say 10 or 15 mph) in any “flattish” areas where riders might be tempted or able to push them to their maximum speed limits of 20 mph. I firmly believe there is ample room for e-bikes on the Marin County trail system, subject to appropriate speed limits.

Thanks for considering these comments. I hope you will vote in favor of allowing e-bikes.

Brandon Hemley
320 Redwood Ave.
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Terrie Gillen

From: Connellan Coxwell <connellanc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Yes to Ebikes

Please allow ebikes. It has been a great way for me to get biking again.

Terrie Gillen

From: Philip Pillsbury <ppillsbury@pillsburycoleman.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Bob Mittelstaedt; Stu Ryan; Boyd Fellows; Sharon Pillsbury
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!
Attachments: PastedGraphic-2.tiff

Dear MMWD board:

I strongly support resolution 8607. I have been a long time environmentalist (long time past chair and current board member of Yosemite Conservancy) and I have lived in Ross for more than 30 years.

I'm 71, and I purchased an e-bike for Mt Tam (where I have ridden for many years) because I am no longer able to access the fire roads without assistance. This is great for my health, and now I can continue to ride with children and grandchildren. I believe access to the mountain is critical for seniors, and their families, and I urge you to pass Resolution 8607.

Sincerely,

Philip Pillsbury

PHILIP L. PILLSBURY, JR.

21 Makin Grade, Ross, CA

PPILLSBURY@PILLSBURYCOLEMAN.COM

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Terrie Gillen

From: Joseph Garcia <Zoe.w1Gd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes

Today I turned 72 and have come to enjoy Marin's wonderful outdoors more than ever due to e-biking the last 12 months. I live in Larkspur and now actually know rather than just see the hills around us. It has made me more interested in their protection and preservation. My peddle e-bike allows me to visit areas I would not normally because I have two bad knees for walking. I would love to visit Water District lands on my bike. What a blessing they are!

Joe Garcia

Terrie Gillen

From: Glenda Corning <glenda@meadowsweetdairy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

To Whom it May Concern:

I am in favor of Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I am 64 years of age and e-bikes have changed my life. The pedal assist they give enables me to access steeper areas and go longer distances. I use one bike for my grocery shopping and errands and another for recreational riding. Riding in traffic is not relaxing and while I do it on a regular basis, I would appreciate being able to have legal access to fire roads and bicycle paths for a more soul expanding experience of nature. In these days of the pandemic with social isolation as a constant stressor, communing safely in nature is critically important to our collective well-being. As a law-abiding citizen, I want this to be legal. I believe we can do this safely and conscientiously and think it is worth giving it a try. This sort of experience should not only be available to the young and superbly fit when there is a way for others to responsibly share it too. This is why I ask you to please support Resolution 8607.

I am an environmentalist and my efforts are focused on enhancing biodiversity through the rehabilitation of marshland, sustainable agricultural and forestry practices and the protection and expansion of habitat for pollinators and birds. The success of all of these efforts lies in engaging the community in understanding the importance of the resource one is trying to protect. We have an opportunity to do that here. Providing access to wild places in a sustainable way will help my generation stay in touch with them while fostering the love and support of the next generation in protecting them.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.
With kind regard,

Glenda Corning
Meadowsweet Dairy

811 Meadowsweet Dr.
Corte Madera, CA 94925
415.519.6200
glenda@meadowsweetdairy.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Terry Berkemeier <jtberkemeier@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Marin Water Board Members

As an avid 71 year old who has been riding e-bikes for many years, racking up two to three thousand miles each year, I strongly support your proposal for a three year trial of class one e-bikes on water district fire roads and, in an ideal world, all trails where conventional mountain bikes may be legally ridden within water district areas.

Having accumulated over 10,000 miles on e-bikes over recent years, both on road and off, I have observed the following:

Any excess disruption caused by e-bikes is about the same as it is for conventional bikes - disruption is related more to the age of the rider than the type of bike.

Both e-bikes and conventional bikes tend to cause less trail damage than do horses.

The extra weight of e-bikes is not a hugely significant factor for two reasons. The increased weight is usually offset by larger tire footprints. And the weight increase of an e-bike plus rider is only between 10% to 20% of that of a conventional bike plus rider, which is of the same order of magnitude as the increase in tire size that is frequently seen on e-bikes.

I am encouraged by your plans for increased monitoring of rider and bike behaviour and interactions during the trial period. I am hopeful that during this period you will compile many observations about interactions between all types of trail users, without focusing solely on e-bikes.

Thank you.

Julius Berkemeier
10 Palm Court
Larkspur, CA, 94939

Tel: 415-548-0361

Terrie Gillen

From: bill@123-floor.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board,

Thank you for your service and consideration of Resolution 8607. I ask for your support to allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

As an e-bike owner I have been able keep myself in shape and explore my local area. I have been biking here for 20+ years. Because of the e-bike I ride more often. It allows me to climb up from my own neighborhood to access your trail system. The e-bike allows me to visit less traveled areas for spectacular views and nature. I tread lightly as I want to preserve it for my kids. Being outdoors grounds me and only increase my love of our neighborhood. My entire family hikes and bikes your trails. We participate in trail building, trail maintenance, and beach clean ups.

I often ride the same trails and run into my neighbors hiking and conventional biking. I frequently poll them to any concerns with e-bikers. Not one complaint.

Please give it a 3 year trial. Our community will self police and work with you to address any problems. That has already happened on my local trail. All e-bikers want the trails to be safe and accessible for everyone's enjoyment.

Thank you,
Bill Powell

Terrie Gillen

From: Robert Licht <bob@seatrek.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Bob Licht
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members,

I fit perfectly the demographic for using an ebike on MMWD land. I am 73 yrs. old and I've always been an active outdoors person. I was in the outdoor recreation business for 50 years until I retired in 2016. I live in Woodacre and regularly I am hiking up the ridge, riding my road bike and kayaking. For years I commuted to work in Sausalito, first on my road bike and then moved to an ebike. I put 6500 miles on that bike until I recently got an electric mountain bike. This has opened up a whole new world of possibilities as it is too steep for me to make the climbs now. Whereas it can take me all day to hike to these gorgeous, remote areas of our open space, I can now ride my ebike and access areas I have never even seen before. Or, like this winter, when the sun has disappeared from the Valley, I can be on the ridge enjoying the sun and solitude in a short time. It has been a game changer for me.

Quite honestly, I don't understand the resistance to allowing ebikes on the fire roads and designated single track trails. They are quiet and barely discernible from a regular mountain bike except that we can generally climb a bit faster. Going down hill they are the same. I need to be just as aware of the speed of my descents like any biker in order to be courteous to hikers or horses. The assist doesn't affect my downhill. Class 1 bikes make perfect sense. One does not need to go any faster than 20mph. You certainly aren't going that fast uphill.

I hope you will allow ebikes on MMWD land. Even Search and Rescue has discovered the advantages of ebikes. Ask them what they think of their impact.
Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Licht
Founder
Sea Trek Ocean Kayaking Center

Terrie Gillen

From: Truce Peter <peter@stdesigninc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Lou Klein; Jody Newman; Norm Romich; Contini Nora
Subject: E bikes in watershed

Hi!

As a long time resident of Marin and a frequent hiker, I am not sure what your meeting tonight hopes to accomplish. You must be aware that E-bikes are already using and damaging the trails in the watershed. Note the reality for these things:

No enforcement = no rules.

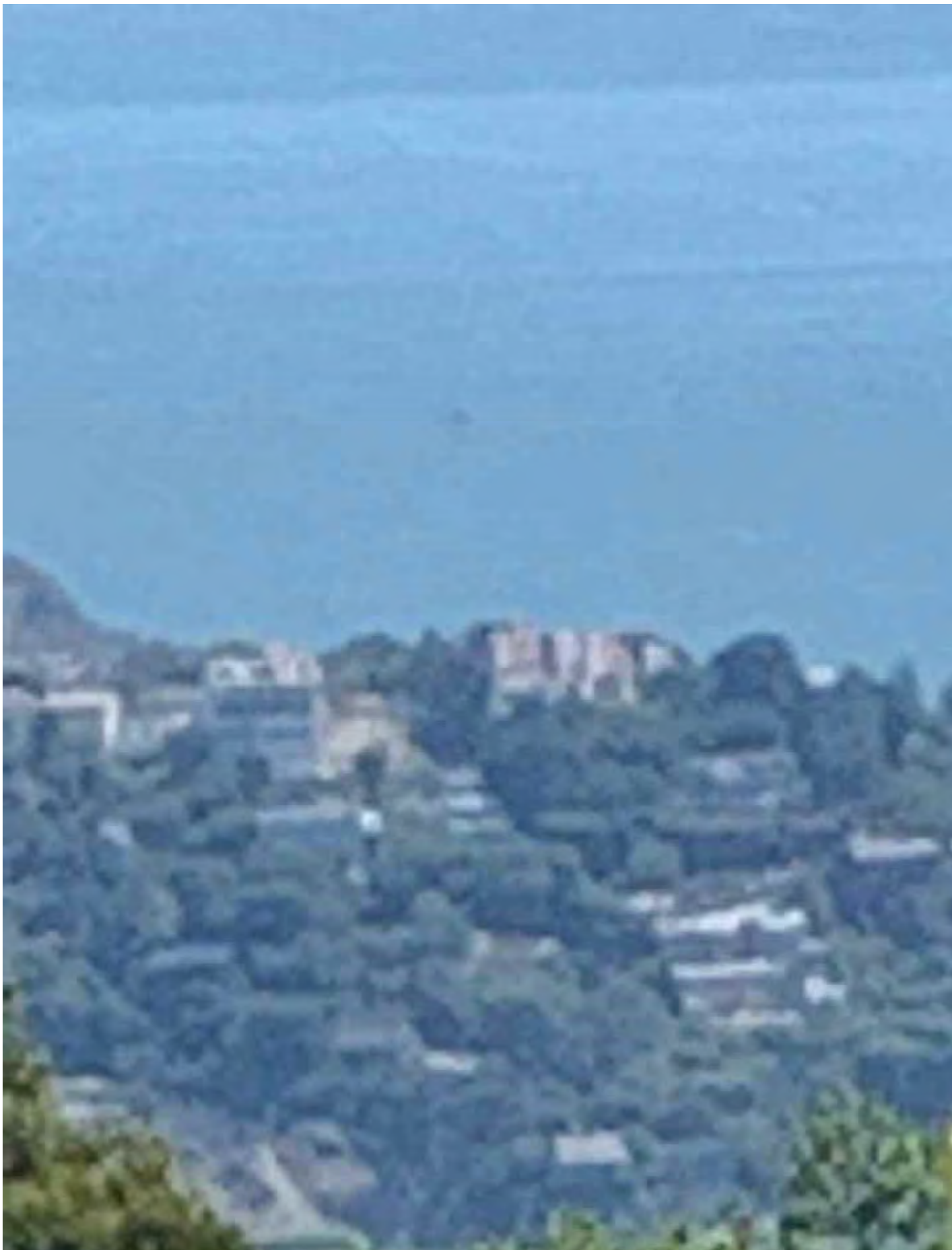
The bikers are well aware that there is no consequence for riding illegally on the trails. just check the International trail on Mt Tam to see some of the damage that a few thoughtless bikers have done in just a few weeks. Although it is a minority that is spoiling it for the rest, that minority is a frequent danger on the trails and the lack of enforcement of the rules has protected this activity for a while now.

Please do not allow the E-bikes on the trails and please enforce the rules by confiscating the e-Bikes when they illegally destroy our trails.

Please see attached for a photo of a motorcycle on Alta trail in May of this year. This is what will be next after the 20mph(!) bikes you are recommending. Do you really think that the bikers will limit themselves to 20mph? I predict 50mph e-bikes on the trails within a year ...

Thank you.

Peter Truce
12 Dominican Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901



Terrie Gillen

From: Mariette Shin
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Thank You

Dear Marin Water Board,

Thank you for recognizing the quality service that the employees continue to deliver despite the challenges of working under COVID restrictions. The District's represented employees appreciate the significance of the proposed contract extension and do not take it for granted.

Best Regards,

Marin Water Union Steward Council

Mariette Shin
Information Systems Analyst III - GIS



Marin Municipal Water District
220 Nellen Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925
t 415-945-1443
mshin@marinwater.org

Follow us on the [Web](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Nextdoor](#), and our [Blog](#).

Terrie Gillen

From: Sean O'Day <stodayhoo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Approve Resolution 8607

I support Resolution 8607.

I have enjoyed riding and hiking the trails in the Watershed for 30 years. This year I have seen many friends be able to get outdoors and have fun exercising on their new e-bikes. It has been rewarding to see these folks out on the trails getting fit and staying healthy. Approaching the age of 60, I find my fitness level and motivation to tackle another steep hill declining. So, I wrote a letter to Santa this year and requested an e-bike. I anxiously await Christmas morning to find out if I have made the good list.

Thank You,
Sean O'Day

Terrie Gillen

From: Ruth Nash <ruthk.nash94@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:08 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

We are elderly and we walk all over Marin County, including on the MMWD fire roads. And we have friends who for exercise and outdoor enjoyment ride the class-1, pedal-assist bikes where it is legal.

As long as bikers are polite and obey the 5 mph/15 mph rules you have put forward, we have no problem with any bike on the MMWD watershed fire roads.

Thank you for considering our support of e-bikes on MMWD fire roads.

Sincerely,
Ruth & Steve Nash
28 Bayo Vista Ave.
Larkspur, CA 94939

Terrie Gillen

From: Dick Gertridge <dgertridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Importance: High

I support Resolution 8607 — to allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. I love riding my 9-year-old mountain bike up Old Railroad Grade and other trails near our home on Marguerite Ave. But I just turned 66, and with a bad knee and just generally less strength than before, I can e-bike fire roads like that without the fear that I won't be able to make it up over the various small steep sections and rock outcroppings.

Our son and daughter-in-law just moved into a fixer-upper in San Anselmo, so now I relish the chance to ride with my son again. But I really can't keep up with him without an e-bike, so it's the only practical way for us to keep that great bond going.

As an active Bay Area native, lifelong surfer, cyclist, Environmental Studies major (UCSB '76), and Eagle Scout ('68), I've always been keenly interested in protecting key natural habitats — along with preserving recreational spaces to help keep us humans physically and mentally healthy. Marin's natural bounty obviously fits right into those fundamental values — and e-bikes allow aging geezers like me to "stay in the game" with our younger, stronger playmates, while respecting this beautiful watershed.

Let's do the 3-year trial period, put some responsibility on e-bike riders to respect whatever rules need to go with that, and evaluate the results after the trial.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dick Gertridge
112 Marguerite Ave.
Mill Valley
dgertridge@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: John Esrey <jesrey@sprintmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

We support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Our family uses ebikes to ride together. Having a family of young girls allows them to enjoy the mountains with their father. On many occasion, my wife or daughter has ridden with me on a traditional (non ebike) mountain bike. We otherwise would nt enjoy this family time together as my wife / daughter would not be able to accompany me on my weekly rides.

While riding, we absolutely respect wildlife and the safety of others. We are an outdoor family and enjoy the open space Marin has to offer.

Terrie Gillen

From: Colette Peters <colette00peters@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello-

I can't say enough how much my e-Mtb bike has changed my life. I was a serious road bike rider for 10 years until I had a back injury and had to say good by to my road bike. I stopped riding for 2 years, Until I purchase my pivot e-MTB in July. It has changed my life as I can ride with no pain and I still get the chance to be with my cycling community. I don't need to be fit to explore and enjoy a ride anymore.

I would be devastated if I was banned to ride the trails on my ebike!!! Seeing this even being an issue is giving me anxiety. Nothing I love more than taking my e-bike out and feeling blessed that I'm able to ride again with a bad back. Please please don't let this happen!!!

I respect all Legal trails and never poach or speed. I Always respect people walking and ring my bell to alert for space.

This is sad news if this gets taken away!

Colette

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Mike Kowalczyk <kowalczyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes

Dear MMWD,

I'm a 20 year resident of Marin. I've mountain biked in the County with my wife since 1998. Recently my wife developed a hip problem which hinders her ability to run and bike. A week ago I bought her an E bike with a medium level pedal assist which I hope will enable her to ride with me on the trails we've enjoyed for decades.

I hope you'll consider taking measures to permit e-bike riders to enjoy the trails on Tam and throughout the county.

Sincerely,
Michael Kowalczyk
San Geronimo, CA

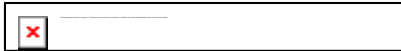
Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: bendavidsonphoto@gmail.com on behalf of Ben Davidson
<bendavidsonphoto@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: pedal assist e-mtn bikes

dear mmwd, i'm a 62 year old marin native (mill valley) and have been riding bikes on local fire roads since the 1960s (well before mtn bikes were invented by my tam high schoolmates). i love this sport and reported on the early days of dirt road and trail bicycling as a staff editor for Sunset magazine in the 1980s. i bought a class 1 e mtn bike this summer and throughly enjoy how these bicycles open up longer, more challenging fire road rides for me. the riding experience and minimal impact on the terrain is the same as regular mtn bikes. i'm sure many riders in their '60s would agree that these bikes are opening a recreational window for older riders who otherwise might be riding less or giving up this fantastic form of recreation. thanks for considering this trial period.
ben davidson

--



bendavidsonphoto.com

follow my photos on instagram

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/d428f665/BdsoPSruTU2tE9HLTr_ypA?u=http://www.instagram.com/benj davidson
415-250-9941 cell

Terrie Gillen

From: David Lehr <lehr.david@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

Hello Board Members,

I am writing to urge you to support Resolution 8607 and give the trial period a chance. I have been an avid bike rider for 60+ years and been riding ebikes for the past 2.

My ebike helps me keep up with my kids and cycling as I age. I also love being outside and in nature and am an active volunteer in maintaining biking trails to minimize any environmental impact.

This Resolution will give us a chance to learn how ebike users continue to bike as they age and to make data-based decisions on trail and public land access.

Please support this!

Thank you, Dave Lehr

Terrie Gillen

From: suzanne aranson <saranson9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: In support of e bikes

Dear MMWD,

I have been an avid cyclist most of my life. Recently my husband and I purchased e-gravel bikes. We have really enjoyed our open space even more. The quiet eases my mind and keeps me sane. As a nurse and mother of a child with special needs, this is a necessary way to blow off steam. It takes a lot of time to train to the level of riding a regular bike to quiet places. The e-bike gives that little push so I can get up that hill and enjoy the view!

Some points to consider:

~you cannot go any faster downhill

~bikes do not cause erosion and have a very light footprint on the roads ~getting out further into open places decreases crowds ~I can ride from home decreasing need for parking, another car off the road ~e-bikes make the outdoors more accessible to all

We have been really well received on fire roads on the mountain. I always announce "passing on left" or "woo-hoo." People are just happy to be outdoors!

Thank you for your considerations,

Suzanne Aranson, Novato

Terrie Gillen

From: Tom Verkozen <verkozen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: In Support of Resolution 8607

Thank you for bringing forward Resolution 8607. As a disabled Viet Nam vet, my e-bike is my ticket to enjoying the natural beauty of Marin County ... I ride safely and without rush, using my bell to announce my presence to hiker and equestrians ... thank you for opening fire roads, which allow me vistas that I haven't accessed in a long, long time.

Tom Verkozen
Lagunitas, CA

"Living well is an art form"

Terrie Gillen

From: Tomek Rondio <tomekrondio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support E-bike Resolution 8607!

Class 1 bicycles do not add any harm or risk to environment or people! On the other hand, they encourage outdoor activities and associated health and make this beautiful region available to many more people who are either physically challenged or have trouble keeping up with their friends. No harm, only gain for all !!
Tomek Rondio

Terrie Gillen

From: Geoffrey Fletcher <geoflet17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I am writing in support of resolution 8607 to allow electric bikes on Marin Water District fire roads. I am a regular user of these roads on my ebike as is my entire family, which is a great way to experience nature while at the same time being healthy and non-polluting.

In my view ebikes are becoming an essential way for many people, including myself to enjoy and appreciate nature - in fact for our older population, children and those who are not incredibly fit, many of the fire roads are long and steep and would be inaccessible for many who love being out in nature. Ebikes are becoming more popular - and as they do it gives wonderful new access to many places including fire roads to those who otherwise would not be able to enjoy them.

I believe that the vast majority of users of the fire roads, including ebike riders, are respectful of nature, avoid disrupting wildlife and take away all their litter - and I do not believe that ebikes create any new fire risk. As a local resident I use my ebike, with my family, regularly and have appreciated enormously the new access that these bikes provide us in a way that is environmentally positive.

I very much hope that your Board will continue to support increasing use of ebikes and keep restrictions on their use to a minimum while the 3 year study is taking place - and only create limitations in the very few situations where there is a proven and serious need.

Regards
Geoffrey Fletcher

Dr Geoffrey Fletcher
(415) 786 8127

Terrie Gillen

From: Daniel Cressman <tammandan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: MMWD - Please Vote Yes for Class 1 eBikes on Fire Roads

I am a Mill Valley resident and have been riding & hiking on Mt Tam for over 35 years. The past 3 of those 35 years have been my most enjoyable as I started riding an eBike exclusively. To date, I have ridden my Class 1 electric mountain bike on over 5,000 miles of Mt Tam fire roads & trails.

Riding an eMTB has given me the experience of climbing the steep hills of Mt Tam with a smile on my face while providing me with greater appreciation for the privilege of accessing the vast, pristine open space that is under the stewardship of MMWD.

I am also a volunteer Ride Leader with the Tam High Mountain Bike Team and without my pedal-assist mountain bike, I would not be able to participate with the team and share my riding experience & knowledge of Mt Tam & it's watershed with our local high schoolers.

I strongly urge MMWD to vote Yes for Class 1 eBikes on fire roads.

Thank you,

Daniel Cressman
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Annamarie Howard <onniehoward@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear MMWD Board Members,

My husband and I met while cycling and we love the outdoors. We used to road ride, too, but drivers are way too distracted these days so we started only mountain biking. A few years ago he was diagnosed with a chronic medical condition, coupled with working as an insulator (and often working with asbestos which left his lungs scarred) and he was unable to ride. So we stopped mountain bike riding. It got really depressing. Then he bought an e-bike and now we can ride together again. One of the criteria when we bought our house in Fairfax was to be near the trails and every time we get out we feel so grateful to be here and be able to hike and ride so close to home. We don't go any faster than we used to and always announce ourselves to fellow riders, hikers and horses. It is the same type of riding that we did when he didn't have an e-bike.

I emphatically support Resolution 8607 to allow e-bikes on the watershed fire roads for a 3-year trial period.

Sincerely,

Annamarie Howard
79 Scenic Road
Fairfax, CA 94930

Terrie Gillen

From: Stephen Gold <stephenlgold@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes

Dear Board members. I support the use of e-bikes on the trails of the water district land. I myself ride an e-bike on Mt.Tamalpais trails and I ride at the speed of a rider who does not have an electric assist. I do not speed on the trails because I respect the safety of all the users of the trail. I would not be able to ride without an electric assist , because I'm 80 years old. Please vote for the use of e-bikes. Thank you, Stephen Gold

From: Franz Weber <franz@franzweber.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Board Comment <boardcomment@marinwater.org>
Subject: Support E-Bikes on Watershed Fire Roads by Tuesday! 🚲

Happy to learn that there are so many others that converted to e-bikes and do something to educate the opposition – obviously I'm supporting this mission. Very similar when everyone objected the oversize tennis racquets with argument if you can't hit the ball don't play tennis – everyone now plays oversize request including all the professionals. A similar movement will take place with e-bikes and since they are non-polluting and totally quite it should be a matter of choice does not mandate. Cycling Legend Greg Lemond and his wife can now enjoy riding together – see **below**. BTW they are brand new designed e-bikes by Greg LeMond himself, incredible reasonable as they sell direct to consumer and offer a selection for everyone's personal needs. Good luck, stay healthy and safe. Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and only the very best in 2021.

Enthusiastically,

Franz

Franz Weber

Olympian & 6x World Speed Skiing Champion

Current North American Speed Skiing Record Holder

P.O. Box 34000

Reno, Nevada 89533 USA

Tel: +1 (775) 786-0226


Fax: +1 (775) 746-1993

Email: franz@franzweber.com

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/39f59667/J-3IYeXQa0CwzBO1eUQ4fw?u=http://www.franzweber.com/>

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3b7e4f79/AB7XDba2FEKDsPaDOREtiw?u=http://www.bullpenglobal.com/>

"Our goal is to provide unique life adventures that have my personal touch, which are not offered anywhere else, and that cannot be duplicated."

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: LeMond <info@lemond.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Franz Weber <franz@franzweber.com>
Subject: Welcome from Greg

[View in Your Browser](#)

LeMond

After spending the last two years designing and developing my ideal version of a carbon fiber electric bike, I am excited to share the final product with you. From the time we built up our first test bike, I've been putting it through its paces, riding around town and exploring the foothills of the Smokies here in Eastern Tennessee. These bikes are a blast! And the [Prolog](#) has become my go-to allrounder, handling everything from asphalt to gravel without even breaking a sweat.



[The LeMond Dutch Electric Bike](#)

My wife Kathy has also been testing the [Dutch](#), our electric carbon fiber reinterpretation of the classic step-through city bike. She's a fan and gives it her seal of approval. Finally, after all these years we are able to enjoy riding together.

I can't wait to get you on one of our bikes!

-Greg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg", written in a cursive style.

[Learn More at LeMond.com](#)



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From: Franz Weber <franz@franzweber.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Board Comment <boardcomment@marinwater.org>
Subject: Support E-Bikes on Watershed Fire Roads by Tuesday! 🚲

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Enthusiastically,

Franz

Franz Weber

Olympian & 6x World Speed Skiing Champion

Current North American Speed Skiing Record Holder

P.O. Box 34000

Reno, Nevada 89533 USA

Tel: +1 (775) 786-0226


Fax: +1 (775) 746-1993

Email: franz@franzweber.com

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/39f59667/J-3IYeXQa0CwzBO1eUQ4fw?u=http://www.franzweber.com/>

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3b7e4f79/AB7XDba2FEKDsPaDOREtiw?u=http://www.bullpenglobal.com/>

"Our goal is to provide unique life adventures that have my personal touch, which are not offered anywhere else, and that cannot be duplicated."

 *Please consider the environment before printing this email*

From: LeMond <info@lemond.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Franz Weber <franz@franzweber.com>
Subject: Welcome from Greg

[View in Your Browser](#)

LeMond

After spending the last two years designing and developing my ideal version of a carbon fiber electric bike, I am excited to share the final product with you. From the time we built up our first test bike, I've been putting it through its paces, riding around town and exploring the foothills of the Smokies here in Eastern Tennessee. These bikes are a blast! And the [Prolog](#) has become my go-to allrounder, handling everything from asphalt to gravel without even breaking a sweat.



[The LeMond Dutch Electric Bike](#)

My wife Kathy has also been testing the [Dutch](#), our electric carbon fiber reinterpretation of the classic step-through city bike. She's a fan and gives it her seal of approval. Finally, after all these years we are able to enjoy riding together.

I can't wait to get you on one of our bikes!

-Greg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg", written in a cursive style.

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Terrie Gillen

From: Judith Rogers <judithrogers94@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Terrie Gillen
Subject: Re: E-bikes 12/15/20 Board Meeting
Attachments: Preview of "E-bike MMWD letter - Google Docs".pdf

Hi Terrie,
Here is the second of those two letters from Sierra Club. This one is dated February 2020. The other letter was written today.

With sincere appreciation for your flexibility,
Judy Rogers

On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 3:18 PM Terrie Gillen <tgillen@marinwater.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Rogers,

Thank you for your emails. However, I am unable to open these letters. Can you please provide them in word or PDF?

Terrie Gillen, CMC

Board Secretary

From: Judith Rogers <judithrogers94@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Board Comment <boardcomment@marinwater.org>
Subject: E-bikes 12/15/20 Board Meeting

Dear MMWD,

Attached please find two letters from Sierra Club Marin Group for public comment at this evening's meeting.

Thank you,

Judy Rogers

Terrie Gillen

From: Priscilla Bull <pril2@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e-bike Special Use Permit

I fully endorse the comments submitted by Nona Dennis and Ann Thomas. MMWD should NOT proceed with the Special Use Permit at this time. The staff report indicates that other public land managers of the Mount Tamalpais watershed have not

yet completed a process for evaluating the impacts of e-bikes on non-paved trails. MMWD should collaborate with and learn from those processes.

The staff's assertion that the proposed Use Permit is for "information gathering" is disingenuous. The District is on the record that the watershed is currently overused, and that current rules regarding e-bikes are not being, and cannot effectively be enforced.

