

**From:** [Tim Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Accessibility to trails  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:44:42 PM

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I'm a 75 year old class 1 e-bike rider who defers to pedestrians during 100 percent of my rides on multi purpose trails. Please enable my use of the public trails that you manage. It's the right thing to do.

Tim Gilbert  
San Rafael

**From:** [Alison Kreshin](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Class 1 e-bikes on Mt. Tam  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:52:56 PM

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I am writing in support of Class 1 e-bikes on Mt. Tam MMWD land.

I am a 65 year old female breast cancer survivor mountain bike rider.

I have been mountain biking on Mt. Tam for 30+ years.

As I aged and after my breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, I found that I was losing my ability to ride the more technical dirt roads on Mt. Tam.

It was only after I bought a Specialized Levo Class 1 mountain e-bike that I regained my ability to ride all of the mountain.

I strongly feel that the Mt. Tam and MMWD land should not just be for the young mountain bikers.

I am the only female who rides with a group of men in their 50's and 60's and we all have class 1 mountain e-bikes.

Our "e-bike posse" is a source of great pleasure, camaraderie, and exercise for me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia Alison Kreshin MD

**From:** [Aran Moore](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Class 1 e-bikes Support approval  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:46:57 PM

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Dear MMWD Board Members,

I am writing to request your approval for the use of class 1 e-bikes on MMWD's fire roads and other designated trails. The GGNRA has already allowed this and I hope MMWD will follow suit.

I have been an avid hiker and mountain biker in the GGNRA, Mt. Tam, and MMWD open spaces since the 1970s. As I have grown older, the class 1 e-bike has allowed me and my wife to continue to explore the areas we love, while staying active and fit. This has given us a greater appreciation for the mountain and all the open space we are lucky enough to live next to. It has also been great for our marriage and relationship.

With the population growth and more people enjoying the outdoors, I believe that allowing e-bikes on these trails will be an educational opportunity to promote respect for each other, wildlife, and the environment. We can put up signs and keep the dialogue open to ensure that all users can enjoy the trails safely and responsibly.

In my five years of riding a class 1 pedal-assist e-bike, I have never had any issues with hikers, equestrians, rangers, or wildlife. Instead, I have gained a greater respect for life and the beauty of the area we live in.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Aran Moore

**From:** [Joe Farrell](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Class 1 EBikes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:00:42 PM

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MMWD,

I am writing to you today to voice my support on approving the use of class one ebikes on Mount Tamalpais water district land. As an individual in my late 50s, I find e-bikes allow me to continue mountain biking which is my favorite recreational activity. It is clear to me that the impact of class 1 ebikes is no greater than regular acoustic bicycles. They only go uphill slightly faster than regular bicycles. On the descents, they go no faster than regular bicycles can. In fact, I find they descend slower than regular bikes can because of their weight and speed limiter. Anyone who has ridden any bike knows that while the experience is similar to a regular bike, ebikes essentially extend your distance and elevation gain.

I would imagine the reason MMWD and many other public agencies originally made a ban on motorized vehicles is because of the typical size/weight, power and noise generated by motorized vehicles at the time their codes were written. As innovation develops in many Industries, one could see how a smaller personal vehicle like bikes could develop mechanical assistance without all the negative aspects of a typical gas powered motorized vehicle. Class 1 E bikes do not exhibit these negative impacts. They are light, they have minimum power, and they are very quiet. I am sure MMWD knows this because they provide e-bikes to the rangers patrolling the mountain.

It is obvious there has been conflict in your water district between user groups. Many footpeople will always characterize mountain bikers as reckless and speed demons. It is my experience that a preponderance of those mountain bikers going too fast and riding illegally are younger cyclists on acoustic bicycles, not the older cyclists that typically ride e bikes. I am sure MMWD has done studies of mountain biking on Mount Tam where they documented the current use of ebikes. I would be more willing to guess that a predominance of cyclists using e-bikes are older individuals (+55 years old). There is obviously a public health benefit of allowing these bicycles access to not only the water district land, but to most public open space areas.

Once again I would like to voice my support on allowing class 1 ebikes on water district land. Thank you very much for your consideration of amending your code .

Joe Farrell  
Novato CA



**From:** [Scott Hochstrasser](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Class 1-E Bikes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:31:46 PM

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Dear Chair and Board Members,

I have been a Fairfax resident for over 40 yrs. All this time an avid Mt Biker. I am now 74, my riding has benefited my health but age has limited my riding abilities. My riding is my main hobby.

