

Terrie Gillen

From: Daniel Heagerty <ddheagerty@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution No. 8607

Dear Board:

I strongly object to approval of Resolution #8607, the permitting of e-bikers in our watershed. The staff report fails to address the water quality and water supply considerations that should be of foremost concern in any consideration of activities in our watershed. Soil erosion and the related impacts to water quality, as well as the subsequent impacts to water retention/detention in a watershed, is well established. There is no question that humans and bikes have measurable and costly impacts to Mt Tam's watershed health and erosion problems. Yet the staff presentation is silent on this issue.

How much of our water quality treatment costs (settling basins, pumps, filters, chemicals, storage) are directly (sediment) or indirectly (phosphorous, nutrients, etc) to soil erosion? And how much of that is natural and untreatable, versus natural but treatable at the source, or human caused, via roads, bikes and trails? We need more watershed restoration (which includes fuel load management) above any other use. New use considerations such as R-#8607 appear to run against these primary obligations to the communities served.

I have done trail restoration work for several decades, in the Tahoe Basin, the Pacific Crest Trail, Oregon Cascades and numerous locations on Mt Tam. The impacts from mountain bikes is significant in every location. Specific to water quality erosion, soil loss and vegetation degradation, measurable impacts are typical. This is the case in the MWWD watershed. To consider adding more bike traffic and even heavier bike equipment to our watershed is irresponsible. The MWWD primary responsibility is to supply dependable and clean water to our communities, not the accommodation of yet another special interest.

Observations while walking the watershed can today identify erosion issues on fire roads, stream crossings and hydraulic structures. Yet the staff report suggests we have no water quality management issues. I challenge the Board to look hard at our ongoing issues with erosion and related water quality management before going forward with additional sources of soil and water degradation.

To consider the hiring of more rangers to monitor more bikes I find to be "off mission." I pay a monthly watershed management fee to MWWD and I expect that to pay for soil and vegetation restoration staff and actions, not bike monitors. And to suggest that more signage would address bike misbehavior and walker/hiker/equestrian conflicts I find naive. Hike the GGNRA or the National Seashore to experience how disappointing the results.

Importantly, the Board and staff must keep a clear and disciplined eye on how climate change will be effecting our annual storage volumes, our changing storm and rainfall intensity, the drought cycles and more damaging wildfires. The uses of the watershed warrant careful and prudent management, not "let's see what happens."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Heagerty
MMWD Customer

539 Northern Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

ddheagerty@gmail.com
503-720-5506

Terrie Gillen

From: Sandy Steinman <sandysteinman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Ebikes; Board Comment
Subject: continue existing ban on e-bikes.

I strongly support the Board's existing position on banning e-bikes on MMWD lands. Reversing the position would be short-sighted.

E-bikes have the potential to negatively impact the environment, with uphill speeds of up to 20 miles per hour on sensitive trails and dirt fire roads.

Their presence adversely affects existing passive recreational use, especially hiking and bird-watching.

Although I am sympathetic to the desires of mobility-impaired users to gain greater wilderness access, traveling faster and faster could result in much more serious accidents that put greater strain on emergency services.

I would also remind the board of the economic impact for the district, as e-bikes on the watershed would require additional financial and staff resources to enforce compliance and maintain trails.

With an eye to the future, as the use of e-bikes becomes more prevalent, the damage and dangers would grow exponentially. What might seem like a small change in policy could have great long-term negative ramifications as e-bike design is enhanced to be faster and more powerful, and popularity and usage grows.

Thank you.

Sandy Steinman

1429 Acton St. Berkeley, CA 94702

email: sandysteinman@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: Eliza Jewett-Hall <eliza.jewett@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Ebikes; Board Comment
Subject: Continue the ban on e-bikes on MMWD land

Dear MMWD,

I strongly support the Board's existing position on banning all e-bikes on MMWD lands. Reversing the position would be disastrous.

E-bikes would negatively impact the watershed both by direct damage to the biology, hydrology, and geology of these fragile lands, as well as by destroying the safety and tranquility of existing passive recreational use such as hiking and bird-watching. Indeed, current regular bicycle use, which is not adequately enforced in terms of speed limits and illegal trails, already has highly negative impacts on hikers' safety as well as on erosion, native plants, and trail quality. E-bikes would make all of this much worse because they are heavier, faster, expand the frequency and distance of one individual's impact, and have more torque (tearing up trails/roads more quickly).