The proposed Strategic Plan for Recreation on the Watershed should be prepared and its findings form the basis for any further action regarding e-bikes keeping in mind MMWD's primary mission "to safeguard water quality and protect natural resources."

It's just a flood of horrible changes ☹️

Where did these people come from and why can't they mess up their own home towns
As if the mountain bikes weren't bad enough
GAG

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 11, 2020, at 6:12 PM, Valeri Hood <bertmbartsch@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Supervisors-
Please add my letter into the public record.

Today- as an early Christmas present, we learned that the board of MMWD is now considering handing over our precious watershed, to the bike coalition lobby and it's constituents who feel entitled to ride motorized vehicles in heretofore, ostensibly, off limit lands. While the outreach letter below, clearly speaks to the use of fireroads- already highly impacted by e-bikes, the reality that we all experience is that these motorized vehicles are already using single track, pedestrian trails, throughout the watershed- in increasing numbers, daily, sometimes alone sometimes in large packs.

Two days ago, as I was walking through Elliot Nature preserve, on a one person wide trail, 5 mountain bikers came zooming down on me; 3 days ago i had the same experience - same place- but with 25 mountain bikes- a few of them E-bikes. I experience people on e- bikes constantly, through out the watershed. Some of them have riding skills, some have manners, many have neither, and are a danger to themselves, our overused trails and pedestrians.

They have been breaking the rules on a regular basis- destroying the watershed. Everywhere we walk these days- we see bike tracks and erosion, steadily growing worse. We see no enforcement of current regulations- now we see an attempt by this powerful and monied lobby to expand the legality of what is already happening. And from Tom's letter, it sounds like they believe that they will soon be legally welcomed as well by MMWD.

In your opinion, does the public who do not violate the laws in MMWD have any rights whatsoever?
What about the animals- what about nature?

If you happen to believe that masks are an effective barrier to transmission- you might observe that none of these bikes paid any attention to that 'restriction'.

What is your plan on managing an already out of control situation?

Please- all 300 of the people I bcc'd on this letter, read the letter below- from Tom Boss, to the Marin County Bicycle Coalition.

It could be that this is a done deal- generally speaking, that is public consensus. But, if enough of you care enough to show up at the meeting, you could perhaps do some persuading on the other side of this issue.

A pertinent question to ask of the board members- if any of them are members -or financial contributors- present or past of the bike coalition, and if they should recuse themselves from any vote, present or future.

You are welcome to post my letter on any social media platform you choose- I hope you will write to the board yourselves, and please ask your friends who are sick and tired of the stress of trying to find any bike- free trail in Marin to walk on these days, to take 5 minutes to write the board, and hopefully attend the next zoom meeting, The boards emails are all provided and the zoom meeting is as well.

Please stand up for the few animals that are still able to live in our drought stressed environment, with growing numbers of people, they say over 3 million visitors a year now to our wildlands in Marin county.

If you live anywhere in Fairfax, San Anselmo, Mill Valley or Kentfield- you know the numbers of bikes you now see on a daily basis- completely unregulated.

Now the bike coalition lobby is attempting to up the ante.

Tell the board that you would like them to uphold existing law and add enforcement to it as well.

Ask the rangers you meet if they feel that they have any support for doing enforcement, or if they even have time.

I promise you, it will be an interesting and eye-opening conversation.

Ask them how many accidents there were this last year involving e-bikes and what the injuries were.

This should be a matter of public record. Your live comments, during the zoom meeting, are more effective, than writing them and educational to members of the public who are participating.

But please- if you cannot attend, write them, and ask that your comments be entered into the public record.

MARIN WATERBOARD OF DIRECTORS: LARRY BRAGMAN, JACK GIBSON, CYNTHIA KOEHLER, LARRY RUSSELL, MONTY SCHMITT

Page 1 | 3 Posting Date: 12-11-2020 NOTICE OF REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DATE: 12-15-2020 TIME: 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: This meeting will be held virtually, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20.

To participate online, go
to <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/d0d77193/8RBkTOBIN0ac3-fNvSCi3g?u=https://zoom.us/j/91866755311>.

You can also participate **by phone by calling 1-669-900-6833** and **entering the webinar ID#: 918 6675 5311.**

PARTICIPATION DURING MEETINGS: During the public comment periods, the public may comment by clicking the “raise hand” button on the bottom of the Zoom screen; if you are joining by phone and would like to comment, press *9 and we will call on you as appropriate. **EMAILED PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

You may submit your comments in advance of the meeting by emailing them to BoardComment@MarinWater.org. All emailed comments received by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. **Those emailed comments on approval items received by 3 p.m. will also be summarized by the board secretary at the board meeting.** All emails will be posted on our website. (Please do not include personal information in your comment that you do not want published on our website such as phone numbers and home addresses.)**AGENDAITEMSREC**

Thank you all for your attention,

Valeri Hood,

Fairfax resident of 31 years- and born in Marin 67 years ago.

Thank you.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Boss, Marin County Bicycle Coalition <tom@marinbike.org>

Subject: Breaking News! MMWD to Consider E-bikes This Tuesday! 🚲

Date: December 11, 2020 at 4:37:13 PM PST

To

Reply-To: Tom Boss, Marin County Bicycle Coalition <tom@marinbike.org>

[View this email in your browser](#)

Bert,

This Tuesday will mark an important step forward for e-bike advocates throughout Marin County. [The Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors are holding their bi-monthly Meeting on December 15](#), during which they will consider approval of a Special Use Permit that would allow for e-bikes to ride on fire roads which are currently open to traditional bicycles.

Please tune in and voice your support for the recommended 3-year e-bike trial!

Livestream Info

Tune-in Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 pm
(item may not be heard until 8:00 pm)

Zoom Link:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/d0d77193/8RBkTOBIN0ac3-fNvSCi3g?u=https://zoom.us/j/91866755311>

Zoom Phone Number:

[1.669.900.6833](tel:16699006833)

Zoom Meeting ID:

918 6675 5311

Youtube Live Link:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/4470ef4f/dKZyrN7p0Em3GSL7vcATVw?u=https://youtu.be/63JpqqVYURU>

For the first time ever, MMWD is voting to legalize e-bike access so more people can appreciate the joy and beauty of riding on our beautiful watershed! We have been participating in the stakeholder meetings and advocating for this outcome. Our favorite part: staff is also recommending scaling up support for existing outreach programs such as the [“Slow and Say Hello”](#) program!

See below for the full recommendation. [We can only make this kind of progress with your support.](#)

Watershed Recommendations 1. Interim Special Use Permit for E-bike If approved, Resolution No. 8607 will establish an interim Special Use Permit for E-bikes for a period of up to three years. The Special Use Permit would allow for E-bikes to ride on fire roads which are currently open to traditional bicycles for a period up to three years. During the interim period the below conditions would be required and the Board could revoke the permit if necessary. An interim period will allow Marin Water to collect information relating to E-bike usage on the watershed and observe how E-bikes integrate into the broader recreational community. The District would be looking to collect information relating to the total number of E-bikes and bicycle users, traffic patterns along watershed roads, dynamics among watershed visitors, and potential impacts from all recreational activities on the watershed facilities and natural resources. During the interim permit period Marin Water will expand Slow Zones and install signs promoting trail etiquette to support responsible recreation on the watershed. Additionally, Marin Water will scale up the Watershed Greeters Program activities and support for existing outreach programs such as the "Slow and Say Hello" program. Staff will also expand project restore activities with a focus on closing non-system trails that are impacting sensitive natural resources and will evaluate opportunities for creating conservation zones on the watershed which will be fully evaluated as part of the watershed recreation planning process. The E-Bike Special Use Permit will establish a set of conditions to guide E-bike access on Marin Water's watershed lands.

Special Use Permit Conditions for E-Bikes

- Only Class I E-bikes are permitted for use in areas that are currently open to traditional bicycles
- E-bike Classes II and III are not permitted under this Special Use Permit
- No E-bikes are allowed on the watershed on Red Flag Days
- E-bikes must follow the 15 mph speed limit and a 5 mph speed limit while passing hikers, runners, etc.
- Commercial E-bike operators are not permitted to operate under this permit.
- Aftermarket E-bike kits installed on a traditional bicycle are not allowed for use under this E-bike Special Use Permit.

Please consider giving one hour of your time to get years of access to public lands!

The global pandemic has thwarted our ability to gather in numbers and celebrate together, but every cloud has a silver lining. Cycling has exploded as people look for ways to stay healthy, recreate, and commute under their own power.

To meet the demand we are working with local and regional agencies to expand our bikeways and make cycling safer. And we are advocating for e-bikes as a way to flatten hilly Marin for those who want to ride, but need a little assistance.

[A contribution of \\$20 or more can keep us rolling!](#)

Thanks for your support. Keep the rubber side down.

Yours,

Tom Boss
Off-Road & Events Director
Marin County Bicycle Coalition

When you ride Marin's roads, trails, and pathways, you Experience MCBC. [Join us today.](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Terrie Gillen

From: bobfrommer1@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 11:04 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e-bikes on wilderness trails

I'm a 75-year-old, long-standing member of MCBC and I'm firmly against allowing e-bikes on wilderness trails.

Certainly there are individuals that due to age or injury won't be able to bike up Big Rock Ridge--this is a common argument for allowing e-bikes--but most of the e-bike riders that I encounter on my rides are healthy adults simply enjoying the easier access to fragile, more remote trails. I feel that the "access for disabled citizens" argument is simply a red herring, and the new flood of able-bodied recreational riders will overwhelm the delicate ecosystem. E-bikes are motorized vehicles, certainly less destructive than a Hummer, but making back-country trails accessible to motorized travel will exceed the limits of the ecology. There are many roads leading to beautiful views (e.g. Mt. Tam), that are designed to accommodate thousands of users--this is simply not the case for back country trails.

Bicycle stores are huge supporters of e-bikes on trails. They recognize the potential of \$1000+ e-bikes becoming popular. I hope that MCBC's mission to popularize bike use in Marin, which I firmly support in town, doesn't lead to the destructive overuse that e-bikes in the mountains will bring.

Bob Frommer
San Rafael

Terrie Gillen

From: Judy Schriebman <judy@leapfrogproductions.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes on MMWD lands

Dear MMWD Board of Directors:

I am appalled that you are even considering opening up the watershed to motorized bikes. With Covid restrictions in place, how will you monitor this situation? How will you enforce compliance? Already the e-bikers are riding on fire roads and single track trails, in violation with current policy. Why on earth would you reward that behavior?

Those of us who hike and observe the rules are frustrated and angry that this militant band of scofflaws are breaking the rules and you are ok with that. We are frustrated and angry seeing deep grooves cut into the hillsides by illegal riding. We need the outdoors, too, and we are being pushed off it by tourists and the bike lobby.

It's time to enforce wild land and watershed preservation, not reward bad behavior that the biking community is complicit with.

Do NOT allow e-bikes on watershed land until you have sufficient rangers to patrol, a registration system that is rigorously enforced and enforceable, and until the biking community agrees to contain and patrol their own members to comply with regulations.

Sincerely,
Judy Schriebman
San Rafael, CA 94903

Terrie Gillen

From: Mike Vandeman <mjvande@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:39 PM
Subject: Mountain Biking in Our Parks

Re:
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/00036070/ldIvwjl4IkMQHFRPPn3qBw?u=https://kcbsradio.radio.com/media/audio-channel/electric-bike-ban-may-be-lifted-mt-tam>

What were you thinking??? There is no good reason to allow bicycles, much less motorized bicycles, on any trails. Mountain bikes increase the human footprint in wildlife habitat, and e-bikes increase it even more!

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/8042fab3/JqBMRBjzIk62Odv2KUXP6g?u=https://mjvande.info/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0b2d68ef/rOzNdHeu5U_Ui2V9nXALPQ?u=https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Mountain bikers also love to build new trails - legally or illegally. Of course, trail-building destroys wildlife habitat - not just in the trail bed, but in a wide swath to both sides of the trail! E.g. grizzlies can hear a human from one mile away, and smell us from 5 miles away. Thus, a 10-mile trail represents 100 square miles of destroyed or degraded habitat, that animals are inhibited from using. Mountain biking, trail building, and trail maintenance all increase the number of people in the park, thereby preventing the animals' full use of their habitat. See

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0ba472f2/tLjfwJ7EgECIYcCpbKXYDQ?u=https://mjvande.info/scb9.htm> for details.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video:
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/66ef64fa/nDNBM3RmHkelZCVrwENeuA?u=http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: https://link.edgepilot.com/s/899a7278/Oxh-aAg4c0qe85vqSQb27w?u=https://mjvande.info/mtb_dangerous.htm .

For more information: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3be247d4/izxoO45QW0iVQgB->

[11to0g?u=https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm](https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm) .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

--

I am working on creating wildlife habitat that is off-limits to humans ("pure habitat"). Want to help? (I spent the previous 8 years fighting auto dependence and road construction.)

Wildlife must be given top priority, because they can't protect themselves from us.

Please don't put a cell phone next to any part of your body that you are fond of!

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/b3b4cbe0/hXg3hbR0rUuPmjtT_wM0KA?u=https://mjvande.info/

Terrie Gillen

From: terry balestriere <fairfaxsunny@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 10:43 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: EBikes

Dear Board Members:

I have written to you previously regarding my opposition of ebikes being allowed in the Watershed. You all know that once ebikes are permitted on fire roads, they will also start riding on trails. They probably already are judging by the damaged trails I've seen. Just about every trail I've been on in the Watershed have deep grooves, ruts, put there by all the bikers that ride on them illegally. It's almost impossible to walk on some of these trails anymore as they are so v-shaped by all the bikes. You also know there are not enough rangers to patrol all the miles of trails. And the cyclists know this as well, so they ride wherever they want without any concern of being cited. If you're going to allow ebikes, what's next, mopeds, motorcycles, dirt bikes? Where do you stop this madness? And what about the concern of sediment getting into the water supply? What about the habitat damage? For people who are supposed to be protecting the Watershed and it's resources, you're not doing a very good job. I always thought the MMWD was not a recreation provider. So please add my name to the record as being opposed to ebikes being allowed on fire roads, pavement, single track trails, i.e. anywhere on MMWD lands. Thank you. Terry Balestriere

Terrie Gillen

From: LAURA CHARITON <laurachariton@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:57 PM
To: Board Comment; Monty Schmitt; Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; Jack Gibson; Cynthia Koehler
Cc: watermarin@comcast.net
Subject: Comment letter RE: E-bikes
Attachments: MMWD Ebike Letter .pdf

Dear Board members,

Please find attached comment letter from Watershed Alliance of Marin.

Please watch this 3 minute

video <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/6a3d7562/ueOn8ojbiUGwVGa3Jn1qiA?u=https://youtu.be/INiK-XHDHro>

on the cyclists road damage also linked in the letter and to our live petition started Sunday afternoon.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/be366ae3/Vklp12V8Gk2TEGhhMNAxtA?u=http://chnng.it/YFtgbzJWd9>

Sincerely,

Laura Chariton

watermarin.org (501) C3

446 Panoramic Hwy. Mill Valley, CA 94941



415 234-9007 cell 415 855-5630



WATERSHED ALLIANCE OF MARIN
446 Panoramic Hwy.
Mill Valley, A 94941
415 234-9007
watermarin@comcast.net

December 15, 2020

Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors
220 Nellen Ave.
Corte Madera, CA 94925

RE: Agenda Item: 10 Interim Special Use Permit for Electric Bikes
Constantly updated Petition to the Board to stop approval <http://chng.it/SNw9scqR2M>

Dear Board of Directors:

As the president of the Watershed Alliance of Marin (501c3) (WAM) and 45-year hiker user and 30-year resident of the Mt. Tamalpais watershed I have been closely monitoring the damage done to the habitat and watercourses of MMWD lands. I have an M.A. in Riparian Policy and Environmental Restoration with a focus in salmonids and am very knowledgeable on what constitutes a healthy watershed and what sustains healthy ecological functions.

This letter is to inform the board that WAM believes that the MMWD sanctions for use of mountain bikes and the current illegal and projected usage of motorized bikes (E-bikes) on fire roads violates the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. Should the MMWD approve E-bikes on their roads and trails, illegal, mostly male E-bike riders will be rewarded for their violations at the expense of women, children and older hikers, which is discriminatory.

Legacy hikers in the watershed are highly aware of the issues and failures of enforcement. There is a significant shortage of rangers. All of the unresolved issues mentioned below with mountain bikes will be significantly increased with the permitting use of motorized bikes. The inconvenience of making sweeping policies during the holiday season and during a pandemic that has claimed the lives of 300,000 Americans is cynical and heartless to those of us that find our significant respite through hiking. E-bikers are not adversely affected by hikers, but hikers are adversely impacted by E-bikers and mountain bikers. Habitat has been diminished and listed special status species adversely impacted.

No studies have been done to determine the safety and experience of hiker user groups. Environmental groups who have expressed their outrage have been wholly ignored in favor of the commercialization and pollution of our watershed by the biking lobby.

There has been a complete lack of transparency on this issue from the beginning. Admitted violating E-Bikers were placed on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and experts and multi-decadal hiker representatives were shunned. Environmental group leaders that represented thousands of users were treated as one person in surveys by MMWD staff. Applicants to the CAC were never given acknowledgement letters that they were under consideration. Some who represented large constituents of hikers such as Sierra Club, Marin Conservation League and Foot People were denied access over motorized scofflaws.

Attached to this letter is a documentation slide show of the degradation from widening and erosion issues just on Old Railroad Grade from Throckmorton Fire Station to Ridgecrest and Old Stage Road from Pantoll to the West Point Inn. On this road, alone, we have over 130 relevant findings that show what is occurring. Most of those areas demonstrate that these main transit roads for E-bikes are being widened significantly and that eyebrows, side channel high and low trails and illegal trails are being made. **The size of the damage on the eyebrows ranges from 20' to 150'.**

We receive constant reports of violators by mountain bikers and E-bikers. Estimates are that approximately 80% are in violation from: speeding, riding on and degrading road edges, riding on single track trails, creating erosion and illegal trails. Just last week a cyclist hit a dog to get it out of the way on a bridge on the Verna Dunshee and then proceeded down the Temelpa at full speed on a Saturday. Just prior, three E-Bikers proceeded up the wooden trail to the top to the top of the mountain at the State Park.

Allowing an increase in cyclist use while failing to enforce the existing laws has already caused untold dangers and abuse of the watershed and your mission to protect it and its wildlife as outlined in the MMWD Charter. All of the concerns listed below have been, and will continue to be exacerbated by increasing the numbers of E-bikers already using the watershed lands:

<https://youtu.be/INiK-XHDHro> 130 photos of damage to the Old Railroad Grade and Old Stage (3 minutes)

- As habitual users, hikers are being forced off the trails and must plan times and logistics to insure their safety.

- E-bikes are motorized vehicles, capable of reaching speeds of 25-40 mph on trails where hikers (children and elderly) and wildlife are.
- Violates the tenets of the Charter of the establishment of the MMWD to protect wildlife and favors disproportionately one recreational user group at the expense of and over another.
- Almost all bikers who ride more than solo are in a state of constant yelling.
- Animals on Mt. Tam are not adapted to speeding cyclists or yelling people. Therefore, they are being extirpated from areas.
- Those who seek solace and peace can no longer find it. In order to get to the "solo" tracks, one must navigate the super highways of bikers.
- The vast majority of E-bikers and mountain bikers speed on the downhill while passing hikers. This is especially dangerous on blind curves where near misses are becoming standard.
- "Stop and say hello" is not appreciated by those who seek quiet from daily hectic lives and those who consider hiking a meditative and solitary experience.
- Confrontations between passive (hiker) and aggressive (biker) use are increasing.
- Increased trail use by bikers from Covid -19 has put children, deaf and older hiker user communities at risk.
- Rolling dips and other morphologic features on most trails and fire roads have become the favorite of hot-doggers including E-bikers who take air and ride full speed on steep downhills and threaten the safety of hikers.
- Increased smashed and killed animals are being observed: mammals, reptiles, insects, amphibian such as voles, moles, snakes, lizards, deer. Threatened are: pacific giant salamander, arboreal salamander, squirrels, fox, etc.
- Nearby communities are experiencing street gridlock conditions on weekends and lack of parking for other and more passive user groups.
- Failure to enforce protections of Wildlife habitat (night riding and single-track trail poaching) impacts wildlife diversity and survival.
- Excessive sediment runoff as a result of pulverization of road beds by bike tires.
- We have documented the erosion and degradation caused by cyclists and will be submitting them to the SFRWQB as evidence of Clean Water Act violations and violation of the MMWD Charter.
- Cumulative impacts from cyclist damage and impacts from increased polluted runoff on Federally listed species have not had correlative studies done.

- Discriminatory policies that allow one user group to threaten the safety and recreation of another user group. Mountain and E-bikes threaten and ruin the enjoyment of hikers, birders and naturalists.
- Approximately 90% of the Ebikes and mountain bikes are males. Their aggressive riding style is a health and safety threat to hikers and constitutes a health and safety threat.
- Almost every hike recently is fraught with some sort of endangerment by violators including riding illegally on the Hog Back trail, Nora, Matt Davis Trail.
- The Covid 19 Pandemic has heightened every single threat to other users and wildlife. mountain and E Bikers frequently ride without face masks and studies indicate 30 foot exposure plumes from their spit.
- Extensive widening and erosion of all roads by "joy riding" on embankments and scouring road widths to avoid rocky outcrops from erosion.
- Increased sediment during peak storm events.
- Speeding E-bikers and mountain bikers have been documented on almost every single occasion and a failure to follow any slowing down while passing hikers. They are often found in large groups riding together.
- Degradation of wildlife habitat and impacts to biological function of all species.
- Running over and killing wildlife that have not evolved to avoid speeding bikes
- Continual use of trails at night by cyclists that has a profound impact on hunting, mating, rearing of special status species and all wildlife.
- Increased use has endangered the local communities with the threat of accidents and catastrophic fires.
- The MMWD website no longer contains the Watershed Regulations and does not have any easy access to the founding charter and by-laws.
- The MMWD has failed to provide transparency in its policies and meetings. The E bike page appears to be gone. Notice for this meeting consisted of 5 days.
- The One Tam agencies that are involved in joint land management also have no forum in this situation.

Sincerely,



Laura Chariton, President

Watershed Alliance of Marin
M.A. Riparian Policy and Environmental Restoration

Terrie Gillen

From: Elihu Welber <eli_welber@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:58 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Elihu Welber
Subject: Letter re: proposal to legalize E-bikes (re: mtg 12/15)
Attachments: MMWD legalization of e-bikes.pdf

Please see the attached .pdf - letter regarding the proposal to allow E-bike use on Watershed fire-roads being discussed at your meeting 12/15/2002.

Thank you,

Elihu Welber

To the MMWD Board of Directors:

12/14/2002

I am writing about the proposal to allow Class-1 e-bikes on Watershed fire-roads.

First I want to tell you a few things about myself:

I have been a resident of San Anselmo for 30 years. For most of that time my wife and I have been regular and frequent users of the Watershed. We hike and bike on alternate days, and spend 1 to 3 hours a day there, 7 days a week, with few exceptions.

I am a member of MCBC.

I serve on San Anselmo's Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Commission.

I am 69 years old.

I lay out these facts because I want you to see that I am a member of nearly every subset of users of the watershed, specifically:

I use the watershed heavily, both as a hiker and a biker.

I am active in organizations which support and advocate for both hikers and bikers to use public facilities safely.

While I do not use an e-bike at present, I am old enough to foresee that in not that many years I will likely appreciate the assist which an e-bike can provide.

Both as a hiker and a biker, I regularly experience frightening close calls from some bikers' reckless high-speed riding. I have also been knocked off my bike by a leashless dog which ran directly in front of me – when I was going uphill, not particularly fast.

These episodes are of course primarily the fault of the irresponsible people who violate the watershed regulations. But I believe that the Watershed shares responsibility for them, because it has neglected enforcement of speed limits and other regulations such as dog-leashing requirements.

I would support the proposal to legalize the use of e-bikes on fire-roads if I felt that up until now the Watershed management had demonstrated a sincere commitment to reduce the threat posed to both hikers and bikers by irresponsible users of the Lands. But unfortunately, in my view, this has not been the case.

Since existing Watershed regulations which set speed limits and prohibit e-bike use are rarely enforced, I have no confidence that additional regulations supposedly governing the use of e-bikes will be complied-with. I have serious reservations about the wisdom of legalizing the use of significantly heavier vehicles capable of attaining dangerous speeds and causing serious injury or death, when there is no culture of “lawfulness” inculcated by the Watershed regarding their use, - and where it is common knowledge that more than an occasional rider will recklessly flout the regulations.

I read in the IJ that there may be some future consideration of increasing Watershed staff and patrols. I welcome this idea, but I think it should be addressed prior to the consideration of legalizing e-bike use, not afterwards. Allowing e-bikes without a well-thought-out plan for controlling their use is misguided and irresponsible. I ask that you defer this approval until after you have developed and implemented a plan for improving compliance with Watershed regulations for all users.

I respectfully request that, if you publish or read this letter publicly, you omit my name.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elihu Welber

(address / phone-# will be provided upon request)

Terrie Gillen

From: Jackson Ratcliffe <jackson@hegarty-ratcliffe.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes are Motorcycles

Dear MMWD,

First of all I love the public lands you administer as well as the nice clean water. Thanks.

With regards to the issue of ebikes, I would like to say no on ebikes for the following reasons:

1) Ebikes are motorcycles. By definition they are a cycle with a motor, ie a motorcycle. Motorcycles are perfectly ok in lots of places but not on public lands directly adjacent to one of the major metropolitan areas of the US.

2) people who need the assistance (people with bad knees, plantar fasciitis, bad hips, ...) fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act. MMWD can't override an Act of Congress and if I need a little boost to move myself far enough to enjoy some of our public lands, the ADA covers my needs.

So my opinion is to keep things simple. Keep the no motorcycles rule as is and be flexible for people who have the need for a reasonable accommodation under the ADA.

Jackson Ratcliffe
Corte Madera

Terrie Gillen

From: Rick Holland <rickholland@topproducer.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #10

I am submitting the following comment for Tuesday's board meeting with regard to Item #10, Recommendations regarding the Use of E-bikes on District watershed lands:

The staff report presents our position that we recommend that MMWD continue to follow its current regulations, which prohibit E-bikes on all non-paved surfaces. If motorized vehicles are allowed on fire roads, as this Special Use Permit would allow, the board must face the fact that it is opening up the watershed to a new user group—a user group not only consisting of local residents, but adventure tourists “from anywhere” that pose the risk of displacing local residents that enjoy the watershed on foot—whether our own two feet or on horseback. If the board changes current regulations and then finds that it cannot effectively enforce the new rules, how will it then cancel the Special Use Permit? Better to wait for next year’s environmental review instead of experimenting with our public lands—approving a 3-year “test” and later determining it to be a mistake will be that much harder to undo.

Richard Holland
President
Marin Horse Council

Rick Holland / Holland International Consultants
Food Security in the Americas

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/dfcd200b/shtjuGJou0ipIhEHNU6JvA?u=http://www.rickholland.com/> / (831) 334-6049

Terrie Gillen

From: Toni Shroyer <tonishroyer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: No Ebikes on fire roads in our watershed

Dear MMWD Board,

I am opposing ebikes on our fire roads for everyone's safety. If allowed, this would be dangerous to both equestrian and ebike rider.

Safety should be our number one priority. Horses are flight animals that can spook or take off when scared. Ebikes are noisy. Another area for ebikes would be appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Toni Shroyer
1955 Indian Valley Road
Novato Ca 94947
415.640.2754

Toni Shroyer Realtor, SRES (Senior Real Estate Specialist)

TOP PRODUCING AGENT
Coldwell Banker Realty
TAN--- TOP AGENT NETWORK
415-640-2754

https://link.edgепilot.com/s/2039ec56/Lg8CwFq1q0CbD5E_F_eFyA?u=http://www.tonishroyer.com/

DRE #01876201

Terrie Gillen

From: David Rhoades <davidprhoades@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:03 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes on Mt. Tam

I completely agree with the environmental concerns and recommend a no vote.

Thank you

Terrie Gillen

From: Jan Tharsing <tharsing.j@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: 'Aldo Gigliotti'
Subject: E-bikes

Hello Marin Water Board

As a local equestrian, member of local horse clubs (Tamalpais Trail Riders, Novato Horsemen Inc.) and supporter of the Marin Horse Council I hereby submit my concern to opening up fire roads in our watershed to motorized vehicles/E-bikes. I personally believe that it is a bad idea to allow a Special Use Permit to allow E-bikes onto district fire roads for a 3-year "trial period." I also believe that motorized vehicles (e-bikes) on non-paved trails should be prohibited. E-bikes are a new user group on our trails and will displace hikers and horseback riders. These motorized vehicles are a danger, possibly causing personal injury to pedestrians and equestrians not to mention the e-bike users themselves. There is also the issue of negative environmental impacts.