I am using a Class 1-ebike for many of my rides these days. Please vote to allow these bikes to be used on all trails in the District. Otherwise you exclude most of aging Marin population and Bay Area wide use and enjoyment of the Mt Tam open space.

Sincerely,  
Scott Hochstrasser  
Sent from my iPhone  
Scott Hochstrasser  
IPA, Inc.  
C: 415-572-2777  
EM: slh3ipa@gmail.com  
O: 195 John St, Tomales CA  
M: PO Box 318, Tomales CA 94971  
Please excuse typos

Sent from my iPhone  
Scott Hochstrasser  
IPA, Inc.  
C: 415-572-2777  
EM: slh3ipa@gmail.com  
O: 195 John St, Tomales CA  
M: PO Box 318, Tomales CA 94971  
Please excuse typos

**From:** [Michael Bloom](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Class#1 ebikes on Mt. Tam watershed fire roads  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:18:36 PM

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I have been riding bikes on MMWD fire roads (where permitted) for 45 years. I am now almost 75 and the only way I can continue to use and enjoy this activity for my mental and physical health is with the help of a little electricity and my Class #1 ebike.

All of the data seems to show that there has been no ACTUAL negative impact from this activity in the multiple years that it has been going on "unofficially". All statements about negative impact are speculative, hyperbolic and coming from many of the same people or organizations that fought against ANY bikes being on the mountain in the '70's and '80's.

No further study is needed. Please do not take this opportunity for exercise and enjoyment away from the vast numbers of concerned and responsible Class #1 ebike riders like myself.

Thank you,

Michael Bloom

**From:** [MARK STRAUSS](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E Bay comment  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:02:21 PM

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I'm writing this in support of Bikes on the MWD land. I am a senior 66 years old and would not be able to continue my biking pleasure without the use of my bike. It has opened up so much for me not only trails and lifestyle but also health style. Please allow Bikes in Mount Tam and all of marin county.

Thank you,  
Mark Strauss  
San Rafael.

**From:** [Kevin Daly](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E Bikes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:52:00 PM

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I'm 67 years old and have lived in Marin over 50 years.  
Riding an e bike on Mt. Tam and surrounding open space has been an enjoyable experience the past 5 years. Please allow me and my many friends of similar age, who also own e bikes, to continue to our wonderful times on the mountain.

Kevin Daly  
Five Corners Partners, L.P.  
Office: 415 464-1301  
Cell: 415 235-3634



**From:** [Tim Scherer](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E-Bike Access on Mt Tamalpais  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:43:08 PM

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Dear MMWD Board,

After thirty years of mountain biking on Mt. Tamalpais, my knees and hips have taken a beating. For several years now, my e-bike has allowed me to continue to get up on the mountain, as often as ever, and to trails further out there, to the quiet places less frequented by hikers.

I have never had a negative interaction with a hiker on my e-bike. I believe this is because they are easier to avoid, and because I am less agro and in a better mood.

The mountain is my refuge. It is key to my emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. And, I am being dead serious about that. I can't imagine not being able to ride my e-bike on the mountain. Please continue to allow me and my friends access to the mountain on our e-bikes.

Tim Scherer  
tim@aptp.com  
(415) 244-8466

**From:** [ERIC WILCOX](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E-bike access on Tam  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:53:20 PM

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Hello MMWD Board -

Please please please do not shut down access to the Marin watershed by eMTB, pedal-assist bikes. As an avid biker on Tam since the mid-80's, I can't imagine no longer being able to continue to explore our beloved mountain as a 64 year old eMTB biker. I personally have not encountered any issues over the last five years since they have began being ridden, or the last two years since I switched over. Same great collective vibes and fresh air and exercise as ever, for all bikers and hikers I see on the trails. Common courtesy solves most everything, and that's what I experience coming and going every time that I am out - either in the saddle or on foot.

Please don't let the occasional bad apple dictate draconian access rules.

Thank you.

Eric Wilcox

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

**From:** [Howard Luria](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** e-bike access  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:35:34 PM

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I'm a retired 71 yo Cardiologist with a long list of medical problems.  
My e-bike allows me to access my "backyard" and continue to ride the fire roads even as I age.  
Please protect my access.  
Thanks,  
Howard Luria MD

**From:** [matt Quann](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Ebikes on Mt Tam.  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:09:34 PM

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Hi,

While I don't ride an e-bike, I love to see how many "older" people get out on mt tam via their e-bikes. Someday I'll be their age and I imagine that I'll enjoy it. Please continue to allow people to enjoy our trails on pedal assisted e-bikes.