Although I am sympathetic to the desires of mobility-impaired users to gain greater wilderness access, traveling faster and faster could result in much more serious accidents that put greater strain on emergency services.

I would also remind the board of the economic impact for the district, as e-bikes in the watershed would require additional financial and staff resources to enforce compliance and maintain trails.

With an eye to the future, as the use of e-bikes becomes more prevalent, the damage and dangers would grow exponentially. What might seem like a small change in policy could have great long-term negative ramifications as e-bike design is enhanced to be faster and more powerful, and popularity and usage grows. ALL e-bikes should continue to be banned, because telling the difference between classes of e-bikes is impossible in the field; indeed, the difference between e-bikes and motorcycles is becoming less clear all the time.

Thank you,

Eliza Jewett-Hall

Terrie Gillen

From: Noah Budnick <noahbudnick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Re: I support Resolution 8607

Dear Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors,

Though you did not make a decision about allowing people to ride e-bikes on Marin Municipal Water District fire roads, I urge you to move forward with a trial now.

Allowing people to use e-bikes on the fire roads is the only way to understand e-bike use. Other land managers in Marin already allow e-bikes, so you could simply adjust trial terms based on existing land managers' terms.

Please do not wait until the Watershed Committee's next meeting in March 2021 to take this up. I'm extremely concerned that waiting will delay a decision on e-bike access for years, depriving many people of the opportunity to enjoy your open space.

Thank you, and best wishes for the New Year,

Noah

On Dec 15, 2020, at 10:25 AM, Noah Budnick <noahbudnick@gmail.com> wrote:

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: Jeanne Mariani-Belding
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Lee Parker
Subject: Re: Questions

Hi Mr. Parker,

Thanks for your email, and we will share that feedback. In terms of the petition, I believe that was originated and is maintained by the Watershed Alliance, so they would be your best source for that. Have a good New Year!

Best,

Jeanne

From: Lee Parker
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 1:04 PM
To: Jeanne Mariani-Belding
Subject: Questions
Greetings,

I sit on the board of a public agency. My fellow trustees and I have our bio's posted for the public to read. Why don't all of your board members have bios posted? I think it important that the public be aware of decision makers backgrounds.

Are members of your board actively involved with Marin Conservation League? I had to resign from my trusteeship on the Sonoma Land Trust, when appointed to the Sonoma County Open Space Citizen's Advisory Board.

Please, if you can, provide me with a copy of the petition and signatures of the one provided in opposition to e-bikes on the District's lands. Or, if it is posted somewhere on your site, please advise of the location.

Thank you and have a very good 2021.

Leland Parker
913 South Eliseo Drive
Greenbrea, CA 94904

Terrie Gillen

From: Sean Solway <ssolway1@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: eBikes in MMWD

I am disappointed that you have delayed your decision to allow eBikes on the MMWD lands, and would like to request that the trial move forward. After over a year of committee meetings with stakeholders, it is obvious that the best way to understand e-bikes is through a trial, and to note that other land managers in Marin already allow e-bikes. Let's stop wasting time and money! Please consider changes to the trial terms, rather than more deliberation!

Sean Solway
50 Crane Dr.
Sean Anselmo

Terrie Gillen

From: Shelley Simmons <ratherberidingjack0@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Electric on trails

Please do not allow any electric bikes of any kind on our beautiful trails. They do not belong in our sanctuaries Thank you for considering Shelley Simmons
707 318-6806

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Alison Kreshin <akreshin@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 7:41 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebike trial on MMWD land

Dear Board Members,

I've lived in Larkspur for 23 years. I have been mountain biking on watershed fire roads for over 30 years. I am a 62 year old physician and breast cancer survivor. I am still on chemotherapy. My oncologist urged me to get an ebike when she asked me about exercise and I told her that the chemotherapy caused joint pain, made me weaker and affected my stamina. I told her that I could no longer ride up the fire roads that I used to ride on. With an ebike, I am back on the mountain every day. My ebike has made this pandemic and shelter in place orders tolerable. Though I can't travel, I take a trip every day on my ebike. My spirits are lifted even though I am still battling cancer after 4 years.

The best way to understand ebikes is through a trial. Other land managers in Marin already allow ebikes. Why not consider changes to the trial terms, rather than more deliberation?

My cancer diagnosis has caused me to seize the day. I encourage you to do the same.