Please NO e-bikes on MMWD non-paved fire roads and trails!

Thank you

Jan Tharsing, Treasurer Tamalpais Trail Riders

Terrie Gillen

From: Lois Tukman <loistukman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:44 AM
To: Jack Gibson
Subject: e bikes on fire roads

I am a 79 year old woman who regularly rides Shaver Grade, Eldridge and the Railroad Grade up to west Point Inn and top of the mountain. I have been riding for 30 years. The Eriders and Ebikes scare me. They aggressively pass on the uphill usually without warning. I do not believe they are safe for others using the water district. If allowed I believe they will attract less experienced bikers who should not be up there. The bikers my age who are using them (on the whole) say it allows them to continue biking. These people can continue biking but possibly not at the same speed or difficulty as the past. Ebikes are fine for the road but lets keep our fragile fire roads safe for everyone. No on Ebikes!

Thank you.

Lois Tukman
Kentfield

Terrie Gillen

From: romich@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Jack Gibson
Cc: peter@stdesigninc.com; louhiker1@gmail.com
Subject: Electric Bikes

Dear Director/President Gibson,

Several times I have seen that the Water District is considering allowing electric bikes on the hiking trails. I am a hiker and sometimes bicyclist and I urge you to not allow this "nose of the camel in the tent." In my experience a healthy % of cyclists already abuse their access by using trails that are not open to them, making new trails which aid erosion, expecting hikers to always yield to them even if it means moving quickly off a single file trail on a hillside, and recently in the Covid era, not wearing face masks. Giving them motorized power seems an insane invitation to further abuse and disrespect nature and the limited resources we have to enjoy nature.

Norman Jensen

600 Deer Valley Rd, Apt GC

San Rafael, 94903

415 454 5478

Terrie Gillen

From: peter anderson <peteranderson792@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Larry Bragman; Jack Gibson; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Russell
Subject: Fwd: e bikes in the sanctuary

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Anderson <pedroappleseed@gmail.com>
Subject: e bikes in the sanctueary
Date: December 15, 2020 at 9:37:32 AM PST
To: MMWD Board of Directors

Dear MMWD Board members, if John Muir could come back to visit Mt. Tam one more time and if he encountered three noisy guys on e bikes on a posted trail as I did recently. he would wonder if we have collectively lost our minds. We have and the least we can do is rebuild our reduced ranger staff to its original strength of a dozen to match the overwhelming flood of visitors and the rapidly growing threat of fire since the regional drought throughout the southwest, California and Oregon is predicted to become permanent and much hotter. I urge you to hire more rangers as soon as possible. We are in a climate crisis.

Thank you,
Peter Anderson
65 years walking on the mountain

Terrie Gillen

From: Robert Eichstaedt <re@well.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Jack Gibson; Larry Bragman; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Russell
Cc: Shaun Horne; Don Wick
Subject: MMWD & eBikes

to mmwd board

Forwarding a letter originally sent to FootPeople, on my 74th birthday last month. I encourage MMWD to properly enforce their rule prohibiting electric motorized cycles on the watershed. Please recognize that the MMWD Board is not a Parks and Recreation Commission. Thank you.

All....

I usually assist with Marin Search and Rescue's staffing at the un-sponsored Pine Mountain Turkey Day bike "happening". Water District and Open Space depend heavily on MSAR to help respond to traumatic medical incidents. Some years, there are serious accidents, and even helicopter extractions. Not this year, due to reduce numbers, presumably.

I and a teammate got staged at the furthest point out on the Pine Mountain Loop, with radios and med pack, to spend a few hours watching riders go by. Chilly in the drainages... 4 layers and wishing I'd brought poly gloves. Our spot was at bottom of long series of downhill dips feeding into an extreme off-camber dogleg turn and steeper-yet descent. Some riders did a flashy berm bounce off of a redwood tree. There are many places on the PM Loop where it is not safe to stand when riders are speeding downhill.. you're in a potential impact zone. One year, OS Ranger and SAR member Lindsey Contreras and I moved from the outside of a corner to the interior apex and stood behind a UTV for better protection.

Thoughts while hanging out in the woods:

- It's Still and Quiet here. But on-coming riders can be heard from a great distance— distant tire buzz interrupted whenever bike goes airborne. You can count the unseen jumps by listening to these intervals.
- Great energy and sense of excitement with anything moving past at speed. Can't look away and can't disregard until they're out of earshot. Bikes are noise — and psychic energy — polluting even when not seen, and provoke a heightened sense of alertness from first the sound is noticed until the full quiet returns. Then, still more coming down. Lots of cycling enthusiasts totally fulfilling some personal need. Good for them, I guess. Wouldn't want to impose on their "right" to recreate wherever and however they choose. But if I wanted to enjoy this little dell here, I'd have to come back another day.



- I don't know what motivates someone to run for a MMWD directorship. I doubt any of the board are excited about plumbing systems or forestry. Yet they have immense responsibility for the preservation and healing of the mountain that furnishes the water that sustains us. Are there ways to encourage them to see the watershed as their Primary Responsibility, as well as a unique opportunity to make a huge contribution to the planet?
- More people, more equipment, more speed, more negative impacts.
- Roads and trails are clear cuts that fragment habitat. There are animals that will not cross those boundaries. Working to reduce trails is a good thing for good reasons.
- The slower you go, the more you appreciate those things that don't move much if at all. Sorry, but actively exercising in nature doesn't mean you're really connecting with it. Reminds me of the Yosemite visitors who drive the Valley loop, stop for a photo, and drive away again. Pretty as a picture, said my mother.... what does that mean??

—Robert Eichstaedt

MMWD e-Bike CAC member

Terrie Gillen

From: Rebecca Jones <vocalarts.roj@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:50 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: No e-bikes PLEASE

Our beloved mountain is for peaceful communing with nature. Hikers already have to stay attentive for speeding bicycles and water district trucks. Please do not allow another vehicular interruption to the peace and natural sacred quiet of the mountain. There are so few places left on earth that offer quiet, safe reflection.
Respectfully, Rebecca Jones

Terrie Gillen

From: Rod Thompson <rodtpms@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: No E-Bikes

They are noisy and dangerous. It would destroy the pristine Water District. The peace and quiet of a walk would be lost and it would feel unsafe.

Thanks for listening.

Rod Thompson
438 Laverne Ave.
Mill Valley
Sent from my tablet

Terrie Gillen

From: Ann Thomas <athomas1@pacbell.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:15 PM
To: Jack Gibson; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; MSchmidt@marinwaaer.org
Cc: Ben Horenstein
Subject: Item 10, December 15 Board meeting

Directors:

Item #10 should be removed from the December 15, 2020 board agenda; consideration of a permit should not precede adoption of a Watershed Recreation Plan, as discussed at your September board retreat. The so-called interim use would then be an existing condition if/when work on a Watershed Recreation Plan proceeds.

1. A number of district plans and policies should be updated prior to approval of considering this use policy. For example, the 2005 Road and Trail Management Plan is out of date, and a comprehensive user survey should be done. The 2005 Plan states that the district's policy *"...is to manage the roads and trails on the Watershed to protect water quality, minimize sedimentation of the reservoirs and improve the natural ecological conditions on the Watershed. Furthermore, the District seeks to minimize the environmental impacts of its roads and trails on environmentally sensitive habitat areas."*

The proposed permit does not explain how the permitted use would "improve natural ecological conditions on the watershed."

2. Introducing this to the public at a board meeting flouts normal protocol of discussing a recreational issue first at the Watershed Committee. The purpose of that committee is as follows: "...to discuss matters concerning the district's watershed and reservoirs such as protection of the fishery, vegetation management, recreational uses, and sources of revenue." This was not on the December 10 Watershed Committee agenda, though given the scope of the permit report it must have been available at that time.

3. Rationale for the permit, as stated, that "An interim period will allow Marin Water to collect information relating to E-bike usage on the watershed and observe how E-bikes integrate into the broader recreational community" is utter nonsense. A use permit is not needed to see how E-bikes interrelate to the "broader recreational community."

4. One Tam partners are still reviewing this issue, and a decision about E-bike usage should be a collaborative process.

5. The district does not need an E-bike use permit to justify an increase in ranger staffing.

The tail should not wag the dog. District Code 9.04.01 should remain in effect until a number of other steps have been taken.

Yours truly
Ann Thomas, Corte Madera

Terrie Gillen

From: Laurence Minikes <lminikes@avstim.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:39 PM
To: Ann Thomas; Jack Gibson; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Bragman; Larry Russell; MSchmidt@marinwaaer.org
Cc: Ben Horenstein
Subject: Re: Item 10, December 15 Board meeting

Directors:

I second Ann Thomas on each one of her points.

Conditions have changed dramatically since the conclusion of the citizen's e-bike committee meetings. No modeling whatsoever could have predicted the rapid rise in not only e-bike use but recreational use in general we are experiencing in 2020. The question is how to determine true District watershed carrying capacity. The framework is lacking. With critical knowledge unavailable, the board and management are effectively running blind in consideration of this permit. Where is the actual justification beyond the lobbying pressure?

The rapid recreational growth is a conservation concern of more users over more hours expanding into the night. If the tools were in place, which they are not, they would show substantially higher levels of users out after sunset on District lands. The current situation is out of the District ability to effectively manage recreational use or ensure wildlife, much of whom feeds in the evening, is receiving adequate protection per District policies.

This is perhaps the worst time to consider a use permit. Board discussion should be centered around managing these substantially higher use levels. This "gray zone" as one director recently stated is not an acceptable alternative, nor is the issuance of a use permit. Prior to permit, at minimum the board should already have in hand a formal report of the potential impacts. Events have changed far too rapidly. This critical information is lacking.

Please take no action on this item.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Minikes

From: Ann Thomas <athomas1@pacbell.net>
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:15 PM
To: "JGibson@MarinWater.org" <jgibson@marinwater.org>, "CKoehler@MarinWater.org" <ckoehler@marinwater.org>, "LBragman@MarinWater.org" <lbragman@marinwater.org>, "LRussell@MarinWater.org" <lrussell@marinwater.org>, "MSchmidt@marinwaaer.org" <mschmidt@marinwaaer.org>
Cc: Ben Horenstein <bhorenstein@marinwater.org>
Subject: Item 10, December 15 Board meeting

Directors:

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The proposed permit does not explain how the permitted use would "improve natural ecological conditions on the watershed."

2. Introducing this to the public at a board meeting flouts normal protocol of discussing a recreational issue first at the Watershed Committee. The purpose of that committee is as follows: "...to discuss matters concerning the district's watershed and reservoirs such as protection of the fishery, vegetation management, **recreational uses**, and sources of revenue." This was not on the December 10 Watershed Committee agenda, though given the scope of the permit report it must have been available at that time.

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4. One Tam partners are still reviewing this issue, and a decision about E-bike usage should be a collaborative process.

5. The district does not need an E-bike use permit to justify an increase in ranger staffing.

The tail should not wag the dog. District Code 9.04.01 should remain in effect until a number of other steps have been taken.

Yours truly
Ann Thomas, Corte Madera

Terrie Gillen

From: Elise Semonian <elisehs@att.net>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support ebike resolution

Hello MMWD board,

I have been a user of MMWD trails my whole life and think your 3 year ebike plan makes a lot of sense and hope you will approve it. I was a mountain biker in high school in the 80s and now just hike the watershed and ebike for transportation.

I love the idea of trying out ebikes on the fire roads to see how it works.

-Elise

Elise Semonian
599 Magnolia Ave.
Larkspur

Terrie Gillen

From: Philip Mooney <philip.r.mooney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Interim E-bike Special Use Permit

Hello

I'm writing to voice my support for your interim E-bike Special Use Permit. I think this is a well thought out plan that will help more users enjoy the land while giving the watershed time to account for any unforeseen complications.

Thanks
Phil

Terrie Gillen

From: jeffrey knaus <jknaus34@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:13 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E- Bikes and the upcoming decision

Dear Board of Directors,
First, thank you all for your careful consideration, time, and effort that you have put into this important decision.
I ride an e-bike for my health and enjoyment after riding a regular bike for 55 years.
I need to have access to the MMWD fire-roads close to our home, where other bikes are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,

Jeff

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Jeff Knaus
415-699-3682

Terrie Gillen

From: Rick Smith <mrichardsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:09 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

Board members,

I support Resolution 8607 regarding e-bikes which you plan to consider this month. I have enjoyed the MMWD trails and fire roads on Mt Tam for 40 years as a hiker, biker and now at age 73 an e-biker. A yes vote on Resolution 8607 will allow all to enjoy the area safely. Thank you for your good work.

M Richard Smith
613 Summit Avenue, Mill Valley

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Bill Johnston <bjohnston120@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes

Re proposal 8607 to allow Ebikes on watershed.

Hi

I am a 73 year old male who recently purchased my first ever class 1 EBike I.e. pedal assist. This has allowed me to experience what I used to do without assist in my 30s up to early 60s. I have heart and lung issues and had three surgeries in past ten years.

Yet with the EBike I can go up the trails and enjoy the spectacular scenery. I went with my 13 year old grandson recently. He can go uphill as fast as me on a regular bike, and I go much slower downhill than most riders on regular bikes. I am not a hazard to anyone on the watershed. Please allow me to enjoy this experience for a few more years.

Yours truly

Bill Johnston
415-272-0810
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Barnett Family <barnettfamily@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes on Mt Tam

I am 77 years old. I love riding my ebike because it is fun and good for my health. I can no longer run or ride a regular bike up steep hills but I can ride my ebike wherever regular bikes can be ridden. Please allow ebike riding on Mt Tam. In my experience there is no greater impact than a regular bike.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Bob Barnett

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Bill Poland <BPoland@baywestgroup.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Dear Board,

I fully support this measure. I'm a senior citizen but use both a regular mountain bike and an Ebike. As a group, we are very courteous and know the rules of the road. Please vote in favor! Thanks, Bill

**Bill R. Poland
2 Henry Adams St., Suite 2M-33
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-552-7700
bpoland@baywestgroup.net**

Terrie Gillen

From: Bill Rostenberg <brostenberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote YES on Resolution # 8607: e-bikes on MMWD Fire Roads

Dear MMWD Board of Directors:

I understand that your Board will soon be voting on Resolution #8607, which could allow Class 1 e-bikes to be used on MMWD fire roads (at least for a 3-year trial period to collect data upon which longer term rules could be created). I strongly urge you to vote "YES" to allow this activity.

Having attended many of the MMWD Public Meetings during which this topic has been discussed, I am aware of the myriad opinions surrounding this issue. I believe it is both essential and achievable that people with different opinions and perspectives on outdoor activities learn how to equitably share this exquisite environment that is Marin. This has been proven particularly necessary over the past months of the Covid pandemic in which outdoor recreation has become even more precious to all of our health and well-being. Our need to share our outdoor environment will continue long after Covid has been controlled.

Furthermore, it is apparent that there is much mis-information surrounding e-bikes. While some believe that e-bikes harm the environment, there is no credible evidence to support such beliefs. When used properly, an e-bike causes no more harm to a fire road than a traditional bicycle and likely less than equestrians and large numbers of hikers. An e-biker riding responsibly can be as safe and courteous as any other user of the land. Thus, a subset of bicycle types should not be singled out; only people behaving carelessly — be they on foot, on horseback, or on two wheels — should be the subject of contemplated access restrictions. Any person using the land safely and with respect for others should be permitted access to the MMWD fire roads — without prejudice toward their type of conveyance.

I ride an e-bike regularly to maintain my health and fitness. As an older adult, the assistance provided by the small motor provides me with necessary support to navigate elevation changes. I ride carefully and respectfully, and I would hope that non-e-bike riders would be as respectful of my right to enjoy our fire roads as I am of theirs.

As a long-time Marin County taxpayer and MMWD rate payer, I strongly urge you to vote YES on Resolution #8607.

Thank you for your support on this upcoming vote,

Regards,

Bill Rostenberg

Terrie Gillen

From: Chris Kostanecki <ckostanecki@capitalpacific.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Dear Board members,

I am aware of MMWD's Meeting on the 15th and wanted to include my voice in this decision. I ride an ebike am also an avid mt bike rider and a road rider and hiker. So I am an avid user of MT Tam and use each respectfully and enjoy them immensely. The Ebike clearly is enabling others with limitations to get on the trails . I see plus 60's riding in growing numbers. My wife not an avid rider is going on family bike rides now cause she feels like she can keep up.

The irony of what I observe is the Ebike riders are more respectful, cautious and careful than most riders. I think the issue is folks scoff that they are getting assistance and that is really just a new evolution to our society and is in an adjustment period.

I hope you will support and pass the resolution to allow Ebikes on the water shed.

On a bigger point un related to this resolution I want to personally thank MMWD immensely for the treasure we have and the access to this incredible important asset. Thru this pandemic it has even further shown and illuminated the importance of this open space. I hike up to Baldy to catch the sunrise 4 days a week 365 days a year!

Thank you, thank you.

CHRIS KOSTANECKI

MANAGING PARTNER

PH: 415.274.2701 | CELL: 415.971.4347 | FAX: 415.738.5501

CA DRE#: 01002010

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CAPITAL PACIFIC

Terrie Gillen

From: Chris Kostanecki <ckostanecki@capitalpacific.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:38 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607 Yes

Dear Board members,

I am aware of MMWD's Meeting on the 15th and wanted to include my voice in this decision. I ride an ebike am also an avid mt bike rider and a road rider and hiker. So I am an avid user of MT Tam and use each respectfully and enjoy them immensely. The Ebike clearly is enabling others with limitations to get on the trails . I see plus 60's riding in growing numbers. My wife not an avid rider is going on family bike rides now cause she feels like she can keep up.

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Thank you, thank you.

CHRIS KOSTANECKI

MANAGING PARTNER

PH: 415.274.2701 | CELL: 415.971.4347 | FAX: 415.738.5501

CA DRE#: 01002010

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Terrie Gillen

From: Claudia Tarantino <claudiatarantino@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:45 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: approval 8607

To MMWD Board of Directors,

I am writing to urge you to approve resolution #8607 to allow e-bike riders on MMWD lands during a 3 year study period, with the same rules and access that apply to regular mountain bikes.

I am sure the study will show that e-bikes have no greater impact on the land than regular bikes.

I have lived in San Anselmo since 1968. I am a 76 year old woman. During the past 50+ years I have hiked, run and biked on the trails and fire roads of Water District lands.

While I have left running behind (knees) I continue to hike and ride a full suspension mountain bike 3 or 4 days a week. I can no longer ride as high or as far as I did when I was younger. I am currently testing e-bikes as I want to continue to ride up steep grades to the many special places that have always been a part of my enjoyment of our public lands.

Thank You,
Claudia Tarantino

Terrie Gillen

From: Doug Couture <dscouture@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bike usage

To the Board of Directors,

I ride a pedal assist mountain e-bike for overall health. I have asthma and it's important that I have access to the MMWD fire roads where other bikes are allowed.

Please vote yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impact of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire the real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for shareholders.

Thank you for your support,

Doug Couture

Doug Couture

Terrie Gillen

From: Dale Chamblin <dalechamblin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebiking on Mt. Tam

I first mountain biked on Mt. Tam in the early 1980s, and I have been biking ever since. As the years have taken their toll, however, my wife and I purchased ebikes when I turned 75 this year. Although I continue to teach skiing at Squaw Valley, I find that I do not have the wind to grind up long hills on my analog bike and must rely on power assist to enjoy the downhills at speeds no different than before. I encourage you to recognize the benefit of class 1 assistance to those of us who would otherwise be forced to give up this great sport.

Dale Chamblin

Terrie Gillen

From: Howard Luria <hluria1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: resllution #8607

To the Board of Directors,
I am a retired cardiologist with multiple medical problems.
I ride an e-bike for my health and enjoyment and it is important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bike are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,
Howard Luria MD

Terrie Gillen

From: John Boeschen <jboeschen@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Yes on Resolution #8607

Please vote yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special 3-year permit to study the impacts of e-bikes and other users on the watershed.

I'm a 74-year-old Marin resident of 33 years, a mountain biker and a hiker. My aging knees are limiting both recreational activities for me. ebikes take the load off my knees, making it possible for me to continue recreating in our wonderful watershed.

Thanks for keeping the watershed accessible for all users.

John Boeschen
San Rafael

Sent from my iPad, adrift in the ether or . . .

Terrie Gillen

From: Jim Pyle <jim.p@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Yes on Resolution 8607 - E-Bike support

Dear Board of Directors,

I ride an e-bike for my health and it is important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bike are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,

Jim Pyle
jim.p@sbcglobal.net
925-876-3234

Terrie Gillen

From: John Vance <JVance@Comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please Support Resolution 8607 (Gathering Of Factual Information Related To Impact of eMTBs)

Please support Resolution 8607, the up to 3-year study of the actual impact eMTBs. The Board can only benefit by having factual information relating to the actual impact, if any, of eMTBs. The need for factual information on eMTBs is no different than the need the Board has every time it has an issue where there is factual information which can inform it's decision. Given the nature of the factual information to be collected, I ask the Board to set the study's term at 3 years. Staff should be commended for the reasonableness and fairness of the approach they propose.

Thank you,

John Vance

Terrie Gillen

From: jayweilll <jlweill@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I am 75 years of age, a 42 year of resident of San Anselmo, and been riding on the fire roads of the MMWD for 35 years. The first 30 years was on manual bikes and the last 5 years on an ebike in order to keep riding with my daughter, son and grandsons, and other friends and neighbors. As a result of age related issues I would not be on the mountain without my ebike. I urge you to vote yes on Resolution 8607 at your meeting on Dec 15 so that I can continue to enjoy the watershed on a bike.

thanks

jay weill

Terrie Gillen

From: jacquie phelan <jacquie@batnet.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: yes on 8607, thank you MMWD

We are ‘muddern maturity Marinites’ and we NEED the time on the e-bike to remain healthy.
THANKYOU in advance for permitting us to remain outdoors, even though our legs and lungs are getting wimpy
Jacquie Phelan and Charlie Cunningham

Nothing is holier, nothing is more exemplary than a beautiful, strong tree.
Hermann Hesse

Terrie Gillen

From: jon@jsigerman.com
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:09 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution #8607; e-mountain-bike access

To the Board of Directors, MMWD:

I ride an e-mountain-bike for my health and it is important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bike are allowed. In fact, because of advancing age and a heart arrhythmia requiring a pacemaker riding a Class-1 pedal assist mountain-bike is the only way I now can participate in the activity I had loved for two decades—mountain biking the beautiful open spaces around my Mill Valley home. My cardiologist recommended my return to mountain-biking (and the cardio exercise associated therewith) to help me stave off more serious complications associated with my condition.

I know there are many similarly situated to me who enjoy mountain-biking but due to physical or age disabilities require pedal-assist MTBs to facilitate their access to open space and mountain trail terrains, and share the same with their family and friends.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607. I believe the balancing of fundamental public policy fairness tip in favor of class-1 e-MountainBike trail access; the Resolution 8607 provides somewhat of a means for assessing that balance on behalf of the various stakeholders.

Thank you for your time and support,

Jon Sigerman

Terrie Gillen

From: Stu Ryan <Stu.Ryan@rydout.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebikes

Dear MMWD Board Members:

Please vote in favor of Resolution 8607. Class I ebikes allow my wife Sarah to join me biking the fire roads on Mt. Tam. From my experience, ebikes and ebikers are no more disruptive to the watershed and other users than regular bikers.

Thanks in advance for your consideration,

Stu

J. Stuart Ryan

172 Beach Rd.
Belvedere, CA

stu.ryan@rydout.com
Phone: 415-608-0080

Terrie Gillen

From: Lucy Dilworth <lucy.dilworth@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: In support of E-bikes on the watershed

To the Board of Directors,
I ride an e-bike for my health and it is important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bikes are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,
Lucy Dilworth

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Terrie Gillen

From: snoboot1@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 7:01 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-MTB Approval.

Dear Board of the MMWD,

The upcoming vote on the allowance of Class 1 E-bikes on Mt Tam is something I have been waiting for since I first made a presentation to you at your August of 2018 board meeting and at a number of other times since.

Thru out these years you have meticulously explored all possible avenues to get to an educated basis to make a decision.

I know it was necessary to feel it was the right avenue to take and allow safe and courteous use of Class 1 E-MTB's on Mt Tam.

Thank you for getting to a point where it will finally bare fruition.

Sincerely,
Larry J. Kushner
E Bike Advocacy and Education Group

Terrie Gillen

From: Mark Harmon <mharmon@aubergepartners.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:43 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

To the Board of Directors,

I ride an e-bike for my health and enjoyment. It is very important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bikes are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,

Mark Harmon
San Rafael, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Mark Smith <smithm784@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Yes allow eBikes for over 60 year old

Board:

Yes allow eBikes for over 60 year olds. I have a bad heart, and had a stroke, which ment selling my conventional bike and buying an eBike. Otherwise I could not get access to the nature trails that I have supported all my life.

We need more people out in nature to combat climate change. Too many people live in Cities with no connection to the natural world where they do not see it.

Thank you in advance,

Mark

--

Mark Smith
408.722.1408 Mobile
smithm784@gmail.com

"Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat. "
- Sun Tzu

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael Lipson <Lipson@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes

To the Board of Directors,
I ride w/several e-bikers. It is important for them to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bike are allowed. And I would like the option to Ebike when I'm in my 70s.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,
Michael Lipson
177 Oak Ave
San Anselmo Ca

Terrie Gillen

From: McKitterick, Nate <nate.mckitterick@dlapiper.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:24 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Item 10 E-Bikes

Greetings, Directors. I am writing in support of the trial e-Bike program.

I do not ride an e-Bike. But I am enheartened every time I see someone out on our trails on an e-Bike who otherwise would not be there due to physical limitations, which might be age, disability, or otherwise. I also see many couples who are able to get out together with one rider on an e-Bike and the other on a regular bike. My hope is that these people, who otherwise might not be enjoying our Watershed as often, will become staunch advocates of preservation and funding for the Watershed and other open spaces.

I also suspect that many of these users are riding to the trails, rather than driving, which relieves pressure on the already full open space lots around Marin.

I served 10 years as a Planning Commissioner in a very environmentally conscious jurisdiction. and do not take lightly the prospect of motorized bikes in the Watershed. But the proposal here is a low-impact way to open up the Watershed to more and different users. There is considerable room to share our trails with users of all types.

Thank you for your consideration

-Nate McKitterick

The Breck House "The Igloo"
100 Alder Ave.
San Anselmo, CA 94060
650-787-7478



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Terrie Gillen

From: Paul Moe <pmoe@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please allow EBikes

Dear board members

I am a 65-year-old Mill Valley resident. I grew up hiking and biking Mount Tamalpais. I spent several years working for the state parks and national Park service. I have a great love for the mountain. I feel E bikes have the same amount of impact as regular mountain bikes. With an E bike I can keep enjoying parts of the mountain I can no longer go to without one. In the 3 years of riding on the mountain I have not had one negative experience with others, I have had many memorable experiences. Please open up all the mountain to EBikes.

Thank you
Paul Moe

Terrie Gillen

From: rjacobsen <rodgerjacobsen@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: allow ebikes

I am possibly the first person to ride an ebike in Marin.

I have been riding a mountain bike on the Marin watershed since 1982, at that time I was in my mid forties and had been running for years. Once I got on a mountain bike everything changed, it was so much easier on my body than the pounding of running and it was easier to go further, so after a few years of running and riding, running gave way to biking.

Years of mountain biking led to plenty of road rash and bruises and cracked ribs, it's what comes with the territory, but never have I ever come even close to injuring anyone other than myself. I have a wide group of friends and none of them have ever injured anyone who was walking or running.

In 2007 as I approached seventy I could no longer keep up with my group of friends who were all younger than I was. When I read a NY Times article about some older guys commuting on electric bicycles I investigated and bought a kit to electrify the bike I was riding. What a relief! I wasn't going to have to quit or struggle along, I could keep riding and keep up and continue being an active member of our community.

out on the sides of Mt. Tamalpais the beauty and exercise are well known benefits but equally beneficial is community and friendships.

I am now in my eighties and still able to lead the life I want riding the watershed. In the thirteen years since I have been riding an ebike I have never had issues with other users.

If it ain't broke don't fix it,

Rodger Jacobsen

Terrie Gillen

From: Robert Mittelstaedt <ramittelstaedt1010@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Item 10 on Board agenda, 12/15/20 E-bikes

I write in support of the District staff's recommendations on the One Tam plan and to establish a three-year interim Special Use Permit for E-Bikes.