Thanks  
Matt Quann

**From:** [Thomas Jung](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** e-bikes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:32:17 PM

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Dear board,

I am an avid hiker in Marin and sometimes biker. As a hiker I encourage the use of ebikes and as a biker I would request access to ebikes as I age. I have not experienced an issue, if anything I have seen more older people biking and I hold heartedly embrace the use of technology to explore our wonderful geography. I have been a 60 year resident of Marin and biking has given me the opportunity to see parts I could not have seen before.

Please consider that change is always difficult - microwaves, snowboards, ATM's are only a few examples of items that faced skepticism and resistance. It is human nature to resist change - we must adapt and move forward.

Regards, Thomas

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Thomas F Jung  
41 Rhinestone Ter  
San Rafael, CA. 94903

C: 415-336-3284

**From:** [Jon Yolles](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** February 29 Board Item - Class I Ebikes - Letter of Support  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:58:32 PM

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Dear MMWD Board,

I'm writing to request that MMWD approve Class 1 Ebikes on Mt Tam. As a lifelong analog cyclist, I can see a day when I'll no longer be able to bike on a conventional bike. Being able to utilize a Class 1 Ebike will enable me (and so many others) to continue to enjoy Mt. Tam on a bicycle at an age that I might otherwise be able to.

Class I Ebikes are also an equalizer, enabling people of differing fitness levels to ride together, getting more people outdoors and onto the trails, exercising when they might otherwise choose not to. The benefits of all forms of cycling and being in nature are immeasurable and promote positive health outcomes that should be enabled and encouraged.

Finally, we should be able to simultaneously protect Mt. Tam's watershed while using it for Class I Ebike recreational purposes. To the extent trail safety and/or erosion may be concerns, placing a few signs on Mt. Tam's trails ought to be a sufficient reminder to cyclists to respect both trail surfaces and fellow users.

Thank you for considering this request to approve Class 1 Ebikes on Tam.

Sincerely,  
Jon Yolles  
94 Walnut Ave  
Mill Valley

**From:** [Rodger Jacobsen](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Give ebikes access  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:15:11 PM

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Ebike access

I have been riding an ebike in Marin County California since 2007 when I turned 68 years old because I needed the extra power assist to keep up with the riding habits I had formed since I began riding mountain bikes in 1982. I think electric bikes are just about the same as a regular bicycle except the rider gets a power assist the he needs it. I see no need to regulate them any differently from a regular bicycle.

I don't see any need to go into specifics addressing perceived problems with mountain bike in general or ebikes specifically, after attending many meetings and writing countless letters defending bike riders right to ride public roads and paths safely with other users in the great American outdoors. I would add that after years of riding my bike it was classified as a class two electric bike so I would add that all electric bicycles should be allowed wherever regular bikes are allowed.

Thanks for Reading This,

Rodger Jacobsen

**From:** [Pete Pedersen](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:48:07 PM

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Dear Board Members, I've been an avid mountain biker for over 40 years enjoying the watershed trails. A few years 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. In 2019 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

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/30f2bd01/h-vBhxTi20S7Cng-Ljlzcu?](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/30f2bd01/h-vBhxTi20S7Cng-Ljlzcu?u=http://www.pedersenassociates.com/)

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**From:** [Ken Meislin](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Please Continue to Allow E-Bikes on Mount Tam  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:18:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello MMWD:

My name is Ken Meislin, and I live on Mt. Tam on the Mill Valley side. I know you have a meeting coming up on February 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss allowing e-bikes on Mount Tamalpais. I am writing to share my view on the matter.

I've lived in Marin for most of my life. My wife and I are extremely engaged community members, and have volunteered on various boards (Hospice, Library, Marin Theater Company, etc.). We are lifetime members of the West Point Inn and have stayed and volunteered there for decades now, because we love being in nature and we love sharing and enjoying the mountain with others. We are both mountain bikers and we are both regular hikers as well.