Be well,
Patricia Alison Kreshin MD

Terrie Gillen

From: IPA, Inc. <slh1ipa@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 6:34 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Request a Special Meeting of the Watershed Committee - E-bikes

Dear MMWD Board Members,

I wrote in support of the pilot approval of e-bike use on District fire roads. ***I was SO disappointed by the lack of leadership and the unwillingness to explore some creative alternative land use ideas for the District properties.*** During this pandemic us 70 year olds have limited options for outdoor recreation and your Board had the opportunity to step up to a creative pilot program. Sending this matter to the Watershed Committee for their review might be a dodge or lack of true creativity and leadership at the District. However, I for one am willing to accept the concerns and understand the Board members need for more information and guidance.

Please show us that there is actually a true commitment to explore this pilot program in earnest. If it is the Watershed Committees feedback you need then make a special meeting of the committee. Bring this matter to them with direction to hold a special meeting to discuss the idea of e-bikes on District land sooner rather than later ? How about showing some leadership and directing the committee to take this matter up at a special meeting in mid January 2021. Again, please show some leadership, empathy and concerns for all during these unusual circumstances. Move forward with a pilot program that might very well open Distinct lands to the aging group of e-mountain bikers who rely on the Distinct outdoors for their health and welfare. Its your sworn duty to manage public property resources for all please get on with the job and show some creativity.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Hochstrasser, President
IPA, Inc. (International Planning Associates)
141 Bolinas Road
Fairfax, California 94930
slh1ipa@aol.com
Office (415)459-6224
Cell 415-572-2777

Terrie Gillen

From: Ken Meislin <ken@meislin.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please Allow E-Bikes

Dear Water Board Members:

My name is Ken Meislin. I have lived in Mill Valley for 25 years, and for the entire time I have been mountain biking 2-3 days a week up the mountain, usually to the West Pont Inn and back to my home on Walsh Drive at the top of Homestead Valley. I also am also an avid hiker - taking my dog for walks on the trails all the time - and I see the mountain from many perspectives.

Please know that I am turning 60 this year. The knees are still OK, but are getting a bit weaker as I age. I bought two pedal assist bikes earlier in the year, and I must say that they are now the very thing that keeps me riding as time moves on. Additionally, my wife Vera, is an occasional biker, and now that we have two e-bikes, it is possible for us to ride together, even though I am a considerably stronger rider. This is wonderful, and is a true benefit that e-biking brings to the mountain biking scene. As a big outdoor enthusiast, I am involved in many sports which include biking, hiking, trail running (I've run the Dipsea several times), skiing, paddle boarding and more. I see no reason whatsoever why all types of uses can't share the mountain, and get along well, as long as people are respectful of each other.

I know that last Tuesday, the MMWD Board of Directors disappointingly decided they do not yet have enough information to move forward with a proposal to allow e-bikes on Mt. Tamalpais Watershed fire roads, for a trial period of up to three years. I am asking you to please re-consider, and move forward with an e-bike trial, as a way to determine if the policy is workable. As an older biker, I will say that I see pedal assist bikes as a wonderful supplement to mountain biking, and while people ride up-hill more easily and slightly faster, the downhill is absolutely the same. I think the most important thing is for bikers to follow the laws, and to be respectful of others. This is true for ALL mountain bike enthusiasts, both regular bikers, and e-bikers, and should be the biggest determining factor on what is OK on MMWD land. If everybody is respectful of each other – including all riders, runners, hikers, dog walkers, etc. – then adding e-bikes to the mountain mix should not cause any problem whatsoever.

I will continue to strive to be a good “mountain citizen”, and I am hopeful that the MMWD will allow people like myself to continue riding on the mountain, on whatever mountain bike they choose, for many more years into the future.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way with your decision making process. Happy holidays.

Most respectfully,

Ken Meislin

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



Terrie Gillen

From: Eric Miller <emiller@millerhauser.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 11:46 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Eric Miller
Subject: E-bike Delay on 3 Year Trial Period

Dear Board Members.

I was very disappointed with the Board's recent vote to delay the 3 year trial period recommended by staff. I am a long time mountain biker who because of my age recently switched to an ebike. I attended most of the CAC hearings. What was apparent throughout those hearings was that there is no evidence that would suggest that class one ebikes on the mountain have any different impacts than regular mountain bikes. This is confirmed by my own experience and the entire ebike community.

During the CAC meetings I felt that the ebike community was continually being asked to prove a negative. i.e. with no evidence that ebikes have any different impacts how do you prove that ebikes do not in fact have different impacts. The proposed 3 year trial period that can be immediately terminated if there are problems seems an ideal way to provide the data, indeed perhaps the only way. I am confident that a trial period will confirm that ebikes have no different impacts and are safe.