One Tam: As a volunteer Ambassador for One Tam, I have seen first-hand their valuable work in protecting the biodiversity of our beloved Mt. Tam and enhancing our enjoyment and understanding of its precious environment. One Tam's inclusive, collaborative approach does our County proud and will help ensure that Mt. Tam continues to thrive as a treasured natural resource -- consistent with William Kent's vision of making the watershed "available for the enjoyment and use of everyone" and "to serve the needs of a democratic people . . . removing privileges reserved for only a few." Kent wanted the land he deeded to become "the show place of the State" -- with "happy well-behaved people going where they have a right to go, and where they naturally want to go." One Tam helps protect not only Mt. Tam's biodiversity but the growing diversity of its visitors.

E-bikes: As a recent member of the community advisory board on e-bikes and one of the founders of E-Bike Access, I applaud Ben, Crystal and Shaun for their careful and thoughtful analysis of the e-bike issue. While their recommendation does not go far as I had hoped, it is a workable solution to what has unfortunately become an overly contentious issue. This compromise approach should help our community of Mt. Tam move forward in the spirit of One Tam. And it will allow senior citizens who need a little help up our favorite fire roads to continue enjoying Mt. Tam and stay healthy and live longer. That's obviously important to us, and we thank you for this.

This three-year period will reinforce that e-bike riders are courteous and respectful of the environment and other visitors. We support monitoring and educational outreach to ensure compliance with the rules of the road. We volunteer for the Slow & Say Hello program in collaboration with MCL, the Horse Council and MCBC. Sharing the fire roads (with hikers having exclusive use of 60 miles of trails) has worked well because the various user groups have learned to be respectful of the others. We realize that the special use permit can be revoked if significant issues arise. We are committed to making this work!

Terrie Gillen

From: Richard Benyon <richard.benyon@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution #8607

Dear Directors

I am a 54 year old Corte Madera resident and have recently switched from my mountain bike to an eBike and it has been a game changer. From a health perspective I am riding a few times a week and is making a huge difference to my health, and stress levels! I feel like the mountain has been "give back to me".

I generally ride with a group of friends and the social element has been wonderful. We ride carefully and ensure that we share the mountain appropriately. We don't ride any faster than we used to, but are able to once again ride some of those trails that we did in our younger days!!!

I would ask you to please vote **Yes** on Resolution **#8607**.

Kind regards

Richard

Richard Benyon
100 Grove Ave
Corte Madera

Terrie Gillen

From: rick stern <rickstern@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bike request...

Board of Directors,

I am a reasonably healthy 68 year old man who has lived in Marin County for over 40 years. For decades I've hiked and mountain biked on numerous MMWD trails around Mt Tam. I can no longer safely ride my mountain bike up the mountain due to my age and the physical ailments that come along with getting older. Having access to our many trails & fire roads is a big part of what makes this place so special. I recently purchase a pedal assisted e-bike to allow me to get back on the mountain. And I love it, as it makes me feel the joy of being a (grown) kid again! I do not speed up or down the hillside trails, merely cruise up the mountain to enjoy the spectacular vistas, uncrowded spaces and to get some healing exercise. Please do not take that away from me.

I understand that this resolution will allow a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years. I strongly urge you to vote YES on this matter. Allow e-bikes to enjoy the trails as other bikes do. I firmly believe you will find that most e-bike riders are us "seniors" who will be courteous to others, safety minded riders and who will not cause any harm to our environment.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thanks in advance for your consideration,

Rick Stern
415.515.3126
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Sam Wilson <wilsonword@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I am writing to express my support for Resolution 8607 to allow for a three-year study of use of e-bikes on certain watershed trails. As a 74-year-old rider with replaced knees and chronic shortness of breath, an e-bike is essential for me to continue to enjoy and physically benefit from riding. Moreover mountain biking is the essential social “glue” that sustains my closest friendships, with a group that refers itself as the Over the Hill Gang, which always respects the priority of right-of-way of those who prefer to experience the watershed environment on foot.

Sam Wilson
13 Brookside Court
San Anselmo

Terrie Gillen

From: Alisa Swartz <alisaswartz415@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:36 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Brian Swartz
Subject: Ebike on MMWD land

I ride an ebike and non ebike riders regularly pass me both going uphill and downhill. Realistically, ebike riders are older and more cautious. My 25 year old mountain biking son wouldn't be caught dead on an ebike. But ebikes allow us to stay on the mountain as we age and combat physical issues. Please keep the land open to ebikes. If needed, let's do significant monitoring to see the true impact/non impact of ebike riders. Maybe there is a reluctance to purely share the mountain as opposed to any real safety issue?

Thank you for your consideration.

Alisa Swartz
415 272 5262
Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Bill Abright <billabright1@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:15 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Bill Abright; Over the Hill Gang Hill Gang; Bill Abright; Jay Weill; Al Baumann; Lucy Dilworth; Jonathan Frieman; Robert Mittelstaedt; Daniel Cressman
Subject: Please don't take my ebike away

Dear Board Members,

I have been biking on Mt Tam now for 37 years, and have been riding an e-bike without incident or damage to the fire roads for the last 5 years. My health and social life revolves around riding 3 days a week with the same group of friends. It is one of the treasures we share that make Marin unique in the world. I was a member of the original BicycleTrails Council, The Trail Partners Slow and Say Hello Campaign and the Community Advisory Committee on E-bikes. Having reviewed all of the data both for and against, my conclusion is that Class 1 peddle assist E-bikes are just bicycles for riders that can use a little help to keep riding as they age, or as way for new riders to improve their health and enjoy our watershed in less crowded areas where bicycles are allowed. I've written a little poem to offer a lite hearted appeal to you to vote yes on MMWD's staff Resolution # 8607.

Thank you,

Bill Abright

San Anselmo

Please don't take our E-bikes away

They help us climb the same old hills we pedaled yesterday

All our friends have got them and we ride them every day

So please don't take our e-bikes away.

Now you don't need to worry about us going way too fast.

Our bodies are much older now, we're trying to make them last.

They get us to the top of Tam and the glory of our past.

So please don't take our E-bikes away

We started riding mountain bikes way back in "83

We went to water district meetings and we formed the BTC. (Bicycle Trails Council)

We helped to make the rules for bikes and put limits on our speed.

So don't outlaw our E-bikes and remember our good deeds.

We've been riding Tam every Sunday for more than 30 years

We set a good example of behavior to our peers

We are faithfully compliant....to the rules we do adhere.

Our e-bikes give us access to the land we hold so dear.

So Please don't take our E- bikes away

They help us climb the same old hills we pedaled yesterday

All our friends have got them and we ride them every day

Please don't take our E-bikes away.

Terrie Gillen

From: Brian Casey <briancasey3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Marin Water Board,

I would like to express my support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for three years.

I have been a resident of the Bay Area since 1987, and of Marin County since 2005. I have spent many years riding the fire roads and trails of the county, but as I have reached the age of 56 it's now getting harder to climb the hills as I used to. I am now preparing the purchase of a e-bike that will allow me to continue to enjoy the outdoors and wild places for which Marin is so renowned.

I urge you to consider this reasonable trial period that would enable people like me to continue enjoying our amazing landscape as we have for decades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Casey
41 Serra Way
San Rafael, CA 94903
415-613-5855

Terrie Gillen

From: Benjamin Darche <bdarche07@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution #8607

Dear MMWD Board Members,

I was a member of a group of mt bike riders until I moved to the East Coast in 2004. I have visited my friends over the years and ride an e-bike with them when I'm in the area.

I am 73 and am able to continue to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of riding in the MMWD watershed.

Please vote YES on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Respectfully,
Ben Darche

--

Terrie Gillen

From: William Hammonds <whammonds@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes

Dear Directors,

I walk and bike throughout the water district 3-5 days a week. I am 70 years old and feel the trails should be available to all. I haven't noticed any problems with the non e-bikes or e-bikes, and hope to be able to join as a e-bikers.

Cheers,

Bill Hammonds

Terrie Gillen

From: Brian Scarth <bhscarth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Terrie Gillen

From: Craig Anderson <craighande@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: eBike support

Hello MMWD Board Members,

Just wanted to take a moment to thank you and confirm my support for Class 1 eBikes during this three year trial period. My wife and I have recently entered into the sport of eBiking and absolutely love the ability to ride together in areas where we could not previously consider. This is a game changer for us, especially at our age (older).

Thank you so much for the opportunity!

Craig Anderson

Terrie Gillen

From: Christopher Barnes <tallyho39@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:25 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e-bikes on the MMWD fire roads Resolution 8607

Sir,

As a responsible - and at 72 rather senior - citizen of Marin County I wish to express my support for Resolution 8607.

Having a pair of artificial knees I am no longer able to hike the long distances of years past, or to cycle quite as energetically as hitherto.

I have been happily riding a pedal assist e-bike now for three years. The pedal assist still requires energetic pedaling on the uphill, and with access to fire roads the e-bike allows me to continue to enjoy the great outdoors, the longer routes, the grand vistas and extensive bird life in the area.

I really cannot understand the opposition to e-bikes. Most of the users are of a certain age, like me, while the younger cyclists tend to be purists who can afford to disdain any such assistance. For us seniors in particular there is no incentive to speed, either uphill or down. Safety is more of a concern to most!

I hope you will vote to ensure all residents can continue to enjoy the outdoor pleasures of this great county and the MMWD watershed.

Sincerely,

Christopher Barnes,
Nicasio

Terrie Gillen

From: Christian Buss <christianrbuss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:34 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello,

I wanted to reach out about resolution 8607. I am strongly in support of the trial. I am an avid cyclist but given my age have found it harder and harder to manage the significant elevation changes that are par for the course on trails in Marin county.

I also have a young family meaning that Time is limited when not chasing around a 2 and 4 year old. Being able to access trails more readily would be a huge advantage, allowing me to spend my time in nature in the way that I love without having to spend half a day, which is a luxury I can rarely afford.

I am a committed environmentalist, and have considered whether riding e-bikes has a negative impact on the natural places that I love. Having seen the quietness and minimal impact of my road ebike when riding roads in the headlands, or using my ebike on allowed trails in oregon where I used to live I am thoroughly convinced that the negative effect while riding on MMWD trails would be limited. I am also confident that we can coexist with existing bike users, hikers and horseback riders as well, as the ebikes only provide benefit when pedaling uphill and our rules our courtesy and right of way do not change whether on an e-bike or a traditional bike.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christian Buss
christianrbuss@gmail.com
415-202-4896

Terrie Gillen

From: ciara cox <keewawa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:26 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: In support of resolution 8607

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to ask you to pass resolution 8607 allowing class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads.

I am in my late 50's and have recently purchased an e-bike that allows me much more freedom and the ability to be out in nature. I can still get a workout and stay active while being able to enjoy nature.

Conservation is important to me and I support many local conservation and nature education organizations. When riding and hiking I carry bags with me to pick up trash.

I strongly believe that allowing class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads. will not damage trails and will not be a nuisance to hikers, horses, or other bikers. I believe it will give more people access to your trails.

Thank you

Ciara Cox
Inverness, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Christie Michaels <michaels_christina@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:30 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes in the Watershed

Dear Members of the Board,

It has come to my attention that you are voting on whether to allow e-bikes on the trails of the Watershed. My family and I are out on the trails at least three days every week, both on foot and on bikes.

I am supportive of allowing pedal-assist e-bikes on bike-legal trails. I do not own or ride an electric mountain bike myself, but I appreciate that having the assist allows a wider group of people access to the mountain.

I hope you will also support allowing electric-assist bikes on the trails. I feel that it is a net-positive for the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Christie Michaels

Terrie Gillen

From: Chris Tufts <tufts.christopher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607: Support

Hi,

I'm not an e-bike user. I have grown up a lifelong hiker, runner and cyclist in Marin for the last 35 years and thus far have found e-bike riders a welcome addition to MMWD fire roads. They're just as pleasant and observant as other cyclists and I think they deserve a trial period

Thanks! Stay safe,

Chris Tufts

Terrie Gillen

From: Douglas Nelson <doug514@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Jack Gibson; Larry Bragman; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Russell
Cc: Terrie Gillen
Subject: Item 10 - EBIke Special Use Permit - Please Add Class 3 ebikes

MMWD Board Members:

Thank you for considering approval of the Special Use Permit for ebikes on MMWD fire roads. I urge your support, however I ask that you please add Class 3 ebikes to the Special Use Permit.

As you may know, there are three classes of ebikes. Class 1 and Class 3 ebikes are functionally identical except for the software controlling the motor pedal assist mode - 20 mph for Class 1 and 28 mph for Class 3. Both are pedal-assist, motor power only provided with pedaling. Otherwise, in every way, including the motor strength, Class 1 and Class 3 ebikes are identical. The power cuts out at 20 mph and 28 mph respectively. Since both the classes top assist exceeds the speed limit, in practice, on the fire roads, there is absolutely no difference between a rider obeying the speed limit on a Class 1 or Class 3 ebike.

Since you have speed limits on the fire roads, the theoretical speed should be irrelevant. All bicyclists should obey speed limits and it makes no difference what kind of bike you are riding. Not including Class 3 ebikes would be the same as banning cars that are capable of speeds in excess of 65 mph from state highways.

Enforcement will not be feasible, because the bikes are visually identical in every way other than a very small, often hidden, sticker identifying the bike class.

The addition of Class 3 ebikes to the special use permit would not result in any additional safety issues or speed limit violations.

For me as a person in their mid-60s, the ebike has enabled me access to trails with hills that I otherwise could not ride on a unpowered bike. Whether I am riding a Class 1 or Class 3 ebike has no effect on how fast or safely I ride. I ride safely and obey speed limits. I hope you will consider adding Class 3 ebikes to the Special Use Permit.

Thank you,
Douglas Nelson
514 E. Blithedale Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Dave Rhoads <dave.rhoads@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:55 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Supporting Resolution 8607

Greetings MMWD Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong support of e-bikes access in the MMWD Watershed for the trial period (Resolution 8607).

While not currently an e-bike rider in Marin, my wife and I ride to and within the Watershed weekly from our home in San Rafael. My parents, seniors who live here in San Rafael too, are not yet e-bikers but they have been considering them for some time for short trips in town and recreation nearby. My mom used to be a big hiker but after breaking each of her ankles in separate incidents, has to take it easy when hiking. An e-bike would allow her to experience more of the Watershed than she can access today.

Additionally, I volunteer with the Marin Bicycle Coalition, Marin Conservation League and the Marin Horse Council at the [*Slow and Say Hello!*](#) events in the Watershed and nearby lands. I am committed to continued volunteering to ensure the equitable and courteous multi-use nature of our wonderful trail system. I feel that we can work with the community to help everyone use our trails in ways that support each other, learn about our Watershed, the wildlife and nature we share the land with.

Finally, if we can make it easier for residents to visit the Watershed by means other than driving, we have a real opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Allowing people to e-bike on trails to their destination in the MMWD (for a picnic, hike, run, etc) or to recreate on them in the MMWD truly can have a positive environmental impact. MWWD can be a partner with other Marin agencies to encourage alternative transportation.

Thank you for your consideration and the work you do for our community.

Best,
Dave

Terrie Gillen

From: Eris Weaver <eris@bikesonoma.org>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Tom Boss (tom@marinbike.org); 'Debbie Bloomquist'; Jacob Bayless (jake@mountainbikealliance.org)
Subject: Public Comment: 12/15/2020 meeting Item #10

Board of Directors
Marin Municipal Water District
220 Nellen Ave
Corte Madera, CA 94925

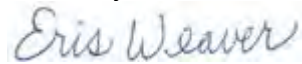
RE: RESOLUTION NO. 8607

Dear Directors:

The Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition supports MMWD Resolution 8607, authorizing an interim special use permit for Class I e-bikes on the watershed.

Electric bikes are enabling many more residents to enjoy outdoor recreation who may have been previously hesitant due to age, health, or other concerns. The Resolution's initial restrictions to Class I e-bikes and use only on fire roads are entirely reasonable. According to the research so far, the impact of e-bikes on trail erosion is not likely to be much greater than that of regular mountain bikes, and on a fire road the impact should be nil. The signage and education programs outlined in the Resolution should help prevent inappropriate behavior on the part of new riders. A win-win all around!

Sincerely,



Eris Weaver, Executive Director

Cc: Tom Boss, Marin County Bicycle Coalition
Debbie Bloomquist, Redwood Empire Mountain Bike Alliance



Eris Weaver, Executive Director
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

eris@bikesonoma.org

707-545-0153 office • 707-338-8589 cell

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/448d5880/MoaQA13K1kaeYPGoEB6VLg?u=http://www.bikesonoma.org.btw>

Terrie Gillen

From: Fred Benz <fbenz@pacbell.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes... Yes!

To the Board of Directors,

I am an avid Mt. Biker and have been riding in and around the Marin Water Shed for the last 30 years. For my part, I am 60 years old (as of 12/16!!) and am healthy enough to continue to push up the mountain on an 'Acoustic' bike. That said, I ride with a group of 'elders', who range in age from late 60's to early 80's and I have seen first hand the benefits that e-bikes provide older riders. Put simply, without the assistance provided by e-bikes, the group I ride with would have ceased many years back. As it is, the riders in the group, many of whom were pioneers in the development of Mt. Biking, are still able to get out together and enjoy the sport they love in the the spectacular beauty of the Water District. And, selfishly, it has enabled me to maintain my connection and my friendship with the group.

Long and short, I encourage you to please vote 'Yes' on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for service as board members and for considering my letter. I sincerely hope you will support resolution #8607

Regards,

Fred Benz

Terrie Gillen

From: Fritz Scholten <fritz.scholten@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:44 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello!

I strongly support Resolution 8607 as for me being a 72 year old man with an artificial hip and knee issues, only my EBIKE gives me the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and get to places I otherwise never could enjoy. Especially in times like these fresh air and outdoor activities are important to physical and also mental health.

Like myself, the ebikers I know are all of older age and respectful to nature and the environment in general.

Ebikes like Electric and maybe Hydrogen cars will be not only transportation solutions for the future but also tools for recreational joy.

Please vote in favor of the Resolution 8607, for the initial 3 year trial!

Thank you
Fritz Scholten

Sent from iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Geordie Stephens <geordie1027@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:22 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello, my name is Geordie Stephens
And I am the Great Grandson of William Kent.

My Grandfather, Roger Kent, would drive us in his Army Jeep from Alpine Dam down to Kent Lake on a regular basis. On those trips, he would speak of his love for Marin, open space, and the promise the MMWD his father had founded and donated the thousands of acres to stood for. That All people should be able to enjoy Mt. Tamalpais, whatever their background or connection to nature. As an early conservationist, William Kent donated land to create the watershed, and also funded the Mt. Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway to encourage tourists to experience the beauty of the mountain as well.

The Kent family believe in sharing, giving back, being inclusive and allowing people of all ages, abilities and love for nature to be able to share the wonder and beauty of Mt. Tamalpais together.

Try to think of an electric bicycle this way. It allows people to be active when they are older, or suffer from an injury or disability. It's also something that helps young people see vistas and parts of the mountain they could never see before because their generation is more dependent on technology as a means of self expression. The eBike is simply another tool which connects people to nature and the outdoors.

Sure, create speed limits, teach everyone to be more mindful of the other, more polite, more appreciative to what we have and what the MMWD has done such a superb job maintaining since its creation in 1912.

Thank you,
Geordie Stephens

Terrie Gillen

From: Holly Harris <hollyharrisms@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:25 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Please put Resolution 8607 in place.

E-bikes are important to me as they have replaced my car. I do like to ride on the fire roads too to get off of the pavement and away from traffic. This worked well when we were able to come back from Fairfax back home to Mill Valley.

We get out doors every day. We enjoy seeing the trees, squirrels, and hearing the frogs. E-bikes make it easier to get outdoors as there is no need to drive to the parks.

Let us be able to share our rides in the parks without driving to the parks. Help keep us off of the pavement, so that we are safer.

Thank you,
Holly Harris

Terrie Gillen

From: Hugh Kuhn <hughkuhn@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:41 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: EBikes on Tam?

Yes please. EBike riders have been riding on the MMWD fire roads for years. They enable us “older” riders to continue our lifelong love of riding on Tam. The nikes themselves do not cause any more issues (erosion, downhill speed, etc.) than occur with non- EBikes, but they sure do help many of us continue to ride on the climbs.

Please vote to allow EBikes subject to the same rules as other bikes.

Regards,

Hugh Kuhn
Mill Valley
Over 30 years a rider on Tam

Terrie Gillen

From: Ivo Heckaman <ivoheckaman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I was on the fence about supporting ebikes on the trails I grew up riding.

That was, until I was able to ride with my 62 year old uncle while we was on an ebike. We were only able to do this because of the pedal assist from the specialized vado he bought.

Godspeed!

-Ivo

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Jim Farley <jimfarley@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E Bike Use - MMWD Fire Roads - Yes!

After reading your information closely, here's a version without my personal information:

Jim Farley

jimfarley@comcast.net
Cell 415.827.9884

From: Jim Farley [mailto:jimfarley@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:13 PM
To: 'BoardComment@MarinWater.org'
Subject: E Bike Use - MMWD Fire Roads - Yes!

Dear MMWD Board Members and Staff,

As a 60+ year resident of Marin County and longtime resident of San Anselmo, I am writing in support of your Board's consideration and asking for your approval for a three year trial of use of the Marin Municipal Water District watershed for e bikes tomorrow evening.

My family's connection with MMWD lands stretches back to dawn childhood fishing trips with my Italian grandfather in Lake Bon Tempe in the 60's, long trail running throughout the lakes region and up to Mount Tamalpais in the 80's and 90's, family picnics and hikes in recent years all over the terrain, from Lake Lagunitas to the Yolanda Trail to Carson Falls. Many adventures over a lifetime of growing up and living in Marin.

Thanks to aging, one of my newest and favorite ways to access Marin outdoors is on an e bike. There are many ways to access the outdoors and enjoy recreation – and I believe e bikes are the wave of the future for a variety of purposes. Especially for we seniors, getting outdoors and far from paved roads is important for both our physical and mental health. E bikes allow us to navigate the hilly terrain of Marin and enjoy places we would otherwise not be able to access – it's such a joy to be able to safely experience the cherished lands so close to the Ross Valley and all of Marin.

Thank you for all you are doing to preserve and protect Marin's water shed – much appreciated by all of us! And please count me in as a supporter of the three year trial period for Class 1 e bikes riding.

Best,
Jim

Jim Farley

Terrie Gillen

From: Janet FitzGerald <janet@fitzcominc.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:39 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please Protect the Rights of Respectful Electric Bike Riders to Share Our Trails

Dear Marin Water Board Members,

I hope you will consider the reasons why respectful (and mostly older) pedal assist electric bike riders need to continue to have access to the trails and fire roads in the area where we pay taxes and our water bills. And to consider less drastic steps other than total bans - as we pedal assist riders often have no better way to do what's best for our health – which is to get outside and exercise.

If you were to do a survey, you would likely find that more pedal assist mountain bike riders are over the age of 40, and have some sort of orthopedic or other health issue - including asthma, that could put us at greater risk for Covid. We need our immune systems and lungs to stay strong, while avoiding knee or hip injuries that most other sports, such as running - and even hiking and swimming can cause. So please don't take this health benefit away from us!

I have spent wonderful moments on our beautiful trails and fire roads; while my daughter, a Drake Mountain Bike Team rider, has spent far more time than I; and neither she nor I have ever seen a pedal assist mountain bike rider be inconsiderate of hikers or horses. Quite the opposite. We've only seen cautious pedal assist riders being respectful and helpful to others.

As a matter of fact, the majority of regular mountain bike riders also try to be respectful too, as do the majority of hikers and horseback riders do as well. So I am confident we can rely on more democratic ways, such as discussions, surveys, guidelines and educational campaigns rather than all-out bans.

As far as the environment goes - pedal assist bikes make no noise, use no gas, and create no sparks, hence, we are a lot safer than some might incorrectly assume pedal assist mountain bikers might be. We care about our environment and our wildlife, and love the physical and mental health boosts we get from being outdoor, seeing great views and sharing those joys with family or safely-distanced friends.

Thank you for considering this far-more egalitarian approach than drastic ones during this time of extraordinary health crises – where the physical and mental health of all groups need to be encouraged, not banned.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to have further discussions, or even try out my favorite Marin County purchase and life-saver - my gentle pedal assist mountain bike!

Sincerely,

Janet FitzGerald
Fairfax resident &
Grateful cancer survivor

Terrie Gillen

From: Jim Farley <jimfarley@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E Bike Use - MMWD Fire Roads - Yes!

Dear MMWD Board Members and Staff,

As a 60+ year resident of Marin County and longtime resident of San Anselmo, I am writing in support of your Board's consideration and asking for your approval for a three year trial of use of the Marin Municipal Water District watershed for e bikes tomorrow evening.

My family's connection with MMWD lands stretches back to dawn childhood fishing trips with my Italian grandfather in Lake Bon Tempe in the 60's, long trail running throughout the lakes region and up to Mount Tamalpais in the 80's and 90's, family picnics and hikes in recent years all over the terrain, from Lake Lagunitas to the Yolanda Trail to Carson Falls. Many adventures over a lifetime of growing up and living in Marin.

Thanks to aging, one of my newest and favorite ways to access Marin outdoors is on an e bike. There are many ways to access the outdoors and enjoy recreation – and I believe e bikes are the wave of the future for a variety of purposes. Especially for we seniors, getting outdoors and far from paved roads is important for both our physical and mental health. E bikes allow us to navigate the hilly terrain of Marin and enjoy places we would otherwise not be able to access – it's such a joy to be able to safely experience the cherished lands so close to the Ross Valley and all of Marin.

Thank you for all you are doing to preserve and protect Marin's water shed – much appreciated by all of us! And please count me in as a supporter of the three year trial period for Class 1 e bikes riding.

Best,
Jim

Jim Farley

jimfarley@comcast.net
Cell 415.827.9884
84 Florence Avenue, San Anselmo, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: jacqueline jones <jgwenjones@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I support e-bikes on trails

Hi.

Not everyone thinks e-bikes on trails are a problem. I know plenty of locals who had to switch to e-bikes because of various health conditions - I'm one of those people; and we are as courteous on trails as we are on the road or on our mountain bikes. This county is aging rapidly, and promoting healthy activities is important.

Please keep the trails open to e-bikes and work with the Marin Bike Coalition to teach safety and courtesy on e-bikes just as they did with mountain bikes. OR, ban ALL bikes to make it fair.

Thanks, and thank you for the time you spend serving on this important board.

Jacqueline Jones

Terrie Gillen

From: Jennifer Klopfer <j.klopfer@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:55 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I'm a class 1 e-mountain bike rider and support responsible riding by all riders. I see no difference in a responsible class 1 e-bike rider and a responsible non e-bike rider. There's opportunity to have respect for resources and wildlife, as well as safety of others with both types of bikes. I've been riding mountain bikes in Marin for 25 years and recently found that I need a small assist to continue to ride and enjoy riding with my other family members who are slightly stronger than me. This has allowed me continued access to our parks and a healthy outlet, especially during covid. Please consider this 3 year trial program.

Thank you,

Jennifer Klopfer
Mill Valley resident

Terrie Gillen

From: john lyman <john_lyman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:02 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello,

My name is John Lyman and I'm sending this note in support of Resolution 8607.

After purchasing an e-bike last year, I've not only managed to lose weight but I've also had the opportunity to travel to places that I haven't been able to travel to in a long time due to health issues. I can now ride to San Anselmo for dinner or accompany my friends on the beautiful local area trails. I've been bringing my camera lately due to the amazing array of wild species I've seen on my trail rides, and it's brought me back to my early adult pursuit of bird watching.

E-bikes are amazing and open up a world of possibilities to so many. Please don't exclude these bikes from your trails... we respect the outdoors as much as hikers or traditional bikes. There may be a stigma attached to e-bikes, but from my experience, we are even more safety conscious because we actually go slower. We are out riding for the pure enjoyment of it while benefiting our health in the process. Please consider us in your deliberations. Thank you.

Best,

john lyman

Terrie Gillen

From: Jeremiah Mehler <jtmehler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:31 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

As a Fairfax and San Anselmo native of 50 years (TAX PAYER) and have been riding bikes on trails since I was 6 years old (before mountain biking was even a thing) I now ride both ebikes and analog bikes. The impact on trails is absolutely no different. The only difference is that you can go longer distances and go up hill a little faster. MMWD please consider allowing ebikes to be on local trails as it is the right thing to do.

My knees can't ride the analog bike much anymore so taking this new found assistant away would be truly devastating.