I personally am an extremely avid mountain biker – riding several days a week. At the age of 62 – it is getting a bit more difficult to ride up the mountain. I therefore ride an e-bike much of the time. I am always courteous – as I have been on my regular bike for the last 30+ years. I get off for horses, and passing hikers politely and at low speeds. I encourage the MMWD and/or those in charge, to continue to allow e-bikes. The mountain is a wonderful community asset, and as long as the speed limits and other rules are followed, I see absolutely no reason why I should no longer be allowed to use my e-bike on the fire roads and other trails where bikes are currently allowed. As I get older, it is important to me, to be allowed to use an e-bike, as an e-bike is what makes biking a viable option going forward.

The key is for everyone to share Mount Tamalpais in a courteous manner, so that all are able to enjoy. This is what should be required of all community members, and e-bikes should be included in my opinion.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you so desire.

Most respectfully,

Ken Meislin

[ken@meislin.net](mailto: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:** [mark.sachs12@gmail.com](mailto:mark.sachs12@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ebikes on Tam  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:35:25 PM

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Please allow unfettered access to Mt. Tam.

Thank you

Regards,

Mark Sachs

Sent from my

**From:** [Tim Leonoudakis](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting E-bikes on Tam  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:04:51 PM

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Please add my name to the list of those in support of e-bikes on Tam. I am a resident of Larkspur and am 70 years old. The approval of the measure will help get me out of the house and conveniently into the nature of west marin on my ebike! Thank you! Tim Leonoudakis

Tim Leonoudakis

**From:** [Keith Forsman](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Type 1 e-bike access  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:14:04 PM

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Hello MMWD board,

I'm a 65 yo man who really needs and enjoys riding and greeting everyone who shares the public access trails and roads in MMWD lands. It's so great to have trails seamlessly traverse water district, state and federal parks and it would be a shame to have that access to Type 1 e-bikes restricted. Our community's health is tied to the free and easy access to these lands.

Thank you.

Keith Forsman  
Mill Valley

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [jeffrey knaus](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** e-Bikes  
**Date:** Friday, February 23, 2024 11:09:13 AM

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Hello,

I want to first thank everyone on the committee for their diligence in studying, listening, and debating the e-bike topic in the Marin watershed. I know it has been a long ride :0

I would also like to voice my support for e-bikes on several levels. I'm 65 and have been writing these trails for the last 25 years. My ability to do so these days is better served and more enjoyable with an e-bike, as it allows me to move more freely and openly, given my bad knees and all the other wonderful things that come with age. Nonetheless, I enjoy the watershed and humbly defer to the openness, the beauty, the fresh air, and all others who appreciate it the way I do. It is a remarkable asset I am grateful for, and we are all lucky to have.

With that as an introduction, the watershed's health and appropriate recreational use are top of mind. I remain very objective and appreciate others' opinions that may differ from mine.

But, I have seen no change in any way with adopting E-bikes in the watershed. From what I can tell, no one rides faster or in a way that creates any danger to anyone or anything in the watershed.

As has always been the case, riding over speed limits and bad decisions are associated with individuals who decide to ride their bikes faster than they should and ride too fast on trails where horses and hikers are the culprits. It's a function of common sense, and it's fair to say that younger riders think less about safety; I did.

Most younger riders ride standard bikes that have always been in the watershed. E-bikes are generally ridden by those who are older and need a little help to continue enjoying riding on the mountain. Regardless, there is no difference; it is not the bike but the rider!

I've attended most meetings and spent much time considering these various points of view, and I still need help to see how any bike differs from e-bikes within the watershed.

Respectfully,

Jeff Knaus

Jeff Knaus  
415-699-3682

**From:** [Tim Blofeld](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E-biking on Mt. Tam  
**Date:** Friday, February 23, 2024 11:54:57 AM

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Dear Board Members,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting on Thursday 29th but have strong views on why class 1 pedal-assist electric mountain bikes should be permitted everywhere unpowered bikes are currently allowed, and in particular on Mount Tam.

You are probably already aware of the huge differences between classes of e-bikes, class 1 being pedal assist only with a top speed of 20 mph. You also no doubt understand that pedal assist only really helps going uphill. What you may not appreciate is that riding a class 1 mountain bike provides about the same exercise benefit as riding unassisted. This is significant. For myself, and several friends, biking is the only exercise we get and is undoubtedly a major health benefit, especially as we grow older.