I do not believe that any of you have any intention of discriminating against seniors who simply want to continue to enjoy the watershed. But the consequence of your vote to indefinitely postpone the trial period does exactly that.

Please reconsider and approve the 3 year trial period as recommended by staff.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Miller, Esq.

MILLERHAUSER
LAW GROUP LLP

Larkspur, CA 94939

Ericdmiller52@gmail.com

Terrie Gillen

From: MEADE BOUTWELL <meade.boutwell@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bike access

I do not own an e-bike and have been Mt. biking the headlands for 30+ years now. I turned 60 this year and want to keep riding. The reality is I will want to get an e-bike in a few years and would like it to be legal. I am happy to get a permit to prove it's a type one and look forward to riding well into my 70's.

Meade
415-772-0255

Terrie Gillen

From: Noah Berry <noahbeery@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebikes

Dear Water board members,

It is disappointing that the board decided not to adopt the trial to allow Ebikes in the watershed. Many other regional land managers have allowed their use. As a disabled person, Ebikes are the only way I can enjoy the watershed in a safe and pain free manner. I encourage you all to reconsider the trial and ACT NOW rather than deliberate and delay further.

Thank you,

Noah Berry

Terrie Gillen

From: John Whitty <jjohnroody@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Please allow e-bikes on Marin trails, encourage 2 wheels

Thanks very much. John W.

"IF THERE ARE NO DOGS IN HEAVEN, THEN WHEN I DIE I WANT TO GO WHERE THEY WENT." WILL ROGERS.

Terrie Gillen

From: Tim Gilbert <timagilbert@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Data collection for good decisions

We are very disappointed that the 3 year trial to allow ebikes on District fire roads was not supported by the board. That would have been the best opportunity to evaluate impacts. What is the action plan to move this forward? Despite the largely anecdotal stories of some, a trial is the best way to evaluate actual impacts.

Please take the action needed to provide safe and environmentally sustainable access to District lands by people like us, a 71 year old, former hikers who use class 1 ebikes to stay active outside.

Thank you,
Tim and Suzanne Gilbert
Sun Valley, San Rafael

Terrie Gillen

From: sheltonma@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: e bikes on watershed

Board members:

I ask that you reconsider your decision to delay the e-bike trial period. You should go ahead with the e-bike trial period to study the effects e-bikes have on the watershed. You (board members) can always hide behind your oft use reasoning of not having enough information. However, what better way to get your information than running a e-bike trial period. If it doesn't work after the trial period then cancel. I highly doubt a 3 year e-bike trial would have a dramatic irreversible watershed altering effect on the watershed. It's obvious watershed users want to ride e-bikes on the mountain, so you should at least accommodate a trial period. Afterall, the watershed is essentially owned by the public.

Matt Shelton
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Paul Polakis <ppolakis1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Res# 8607

Dear Board of Directors.

I am 66 and it's getting harder for me to enjoy riding some of the fire roads on Mt. Tam with my conventional mountain bike. My class I e-bike has solved that problem. I ride the same way, and have not experienced any issues with e-bike riders, in particular. In fact, most of them are older like me, and thus ride with greater caution.

I need my bike for emotional support. I implore you to vote yes on 8607.

Sincerely,
Pual Polakis

Terrie Gillen

From: Cecilia Quezada <Cecilia@qa-us.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: E-bike on Mt. Tam- Resolution #8607

Dear MMWD Board Members,

I am writing today in very strong support of allowing e-bike on Mount Tam in the watershed district as a matter of accessibility. 25 years ago, I was an avid mountain biker and rock climber until diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis which brought all of these types of activities to a screeching halt. Since getting my e-bike last year, I can now access the mountain again, enjoy the views, and take rides with my 17 year old son and friends who do not have mobility issues. It levels the playing field for those of us who are physically disabled and would be a serious disservice to our community and prejudicial to exclude our access to the mountain.