With regards. Jeremiah Mehler

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Jeremiah Mehler

Terrie Gillen

From: Jim Parrinello <JParrinello@nmgovlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:10 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bike issue

Dear Board Members,

I am 71 and can no longer easily ride a mountain bike on MMWD lands. But I can ride an e-bike which gives me a renewed ability to enjoy Mt Tam while getting healthy exercise. From what I've seen over the years, e-bike riders are far less aggressive and speed far less than mountain bikers. Perhaps this is because we tend to be older and age has given us wisdom, or vigilance, or fear. In any event, please support e-bike usage on MMWD lands at least for older and physically or medically challenged riders.

Thank you and happy holidays!

Jim Parrinello
3 Marsh Drive
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: J Sever <jsever117@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Water District Board,

I urge you to enact Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. This will allow the District to understand what ebikes use on fire roads in the watershed actually means, a very wise solution to the many long discussions I have been privy to at MMWD on ebikes in the watershed. There is a lot of fear of change and this special use permit makes a positive and conservative step forward.

I grew up riding bikes on fire roads in the watershed and hold precious our shared outdoor access and natural resource preservation. Fire roads are built for heavy vehicles so ebikes are highly unlikely to make any difference to our watershed. For me personally, continued access to our parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member, and for more people access for family riders with kids on a cargo bike all are great uses of our mutual watershed resource.

The more people come to know and love the watershed trails the more they support nature and doing what is needed for the planet to survive climate change. More people on ebikes means more people will support preservation and care of the watershed, and understand where our water comes from and how precious it is. Climate change means growing heat and drought directly impacting us and reducing our water in Marin. We need to make policies that are as inclusive of diverse people as possible to facilitate more people coming to know our watershed.

And we need more people able to choose to use bikes not only for recreation but for transportation to cut climate change. Ebikes make it much safer for many people to ride on our car encumbered streets to access our watershed land, and use less greenhouse gases to get to and recreate in the watershed than those of us who drive to and park to hike on the trails. We need to encourage more people to ride bikes and ebikes do just that. They are a public good for the climate and good for public knowledge of the watershed.

Finally it is important to remember that the law limits ebikes of all Classes 1, 2, and 3 to one horsepower maximum, equal to 750 watts. A Smart Car is 34 horsepower, and a motorcycle is 100 horsepower: this special use permit will allow us all to experience the fact that a bicycle is not a motorcycle is not a bicycle! A motorcycle is 100 times as powerful as an electric bicycle, by law. I believe ultimately that all three classes of legal, pedal-assist, electric bikes should eventually be permitted on our trails after the 3 year trial period and that the rider's actual speeds should be the regulation. The special use permit appropriately defines these speeds. We should look to speeds ultimately as the guide.

As a sometimes pedestrian on the watershed, I appreciate the 5 mph-while-passing speed for bicycles very much as I experience a bike passing me walking much faster than that can be startling. On a bike I have learned to pass walkers very slowly, while speaking up to give notice I am coming by. There is a learning process we can all go thru together in the next three years.

I urge you to pass the special use permit as written.

Thank you.

Jean Severinghaus
Greenbrae

Terrie Gillen

From: Jim Todd <jim.todd1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:47 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am a 77 year old bike rider. I am a Sierra Club member and a Marin native. The MMWD roads on Mt Tam are some of my favorite places to hike, and to ride. I recently purchased a class one ebike so that i can get up the many steep hills which are unavoidable on Marin county fire roads.

It would be wonderful to be allowed to ride my ebike on MMWD roads. Ebike riders tend to be older, so are less likely to speed or use trails that are for walking only, so it seems especially unfair to me that we should be banned because of a suspicion that we MIGHT be a problem.

Thank you for considering res. 8607

James Todd
San Rafael, Ca.

Terrie Gillen

From: Ichaval <Ichaval@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:05 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

This comment is to support approval of **Resolution 8607**, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3-year trial period.

As a strong supporter of environmental protection, a graduate from UC Berkeley in environmental sciences, and as an environmental attorney with expertise in stormwater and protected species issues, I understand there are many sides to the debate over this proposed resolution. What the debate lacks, however, is data. A trial period such as that provided in this resolution, would be a chance to better inform the debate with data - local data, from the community and environment of Marin.

After a debilitating broken leg last year, I was left with apparent permanent limited use of my left leg. I can no longer run or hike long distances on trails, as I used to do. Thankfully, on a bike, the good leg helps compensate. However, it's not enough to make it up significant hills. On an e-bike however, I have access to a much larger range of trails and fire roads, like everyone else -- where permitted. Resolution 8607 is a chance for me to have access to our public fire roads. I urge you to pass this resolution, and give riders like me a chance to show the County that e-bike riders can be as responsible and courteous to others as are all the other users of our public fire roads.

Yours truly,

Ladd Cahoon,
Novato

Terrie Gillen

From: Len Goldstein <lennygee1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebikes

I ride with several friends who are e-bikers. All of us ride for our health and to enjoy Marin fire-roads together. It is important for e-bikers to have access to the same MMWD fire-roads where other bikes are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Leonard Goldstein

Terrie Gillen

From: Linda Kitzel <kitzelfamily@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:01 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

MMWD,
I support 8607, the rule to enshrine ebikes as allowable on watershed land.

In my recovery from spine surgery, only an ebike pushed me past simple rehab to a high state of recovery, and it could only have happened on the fireroads of Mt. Tam, where you can find inner peace among nature while pushing yourself physically.

For aging people like myself, it mean the great outdoors is not out of reach.

Thank you,
Martin Kitzel
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Lee Parker <lee@parkermtg.biz>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Directors:

Thank you and your staff developing a rational and practical policy for class 1 e-bike users to share in the enjoyment of your beautiful preserve's fire roads.

I am 73 years of age with a history of knee ailments. Ten years ago I had to stop mountain biking. Two years ago I discovered e-bikes and have since logged over 1,900 miles. My overall health has dramatically improved. The District's roads are ideal for beginning and intermediate riders.

From what I've seen, opponents of e-bikes are sorely misinformed.

As a principal founder of the Sonoma County Open Space District and former vice president of the Sonoma Land Trust I am accurately aware of the risk/reward equation that comes with all levels of public access on protected resources. Clearly, e-bikes have a far lower impact than horses. I have been, and remain, a strong supporter of equestrian trail users.

Last year I reached out, by email, to Marin's leading equestrian group, suggesting a joint event with our senior's e-bike group. The stated purpose was to encourage planning an event to educate cyclists on how and why to interact with horses and their riders. Sadly, my request received no response.

Thanks again for your support and your outstanding stewardship.

Sincerely,
Leland E. Parker
913 South Elieso Drive
Larkspur, CA
707/484-9010

Terrie Gillen

From: Lizzy Setten <esettenwins@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Yes on resolution 8607

To the Board of Directors,

I ride an e-bike to commute to work from Mill Valley to San Rafael almost every day. I do this for my health and to help the environment as I have biked almost 5,000 miles since I purchased my ebike. I believe, Ebiking is the way of our future- imagine if just a portion of our population ebiked to work vs driving? In addition to commuting, I believe it is important for me and all those who are interested in ebiking to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bike are allowed. Ebiking makes connecting with our natural world more accessible. Through this connection, we are saving the planet through environmental responsibility and environmental awareness. Not only does ebiking ensure a healthy lifestyle, it makes people happier as a result. We need to do everything possible to promote and share ebiking. It's fun, healthy, and environmentally friendly.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,
Elisabeth Setten Winstead, Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Mel Dixon <meldixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please do not ban e-bikes on trails

Hello:

My name is Melanie Dixon and my husband and I own 7 Francisco Patio in Stinson Beach. I am writing to you in support of allowing e-bikes on trails.

I had to switch to an ebike several years ago due to a medical condition and by using it to commute a few days a week my medical team believes I significantly reduced the rate of my decline during that time period. But as an early e-bike adopter, I carried a doctor's note and a copy of the law with me because I was constantly challenged over my use of it. While I appreciated the opportunity to educate folks about the virtues of an e-bike, and how for me I didn't have a choice, it was at times demoralizing and I think we've all had enough demoralizing recently.

I'm always scratching my head over the idea that ebikes equate to reduced safety. A responsible ebike operator functions in the same legal and safe capacity as any other responsible party when it comes to speed, trail etiquette, etc. Rather than attempting to shut down trail access for a segment of the community who may have no other way to enjoy or recreate on these trails, is there not a way to focus on the actual problem and apply it equally to everyone? You can go too fast and be reckless on a trail and endanger others without being on an e-bike.

Furthermore, please be aware if you do ban e-bikes you will be challenged to allow them for folks like myself who fall under protection by the Americans with Disabilities Act. E-bikes can fall into the OPMD (Other Powered Mobility Device) category-- see here for more info: https://link.edgepilot.com/s/5c2472a1/gnD8-gDHakawtqn_ZL5UBA?u=https://www.ada.gov/opdmd.htm

Think of it this way-- if you wouldn't ban a wheelchair, don't ban an e-bike. Please don't marginalize the communities who use e-bikes any further than we already are. Instead, let's work together to set up safety rules around speed and trail etiquette that apply to everyone and benefit everyone.

Kindest Regards,
Melanie Dixon
5102957503
meldixon@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: marz deste <marzdeste@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:23 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Thank you for careful consideration and support of Resolution 8607, and allowing folks like me, who care about our watershed and all the wildlife, habitat and beauty it provides, the chance to access it with my ebike. As a recent ebike user, I am thrilled to once again visit places on the mountain without driving a car. I can now ride the fire roads to the lakes, Pine Mountain and more remote places with my younger and more fit friends and relatives. As a 63 year old grandmother, I can't say enough about how much I support a trial period for allowing me to use the watershed.

Thank you!
Mary Estes
4 Beach Dr.
San Rafael Ca
415 233 2026

Terrie Gillen

From: Matt Golden <matt@recurve.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:28 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please don't be anti bike

Let's share the road with ebikes too!

Matt Golden

<https://go.oncehub.com/mattgolden>

Terrie Gillen

From: Mark Gabbard <mgabbard415@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:59 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

To whom it may concern:

My name is Mark Gabbard and I have lived in Marin county (San Rafael) for 15 plus years. I support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

As I have aged, dealt with medical setbacks, and worked to raise two children, I have found it difficult to maintain the stamina needed to climb the hills in Marin on my mountain bike. A few years ago I began riding a class-1 mountain bike to keep up with my friends and enjoy trails that had become out of my reach. My e-bike has been a game changer for me. It has helped me with my health, allowed me to connect with our local outdoor beauty, and avoid taking my car to our local trailheads.

I grew up in Ohio and New Jersey and I am in wonder every day at the beauty of our county. I consider it a privilege to have access to our network of trails and do my part (along with my friends) to obey signs, yield to hikers and equestrian, and “stop and say hi” to my fellow trail users. There is a room for all of us to enjoy our outdoor recreation when everyone is careful and courteous.

In closing, simply banning the use of class-1 ebikes is not the answer. It is apparent that this form of recreation is here to stay and only continues to grow in popularity as our population ages. Allowing for a three year trial program will provide the data needed to better understand the impact of ebikes on our fire roads and make sound and sensible decisions moving forward. This is not a Marin-only issue and many organizations are here to help trail advocates and land managers make informed decisions for the future. For reference:

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/1a524427/VDDABhULB0uV4zw0R0L-hg?u=https://peopleforbikes.org/our-work/e-bikes/for-land-managers/>

Regards,
Mark

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael Jones <mjones4771@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes use on fire roads

Hi

I have been made aware by the Marin County Bicycle Coalition that you are considering to allow E-bikes to ride on the fire roads that are open to traditional bicycles.

I am a 68 year old E-bike rider. I have ridden all over Marin county on tradition bicycles.

I have always been respectful of hikers and other bikers where ever I travel.

E-biking has allowed me to rehab my injured knee and allows me to climb steeper terrain.

E bikes have extended my bicycling ability.

It would be a terrible shame to not include E-bikes in the joy of riding in Marin back country.

I strongly support inclusion of E-bikes to ride on the fire roads of Marin county.

Mike Jones
mjones4771@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: mike.f.melone <mike.f.melone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:41 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution #8607

To the Board of Directors,

I ride with several friends who are e-bikers. All of us ride for our health and to enjoy Marin fire-roads together. It is important for e-bikers to have access to the same MMWD fire-roads where other bikes are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,

Michael E. Fernandez-Melone

Terrie Gillen

From: Mark Sachs <mark.sachs12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

To the Board of Directors,
I ride an e-bike for my health and it is important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bike are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,
Mark Sachs

Terrie Gillen

From: matt weeder <orgvol@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:48 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. These bikes have been used on the MMWD land for years now with now with no real problems. I have been riding ebikes for a few years and it helps me not drive to the trail head and park my car. I can also keep up with my more fit friends! Where otherwise I would be able to. Growing up in Mill Valley I have hiked and biked for over 30 years! I love being able to go up in the mountain and enjoy this special place. The ecology has a special place in my heart. Being able to ride my ebike up the mountain and lock it up and e xploring the waterfalls and lakes. I no longer have to drive a car to these places with an ebike. This helps fight carbon emissions contributing to climate change.

Thanks you for your time considering my feelings on this.

Matt Weeder
191 Throckmorton Mill Valley.

Terrie Gillen

From: Alison Kreshin <akreshin@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:59 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am a 62 year old physician and breast cancer survivor. My oncologist recommended an e-bike for me as part of my recovery.

The Mt. Tam fire roads and legal single track had become a distant memory. I couldn't ride very far or get up the steep parts anymore after my chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

I became depressed due to all the losses. My e-bike has given me such joy. My mood has lifted. I am filled with wonder and awe being deep on the mountain again.

I hadn't climbed to Potrero Meadow in years! I gave up on Rocky Ridge until now.

I ride everyday. I wouldn't miss it for the world. And I can keep up with my friends who haven't battled cancer. The group rides have been a godsend during the COVID quarantine and shelter in place restrictions.

I'm a big proponent for protecting the environment. That's why I also commute and run errands by bike.

I'm the biker that lets walkers know I'm coming and how many more bikes are behind me.

Just last week, I came upon a bobcat on upper Eldridge. Thrilled to see a bobcat and equally thrilled to be climbing all the way to the top of Eldridge.

Everyone I know with an ebike is older like myself. I feel young and alive when I'm riding on the mountain I've been climbing for 35 years. Please don't take this away so only young people can climb to the top of Mt. Tam.

Patricia Alison Kreshin MD
42 Orange Avenue
Larkspur, CA 94939
(415) 377-3501

Terrie Gillen

From: Pete Pedersen <ppedersen@pedersenassociates.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E Bike Access to MMWD lands

Dear Board Members, I've been an avid mountain biker for over 40 years enjoying the watershed trails. A year ago I experienced a heart attack, and underwent a heart procedure that has had an impact on my ability to ride the trails I've enjoyed most of my adult life. Recently I purchased a pedal assist bike and have begun to once again enjoy the unique beauty the MMWD fire roads have to offer and I'm ecstatic! Please consider making e-bike access as an integral part of the open space recreational use offerings of the district along with the many hiking and equestrian trail options.

Best regards,

Pete Pedersen

ASLA, LEED ap

Pedersen Associates

Landscape Architecture

24 H Street • San Rafael, CA 94901

415 456 2070 voice • 415 456 2086 fax

ppedersen@pedersenassociates.com

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3e0742b1/KJw1yLBnBUaOay2lu-](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3e0742b1/KJw1yLBnBUaOay2lu-9Kqg?u=http://www.pedersenassociates.com/)

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BAY AREA GREEN BUSINESS

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Terrie Gillen

From: Paul Wolfe <paulisawolfe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:23 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Robert Mittelstaedt <ramittelstaedt1010@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Larry Russell; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Bragman; Monty Schmitt; Jack Gibson
Subject: E-bike video

I've made a home movie to capture the essence of why the staff is right that ebikes should be allowed on Mt. Tam. I thought only a video can show how unpopulated most of the fire roads are. The video is less than five minutes. Most of the candid interviews are with strangers I met on the mountain. The link to the video on Vimeo is here. I hope you will have time to watch it.

<https://vimeo.com/465622463>

Terrie Gillen

From: Ralph Myers <rlmyers@me.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:06 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to lend my support to Resolution 8607, so that e-bike use can be allowed for a study period on MMWD lands. Having grown up in Marin and having been a life-long bike rider and an early adopter of mountain biking, I am enthusiastic about expanding access for all riders to these spectacular trails.

Now in my mid-60's I have transitioned to an e-bike which has allowed me to greatly expand my access to roads and trails, return to some of the terrain which I had abandoned due to aging and still get a great physical low-impact workout.

As a pediatrician, I struggle daily to find solutions to childhood obesity and, especially in COVID-19 times, children's inability to get adequate physical activity. It is my opinion that e-bikes can enhance access to exercise for the young, obese and unfit as they do for the aging rider. But access to appropriate terrain is an ongoing problem.

The wild lands of Marin are a treasure and need to be treated as such. I would never argue that every trail should be open to any and all mode of transport, and I'm gratified to see that Resolution 8607 is sensitive to this issue. But as an environmentalist and an enthusiastic e-bike convert, I see no conflict between my passions, and believe that study will prove that there is no greater impact of e-bikes on the environment than there is from traditional bikes.

Thank you for undertaking this effort.

Sincerely,

Ralph Myers, MD

Terrie Gillen

From: Randall Sosnick <randall@sosnick.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:14 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I live in Mill Valley at the base of Mt. Tam. I've been both an environmentalist and a bike rider my entire life. I ride road bikes and, since their development here in Marin County, mountain bikes. Now that I'm in my 60's, I find it harder and harder to get out on my regular mountain bike, although I do still enjoy it on occasion. But as my knees talk to me more and more, I find using my eBike gets me outside that much more often. I never thought I would, but I have come to really appreciate this new eBike technology.

As most courteous riders should, when I ride my eBike, I will slow whenever I approach other slower bikers or pedestrians. And as I'm sure you are aware, Class 1 eBikes motors shut themselves off for any downhill riding. eBikes are simply not inconsistent with either regular mountain bikes nor hikers. Everyone can get along just fine so long as people follow the Golden Rule.

I hope you will support Resolution 8607 and give eBikes a try.

Thank you,

Randall Sosnick
Mill Valley, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Rod Eshelman <rod45@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I am writing to support the use of class 1 e-bikes on MMWD fire roads. I am 75 years of age and although I have been biking for over 40 years I simply cannot make it up the steep sections anymore. With an e-bike, I can continue to get out into the back country. I can also ride with my son who is not interested in riding a regular mountain bike with me as I cannot keep up with him. I have been riding an ebike for the last three years and have never seen any conflict with hikers or other bikers on the roads and trails that was caused by an ebike. I think without exception any bad behavior I have seen is a result of downhill speed by those looking for thrills who are not ebike riders. Please give us a chance to show you ebikes only enhance the responsible use of your great property.

Rodney Eshelman

80 Millay Place

Mill Valley, Ca., 94941

415-867-5502

Rod45@comcast.net

Terrie Gillen

From: Richard Whittaker <rwhitt@pacbell.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:51 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Alison Whittaker
Subject: We Support E-Bikes Resolution 8607!

Dear MMWD Board Members,

We are writing to strongly support and encourage expanding permission for the responsible, non-commercial, personal use of e-bikes on fire roads within the MMWD watershed area.

We strongly support Resolution 8607, which is currently under consideration.

My wife and I have (along with our son) been residents of Marin (San Rafael) for 35 years. We have made gratifying use of the extraordinary natural resource that is the MMWD, particularly exploring and hiking among the lakes and reservoirs of Phoenix Lake, Bon Tempe, Alpine Lake, and the hiking trails and fire roads connecting them. We have been annual WWMD parking pass holders for two decades!

More recently we have acquired two class-1 pedal-assist e-bike, and for two years we have regularly enjoyed riding for health, for exercise, and for practical, environmentally low-impact transportation (in lieu of driving our cars!), and for the sheer joy of getting out into the amazing beauty, wildlife and vistas encompassed by WWMD.

I am now in my mid seventies (my wife in her mid sixties) and we are able to continue to enjoy bike riding thanks to the help of the pedal assisted functionality of the bike. I can assure you that it just that, pedal assisted bike riding. It is nothing at all akin to a disruptive, environmentally destructive motorized vehicle such as a motorcycle. It truly is a form of bike riding not motor vehicle operating with its silent, pollution free assist.

We do not see that e-bikes pose a risk or nuisance or environmental danger to hikers and other lovers of nature, like us, the people we would typically encounter respectfully on Marin's fire trails.

Please support the current resolution and approve the 3-year trial. It will be appreciated profoundly by my wife and me, and it will only enrich our appreciation and the continuing stewardship of the precious MMWD watershed.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Richard Whittaker & Alison Whittaker
San Rafael CA 94901

Terrie Gillen

From: Rich Winter <rich@blackbird.tv>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebikes in the Watershed

Dear Marin Water Board Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. It's my understanding that the board is meeting to evaluate whether e-bikes should be allowed on watershed fire roads. As someone who has logged in over 25,000 miles on an ebike (that's more than the circumference of the earth), I can tell you first hand it's changed my life for the better. Bicycling is a socially responsible method of transportation and watershed fire roads are gateways to parts of the county that are otherwise not safely accessible. Please do not make a blanket ruling outlawing e-bikes. Quite the opposite in fact. We should be doing everything we can to encourage our neighbors of all ages to embrace cycling as a means of transportation. As someone who lives at the top of a 500ft hill, I can tell you first hand, that pedal assistance makes those trips to the store possible on a bicycle. It also makes commuting to San Francisco 5 days a week, not only viable, but enjoyable.

I am however in full favor of enforcing rules that encourage safety. This holds true for all who use the trails: cyclists, joggers, equestrians. We should all enjoy the natural surroundings, but do so in a responsible manner. Don't run or ride in such a way that you aren't ready for a person/animal around the next corner.

We don't establish laws that allow Prius' on 101, but disallow Tesla's. Even though one can reach speeds faster than the other, we allow both, and expect that both drivers respect the world around them and act responsibly.

Thank you again for your time, and consideration.

Rich Winter
Fairfax

Terrie Gillen

From: Scott greenberg <baobab513@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:09 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

This is Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

e-bikes are important for health, continued access to your parks, and being able to ride with a more fit family members.

Please keep the outdoors open to all.

Regards,

Scott Greenberg

Terrie Gillen

From: Anne&Todd Gates <goldengates99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:16 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Allow e-bikes on Tam!

I am a mountain biker who greatly appreciates riding the fire roads of Mt Tamalpais. While I don't ride an e-bike, I ride with many seniors who do use e-bikes and would no longer be able to enjoy riding the mountain if the e-bikes were not allowed. Please approve resolution #8607 to allow continued use of e-bikes.

Thank you!

Todd Gates

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Terrie Gillen

From: tad@treemasters.com
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes , Please vote YES on Resolution 8607

To the Board of Directors,
I ride an e-bike for my health and it is important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bike are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,

Tad Jacobs

ISA Certified Arborist #8281

TREEMASTERS

3175 Kerner Blvd

San Rafael, CA 94901

415-455-9933

Terrie Gillen

From: Thomas Roth <thomaseroth@gmail.com> on behalf of Thomas Roth
<tom@Thomasroth.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am a Marin NATIVE and I have been mountain biking in Marin for 50 years! This is a precious slice of heaven. Let's share it and not exclude those who are no longer (or were never) able to self-pedal their way through.

I support Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

E-bikes are important. Is it about health, continued access to our parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member...

Thank you

—

Tom Roth
thomaseroth@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Victoria Vogel <echorock.vogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 9:20 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board of Directors,

I wholeheartedly ask you to please consider the three-year plan to allow E bikes on Mount Tam. I have been riding a bicycle since a little girl. I absolutely love Mount Tam and the Open Spaces of Marin County. I recently began riding a pedal assist because of knee problems and could continue to ride with my children and my husband. I am always very polite to hikers. I take the down hills very slowly.

I beg of you to support Resolution 8607. I would be heartbroken to no longer be able to enjoy the beauty of our mountain on a bicycle. Thank you very much.

Warm Regards,
Victoria Vogel, MFT
Marriage Family Therapist
Advanced LENS Neurofeedback Clinician
45 Camino Alto, Ste. 204
Mill Valley, Ca 94941
415 302 4858
EchoRock.Vogel@gmail.com
EchoRockNeurotherapy.com

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Terrie Gillen

From: Walt Meservey <wmeservey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution #8607

Dear Board Members,

I have been a Marin resident since 1988 and a mountain biker since 1989. I am 69, and age has begun to limit my mobility. I therefore now ride an electric bike. It is important for me to have access to the MMWD fire-roads where other bikes are allowed.

Please vote Yes on Resolution #8607 to issue a special permit to study the impacts of e-bikes on the watershed and other users for up to 3 years.

Yes on Resolution 8607 is a win-win choice that will allow the district to acquire some real data for future planning. It is the most equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your support,

Walter Meservey

Terrie Gillen

From: Andrew Levine <ajlevine@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution No. 8607

Dear Board of Directors,

I'm writing to express my support for Resolution No. 8607, the Interim Special Use Permit for Electric Bicycles. While I don't own an electric bike, I am very familiar with them. I have a nerve disorder known as CMT which impacts my ability to walk safely. However, I am able to ride a bicycle. As I've gotten older (I'm now 52), my strength has been slowly decreasing. I do see an electric bike in my future. I moved to Mill Valley when I was 4 years old, and have always biked the fire roads in the amazing MMWD watershed. An electric bike would allow me to continue this healthy activity even when I can't safely hike or ride a traditional bike.

I love the natural resources that surround us in Marin. It's one of the main reasons I've lived here for almost 50 years. I do regularly ride in the MMWD watershed and other public lands, and during the pandemic I have seen many electric bikes. From my observations, they are almost indistinguishable from regular bikes with respect to trail impact. Essentially, it's like a traditional bike with a stronger rider. They don't descend any faster than a normal bike. I would say that most of the people that I see on the bike are non-traditional cyclists, including women and older people. The added boost of the ebike allows them to climb trails they would not be able to handle under their own power. I think providing this sort of access is a great service to our community and I applaud your efforts.

Thanks for your support of cycling and ebikes in the watershed.

Thanks,

Andrew Levine
6 Stanton Place
Mill Valley
(415) 381-4990

Terrie Gillen

From: Andrew Ryan <ryanawr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am emailing you in support of ebike access to MMWD. I had my ankle fused several years ago and recently bought an ebike and access to the outside has been great for my health and recovery. I'm am very respectful of hikers and people on the mountain and promote "be nice / say hi" to all.

Andy Ryan
300 Laurel Ave
San Anselmo, CA

AR

Terrie Gillen

From: Boyd Fellows <boyd3200@gmail.com> on behalf of Boyd Fellows <boyd@fellows.cc>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:32 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I strongly support 8607. Share the road, share the mountain and share the world.

I am 60 years old have owned a home in Marin since 1987 and began mountain biking way back then.

I have been ebiking since 2017 and believe it is generally safer than regular mountain biking because the tires and suspension are much larger so the bikes are more stable and way easier to control.

I can't ride a regular mountain bike any more for medical reasons.

I think the vast majority of opponents are simply being selfish, not wanting to share the mountain with others.

The mountain belongs to all the people of Marin, not it's those who were using the mountain before ebikes arrived.

The fact that ebikes open the mountain to a whole new group of users who would otherwise not be able to use the mountain is inclusive.

Share the road, share the mountain and share the world.

Boyd Fellows

[415 917 4411](tel:4159174411) (o)
[415 308 3200](tel:4153083200) (c)

Boyd Fellows



[415 917 4411](tel:4159174411) (o)
[415 308 3200](tel:4153083200) (c)

Terrie Gillen

From: Chuck Becker <chuckb77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello, I support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I currently ride e-bikes exclusively and it allows me to ride much further in short amounts of time which is incredibly useful with kids. I also use my e-bike to ride with my son, who's extra weight is noticeable, and the pedal assist makes it much easier. I am obviously also concerned with respecting other users and making sure the trails are safe for all.

Thanks in advance,

Charles Becker
63 Los Ranchitos Rd.
San Rafael, CA
94903

Terrie Gillen

From: Clayton Kunz <claytonkunz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:10 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607

Hello,

A brief message in support of e-bike access on MMWD lands. I'm a local resident (Greenbrae) and I'm frequently on Water District lands with my family. I appreciate having the access to such a beautiful place. Having e-bikes allowed would enable me to access the fire roads with my 78-year old father, who is very active and uses an e-bike to get up the hills that otherwise would be impassable to him. I hope the board will consider safe access for everyone, including those on pedal assist bikes who otherwise really wouldn't be able to get much past the parking lot given the topography.