Limiting where e-bikes can be ridden will have a direct impact on the health of a large number of Marin residents, particularly those getting on in years, or with certain medical conditions, such as AFib. Personally I am starting to get a little long in the tooth and while I still ride unpowered some of the time, I also ride electric on tougher rides, or with friends who can no longer ride unpowered. Frankly, there are some climbs I will never attempt again without a helping electric hand and eventually, no doubt, I will go all electric.

Bottom line; the longer we ride, the longer we live healthy lives. Doctors should prescribe it! So allowing e-bikes on Tam is a definite public health benefit.

Thank you for helping us live longer, healthier lives by expanding the possibilities of riding electric on Mt. Tam.

Sincerely  
Tim Blofeld



**From:** [Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Feb 29, 2024 MMWD board meeting - Class 1 e-bikes on Mt. Tam  
**Date:** Friday, February 23, 2024 9:01:00 AM

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Hi,

I'll keep this short and simple. I'm in full support of allowing Class 1 e-bikes to ride on the MMWD Mt. Tam trails and I encourage you to take the same approach at your upcoming board meeting.

I am a Mill Valley resident who has been a mountain biker and hiker for over 50 years, heavily utilizing the Mt. Tam trails. I own a Class 1 e-mountain bike and use it frequently to keep up with my husband on his traditional mountain bike. I am riding responsibly and no faster than those with non e-mountain bikes. I feel it's important to allow Class 1 e-bikes on the trails so that people like me can continue to enjoy riding the mountain.

Thanks for your time!

Jennifer

**From:** [mrtcrpmail](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Request For Approval of Class 1 E-bicycles on Mount Tam  
**Date:** Friday, February 23, 2024 9:08:12 AM

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To the MMWD Board,

I am writing to voice my support for your approval of access for Class 1 e-bikes on Mt. Tamalpais. My most salient reasons for supporting access for Class 1 e-bikes are the following: (i) since early 1998 I have ridden weekly on Mt. Tam with a group of mountain bike riders much older than myself, the oldest of which is currently 85 years old, and (ii) in the case of my 85-year old friend and so many other elderly riders, should they not be allowed Class 1 e-bike access to the mountain, they will simply be unable to physically, emotionally and psychologically enjoy the natural splendor of Mt. Tam, a privilege I think the vast majority of those who access Mt. Tam likely take for granted.

Regards,

Michael Fernandez Melone  
Oakland, CA

**From:** [Beverly Seabreeze](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Support for E bikes, on Mt. Tam watershed  
**Date:** Friday, February 23, 2024 11:48:38 AM

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Hello, I would like to voice my support for allowing E bikes on Mount Tam. I have been an avid mountain biker for 30 years and grew up mountain biking on these trails. I am also a ride leader for the Tam high school mountain biking team. I now ride an E bike for some of the practices and some of my rides. Now that I'm in my 50s, it's much safer for me and I'm able to be more of service. I don't necessarily go any faster. The tires and wheels are the same. I would appreciate if you would continue to allow E bikes on these trails so I can continue to ride as long as I can breathe..

Thank you, Bev Seabreeze, 171 Marion Ave., Mill Valley

**From:** [John Mittelstadt](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Please allow E-bikes on Mt. Tam  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2024 9:35:29 PM

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Dear MMWD Folks,

Like many of the comments you are surely receiving on this topic, I too am a 30 year resident of Mill Valley that has enjoyed the access to Mt. Tam via bicycles.

Now at 64 years old with sore knees and a bad back my E-bike allows me to still get out on the mountain. Please don't take this away from me and others.

These bikes should not be confused or compared to the ones that are often being ridden carelessly by school aged children around the county.

Respectfully,

John Mittelstadt  
20 Val Vista Rd.  
Mill Valley

**From:** [Albert DeSilver](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** YES to BIKES on MMWD lands--comments in FAVOR of eBike use  
**Date:** Saturday, February 24, 2024 9:09:26 AM