I implore you from the bottom of my heart 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. It is the fair and just thing to do so that all of us, including those with physical disabilities or limitations can enjoy our beautiful land. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Kind regards,

Cecilia Quezada
Mill Valley Resident since 1995
415-706-6767

Cecilia Quezada, AIA NCARB
President

QUEZADArchitecture

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/7e0c4772/uC6H_h9-9UyddvBywxi-YA?u=http://www.qa-us.com/
415 706 6767

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Terrie Gillen

From: Tricia Satake <triciasatake@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 8:15 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: In support of Resolution 8607

Dear Board,

I encourage you to vote to support the allowance of ebikes on Mt. Tam. As a cyclist, I have enjoyed witnessing how ebikes have brought access to people who previously would not ride on the mountain. I have also enjoyed exploring parts of the mountain that I couldn't previously get to on my mountain bike. I have used the ebike as a form of entertainment with friends to ride to other cities for lunch or dinner. Because of the extended range of the ebike, I can escape the crowds and can social distance. I can also leave my car at home and travel on the trails to other cities. I feel safer on the mountain than on the road with cars.

Thank you for supporting the use of ebikes on Mt. Tam.

Sincerely,

Tricia Satake
21 Bernard Street
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: jo gardner <johoofnpaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: ebikes

Allowing above on pedestrian/horse trails is the most dangerous idea. Trails are to be enjoyed not feared. E-bikes no matter how careful all concerned may be, mean mechanized disruption of enjoyment of nature and accidents happening. Trails are to be savored. Jo Gardner [Johoofnpaw@gmail.com](mailto:johoofnpaw@gmail.com)

Terrie Gillen

From: STEPHEN BARBIERI <sbarbieri@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Resolution 8607

I have been a resident of Marin for more than 30 years and have ridden a mountain bike for virtually all of those years. As I reached 70 years of age I found it more and more challenging to ride with my younger family members – until I purchased a Specialized Turbo Levo two years ago. This bike allows me the stamina to keep up and to continue to visit the places otherwise unachievable. I urge you to pass Resolution 8607.

Stephen R. Barbieri
Kentfield Resident

Terrie Gillen

From: Peter <pmassik@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Ebike support Resolution 8607

Greetings,

I am writing to support **Resolution 8607**.

I fully support class I ebike access to all trails other bikes can access. At nearly 60 years old, my ebike has given me back access to exercise and recreation I have not had for a decade or more. Most of my friends my age are converting from "acoustic" bikes for the same reason. The hills of the Bay area are so steep only the fittest, luckiest people our age can ride a lot without these inventions. I have a series of injuries that make running and often strenuous hiking a challenge and have been limited to swimming for exercise. Today I met a guy in Northern Marin in his 70s with two artificial knees on an ebike. I consider this akin to a disabled access issue.

As far as trail impacts, they work just like regular mountain bikes. I go up slightly faster, but mostly I can go further, getting me away from crowded areas, especially hikers. These bikes don't go faster downhill, there is plenty of gravity. And most of us are old enough that we are cautious going down because getting hurt is fairly catastrophic.

They are only slightly heavier than regular bikes with riders, and a lot lighter than horses or the Ranger vehicles that frequent the water district trails. Erosion is not worse. Making me drive to ride is a lot worse for the environment.

Having a new technology also is driving sales which is good for local bike shops. Businesses need help these days.

Please open these trails and see who is using ebikes. Older people who need exercise and social activities. We're not crazy yahoos.

Thank you

Peter massik
Corte Madera
415-924-7894

Sent from my iPhone

Terrie Gillen

From: Jos K Hoegger <khoegger@pacbell.net>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Board Comment
Cc: Jody Newman
Subject: E-Bikes on MWD Trails

MWD Board,

I am writing to discourage E-Bike usage on trails. I am a former Chair of the Sierra Club Bay Area hiking section and during my two year term our committee attended several of your commission meetings. The issues primarily dealt with our members creating new trails which the commissioners determined would contaminate the Marin water supply. I am in disbelief that the present commissioners are now discussing the allowance of E-Bikes on hiking trails. My disbelief is heightened by the commissioners not even requiring monitoring of the effects on the watershed for two years. Over the years I and my hiking companions have experienced many encounters with bikers that could have resulted in great bodily harm to both bikers and hikers. Many of these potential accidents were related to the blind curves on the trails which do not allow enough time for bikers to slow or hikers to move out of harms way. E-bikes will exacerbate the problem with their increased speed which presents a problem not only downhill but uphill as non electric bikes travel uphill at slower speeds. Can you imagine an E-Bike traveling at 20 miles an hour mowing down several hikers and the RESULTING LITIGATION arising against the MWD; especially when the district refuses to provide funds and staff for monitoring their new policy.