Best regards,
Clayton Kunz

Terrie Gillen

From: Colette Peters <colette00peters@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello-

I can't say enough how much my e-Mtb bike has changed my life. I was a serious road bike rider for 10 years until I had a back injury and had to say good by to my road bike. I stopped riding for 2 years, Until I purchase my pivot e-MTB in July. It has changed my life as I can ride with no pain and I still get the chance to be with my cycling community. I don't need to be fit to explore and enjoy a ride anymore.

I would be devastated if I was banned to ride the trails on my ebike!!! Seeing this even being an issue is giving me anxiety. Nothing I love more than taking my e-bike out and feeling blessed that I'm able to ride again with a bad back. Please please don't let this happen!!!

I respect all Legal trails and never poach or speed. I Always respect people walking and ring my bell to alert for space.

This is sad news if this gets taken away!

Colette

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Chris Rankin-Williams <velopriest@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:34 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I urge you to support Resolution 8607, who allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. I ride in the watershed frequently. I don't personally have an e-bike but my wife does and I have many older friends with e-bikes. Thanks to e-bikes we are able to do rides together and enjoy the beautiful watershed. Recently rode from Phoenix lake to Lagunitas with a friend who is 80! That would not have been possible without e-bikes. The bikes are safe and concerns about speed are overblown.

I fully support Resolution 8607 and hope you will pass it.

Chris Rankin-Williams
Kentfield

Terrie Gillen

From: D B <diana.bauerdvm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:09 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Access to fire roads for e-bikes is important so I may ride with less fit family members; My parents are older and appreciate using the outdoors safely with ebikes. Trail access helps keep them both more healthy and safe during the pandemic. They are conscientious riders - they respect wildlife and the safety of others. I can't imagine anyone begrudging them use of the parks if they met them. Please allow continued e bike access to the parks!

Thank you

Diana

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Daniel Brousseau <daniel7245@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:22 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please don't restrict e-bikes from MMWD trails

Hello MMWD,

I have been riding MMWD and Mt. Tamalpais trails for over 40 years. I typically am on a trail in MMWD at least once a week. In the summer, 2 to 3 times a week. Now that I have reached my late 50s I have switched to an electric pedal assist mountain bike. I need the exercise but biking is hard on my back and knees. It's a little easier to get up the hills with the e-bike. Otherwise there's no difference in riding speed or any other aspect of riding on trails than a regular mountain bike. Without the e-bike I would get far less exercise and would not be able to enjoy Mt. Tam as much. I really don't understand the call to ban e-bikes from MMWD. The issue as always is that people need to be courteous and respectful on trails, whether riding, running or hiking in packs of people, walking dogs, pushing strollers, etc. Most e-bikers are older, slower riders like me. With proper rules and etiquette, riders, hikers, runners, dog walkers and everyone that enjoys the mountain can do so together.

Thank you
Dan Brousseau
109 Evergreen Ave
Mill Valley, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: DAVE HANNAFORD <davehannaford@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

I am 70 years

Old and an avid mountain biker for 30 years. My Ebike has made Me Mobile and able to ride with my younger friends again. My wife also has one and we Can ride Together because of the assist. We ride more often because we are not so tired. Our bikes do no more damage To the trails and roads than our Old bikes. Please let us continue legally. Thank you.

Terrie Gillen

From: George Choulos <GChoulos@ccwlawyers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:06 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I am a lifelong mountain biker and hiker on the trails of fMount Tamalpais. I have lived in Marin since 1960 in Mill Valley. I am 63 years old and as active as ever. I bought a class 1 bike 2 years ago and have enjoyed riding responsibly . It has to be emphasized that the pedal assist allows me to climb mountains and ride further than I could otherwise. It allows access .The speed is the same as a regular bike and causes no more wear on the trail than any other users of bicycles, hikers or horses for that matter. I urge adoption of the 3 yer trial to allow Class 1 ebikes on any of the fire roads and trails of the Mt Tam watershed.
George Choulos

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Gregory Gasaway <gregoryfgasaway@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:31 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Terrie Gillen

From: Gerry Morgan <gerry@fcpt.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

As an avid and appreciative mountain biker lucky enough to ride in the water district, I would like to provide my support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I use e-bikes on occasion on the dirt roads and every day to and from work. I always ride safely. More importantly, as I've seen other riders on e-bikes increase in use over the last five years I have never seen a unsafe situation caused by the use of an e-bike. I also have seen a greater variety of folks enjoying the outdoor areas with the benefits of e-bikes. More health and happiness for all!

Finally, a word on my age. I am 58. I hope to continue to mountain bike ride into my 70's as it is the most important part of my fitness regime. With e-bike technology that is a legitimate goal as my age increases.

Thanks!

Gerry

Gerry Morgan | CFO | **Four Corners Property Trust**
591 Redwood Highway, Suite 3215, Mill Valley, California 94941
415.965.8032 (direct) | 650.804.6024 (mobile)
gerry@fcpt.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Hilary Hyde <hilshyde@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:48 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support Res 8607 allowing class 1 e-bikes on watershed land.

I bike regularly and am getting older and expect to need an e-bike in the next few years. I don't want to stop biking as I consider it important for my health and staying happy.

I love being outside and in spite of my concern of having too many bikes, I do believe e-bikes are good for our health and mental well-being.

I would also support a small charge for all owners so we can be reminded by a ranger to ride slowly.

Thanks for your support.

Hilary Hyde
MV CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Heather Sievert <hlyerman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello my name is Heather Sievert and I am resident of Mill Valley and I support the resolution to allow e-bikes for the 3 year trial period.

I believe that this access to our open space is aligned with the already allowed user groups and is an excellent way for users to continue to explore our lands, connect with nature and receive physical and mental health benefits.

I do not ride an e-bike myself but I have seen how it has given people the ability to safely access open space that they might not have otherwise had due to physical limitations. I would hope that should I ever need that small e-assist to continue to enjoy exploring open space and getting exercise on a bike that it would be allowed.

I believe that this 3 year trial period is a perfect way to reasonably assess and study the balance of user groups.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Heather Sievert
65 Ashford Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: hilde simon <hildesimon@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:34 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear All,

I support Resolution 8607 to allow class 1 pedal assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads. As a long time hiker and environmentally aware landscaper, I not only love the outdoor opportunity Marin fire roads offer, I get inspiration for my landscape designs to incorporate more native plants in residential gardens here in Marin. Y'all are supposed to be in favor of this. However I am 70 years old and an e-bike will enable me to keep getting out there. I'm not some crazed 15 year old boy in need of speed. I'm an old lady who wants to use her e-bike on a fire road. Please let me do this.

Thank you,

Hilde Simon

5156 Paradise Drive, Corte Madera

Terrie Gillen

From: Janet Lourenzo <jeknjil@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:21 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi I don't own an Ebike, but one day I will as I am nearly 70 and find the climbing on my mountain bike getting harder...don't limit us to the dangerous roads with cars, let us recreate responsibly with others on the trails!

Please give us all a chance! Make safe speed limits and hold hikers to also be responsible and aware of shared trail use!

Janet

Terrie Gillen

From: Kaye Barnett <kaye_barnett@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Yes on E-bikes

To MMWD Board of Directors

I want to thank the board on its diligent work on the contentious issue.

I urge you to vote **YES** on allowing e-bikes on the fire roads of Mt. Tam.

I have been hiking Mt. Tam for 50 years. I've been biking Mt. Tam for 40 years. I've been E-biking Mt. Tam for 3 years. I now E-bike more than I hike for health reasons. I'm an older adult and my time on Tam is essential.

I am grateful to have such a wonderful resource in my backyard. I have enjoyed bird and animal spotting while on my rides. I've had the privilege of seeing mountain lions and well as many other animals while on the mountain.

I know I am concerned about fire danger on Mt. Tam and in Marin in general but I don't think Class 1 e-bikes built by major manufactures (Giant, Specialized, or Trek) pose any increased danger. Hopefully this can be reviewed in the next few years of E-bike use.

Again Thank You and YES to E-bikes,

San Anselmo resident
Kaye Barnett

Terrie Gillen

From: Lee V Larsen <leevlarsen@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

To the MMWD Board:

My family and I live in Mill Valley and have been mountain biking for over twenty years now. Please support Resolution 8607 to allow class 1 pedal assist e-bikes on Marin Municipal Water District fire roads for a three year trial period. Riding e-bikes and mountain bikes are important to the health of our family and are one of the primary reasons we continue to live here. We love how riding our mountain bikes connects us to Marin's very special terrain and wild places.

Thank you.

--Lee Larsen
1005 Greenhill Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Max Pillsbury <maxpillsbury@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:41 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: It's a no-brainer— support Resolution 8607!

Good morning,

I grew up riding mountain bikes on Mt. Tam with my dad. He taught me many things about savoring our local watershed from the back of the bike. We are a family of backpackers, naturalists, and conservationists, and enjoy any time spent in the woods. Mountain biking has given us another way to do this—while also getting rigorous exercise—together as a family.

Mountain biking remains a big part of who I am and how I engage with the outdoors. When it comes to spending time with my dad, a pedal-assist (class 1) e-MTB still makes this possible (despite his being 71). It allows us to access both the outdoors as well as valuable, uninterrupted, and all-too-infrequent family time.

I have heard the same story many times over from my friends with aging parents. Restricting e-bike access to the mountain would be a tragic denial of equitable access for older and/or differently abled community members. Far from threatening local conservation efforts, this would bolster strong community interests in preserving the Mt. Tam watershed. This is a no-brainer decision that aligns with strong community support for biking on the mountain!

Thank you,

Max Pillsbury

Terrie Gillen

From: matt Quann <mquann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:55 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607- let old people pedal e bikes!

Hi,

While I don't personally ride an e bike, every time I see an older couple out on mt tam enjoying the outdoors on a pedal assist e bike it makes me happy. Denying them access and forcing them to ride on the roads is irresponsible and dangerous.

Thanks for your consideration,
Matt Quann

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael Valencia <circlev@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:34 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

I;M 63 YEARS OLD, MY E BKE 1 PEDAL ASSIST HAS HELP ME WITH MOBILITY AND HEALTH ISSUES . I LOVE IT

Terrie Gillen

From: RICHARD ATWOOD <atwoodrichard@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know! Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Good morning Board Members.

MMWD lands are a source of health and well being for the people of Marin County and beyond.

Approving Resolution 8607 will continue that health and well being.

Thank you,

Richard Atwood
293 Hillside Avenue
Mill Valley, Ca. 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Robert Widinski <wid@pacbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:23 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Please consider allowing pedal assist e bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

As a 77 year old with some mobility issues, I have rediscovered returning to the outdoor that I used to enjoy hiking so much. E bikes allow me to get to enjoy what the younger hikers, runners and equestrians experience. We can also equally respect nature and better appreciate the beauty of where we live.

I encourage you to vote yes on allowing pedal assist e bikes.

Most sincerely,
Bob Widinski

Terrie Gillen

From: Steven Zimmerman <szimmerman@barclay.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes (Resolution 8607)

WWMD Board Members,

I understand that you are considering Resolution 8607 which would specifically allow Class 1 pedal assist E-Bikes on watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period. I urge you to support this resolution. I have always enjoyed getting out on the trails on my regular (non-electric) mountain bike, but purchased an E-Bike back in April. What that bike has allowed me to do is to explore much more of the beautiful region in which we live in an environmentally friendly manner. Areas where I would have had to drive to the trailhead to reach, I can now access directly from my house on my e-bike. So, that means less tailpipe emissions as well as less congestion on the roads and at the trailheads.

I also purchased a second E-Bike for my wife and daughters to share. They are not avid bikers and it has been a challenge for me to get them out to enjoy the watershed because they aren't in good enough biking shape to take on the hills. However, now that we have the e-bikes we are able to go out and enjoy our beautiful watershed together and do so frequently. These rides have become a very special bonding experience within our family.

Please support Resolution 8607 so we can continue to enjoy the Marin Watershed to its fullest!

Best,
Steve

Steve Zimmerman
415-297-0903

Terrie Gillen

From: Tori Herzog <herzog94941@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:03 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear MMWD Water Board,

I am writing in support of resolution 8607 because my life literally depends on it. I am unable to ride a conventional bike due to health reasons and having an e-bike enables me to enjoy the outdoors and get to places I otherwise would not be able to visit. Since getting an e-bike my health continues to improve and I hope to eventually be back on a conventional bike but until then I rely on my pedal assist to help me get back to health.

Riding an e-bike has also been a great way to spend time with my family during SIP. We are able to access MMWD lands from our house. We hike and bike the trails of the watershed at least twice a week. All my life I have enjoyed the beautiful Marin watershed and I hope I will never be denied the right to be a part of this unparalleled resource.

Please help me improve my life with healthy exercise I can share with my loved ones.

Sincerely,

Tori Herzog

Terrie Gillen

From: Todd Stengel <toddstengel@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:21 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hello and thank you for considering ebikes,

I am a teacher and mtn bike coach for middle school students. I enjoy riding, hiking, and horse back riding. Yet mostly I believe in sharing trails and teaching students trail etiquette so we can all enjoy the great outdoors together.

I hurt my back years back but love to stay active that's when my life changed discovering an ebike. I was able to get out again and go up the trails without the pain and agony I was suffering I could safely ride with the students and promote a healthy lifestyle. Then I was told you can't ride here and felt like a criminal. I teach students to slow down take care of trails say hello and stop when they see others. I always ring my bell to let others know I am approaching or around so as not to startle anyone. We should be allowed the same tax paying access to trails as everyone else. I am safe and aware and should not be prevented the access my bike does not spark or ignite anything it does not tear up the trail anymore than a hiker or horse back rider . It's about all of us enjoying nature and ebikes do not take away from this in fact they allow access to otherwise challenging grades that some of us are compromised from accessing. Please make it so ebikes are permitted and we can all enjoy our lands together. We need to adapt to changes and this is one that calls for immediate change. Ebikers are not criminals and should have equal access. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Todd Stengel

Terrie Gillen

From: Taylor Walker <taylor_walker@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Marin Water Board,

I write in strong support of Resolution 8607; a three year trial period is the right approach to get this right for everyone. Class 1 pedal assist e-bikes allow people to get out on the trails that otherwise would not do so, and they encourage couples riding, elderly riding, etc., which increases public use of open space, a good thing for our communities.

I also believe that eBike rider education can be a part of the next three years, and that organizations like MCBC and bike shops can help advocate for safe and respectful use of e-bikes on Mt. Tam.

Thanks for your consideration,

Taylor Walker
via mobile phone
415-745-0359
studiovelocycling.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Warren Simmonds <Warren@simmonds-associates.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I would like to support the use of class-1 pedal assisted bikes on MMWD trails. They allow those with disabilities and those less able to hike or pedal without assistance more access to our open spaces, which is particularly important in the current COVID-19 climate.

Thank you

Warren Simmonds

Terrie Gillen

From: Damon Williams <damonjacksonwilliams@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I support Class1 e bikes

To the Marin Water Board,

As a demo driver I successfully put thousands of people out on their first eMTB rides across the country. Cyclists on MT. Tam and around the Bay, CA and the US deserve the option to ride their class 1 ebikes and enjoy the outdoors like anyone else.

Best Regards,

Damon Williams

Terrie Gillen

From: JANICE R MATHEWS <mail4mathews@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Re: Resolution 8607 is important!!!

I apologize for the type o. My email is corrected below. It sent before I was finished proofing :-)

Dictated to Siri & sent on the go so please excuse any typos

> On Dec 15, 2020, at 3:00 PM, JANICE R MATHEWS <mail4mathews@icloud.com> wrote:
>

Our family supports resolution 8607. We are all very conservation oriented and like to get out onto the fire roads for exercise. However I have difficulty with hill climbs and it helps for me to have the pedal assist e bike. Both of my parents who are in their early 80s enjoy bike riding and can only do it with a pedal assist bike. Please approve 8607 so we can show how responsible stewardship can go hand-in-hand with e-bikes. Thank you!

Jan Mathews
Mill Valley

Dictated to Siri & sent on the go so please excuse any typos

Terrie Gillen

From: Aran Moore <aran@sunfirstsolar.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes on watershed fire roads comment. RESOLUTION NO. 8607

To whom it may concern,

I want to put in my support for use of the watershed land fire roads for E-bike use. I am a longtime resident and level one e bikes have been great for my health and I have not observed any misuse or negative effect on the land.

Please approve the temporary use as a test.

Thank you,

Aran

Muir Beach residence.

Terrie Gillen

From: JANICE R MATHEWS <mail4mathews@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607 is important!!!

Our family supports resolution 8607. We are all very conservation oriented and like to get out onto the fire roads for exercise. However I have difficulty with hill climbs and it helps for me to have the pedal assist e bike. Both of my parents who are in their early 80s enjoy bike riding and can only do it with a pedal assist bike. Please approve 8607 so we can show how responsible stewardship can go hand-in-hand with pedal assist you bikes. Thank you!

Jan Mathews
Mill Valley

Dictated to Siri & sent on the go so please excuse any typos

Terrie Gillen

From: Greg Costopoulos <doctorgreg@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I'm a long time Marin resident and avid cyclist and hiker. While I don't want to see throngs of tourists on e-bikes, some of my older friends now use as an e-bike. I myself will likely get an ebike eventually.

Is there a way to allow for seniors or people with disabilities to use them?

Greg Costopoulos

45 Palm Ave

San Rafael 94901

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Ben Wells <bwells@environmentalrg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: vote on Resolution 8607
Attachments: Ben Wells.vcf; ATT00001.htm

Dear MMWD Board,

I am an older mountain biker, having respectfully ridden the trails for 45 years. My back are failing, I am slowing down, and my e-bike gives me access to the mountain and allows me to ride with my more fit children and friends. Since I am riding to the mountain on my e-bike, rather than driving, I am also conserving gasoline. Mt Tamalpais is a sacred place for me, and I am in support of resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. I see no reason why pedal assist Class-1 e-bikes are not aligned with all of these interests.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Wells
President, Environmental Scientist
CSL 740879 A,B,Haz
Environmental Resource Group, Inc.
15 Locust Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941
Phone: 415 381-6574
Fax: 415 381-3620
Mobile: 415 516-8606
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/519613aa/ndj4FHg2-06vpnmyDsnvRw?u=http://www.environmentalrg.com/>

Terrie Gillen

From: David Langsam <davidlengineer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bike support

Hi there, I own an "E-Bike". I'm 52 years old (yikes!). I am Marin born & raised. I have ridden the watershed my entire life. The e-bike allows me to continue to ride. It allows me to ride further than I could otherwise. I don't ride faster. I still slow and say "Hi" to everyone and slow when passing as every bicyclist should. I don't understand why a vocal minority wants to limit access to our public lands.

Cheers,

David Langsam

Virtual studio production services

Broadcast engineering and studio design services

60 Alexander Ave
San Rafael, CA 94901

(415) 531-1392

davidlengineer@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Maggie Courtney <maggiecourtney@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members:

I am a long term resident of Marin County and an active user of its open space. Over the years I have hiked, walked my dogs, mountain biked and ridden horses on the trails and fire roads on and adjacent to Mt. Tam. While I still hike several days a week, for exercise and the enjoyment of the incredible wildlife, recently I have ridden an e-bike on many of the fire roads. My e-bike has allowed me to ride with friends and family much stronger than myself and has been a great source of joy - especially during these times of isolation.

E-bikes have also allowed my long time riding group, all women in their 60's and 70's, to once again ride together on the mountain. We are so happy to be back on the mountain riding instead of only the road because it allows us to be in nature and the fun of wildlife sightings! The only issues we have had in doing so, has been avoiding dogs off leash.

As a "multi-purpose" user of the open space in Marin, I believe that everyone deserves access to our shared resources and that with planning, education and the fostering of a sense of shared community, there is room for everyone to enjoy.

I strongly support Resolution 8607 and hope that you will as well.

Best regards,
Maggie Courtney

Terrie Gillen

From: Gloria Neumeier <gwneumeier@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Expenses of MMWD

To Members of Bd of Directors of MMWD

I want to express my strong objection to the rise in costs at MMWD-particularly the new Capital Maintenance fee. To add to this the expenses of litigation vs. a class action suit only emphasizes your Board's disregard for MMWD rate payers.

Gloria Neumeier
85 Berens Dr. Kentfield

Terrie Gillen

From: Myra Drotman <realtormyra@pacbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: No to Electric Vehicles all over our wild areas!

No to Electric Vehicles all over our wild areas!

Wildlife needs every advantage it can get.

Vote on the side of Nature!

Help protect birds, fox, and every wild creature that needs some peace and quiet and to not have their habitats further damaged and disturbed.

Myra Drotman
415-601-5445

Terrie Gillen

From: Stephen Shoup <shshoup@buildinglab.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Dan Bech
Cc: Rob Rowlands; Board Comment
Subject: Re: EBikes on MMWD trails

to add a third voice to this conversation, i have not experienced them as nuisance on or damaging to the trails and fire roads we share. i too think that at least the class 1s should be permitted.

On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 3:40 PM Dan Bech <Dan.Bech@holmesstructures.com> wrote:

I agree with my Stepfather here, EBikes do no more damage to the trails than an ordinary bike.

Regards,

DAN BECH, SE
Principal | Technical Director
Holmes Structures

235 Montgomery Street, Suite 1250
San Francisco, CA 94104

T: +1 415 796 7125 | D: 1 415 693 1600 | M: +1 415 602 1362

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/801ffacd/nyIMV_oTQkyPgeX9xLyoNA?u=http://holmesstructures.com/

-----Original Message-----

From: Rob Rowlands <rowlands47@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:57 PM

To: BoardComment@marinwater.org

Cc: Dan Bech <Dan.Bech@holmesstructures.com>; Stephen Shoup <shshoup@buildinglab.com>

Subject: EBikes on MMWD trails

Thanks for considering this. I'm a 73 yr old bike rider that is back on the trails now I've got an ebike. My bike looks like a normal full suspension mountain bike and I'm sure I'm doing no more damage to the trails and trail users than I did aged 37!

Rob Rowlands
Mill Valley

Best regards,
Rob Rowlands
415 849 5667

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--

stephen shoup, founder

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0162a6b0/LHOJKBm1Ua8brXq1issLw?u=http://www.buildinglab.com/>

999 43rd street, oakland, ca 94608 | v: 510.420.1133 | f: 510.420.1131

Terrie Gillen

From: Marlene Mills <marlenemills271@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Hi there.

I am an avid cyclist who has recently started using an electric bike.

I would love access to nature on the fire roads. I also feel safer on those routes than some roads in Marin. I hope you will allow us access.

Thank you!

Terrie Gillen

From: r.peltzman <r.peltzman@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support a trial period. Because over many months of rhetoric and division I've come to realize that basically the only issue here is the fear of overuse in the MMWD land.

While no one wants to damage this precious resource, unless we have a trial we will not know with any certainty that there is anything to fear.

Richard Peltzman
1.415.297.5772

Terrie Gillen

From: Dan Bech <Dan.Bech@holmesstructures.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Rob Rowlands; Board Comment
Cc: Stephen Shoup
Subject: RE: EBikes on MMWD trails

I agree with my Stepfather here, EBikes do no more damage to the trails than an ordinary bike.

Regards,

DAN BECH, SE
Principal | Technical Director
Holmes Structures

235 Montgomery Street, Suite 1250
San Francisco, CA 94104

T: +1 415 796 7125 | D: 1 415 693 1600 | M: +1 415 602 1362 <http://holmesstructures.com> -----Original Message-----

From: Rob Rowlands <rowlands47@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:57 PM

To: BoardComment@marinwater.org

Cc: Dan Bech <Dan.Bech@holmesstructures.com>; Stephen Shoup <shshoup@buildinglab.com>

Subject: EBikes on MMWD trails

Thanks for considering this. I'm a 73 yr old bike rider that is back on the trails now I've got an ebike. My bike looks like a normal full suspension mountain bike and I'm sure I'm doing no more damage to the trails and trail users than I did aged 37!

Rob Rowlands
Mill Valley

Best regards,
Rob Rowlands
415 849 5667

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Terrie Gillen

From: Anita Hansen <ahansenmitt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes

To the Board:

My narrow self-interest is as a longtime hiker on Mt. Tam. But I try not to be selfish and I know several seniors who depend on riding ebikes on Mt. Tam as their main form of exercise. So I support ebikes on the fire roads. In my experience they are courteous and slower than other bicycles ridden by younger people. While Mt. Tam is a delicate ecosystem, the fire roads are designed for vehicles far heavier than ebikes. They don't cause problems. Please take the high road and adopt the well-conceived staff resolution in favor of ebikes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anita Hansen

Terrie Gillen

From: Rick Trautner <rtrautner@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support 8607

Honorable Directors,

I am a 66 year-old mountain biker with many years of experience riding the trails throughout Marin County. As I have aged, riding has become more difficult but I still greatly value and enjoy getting outside for a ride for several reasons: personal health, both physical and mental, partaking of the natural beauty of our county and for the camaraderie entailed in my weekly rides. I find the e-bike essential in allowing me to continue this pursuit. Of note, I am not an aggressive rider, nor do I ride any differently on an e-bike than on a non-assisted bike except that I am able to continue to ride. I see no rational reason that Class 1 pedal-assisted bikes cannot live harmoniously among others who are also out enjoying the wonders our county has to offer. The e-bike has become an important part of my well-being and seems a reasonable accommodation to aging.

Please support 8607 for the 3-year trial period.

Thank you.

Rick Trautner
Greenbrae

Terrie Gillen

From: Adam DeGraff <damdegraff@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Support for Resolution 8607

Hello MMWD Board Members,

My name is Adam DeGraff, a home owner and resident of San Rafael. I actually worked for the water district in your high school intern program back in the 90's in your engineering department.

I'm emailing to voice my support of Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3-year trial period.

E-bikes are a wonderful addition to our recreational community, and it has allowed me to ride with my older parents, currently in their 70's. E-bikes are a wonderful way to enjoy nature.

We should be promoting all forms of recreation, particularly ones deemed Covid safe such a cycling.

Thank you for your support,
Adam

Adam DeGraff
50 Fremont Rd, San Rafael, CA 94901

Terrie Gillen

From: Judith Rogers <judithrogers94@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: resending letters as PDFs, Thank you!
Attachments: Preview of "MMWD Cover ltr 12-15 - Google Docs".pdf; Preview of "E-bike MMWD letter - Google Docs".pdf

Thank you for giving me a second chance!
Judy Rogers



MARIN COUNTY GROUP

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scmaringroup@gmail.com

Feb. 10, 2020

MMWD Board of Directors
220 Nellen Ave.
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Re: Electric Bikes on MMWD Watershed Land

Dear MMWD Directors:

The Marin Group of the Sierra Club, representing 6,000 members in Marin, strongly opposes allowing e-bikes onto watershed land in Marin. This is in line with National Sierra Club policy, which sees e-bikes as a significant threat to wildlife and wild lands. We oppose motorized vehicles in all wild areas as they are destructive of trails, rights of walkers and people seeking the solitude and peace of natural landscapes. And e-bikes are definitely motorized vehicles.

In the *Independent Journal* of Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, we read about the New Paradigm Trail group, a biking group that encourages illegal mountain bike trail building on public lands.ⁱ Several of these men were caught on camera after building such an illegal trail in Marin's open space, costing the public time and money to monitor and correct their actions. We have also heard members of your own biking committee openly boasting about *already riding* their e-bikes illegally on single-track trails on public watershed land. In addition, there are the night riders, who go out after dark with lights on their bikes and ride illegally on public lands. It is clear that particular members of the biking community are only concerned with their feelings of entitlement to ride whenever and however they want, regardless of the consequences, regardless of the rules, regardless of community and wildlife impacts.

These mountain bike riders are abusing the spirit of the ADA law to ride around restrictions on access. They are *not* disabled. They are *not* unable to ride many other places. They *are* being told not to ride on single-track trails, just like other mountain bikers, and to stick to paved roads, just like other heavy motorized vehicles, which e-bikes certainly are. This is **not** discrimination against the disabled; this is public safety and protection of the resource and from well-known impacts.ⁱⁱ

It may come as a shock to some riders that these restrictions are for public safety and for the preservation of the land, drinking water quality, and its resident wild life. Snakes and lizards, basking on roads and trails to warm up for their day's activities, cannot move out of the way fast enough to avoid a speeding biker. We have seen many examples of animals killed by bikers who are riding illegally on trails. Deer and other mammals and birds will flee in the presence of



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fast moving bikes.ⁱⁱⁱ Erosion leading to sediment in creeks and reservoirs is a serious concern, and biking causes considerable erosion. We have all seen gutted hillsides, rutted and enlarged trails, cut by illegal riding. We have also had near collisions with bikers riding by pedestrians, not slowing down, and expecting hikers to jump out of the way.

