

From: [Albert Flynn DeSilver](#)
To: ebikes@marinwater.org; [Board Comment](#)
Subject: eBike Access in MMWD lands
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 10:39:41 AM

Dear MMWD Board,

Thank you for managing our water district lands with ALL user groups in mind and applying fairness and equity to all user groups in your management plans. I write to you as a rate-payer, an environmentalist, a *former* Sierra Club supporter, and a watershed protector. I am also a mountain biker who is asking you to vote NO and against any proposed ban of ebikes in the water district, and furthermore I am asking you to INCREASE access for mountain bikes in general. By now it should be obvious that these proposals by the Marin Sierra Club, the Marin Audobon Society, The Marin Conservation League, etc. are political in nature, are out of step with the general public, and without any merit. There is absolutely ZERO scientific evidence that mountain bikes in general and class 1 pedal assist ebikes in particular, adversely affect the environment or pose any negative effect to soil, plant or animal life, any more than hikers do. As for their danger and speed, there is no evidence their potential speed or cyclist behavior poses any threat to hikers. And we all know there are plenty of rogue hikers who shit and piss, cross switchbacks, light fires, and leave trash in the watershed, but you are not going to ban ALL hikers? Or maybe you should ban hikers with poles? You know hiking poles cause erosion and can poke out the eyes of unsuspecting walkers.

Over the years the bike community has offered numerous reasonable solutions where we can all co-exist in harmony—including alternative trail days, use of bike bells on designated trails, single directional trails and other progressive ideas that have been PROVEN to work in many other districts with equal or greater traffic. None of these ideas has even been tested let alone implemented and so you carry on with banning a major deserving user group from rightfully accessing their trails. This is just plain wrong and unacceptable and will NOT solve this problem.

Please note that in the East Bay Regional Parks eBikes are now allowed on 850 miles out of 1,330 miles of trails and roads. This is what equity and sound policy looks like. Yes they have more users and potential conflicts (with no uptick reported) and NO they're ecosystem is not somehow less sensitive to impacts than Marin's.

Increased law enforcement at the rate-payer's expense is NOT the answer. INCREASED access is the only answer. The Sierra clubbers get to keep their sacred trails, and are clear on what trails are open to bikes and on which days, and everyone is happy. Please explain to me why you continue to refuse these obvious easily implementable solutions?

Thank you for listening, for voting NO on any proposed ban of eBikes and expanding mountain biking access on our public lands.

Sincerely,

Albert DeSilver, Woodacre