Do not cave to the temptation that you can accommodate hikers and bikers by restricting bikers to certain trails. This would create a false sense of security. Hikers can attest that bikers ignore restrictions and often become belligerent when reprimanded. We all wish to enjoy our open spaces with a sense of serenity and connection with nature without the fear of harm.

The negative effects of bikes on trails extends beyond safety as environmental damage and water control standards must be considered. How do you reconcile the conflict between not allowing hikers to alter the environment by creating new trails and allowing bikes, especially E-Bikes, to erode trails , contaminating the water supply?

Sincerely,

Ken Hoegger
Former Chair
Sierra Club Hiking Section

Sent from my iPad

Terrie Gillen

From: Stephanie H <stephwoosh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: Vote No on e-Bikes in the Marin Water District

Hello ---

I am a Marin resident who hikes and rides my horse regularly throughout Marin County. I used to mountain bike so I understand the thrill of riding around our wonderful trails.

In the past 2-3 years, our trails have become increasingly dangerous for hiking and riding horses because of the high number of bikers on the trails and the speed they ride as well as their lack of etiquette in yielding to hikers and horses. Adding e-bikes to the mix will just compound that.

My experience with e-bikes in Southern Marin -- where they are not legal but are still on the trails -- is that they travel at high(er) speeds and are often being ridden by those who are less experienced riders (the e-bikes affording them a leg up onto terrain they would not have attempted otherwise). I've seen those bikers crash, miss turns, and generally lose control of their vehicles.

Now, imagine the chaos on the trails with e-bike riders fresh off the ferry, in their sandals/flip flops with their purses flung around their necks racing around our parks "giving it a go" ... not realizing to that they should not race up behind a horse or losing control of the bike (because they were riding too fast) and not able to pull off the trail to let a hiker through? Or worse, hitting them?

Inexperienced riders on trails creates a hazard and responsibility for all who use the trails.

Until Marin has safe and sane trails for ALL to use -- not just mountain bikers, please vote No on allowing e-bikes in the Marin Water District.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Holdenried
Mill Valley

Terrie Gillen

From: Joe Stefani <joestefani@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:08 PM
To: Board Comment
Subject: good idea for Tam e-bike discussion

Here's a good point of discussion regarding the ongoing Tam e-bike proposal.

I believe most would agree that the Tam fire roads should provide maximum recreational benefit with a minimum of danger to those recreationists. E-bikes are fast and heavy and do subtract somewhat from the purity of the mountain experience, but on the other hand they afford otherwise nature-loving people more access to this wonder of wonderlands.

Simple solution: Limit e-bike usage to that segment of the population which satisfies these two conditions:

- 1) those who need an e-bike to "keep up with" other riders in their group or who otherwise struggle too much; and
- 2) those imbued with a developed wisdom and a natural self-preserving caution.

Item 1) eliminates most young adults, and item 2) eliminates young children.

Thus one can consider allowing e-bike usage for, e.g. "adults over 50 years old", or some such rule.

The Tam patrol need not be concerned with whether a biker is 49 years old or 51 years old, it's just a guideline that reasonable people can come to agreement on.

I'm a bit over 60 years old and am personally NOT in favor of e-bikes, after all you gotta pay the man to feel the purity, but I could see a way to compromise.

Joe Stefani

Terrie Gillen

From: Jody Newman <jody@newmanfp.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Board Comment
Subject: EBikes on Mt. Tam

Thank you for making the Tuesday meeting available by Zoom.

I was truly amazed that the proposal for "additional enforcement" would not happen until a year after Ebikes were allowed, and then only if funding were available. And that a plan would not be formed until a year or two after that.

And most amazing of all was that the proposal was for only 1 additional ranger, or 2 at most.

We hike often on Mt. Tam. I would estimate that we see an average of 5-20 bikes on each hike, many on narrow trails where bikes are not allowed at all. Some of the bikers are considerate but many are not, and we have had several close encounters that could have incurred serious injury or death.

By comparison, I would estimate that we see a ranger on only one out of every 100 hikes, if that.

Clearly, way more rangers are needed NOW to enforce the existing rules on the 150 miles of trails and fire roads.

I was also surprised that there seemed no plan on what would be measured or studied during the 3-year experiment, or how the study would be done. As several people pointed out, there are EBikes on your property on Mt. Tam now, and you could begin "studying" now.

One of the missions of MMWD is to protect its natural areas for wildlife, vegetation, and generations of people to come. Adding EBikes would make the situation even worse.

No EBikes on Mt. Tam please!

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