It has been studied and proven that wildlife will avoid--by large distances--areas where hikers, riders, dogs and bikers are present. Areas where fast bikers or motorized vehicles go are given the widest berth. This contributes to very significant habitat fragmentation, which limits access to food, hiding places, wildlife corridors, and ultimately the health and well-being of wildlife populations that call this watershed home, reducing the health of the population at large.^{iv}

Not all mountain bikers are lawbreakers. Many bikers, riding under their own power, stay on fire roads and off of single-track trails. These riders also complain about e-bikers going too fast and impacting their own ride, as well as threatening to cause all bikers to be banned from the mountain.

There clearly exists within the larger biking community a fierce group of scofflaws who only care about themselves. It is for these people that laws have to be made and enforced with substantial penalties. At present, the current consequences are minimal--if illegal riders are even caught--which does not happen often, as rangers and MMWD workers cannot patrol all of the land all the time. Fines need to be raised substantially and other penalties required in order to give pause. We believe and request that it is now time to license all mountain bikes and e bikes, so that the public, including lawful riders, hikers, rangers and MMWD personnel, can identify rulebreakers and dangerous riders. Anyone who can afford an e-bike or mountain bike can certainly afford to buy a license.

Given that the three different classes of E-bikes are visually indistinguishable, making any allowance for one class is virtually impossible. All E-bikes should be regulated the same and allowed only on paved roads and paved trails.

We hope that MMWD will firmly close the door on any and all E-bikes on watershed land to protect our community resource for clean water, healthy and safe recreation for all, and for wildlife and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

Judy Schriebman

Chair, Marin Group Sierra Club



2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702 sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/marin 2

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ⁱ<https://www.marinij.com/2020/02/09/marin-cyclists-linked-to-illegal-trail-fight-vandalism-charges/> “The men — Dr. David Carbonell, Andrew Gibson and Ethan Hirschfeld — are members of the New Paradigm Trail group, which has advocated, sometimes militantly, for the creation of more singletrack bike trails in wilderness areas.... Cooper said the prosecution is alleging \$72,000 worth of damage to open space land. Some trees were cut down, including coast live oak, Pacific madrone and California bay laurel, according to court documents.”

ⁱⁱ <https://mountainjournal.org/do-ebikes-represent-a-menace-to-wildlife-in-the-backcountry> “We repeated the (mountain bike vs. e-bike uphill climb) test three times, all with the same results. A 56-pound run-of-the-mill e-mountain bike with only 250 watts of power had enabled me to beat an elite athlete up the grade. Imagine what 750 watts, the limit for the lowest class of e-bikes, Class 1, would have shown...Essentially, even Class 1 e-bikes will be able to reach 20 miles per hour regardless of the grade of the trail, or the direction...Many of the proponents for allowing e-bikes on trails claim e-bikes will help people with disabilities enjoy the same terrain as able-bodied mountain bikers. This is a valid concern... but that isn’t what the e-bike industry is about or where it’s going. It’s about offering superhuman capabilities to ordinary riders...Don’t take my word for the “superhuman” capabilities being targeted and marketed by the bike industry. Just look at the **advertisements** from major bike manufacturer Specialized describing their line of **Turbo e-bikes**. *“Combining speed and style through an innovative pedal-assist motor, advanced electronics, and a sleek design, our Turbo e-bikes represents the full capabilities of the e-bike revolution. They’re capable of achieving top speeds of 45 Km/h while you pedal, so they’ll deliver near superhuman power to any rider.”* If speed is a key attribute of activities that disturb wildlife, then what would be the effect of allowing electric bicycles on those same trails? Are they slow, plodding machines, created to help those with disabilities? Or are they increasingly powerful electric motorcycles destined to break uphill speed records?”

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/green-life/wildlife-hates-hikers-wilderness-disturbance> “..the activities that were the **most stressful** to animals were also the **fastest**, with **mountain bikers and joggers at the top of the ranking**. When wildlife are disturbed, it can cause them to waste energy and fat reserves, abandon nests and young, and move from their preferred haunts into habitat with less food, or more risk from predators... Motor vehicles can travel much further and faster than people on foot, **extending their negative impacts over a wider area. They compact the soil, causing erosion and damaging vegetation.**”

^{iv}https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/journals/pnw_2004_wisdom001.pdf?fbclid=IwAR323w8YN5MH1LTG35QI_eqPExqBgy06Q3XbKlvehV_Tn8SB7T0j5DQJm8w *Effects of off-road recreation on Mule Deer and Elk*. “We saw that their flight response occurred at distances over 1000 meters (3218 feet) for ATVs and close to that for mountain bikes, and more like 500 to 750 meters (1,640 to 2,460 feet) for horseback riding and hiking.” Each successively faster activity comes with a wider disturbance zone. Note: these effects are from even ONE disturbance. Repeated disturbances cause animals to avoid an area.

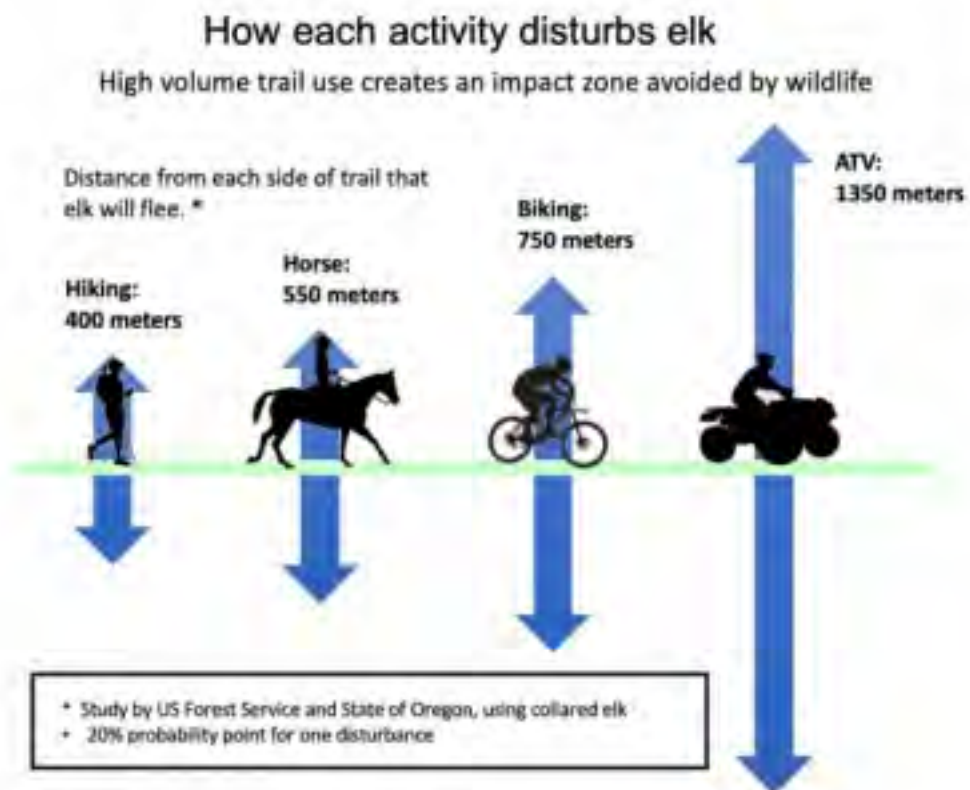


2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702 sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/marin 3

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E-bikes, being faster than regular bikes, are comparable to the ATV category of disturbance



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December 15, 2020

MMWD Board of Directors
2020 Nellen Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Dear MMWD Directors:

The Sierra Club is a national organization with nearly 6000 members in Marin. In the nineteenth century, the Club focused on establishing parks in the Sierra Nevada; today it is working to address the worldwide environmental crisis. This crisis has two major aspects: climate change and loss of biodiversity. Both are closely linked to each other. Marin Municipal Water District has an opportunity to exercise environmental stewardship by continuing to prohibit motorized bicycles on district lands.

Logical reasoning which originally guided MMWD to prohibit electric bikes on watershed lands should again inform the district's decision on this matter. Electric bike access to MMWD lands will negatively impact its natural resources. Electric bikes on unpaved roads accelerate erosion, create V-shaped ruts, kill wildlife on and next to trails, drive wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and teach youth that the rough treatment of nature is acceptable. Clearly, increased mechanized activity, including enforcement vehicles, rescue vehicles for inevitable accidents and signage construction complicate the district's mission to protect and preserve watershed lands.

Last week, Marin County updated its Climate Action Plan with targets and measures identified for 2030. In recent months, Fairfax and Novato established Climate Emergency Resolutions. Globally, thirty-three countries have declared climate emergencies. In accordance, it seems rational that MMWD should strive to establish policies which reduce stress and damage to its delicate network of ecosystem functions. Prohibiting electric bike access to watershed lands is an actionable step toward sustaining healthy biological systems on district lands.

Sincerely,

Jinesse Reynolds, Acting Chair Marin Group Sierra Club

Terrie Gillen

From: jocelyn freid <jocelynfreid@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I have been an avid cyclist, hiker, backpacker and an environmentalist since the 70's!

I believe that e-bikes are wonderful since they allow us boomers as we get older to continue riding up Mt. Tam which is not only good for my health but it feeds my soul and keeps depression at bay. At the same time, I am also a hiker and understand the concerns that e bikes will increase the foot traffic and create a potential threat by riding to fast.

The fact that the ebikes are only allowed on fire roads is to assure

That everyone has plenty of room to be safe and respectful of everyone on the trail. I would encourage the board to license all e bikes so that if someone feels they were in danger they could alert the water district for appropriate action. Perhaps more thought need to go into how these concerns can be mitigated.

Thank you so much for your attention,

Jocelyn Freid

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Terrie Gillen

From: Maureen Ryan <maureenryan07@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:43 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes

Hope this is not too late
Nurse and marin resident

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: John Bowman <jbcc@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Hello

I am 77 yrs old and don't have an electric assist bike yet but am planning for one next year.

I'm still riding twice a week in the water district but the time is coming where I'm going to need some help and a peddle assist bike is it.

Please support resolution 8607.

John Bowman

Terrie Gillen

From: Hope Hopkins <hopechopkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E Bikes on fire roads and trails

I feel this will be abused if allowed, speeding and illegal runs on single tracks with curves.
Horses and hikers will not hear them coming .

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Jody Newman <jody@newmanfp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: No EBikes please!

I am both a cyclist and a hiker, and hike often on Mt. Tam.

Unfortunately, far too many cyclists bike on trails that they are not allowed on. We have had close encounters with cyclists coming around a corner at high speed and almost crashing into us. There is little enforcement or observance of the rules now and allowing EBikes would only make the situation worse.

Motorized vehicles should not be allowed on undeveloped land that MMWD is charged with protecting for generations to come.

- Jody Newman

Jody Newman, CFP®
Newman Financial Planning
301 529-1879
58 Marinero Circle
Tiburon, CA 94920

Terrie Gillen

From: Alan Cascio <alancascio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Dear Board Members,

I have been riding mountain bikes on Marin Municipal Water District land for 30 years. As we have aged, several of my friends have had a harder time riding due to age and illness. Their savior have been e bikes, which have allowed them to continue to get the exercise and enjoyment they crave. I know that at some point in my life I myself will need to transition to an e bike if I wish to continue recreating in the watershed.

In addition to biking, I am also a hiker, so I understand the hiker's point of view. I sincerely believe that allowing e bikes in the watershed does not change the dynamic between hikers and bikers.

Almost without exception, the e bikers I have encountered have been responsible, courteous and safe. I am convinced after many years of experience that allowing e bikes in the watershed is the right thing to do. As a rate payer and a long term user of the watershed, I urge you to pass Resolution 8607.

Sincerely,

Alan Cascio

53 Grove Lane
San Anselmo CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Laura Wais <lauraewais@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:26 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes on the trails in Marin

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANY E-BIKES on the fire roads and non paved trails in our watershed.

It is extremely dangerous. The hikers and equestrians are already under constant danger from bike riders who want to hog the road.

Keep the motorized machines on the regular streets where they will be away from people and horses!

Laura Wais

--

Cheers, Laura

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0ad06963/uKm3jIDwv0WlSwUVB3jLw?u=http://www.laurawais.com/>

Terrie Gillen

From: Blumenthal Joseph <maujoe@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:40 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bikes

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am an elderly cyclist and would only be able to maintain my cycling ability with the use of an e-bike.
So , I would appreciate the availability of maintaining the present watershed roads for the use of e-bikes.
This will also allow my deep connection with the outdoors and nature to be maintained.

Thanking you,

Dr.Joe Blumenthal MD FACC

Terrie Gillen

From: Robert Ott <b.ott31@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support bikesI am 65 year old and have been riding on MtTam(all over the world) for 30+ years. This new bike allows the access to the outdoors that is vital to a health life. This area is a nation treasure that should be enjoyed by all . Stop trying to pull up the ladder for your own selfish reasoning. I support Everything about Marin/ Conservation and the careful use of all the resources available to EVERYONE!

Sincerely ,
Robert R Ott

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Diana Perdue <dperdue199@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:19 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Dec15 meeting-item10,ebikes
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.txt



Terrie Gillen

From: Dave Washer <dave.artgardens@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes

I've been riding bikes for 20 years

I'm 65 years old and live in san Geronimo valley.

My e bike is important to me to climb up to our ridges via the fire trails... in this area a 12 mile ride is 3,800 feet of climbing. Especially now in time of covid it is not healthy to stress our bodies to that extent... the ebike allows me to access the ridges at sunset. I am a healthier more joyful human because of this

Thank you,

Dave washer

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Diana Perdue <dperdue199@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Fwd: December 15, item 10

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diana Perdue <dperdue199@gmail.com>
Date: December 15, 2020 at 5:05:22 PM PST
To: Diana Perdue <dperdue199@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: December 15, item 10

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diana Perdue <dperdue199@gmail.com>
Date: December 15, 2020 at 5:02:16 PM PST
To: boardcomments@marinester.org
Subject: December 15, item 10

MMWD Board,

Please drop the notion of ebikes being allowed on District land.
These vehicles are nothing but motorcycles and have no place in or on our pristine mountain.

If you allow these motorbikes on your land they will drift into Mount Tamalpais State Park and Muir Woods National Monument.

People go to these locations to get away from frantic life. No to motorized vehicles.

Diana & Robert Perdue
Fairfax

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Scott Drotman <scottdrotman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Thank you,

Scott Drotman

Terrie Gillen

From: John Shiey <dolfindetails@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:28 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

John Shiey
557 Francisco Blvd E
Dock 2
San Rafael, CA 94901

Terrie Gillen

From: Chris Hobbs <chobbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:25 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I would like to add my support to resolution 8607j.

E-bikes are a great way for everyone to enjoy Tam, regardless of fitness. Let's face it, the roads on Tam are steep. E-bikes allow riders to ride to the trailhead, and then get further up the mountain and away from other trail users, so I think they actually improve trail safety and spread users out in this time of crowding on the trails. And they are no more erosive than a normal bike, which has been shown in studies to be equivalent to hiking in terms of trail degradation. The fire roads in the watershed are designed for 3 ton trucks anyway, so erosion should not be an issue.

There is a lot of talk about the speed of e-bikes. Class 1 e-bikes are limited in their motor assist--it cuts out at 20mph. But that does not mean they can go 20mph everywhere. On the climbs typical of Tam, they are much slower than that. My experience has been 6-8mph, or approximately double walking speed. The downhill speed issue is no different from normal bikes. E-bikes are slightly heavier, but only by 20 pounds or so. They are equipped with larger tires and more powerful brakes to compensate. Unless we are going to start banning heavier hikers and cyclists from the roads, there isn't a logical reason to ban e-bikes. And then there is the issue of equity for handicapped, older and less fit riders.

thanks,

Christian Hobbs
Corte Madera

Terrie Gillen

From: Jeff and Jana Zanetto <jzanetto@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:25 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. We are both 70 years old and have found our new e-bikes to be a wonderful way to access areas that we haven't visited for awhile due to physical challenges. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed on Mt. Tamalpais as well as allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you.

Jeff and Jana Zanetto
338 Prospect Dr
San Rafael, CA 94901

Terrie Gillen

From: Joseph Farrell <jfarrell@farrellarc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Joseph Farrell
10 Germaine Place, Novato, CA 94949, USA Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: S Lewis <steve.w.lewis75@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:07 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes

I am a horse rider. I have ridden on trails where bikes are forbidden and there they are, scaring horses and hikers. E bikes would even be worse! Please reconsider. This would be a dangerous decision. Steve Lewis. Bolinas

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Zach Lipton <zach@zachlipton.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:04 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Comment in support of #10 use of e-bikes

Hello,

I wanted to submit a comment in favor of item #10 and the use of e-bikes on district lands. E-bikes are a valuable zero-emissions method of transportation and recreation that, as the Marin County Bicycle Coalition has noted, do not pose a different impact on trails from traditional bicycles. Currently, many people drive to the District's recreational facilities, resulting in carbon emissions, congestion, poor air quality, and other negative environmental impacts. We should be doing all we can to encourage cycling and car-free access to public lands for those of all ability levels.

I remind the Board of the example of BART permitting bicycles on all its trains in 2013. After decades of study and debate, the change was made, and since then, it's been an unqualified success to the point nobody bothers to remark on it anymore. This process has gone on for over two years now, an incredible waste of time and resources to study something that should simply have been permitted in the first place.

—zach

Terrie Gillen

From: Joe Sherman <jsherman@reliantgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes in Marin

Dear Board members:

I am in favor of Resolution 8607 to allow e bikes on MMWD fire roads. E biking has allowed me to continue riding well into my retirement years, stay connected to nature and keep-up on trails with my adult children. I have been a long time advocate of protecting our valuable outdoor resources from any harm, and I see no harm coming from use of e bikes on the MMWD fire roads or trails.

I appreciate your consideration of my support for Resolution 8607. Thanks

Joe

Joseph L. Sherman

President

RELIANT GROUP MANAGEMENT

601 California Street, Suite 1150 San Francisco, CA 94108

T: (415) 501-9600

F: (415) 788-0435

E: jsherman@reliantgroup.com

Visit us on the web at reliantgroup.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Lee Young <leeyoung030225@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:03 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I'm just not as young as I used to be. I've mountain biked for the last 30+ years, but now that I'm reaching 60, my knees and hips aren't what they used to be. My doctor has recommended that I consider an e-bike so that I can take some pressure off my joints but keep being active. Please approve the resolution and help me stay healthy! Please!

Lee Young
Novato

Terrie Gillen

From: Mitchell B. Greenberg <MGreenberg@abbeylaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I am writing to support Resolution 8607. Although my support is based on many considerations, I will highlight just one of them in this email.

I have been mountain biking in Marin since 1992. It is my passion. I bike with a group of others, and we bike often and responsibly. Our group of friends is largely made up of people, like me, who are in relatively good physical shape, and can not only handle, but relish the challenge of the hill climbs in our beautiful county. However, there are some in our group for whom the challenge of the hills is too much. As a consequence, they simply did not ride. Period. That was their loss and our loss as a group of friends.

E bikes changed all that. They can now participate and enjoy the beauty of the hills and of simply spending time with friends in a way that was not available to them before E bikes appeared on the scene. I have had many opportunities to observe them riding with us. By and large, they ride faster up hill than most of us. However, they don't ride fast up hill, just faster than those with no electric assistance. They by no means pose any danger riding up hill. And, they actually ride downhill slower than the majority of our riders, mostly because E bikes are much heavier, and need to be controlled going downhill for safety purposes. So, I see no issue of any concern of safety to others riding or walking the fire roads from E bikes.

Please consider this 3 year interim test period so that the board will have a full record of the pros and cons of this use on these lands. Thank you.

Mitch Greenberg

The logo features the firm's name in a gold, serif font on a dark red background. The text is arranged in two lines: "ABBHEY, WEITZENBERG," on the top line and "WARREN & EMERY, LLC" on the bottom line, with a decorative flourish between the two lines.

Mitchell B. Greenberg-Shareholder

P. O. Box 1566 | Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1566
100 Stony Point Rd, Ste. 200 | Santa Rosa,
CA 95401

[www:abbeylaw.com](http://www.abbeylaw.com) |
mgreenberg@abbeylaw.com

T 707.542.5050 | F 707.542.2589

Terrie Gillen

From: Brad Curtis <bradcurtis449@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:38 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Brad Curtis
15 Havenwood Rd
Novato, CA 94945

Terrie Gillen

From: Craig Hill <Hillspride@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:36 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Craig Hill
1491 Indian Valley Rd
Novato, CA 94947

Terrie Gillen

From: Chuck Becker <chuckb77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Chuck Becker
63 Los Ranchitos Rd
1856
San Rafael, CA 94903

Terrie Gillen

From: john Martin <johnmartin512a@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

john Martin
965 Magnolia Ave Apt 32
Larkspur, CA 94939

Terrie Gillen

From: Edward Grossman <edward.grossman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Edward Grossman
404 E Blithedale Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Jim Long <jlongsf@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:31 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Jim Long
1089 W California Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Michael Kelley <emtbackess@musichael.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:44 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Vote yes on Resolution 8607

To the Board of Directors
Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD)

I have been riding on Mount Tam for decades, recently on an eBike.

I strongly urge you to vote yes on Resolution 8607. This will provide opportunity for the MMWD to obtain data about the use of eBikes on MMWD land, and provide a great basis for future planning.

This is a fair solution for all folks who use the wonderful mountain.

I will be delighted to help in any way I can to make this work.

Thank you for the many opportunities you have provided for stake holders to provide input.

Very truly yours,

Michael Kelley

Terrie Gillen

From: Hilary Hyde <hilshyde@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:44 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Re: I Support Resolution 8607!

These comments are not for the public, only the board.

From: Hilary Hyde
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:48 AM
To: boardcomment@marinwater.org <boardcomment@marinwater.org>
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support Res 8607 allowing class 1 e-bikes on watershed land.

I bike regularly and am getting older and expect to need an e-bike in the next few years. I don't want to stop biking as I consider it important for my health and staying happy.

I love being outside and in spite of my concern of having too many bikes, I do believe e-bikes are good for our health and mental well-being.

I would also support a small charge for all owners so we can be reminded by a ranger to ride slowly.

Thanks for your support.

Hilary Hyde
MV CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Mickey Allison <mickall1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:27 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-Bike Agenda Item

I bought my first MMWD & State Park passes shortly after moving back to CA in 2004. Growing up in Oakland, I rode horses in the East Bay Hills in my youth and continued to ride regularly in until the early 1990s. I was also a skier and hiker. 40 years ago, after surgery for the 3rd dislocation to my right knee I was left me with two torn cruciate ligaments and no cartilage in my right knee. Hiking is a huge part of my life, and with Covid-19 SIP, it helps me maintain both my mental and physical health, and dirt trails have cushioned my knee along with the synovial fluid that acts as a lubricant. At age 77, I'm in fit and plan staying that way for as long as possible

My preferred hikes are on Mt. Tam, both the State Park and MMWD despite too many near misses with bikers speeding downhill around blind corners who come upon me suddenly. Unfortunately, these near misses are creating anxiety that has increased dramatically in the last 2 years. I miss my habitual serenity that has come from my love of nature. At UC Davis I earned a BS in Biology, a MS in Zoology and a Teaching Credential. I love to stride out strongly as much as like to stop for a view, to figure out what bird singing, what species might be in a stream or under a log. I've shared that love with my students, friends and family.

My worst Biker-Hiker interaction was this spring on the Easy Grade Trail above West Point Inn. A Mt-Biker rode at full speed up onto one of the "highest biker-created-sculpted-outside fire-road-knobs" and screamed while he caught air. We had no time to react. He landed within a few feet of me, didn't even slow down, but just sped off down the fire road. He had to be going well over 25 MPH.

On the same day as we neared the top, a group of dismounted Bikers, including one E-Biker, were loudly bragging about how fast they could make downhill it to Pantoll Station. They then mounted up and passed us at full speed, yelling at us to get out of their way as they spread themselves out trying to pass each other.

Earlier that day, below West Point Inn, we watched as three E-Bikers quickly passed two groups of veteran Mt-Bikers in a relatively short, straight, uphill stretch. When the E-Bikers passed us they weren't breathing hard and that minimal effort before disappearing around a bend bothered the two groups of Mt-Bikers as well based on the swear words we heard. The Mt-Bikers were staggered and slightly spread out. So were the E-Bikers who gave no warning, or call out to warn any of us.

Within the last two years, I've seen two E-Bikes on very narrow single track trails on the north side of Mt. Tam. In the last 10 years I've encounter increasing numbers of Mt-Bikers on single track trails and made the mistake of pointing out that their presence is illegal in both the MMWD and the State Park. After being sworn at and physically threatened, I get off the trail as best I can. There are places where I've had to politely ask if they wait a moment until I can get to a wider, safer spot for both of us. Sometimes it has meant that I retreat down the trail. This behavior is extremely dangerous and bullying to all other users, especially if downhill from the descending Biker.

Most Mt-Bikers are men, with only a few women, who are out for thrills as they create sculpted out areas that wide trails that will increase their downhill speed. They are definitely, not riding out to enjoy nature, views and quiet time. As aging Mt. Bikers transition to E-Bikes, it is only going get more dangerous for anyone on foot or horseback. E-Bikes should not get a green light. They are motorized vehicles.

Contrast with serious and novice hikers, families out with their kids and a baby in a back or front pack, on horseback, or birdwatchers or naturalists who might not realize to their peril that they have to be on constant alert for fast moving bicycles which interferes with our right to enjoy being out on trails and fire roads. I've experienced quite a few single or duo Mt-Bikers coming downhill toward me on the Cataract, Mickey O'Brian, Benstein and International Trails and a group of 4 on the High Marsh Trail.

As a driver, I am required by law to give any bike rider 3-feet clearance. Interestingly, as a walker on a shared sidewalk, trail or bike path, these same bike riders are not required to give me the safety distance. Very few give me at least 3-feet of distance as they pass me on fire roads. That is impossible on a single track trail which is why their use is illegal for bikers. Yet scofflaws insist that they are entitled to ride anywhere they want to.

I am opposed to giving the green light to E-Bikes. As a retired High School Biology teacher, I completely agree with her points, grading scale and thank Jean Berensmeier for her wit and succinct encapsulation of my concerns attached below.

Mickey Allison
Waldo Point Harbor, Sausalito

To: MMWD Board of Directors
Re: E-bikes on MMWD lands
From: Jean Berensmeier, Lagunitas

I am a retired professor of physical education, was an avid bike rider into my 70's and taught bicycle camping and backpacking. I served on the County Parks & Open Space Commission 20 years. I was a Commission leader in acquiring four open space preserves in the San Geronimo Valley totaling 2600 acres. I chaired the County's Trails Committee, Bikes Committee and first Trails Plan that was adopted in 1987.

Below are nine short descriptive categories followed by a Grade from A - F and my conclusion and recommendation.

1. Environmental impacts – The forested wilderness is wildlife's home. They've adjusted to illegal trail building that destroys their habitat and riders at night with bright lights disturbing their hunting patterns. Now they're asked to accept intruding vehicles that can go anywhere and everywhere with little effort on the part of the driver. Grade - F
2. Nature benefits for elderly and handicapped. None. Riders have to concentrate on the demands of riding – trail width, steepness, obstacles and other users. Grade - F
3. Health/exercise value - None. Take a ride and observe. I saw no elderly person pedaling a heavy bike uphill or even a short incline anywhere. They drive it. Disregarding health issues age brings with it balance and strength issues. Grade -F
4. Disadvantages: Pricey; short battery life and long charge time; low riding range; costly to maintain and repair; heavy. Grade - F
5. Enforcement: Requires much more personnel than MMWD can afford. It works, to a degree, only if a citation + significant fine is issued or the bike impounded. Grade - F
6. Speed – A 15 miles per hour limit allows e-bikers to go longer distances. They will intrude into wilderness areas that are home to wildlife. No hiker walking a 2/3 mile pace enjoys having a vehicle at this speed sharing the trail. Grade - F
7. It is troubling to learn that manufacturer's do not have standardized procedures for making e-bike batteries. This could pose a serious threat resulting in wildfires that threaten adjacent private

property. Even lithium-ion battery parts are not 100% recycled, so you can expect this problem to compound the more batteries are produced. Grade - F

8. e-bike manufacture - Requires unfriendly environmental practice of burning coal or fossil fuels not good for the planet. Grade - F

9. e-bikes are fun -

Absolutely.

Gr

ade - A

Conclusion: E-bikes failed in 8 of 9 categories.

Recommendation: MMWD Directors continue their wise leadership in prohibiting e-bikes on MMWD land. A trial only hurts wildlife and the inveterate hikes on a trial or short term basis.

Personal: At 88, I still walk the land to connect to the wildlife and plants I dearly love. I don't want any e-bikes anywhere near me to distract me, scare me or confuse me or the wildlife I seek to see. I may reconsider if I ever see a Coyote riding an e-bike.

Terrie Gillen

From: Alison Pence <alipence9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:25 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e bikes

I support e bikes on fire roads. I have participated in many restoration days and in vegetation mapping and in the survey of usage on Mt Tam. I have met all kinds out on the mountain and most are pretty respectful but some are not. I believe that bikes offer a great way to get out in nature and to enjoy the watershed and learn about it. Most will be respectful, but some will not be.

I believe bike users could make good stewards and would be willing to help with trail maintenance and discreet weeding projects as well as other volunteering.

I do not have a suggestion about what to do about people who are destructive or rude.

Thanks,
Alison Pence

Terrie Gillen

From: Peter Black <peterblack707@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:05 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please allow E bikes

Dear sirs,

I am 77 and live in San Anselmo. Access to health and recreation in the mountains is a main reason I live here. But as I age I'm about to add an e-bike to my riding and hiking options. I want to be able to continue to roam freely, naturally observing safe speed and courtesy to hikers and bikers.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Black
201 403 5768 cell
46 Park Dr
San Anselmo

Terrie Gillen

From: LAURA CHARITON <laurachariton@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:57 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Judy Schriebman
Subject: Petition from Watershed Alliance of Marin
Attachments: Petition 1.png; Petition 2.png; Petition 3.png; Petition 4.png; Petition 5.png; Petition 6.png; Petition 7.png; Petition 8.png

Dear Board members,

On Sunday afternoon, 2 days prior to this meeting, Watershed Alliance of Marin put out the following petition.

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/60823a57/PSidqtQNeEuTuTQ_98L6LQ?u=https://www.change.org/p/marin-municipal-water-district-board-stop-the-marin-municipal-water-district-from-allowing-electric-bikes?redirect=false

Within that petition is a video of 130 locations on Old Railroad Grade and Old Stage Road where there has been significant damage to the

We have received over 580 opposition petition signatures in this time period.

We have also received over 25 opposition comments against allowing E-Bikes in the watershed which we are submitting for the record.

Those are copied in the attachments.

The MMWD addition of E-Bikes on the watershed must be considered a project under CEQA and therefore should be reviewed with an Initial Study for full environmental review prior to accepting them on the watershed.

We believe the board errs by moving forward allowing motorized vehicles to use the land.

Sincerely,

Laura Chariton, President, Watershed Alliance of Marin

watermarin.org (501) C3
446 Panoramic Hwy. Mill Valley, CA 94941



415 234-9007 cell 415 855-5630



 Watershed Alliance of Marin started this petition to Marin Municipal Water District Board

The Watershed Alliance of Marin, Sierra Club, Marin Conservation League, Foot People and other hiker and runner groups are opposed to opening up the Water District Lands to Electric Bikes.

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 7:30 PM PACIFIC TIME. AGENDA AND
ZOOM LINK BELOW

Speak OUT and SAVE WILDLIFE AND HIKING from lawless Mt.
Bikers and the Board opening up the watershed to Electric bikes.

<https://www.marinwater.org/node/534>

<https://youtu.be/INiK-XHDHro>

This video of Marin Municipal Water District Lands (22,000

583 have signed. Let's get to 1,000!



Thanks to your support this petition has a chance at winning! We only need 417 more signatures to reach the next goal - can you help?

Take the next step!

This video of Marin Municipal Water District Lands (22,000 acres) shows the degradation of just two roads by people riding bikes over the vegetative edge to avoid rocks and by hotdogging on curves, embankments and illegally created trails along streams where scores of trees are cut down. This erosion causes sediment to go into the creek where there are highly endangered coho salmon and steelhead. MMWD has lost all control where they are responsible to the Federal Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. Violations abound and they are about to make it worse. You are taking your life in your hands as a hiker where blind curves, speed and arrogance are rampant. Hikers and Nature lovers beware. Smashed animals will be added to another video soon.

WE NEED YOUR VOICE TO STOP THIS RAMPANT
DISCRIMINATORY AND DESTRUCTIVE USE OF OUR PUBLIC
LANDS.



valeri and bert hood and bartsch · 2 days ago

the last thing we need is an additional glut of people on the trails with faster bikes going up hill-
more people on electric bikes are having accidents than ever- ask MMWD board how many have to be pulled out/month

♥ 2 · Share · Tweet



Peter Anderson · 2 days ago

I'm signing because I'm tired of encountering bikes and e bikes on posted trails that are not patrolled very often because of reductions in patrol staff for decades.

♥ 2 · Share · Tweet



Mickey Allison · 2 days ago

Both Mt and E-Bikers on Tam have become more numerous and are riding downhill faster since Covid 19 SIP orders were put in place. I helped do this survey and was almost run over by a biker using one of the highest sculpted out areas. He didn't notice us until he was airborne and yelled. We had no time to move. In my 70s, that's been one of two... [Read more](#)

♥ 2



Diana Perdue · 2 days ago

Diana Perdue

♥ 1 · Share · Tweet



birgit kelley · 8 hours ago

e bikers ride much to fast on trails and should not be able to whiz by hikers they are like mini motorcycles

♥ 1 · Share · Tweet



Marilyn Laatsch

7 hours ago

I have lived in MUIR BEACH for over 40 yrs. & witnessed the increase of bikers whizzing down our easements, and staircases without regard for other hikers. No signage seems to stop them for eroding our land and I am APPALLED at the possibility that ELECTRIC BIKES would now be allowed. These bikes would seriously injure people, animals as well as the pathways & trails. THERE SHOULD BE NO ELECTRIC BIKES ON THESE OPEN SPACE LANDS EVER. Please STOP THIS NOW...TONIGHT!!! Thank you,
Marilyn Laatsch, MUIR BEACH



1

Share Tweet



birgit kelley

8 hours ago

e bikers ride much to fast on trails and should not be able to whiz by hikers they are like mini motorcycles



1

Share Tweet



Amy Kalish

8 hours ago

The trails are already having heavy use, and some cyclists are not careful enough. E bikes weigh a lot more than regular bikes, and many of the trails are already heavily rutted. I think adding more, heavier bikes will be dangerous and further degrade the watershed.



1

Share Tweet



Stephen Celic

1 day ago

Bikes are already eroding existing hiking trails. It is particularly severe on turns that are severely rutted and the coming heavy rains will make it worse. E bikes are not about healthy exercise. They are one step below gasoline powered dirt bikes. Further, they utilize battery power, which can spark, perhaps in an accident and start a fire. Even TESLER battery powered. Ehicles have burst into flames.



1

Share Tweet



Laura Chariton

1 day ago

Please note that the Correct time for the MMWD Board meeting is on Tuesday December 15, 7:30 Item 10. Info on links.



1

Share Tweet



doria wosk

1 day ago

JUSTICE FOR WE THE PEOPLE. MAGA



1

Share Tweet



Mike Korchinsky

1 day ago

I walk these hills with my dogs and already struggle to get out of the way of speeding bikes on trails that are supposed to be for hikers only.



1

Share Tweet



Laura Chariton

1 day ago

Almost every time I hike I am confronted with speeding bikes, almost being hit, having my dog hit while on a leash, seeing wildlife killed and run over....

I plan my hikes to avoid Mt. and Ebikers and now they are making illegal single track trails and force me off the trails. The sides of the trails are being widened and embankments damaged, increasing sediment that will harm and kill salmon.



Michele Egan

1 day ago

I am stunned that the MMWD would even consider allowing motorized vehicles of any kind on watershed lands. Please, please, please, put the health of the environment first on the list of priorities. Now is not the time to approve a use that further degrades our fragile public lands



1

Share Tweet



Jan McCormick

2 days ago

Someone is going to get hurt if this is allowed. It's an accident waiting to happen. Especially for older hikers who can't move so quickly to get "out of the way" of the speedy monsters who run everyone over. It's so sad there is no curtesy anymore. Again. someone is going to get hurt and that will... [Read more](#)



1

Share Tweet



Enzo Garcia

2 days ago

I'm signing for I have encountered many different electric bicyclists on trails where all bikes are prohibited.



1

Share Tweet



Tyrone Cashman

2 days ago

The fire roads are great for hiking, and for the exercise achieved by human-powered biking. The speed of the pedal bikes is just on the edge, the limit, of the speed that is safe if hikers are frequent users. of the trails. We can think of no reason why power bikes should not be prohibited as are... [Read more](#)



1

Share Tweet



Gina Farr

2 days ago

E bikes are a disruption to the peaceful enjoyment of the watershed -- by us walkers and sensitive wildlife. Motorized vehicles do not belong in the watershed.



1

Share Tweet



Karen Sullivan

2 days ago

It's nuts they are even considering allowing speeding, silent VEHICLES on public trails and roads. The introduction of mountain bikes on Marin Trails has caused nothing but trouble for the past 30 years, user conflict, accidents and resource damage. There is NO legal reason to allow this and in... [Read more](#)



1

Share Tweet



Kathy Flores

2 days ago

With the request for e bikes on the trails they will be going MORE off trails and eroding the embankments and trails. Please say NO to E-bikes on the trails.



1

Share Tweet



SafeWaterMarin Alliance

2 days ago

1. E-BIKES ARE MOTORIZED... [Read more](#)



1

Share Tweet



Steve Schreibman

2 days ago

I agree



1

Share Tweet



Peter Anderson

2 days ago

I'm signing because I'm tired of encountering bikes and e bikes on posted trails that are not patrolled very often because of reductions in patrol staff for decades.



2

Share Tweet



Garril Page

2 days ago

Pedestrians are no longer safe on our trails, and that is NOT RIGHT.



Judy Schriebman

2 days ago

E-bikes are MOTORIZED vehicles capable of reaching speeds of 25+ mph on trails that hikers and native animals use. This is absurd, dangerous and a public health hazard.

♥ 1

Share Tweet



valeri and bert hood and bartsch

2 days ago

Please demand that any MMWD director taking money from or giving money to the bike coalition, recuse themselves. That includes doing pro-bono work and or donating time as well

♥ 1

Share Tweet



valeri and bert hood and bartsch

2 days ago

the last thing we need is an additional glut of people on the trails with faster bikes going up hill- more people on electric bikes are having accidents than ever- ask MMWD board how many have to be pulled out/month

♥ 2

Share Tweet



Mickey Allison

2 days ago

Both Mt and E-Bikers on Tam have become more numerous and are riding downhill faster since Covid 19 SIP orders were put in place. I helped do this survey and was almost run over by a biker using one of the highest sculpted out areas. He didn't notice us until he was airborne and yelled. We... [Read more](#)

♥ 2



Louette Colombano

2 days ago

Let's not turn our trails and fire roads into a speedway. This will invite destructive behavior to occur.

♥ 1

Share Tweet

Terrie Gillen

From: bill@123-floor.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:14 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

Dear Board,

You kicked the can. Lame, lame, lame. You will not find “more data” that supports that ebikes are more dangerous or detrimental to the environment -because they are not.

Ebikes are already on the water shed and will not go away anytime soon. After 2 years of an unofficial trail period you still don't even know the impact of the current riders. You still don't have any accident data or erosion data or water impact data. Very disappointing that you are going to start now. Let me give you my data: 20 years of riding a traditional bike - physical contact with other trail users: exactly ZERO. 3 years of ebiking - physical contact with other trail users: exactly ZERO. How many times have I tore up the landscape: exactly ZERO. How many times have I crapped on the water shed: exactly ZERO. Personal responsibility and education are the keys. Example: instead of just blocking illegal trails, block it and put signage about soil restoration too. Few biker and hikers want to tear up the mountain. Most will comply especially if you give them a good reason.

I value clean drinking water over a nice place to bike. But I don't see a conflict. I do find it counterintuitive that you are considering to limit the use of trails during Covid. Gyms and exercise studios are closed. Many need access for physical and mental health. You are adding rangers and toilets due to Covid extra usage and not ebikes. I moved here and pay taxes and vote to enjoy the open space.

The public comments were general grievances about bikers and crowded trails. Few, if any objections were specific to ebikes. A few of the talking points were erroneous.

Your staff put together a thoughtful and inclusive plan. It makes sense to me. Most ebikers see this as a workable plan and don't see a down side. Several board members were concerned to get the “cart before the horse”. The horse has already left the stable, e-bikers are already there. I don't see how you enforce it. It is very difficult to tell if a bike is motorized. Do you want to turn your rangers into type of bike police?

We are talking about an official TRIAL PERIOD. And it can be reversed if necessary. That gives you some time to work on additional rangers and the recreation plan. (And that gives us time to educate riders and self police. I know that works due to a situation on my local trail. Peer pressure is powerful.)

That was a lame excuse to kick the can and postpone making a common sense decision. As an ebiker I don't see the negative repercussions. I implore you jump on one and see for yourself. They are just bikes. You can borrow mine.

Thank you for your time and service.
Bill Powell

Terrie Gillen

From: Rob Rowlands <rowlands47@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:08 PM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Dan Bech; Stephen Shoup
Subject: Re: EBikes on MMWD trails

Further to my email, I listened to tonight's anti democratic interchange. Both callers, and apparently the emailers, overwhelmingly favor legalizing what we are already doing! My takeaway is to continue to be courteous on the fire roads, and keep off the single track trails. If I ever see a ranger we will have a spirited discussion.

Cart before the horse? The horse has already bolted!

Best regards,
Rob Rowlands

> On Dec 15, 2020, at 2:56 PM, Rob Rowlands <rowlands47@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Thanks for considering this. I'm a 73 yr old bike rider that is back on the trails now I've got an ebike. My bike looks like a normal full suspension mountain bike and I'm sure I'm doing no more damage to the trails and trail users than I did aged 37!

>

> Rob Rowlands

> Mill Valley

>

> Best regards,

> Rob Rowlands

> 415 849 5667

Terrie Gillen

From: Claudia Brisson <cwbrisson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:59 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bikes on Marin county public hiking trails

I vote No on eBikes on Marin county public trails that are currently open for hikers walking by foot.
I think it is dangerous and interferes with the peace and quiet that hiking is supposed to be about.
Claudia Brisson
San Rafael, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: Susan Hopp <hlpearth@fastmail.fm>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:30 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: RE: the Use of E-bikes on District watershed lands

To the MMWD Board:

I'm Susan Hopp, I live in Mill Valley and I'm speaking against approval of three-year interim Special Use Permit for Electrical Bicycles.

I regularly take advantage of our MMWD watershed natural areas – hiking, running, and even mountain biking. Like so many Marin citizens, spending time in the woods feeds my soul.

While I am all for electric bikes for transportation and recreational riding on paved paths and roadways, I am against permitting motorized vehicles of any kind in our wildlife areas - this is a line we should not cross. And this is a big part of the spirit of the original Code 9.04.01 - to keep the sanctity of the natural world where we don't turn trails and fire roads into highways.

In reading the staff report, I am quite perplexed of the plan and intentions laid out. For instance, there seems to be a recognition that enforcement will be an issue – whether speed limits or discernment of permitted Class 1 e-bikes vs Class 2 or 3 (can you even tell a difference) – since it speaks of additional ranger resources – yet that is not for another two years!

And the report talks about creating a “Recreational Management Plan” – including “defining Sustainable Recreation for Watershed Lands” why not do this before bringing another element which will certainly tax the present system – impacting the nature experience and increasing human activity and interaction.

In summary, motorized vehicles in our watershed and natural environment is a significant about-face and is not warranted without additional testing, planning, and most importantly - understanding budget implications and taxing the existing system.

Thank you.

--

Susan Hopp
hlpearth@fastmail.fm
415-602-9830

“Humankind is challenged, as it has never been challenged before, to prove its maturity and its mastery—not of nature but of itself.” Rachel Carson

Terrie Gillen

From: Mike Black <mblack57@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support Resolution 8607, which allowing class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

Especially during this season I regularly use my ebike as a source of stress relief and exercise. Doctors routinely perceive out door activities especially in scenic relaxing locations as a way of reducing stress. Class one ebikes are no faster than a good regular bike and requires the rider to be alert and active n ways they may not have been for years. Thank you for your support for both the ebike rider and the environment

Mike Black
Sparks NV

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: davidmonetta@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Marin Water Proposed E-bike Restrictions

I am writing to convey my strong support for the use of pedal assisted ebikes with governors that limit assistance on Mt. Tam. I was unaware of the deadline for comment until last evening.

I have been living in Kent Woodlands and my wife and I, and frankly many of our friends, have been avid hikers and mountain bikers for 27 years. It is shocking that there is even a thought of banning pedal assisted ebikes. There are friendly hikers and bikers and there are those that are not. There are groups of hikers that spread across an entire path posing safety issues, and bikers that may go too fast. But these are the glaring exceptions based on 27 years of experience. There are hikers with dogs that run loose or whose poops are not picked up. But these too are the exception. There is more than enough room for both hikers and mtn bike riders. There is no more reason to ban bikers as there would be to ban hikers.

My son who is in the Navy and stationed in the Persian Gulf, came home for less than a two week leave. Yesterday we rode ebikes on fire trails together to the top of Mt. Tam, down to the Pacific Ocean and back to Mill Valley. It was an epic experience that the two of us will always remember. There would be no way we could have done this together without both of us being able to ride e-bikes. I did a similar ride with my daughter a few weeks ago. I could not have done this without the pedal assist ebike. When my sone and I rode down, we went as fast as we would have without the pedal assist ebikes. I had a wonderful day outside on the mountain with my son. We saw hikers and bikers (some with ebikes and some regular mountain bikes). All were friendly courteous and loving being outside. This is not a question of speed, or damage to trails – it is clearly an issue of access and numbers.

At the Corte Madera hearing on this matter months ago, speaker after speaker testified to their own access experiences with ebikes. It was a packed house that was overwhelming supportive of ebike use. Why would hikers have priority over bikers? Perhaps the mountain should only be available to those who can hike to it from their houses and not drive to the mountain and park in paved parking lots or on the side of the rode. Should we give those of us who live in Marin more access than those in live in San Francisco? This would be a ridiculous restriction because it impacts access. Or to satisfy hikers who without any evidence claim e-bikes damage paths, perhaps you should only allow bikers who weigh less than 200 lbs. to make sure they don't cause damage. . Perhaps we should install camera on all paths to monitor speed, dogs and hikers taking up the entire path. Almost every weekend I see and hear first responders going to the mountain to help bikers and hikers. Last week, I helped a hiker bleeding after falling. Maybe we should ban everyone because sometimes people have an accident. Reasonable restrictions (which already exist) are fine – banning access is not.

The mountain does not belong to anyone – not to hikers, dog walkers, bikers, or birdwatchers, and to restrict a whole class of people who don't pose any material additional risk or impact is wrong. It belongs to everyone.

Terrie Gillen

From: Dale Chamblin <dalechamblin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebike policy

Board members,

For the last 7 years I have been an elected director of a very successful hospital district in an era when many health systems are challenged. I believe we are successful because our board has the fortitude to weigh options put before us, gather and evaluate additional information as needed, and make decisions within a reasonable period of time. Clearly you have taken all the proper steps to determine that the use of ebikes on dirt roads does not degrade those pathways any more than analog bikes. Moreover, you have heard considerable testimony that long time bikers who want to continue their enjoyment of the sport can only do so with assistance as they age. Why do you continue to "Kick the can down the road"? Many decisions made by our hospital board have community support and opposition, as you do, yet for some reason you fail to act. I encourage you to STEP UP!

Dale Chamblin

Terrie Gillen

From: Ann Stevens <annclairestevens@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I support the resolution 8607 allowing for a three year e bike trial.

I'm very upset about the effort to forbid them outright from using the fire roads. I think it is very unfair to categorically deny use of wide fire trails to population of people that are now able to access and enjoy our trails. Older people, and less strong riders are outdoors enjoying the trails for the first time! This is especially true in these Covid times (which will be with us for most of 2021) as many more people have been able to get out to ride the trails.

I ride, run and hike almost daily. And I have never observed a discourteous nor an out of control rider. Trails are wide and there is room for everyone.

Furthermore, I believe that excluding all e bikes from fire trails, is bad public policy. We should be encouraging resource protection, which only happens with use.

Please vote to support Resolution 8607.

Sincerely,

Ann Stevens

Ross resident

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Chuck Stevens <chuckstevens@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:08 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Comment in Support of Resolution 86071

I support Resolution 86071 and see no fair basis on which to exclude class 1 e-bikes from the MMWD trails. I ride my (non-electronic) mountain bike on the MMWD trails just about every day and have never observed a single safety issue associated with e-bikes. In fact I find e-bike riders generally more courteous than hikers on "share the trail" etiquette. There is plenty of room for all sorts of riders and hikers on these wide fire trails.

Although I don't ride an e-bike I am in my 60's and applaud how e-bikes have made the trails more accessible to folks in my "senior" category. This is a positive healthy development which public policy should support and expand, not undermine. This is especially true in these Covid times (which will be with us for most of 2021) as many more people have been able to get out to ride the trails.

The effort to ban e-bikes seems to reflect an all too common knee jerk reaction against anything new or different from what some trail users may think is normal. That is not a fair or reasonable basis for precluding citizens from using their chosen mode of enjoyment of publicly available trails so long as they honor speed limits and safety protocols.

I strongly support 8607.

Chuck Stevens
Ross, CA

Terrie Gillen

From: J Paxton Madison <paxmad@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Include a brief message about why e-bikes are important to you. Is it health, continued access to your parks, being able to ride with a more fit family member? Let them know!

Say something about your connection to the outdoors. Conservation advocates question cyclists' interests in resource protection, including respecting wildlife and the safety of others. Say something that shows our interests in the outdoors are aligned.

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Josh Floum <joshfloum@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:32 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

I have owned e- mountain bikes since I turned 55. They have enabled me to continue to do one of the things I love the most— ride through our beautiful terrain. They are silent, pollution-free and no more dangerous than any regular mountain bike. I currently chair a national environmental organization and wouldnt ride them if they harmed the environment in any way. Please do not take that joy away!

Thsnks much,

Josh Floum

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Rob Johnstone <bobstone33@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Rob Johnstone
267 Corte Madera Ave
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Terrie Gillen

From: Christine Stevens Blitz <christine.s.blitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: I Support Resolution 8607!

Voice support for Resolution 8607, which would allow class-1 pedal-assist e-bikes on MMWD watershed fire roads for a 3 year trial period.

I love having e bikes on the trails and this is an important option for our older population.

Thank you

Terrie Gillen

From: Oliver Sloane <ollie@breakingawaybikes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 86071

I support Resolution 86071 and see no fair basis on which to exclude class 1 e-bikes from the MMWD trails. I ride my (non-electronic) mountain bike on the MMWD trails just about every day and have never observed a single safety issue associated with e-bikes. In fact I find e-bike riders generally more courteous than hikers on "share the trail" etiquette. There is plenty of room for cyclists, runners and hikers on these wide fire trails.

Although I don't ride an e-bike I applaud how e-bikes have made the trails more accessible to all hard working tax paying residents of Marin, from the school children just starting out in the exciting sport of cycling to the elderly who need a bit of help engaging in their daily exercise. This ridiculous proposal puts a kabosh on positive healthy physical and mental development which public policy should support and expand, not undermine. This is especially true in these Covid times (which will be with us for most of 2021) as many more people have been able to get out to ride the trails. These trails are more than vessels of human foot traffic during Carona, they represent the stress outlet, staycation destination, fitness center, kindergarten, small business revenue stream, personal income source among a myriad of other uses.

The effort to ban e-bikes seems to reflect an all too common knee jerk reaction against anything new or different from what some trail users may think is normal. E bikes are not going away and all this merely means is cyclists taking their business elsewhere negatively affecting coffee shops, apparell stores, bike shops and all the employees that so not have the luxury to work from home. That is not a fair or reasonable basis for precluding citizens from using their chosen mode of enjoyment of publicly available trails so long as they honor speed limits and safety protocols. I am sure many of my fellow residents are/will pursue other ways to remedy this shortsighted travesty of decision making.

I strongly support 8607.
Oliver Sloane

Terrie Gillen

From: b.ott31@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:25 AM
To: davidmonetta@comcast.net
Cc: Board Comment
Subject: Re: Marin Water Proposed E-bike Restrictions

Sent mine response in yesterday....less eloquent but the same message .

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2020, at 10:42 AM, davidmonetta@comcast.net wrote:

I am writing to convey my strong support for the use of pedal assisted ebikes with governors that limit assistance on Mt. Tam. I was unaware of the deadline for comment until last evening.

I have been living in Kent Woodlands and my wife and I, and frankly many of our friends, have been avid hikers and mountain bikers for 27 years. It is shocking that there is even a thought of banning pedal assisted ebikes. There are friendly hikers and bikers and there are those that are not. There are groups of hikers that spread across an entire path posing safety issues, and bikers that may go too fast. But these are the glaring exceptions based on 27 years of experience. There are hikers with dogs that run loose or whose poops are not picked up. But these too are the exception. There is more than enough room for both hikers and mtn bike riders. There is no more reason to ban bikers as there would be to ban hikers.

My son who is in the Navy and stationed in the Persian Gulf, came home for less than a two week leave. Yesterday we rode ebikes on fire trails together to the top of Mt. Tam, down to the Pacific Ocean and back to Mill Valley. It was an epic experience that the two of us will always remember. There would be no way we could have done this together without both of us being able to ride e-bikes. I did a similar ride with my daughter a few weeks ago. I could not have done this without the pedal assist ebike. When my son and I rode down, we went as fast as we would have without the pedal assist ebikes. I had a wonderful day outside on the mountain with my son. We saw hikers and bikers (some with ebikes and some regular mountain bikes). All were friendly courteous and loving being outside. This is not a question of speed, or damage to trails – it is clearly an issue of access and numbers.

At the Corte Madera hearing on this matter months ago, speaker after speaker testified to their own access experiences with ebikes. It was a packed house that was overwhelming supportive of ebike use. Why would hikers have priority over bikers? Perhaps the mountain should only be available to those who can hike to it from their houses and not drive to the mountain and park in paved parking lots or on the side of the road. Should we give those of us who live in Marin more access than those who live in San Francisco? This would be a ridiculous restriction because it impacts access. Or to satisfy hikers who without any evidence claim e-bikes damage paths, perhaps you should only allow bikers who weigh less than 200 lbs. to make sure they don't cause damage. . Perhaps we should install camera on all paths to monitor speed, dogs and hikers taking up the entire path. Almost every weekend I see and hear first responders going to the mountain to help bikers and hikers. Last week, I helped a hiker

bleeding after falling. Maybe we should ban everyone because sometimes people have an accident. Reasonable restrictions (which already exist) are fine – banning access is not.

The mountain does not belong to anyone – not to hikers, dog walkers, bikers, or birdwatchers, and to restrict a whole class of people who don't pose any material additional risk or impact is wrong. It belongs to everyone.

Terrie Gillen

From: Gail Katz <gkatz00@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Ebikes
Cc: Board Comment
Subject: E bikes on MMWD trails

To MMWD Board of Directors:

I am a hiker on the MMWD and MT Tam trails in Marin County. I see Mountain bikers speeding down the trails at high speeds all the time. Allowing E-bikes on the trails will only increase the danger to hikers. As it is, walkers (and small children on scooters) must avoid many of the paths in Tiburon and Mill Valley due to the road bikers speeding thru and disregarding posted speed limits.

Please do not reverse the existing position on banning e-bikes on MMWD lands. They can negatively impact the environment as they go up to 20 miles per hour and they adversely affect passive recreational use.

Regards,
Gail Katz
89 Keats Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Mariah Scott <mariah.scott51@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Mariah Scott
111 Emerson Ave
Novato, CA 94949

Terrie Gillen

From: Rich Petersen <rrp@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time.

Rich Petersen
40 Juanita Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Terrie Gillen

From: Sue Mcquinn <sgmcquinn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I am a resident of Marin. I used to cycle Mt. Tam with ease, but unfortunately, due to health related issues I have stopped. I have an electric bike so it would be wonderful to use the trails again; once the resolution passes.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your consideration

Sue Mcquinn
95 Partridge Dr
Novato, CA 94945

Terrie Gillen

From: Bob Deutsch <bobbyddeutsch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please vote yes on Resolution 8607

Greetings Marin Municipal Water District Board members,

I'm writing in support of Resolution 8607. I support this resolution because it would improve electric bicycle access for all of our community members who are simply looking for additional assistance when enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, this resolution would make it easier for Marin County residents and visitors to understand where electric bicycles are allowed at Mt. Tamalpais and allow for critical data to be collected to better understand electric bicycle usage in Marin County.

Please vote yes on Resolution 8607.

Thank you for your time

I have ridden in the district for many many years The folks on these bikes are A OK They stop and help folks, as well as say hello I am in favor of this!

Sure, if we get a ton of them riding around here, we can revisit this!

Thx

Bob Deutsch
39 Meadow Dr
Mill Valley, CA 94941