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Dear MMWD Board,

Thank you for listening/reading my comments and being willing to take a sensible approach to ebike access on MMWD lands. I am a 30 year resident, and rate payer, an environmental activist, and devout and practicing ebiker. E-Biking is a sustainable, supportive way for older adults and those with disabilities (and anyone else who has a hard time with Marin's insane hills) to maintain fitness, enjoy THEIR public lands, and celebrate nature in a dynamic way. There is NO EVIDENCE that class 1 pedal-assist 20MPH-max bicycles cause any harm to ecosystem or watercourse health, or are an existential threat to hikers and walkers, especially given the improved braking capabilities. There will always be a few rowdy bad apples that disregard the rules and they should be punished accordingly, but the vast majority 98% of us are kind, law-abiding citizens looking to celebrate the outdoors and have fun connecting with the natural world. You don't ban ALL motor cycles from all the roads in Marin because there is a gang of rowdies gunning it at 100MPH on the straightaways on Highway 1 on any given Sunday. And so Class 1 pedal assist ebikes should NOT be banned from our open spaces ANYWHERE in Marin Including MMWD lands INCLUDING singletrack. We have many easily implementable strategies to protect hikers including Alternate day trails that are open to bikes. Mandatory bells at the top of designated trails. Designated trails so hikers who are concerned can walk elsewhere. It's baffling to me why your staff REFUSES to implement any of these practices to expand bike access. And you do realize the result is more biker poaching and therefore increased expense in MMWD enforcement and staff time. As a rate payer I don't want to pay for your ranger-goons and a bored Sheriff to be chasing after mountain bikers. This is ABSURD and WRONG and a waste of resources.

As you are well-aware currently mountain bikes have access to less than 10% of the trails on MMWD lands. THIS MUST CHANGE in order to have a balanced approach, avoid conflicts and animosity toward law enforcement. Thanks for listening and implementing a sensible and inclusive policy for eBikes and mountain bikes in general! Sincerely, Albert DeSilver,  
Woodacre

**From:** [Stew Ward](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Class 1 ebike approval for the watershed  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 8:27:00 AM

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I have been a 3-6 times-a-week user of the watershed since 1981, splitting my activities between mountain biking and hiking nearly equally. Once developing material arthritis in both knees, I switched to riding an e-mtn bike. Best decision of my entire life quite frankly considering how important daily exercise and access to our natural environment are to my overall well being. I urge you to listen to the actual science on their environmental impact vs other activities if this is a deciding factor...40+ years of simple eye testing will tell you it's a non issue. If the debate is inherently whether to or not to reduce usage of the watershed, I think that issue should at least be put to a vote of residents/tax payers/rate payers of the county.

Respectfully,

Stew Ward

**From:** [John Esrey](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** eBike on Mt Tam  
**Date:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 11:31:38 AM

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I am an avid mountain biker (non ebike) and believe that ebikes should be allowed on Mt. Tam

John Esrey  
Ross, CA

## **Terrie Gillen**

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**From:** Mark Chamberlain <mchamberlain@landseahomes.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 10:09 PM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Subject:** E-bikes on MT Tamalpais

I support MMWD decision to allow the use of class 1 E-bikes (pedal assist) on MT Tam watershed. I've been biking the mountain for the past 20 years and now that I am 60, I can still continue to bike My Tam with the use of an EBike. I support the use of e-bikes on Mt Tam.

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse any typos.  
Thanks,  
Mark Chamberlain.  
Vice President of Forward Planning & Land Development.  
Landsea Homes.  
mchamberlain@landsea.us  
(415) 306-1548



## **Terrie Gillen**

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**From:** r.peltzman@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 11:36 AM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Subject:** In favor of e-bikes

Hello,

Please consider the health benefits of e-bike usage and that there has not been any evidence shown that e-bikes add an additional burden on the eco system or watershed.

Richard

**From:** [Edward Clapp](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 02/29/2024 Watershed Committee Meeting ./ Special Meeting - advance comment  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024 6:24:09 PM

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Here's a letter I submitted to the IJ that didn't get printed:

Vernon Huffman, the executive director of Access4Bikes, has a letter to the editor in the 02/20/2024 MarinIJ in which she writes, "The effort to limit their access to steep fire roads is not only unfair, it is unsafe." She's mistaken in her implication that many of the fire roads on Tam are steep, but as a hiker I agree she's quite right about safety. Just last Sunday as I was about to cross Railroad Grade on the Miller Trail I had to wait while 15-20 bikers zoomed downhill at speeds in excess of 20 mph.

The 5 mph speed limit downhill, around corners, and while passing is something I simply don't recall seeing.

The biking community may be vocal and organized but are a fraction of those of us who hike on it. As described above, it already feels unsafe to hike on fire roads on weekends if only because bikers in the aggregate do not obey the law.

Given that and the fact that bikes are far more damaging to trails than hikers are, please do not open more trails than those already available to them.

Edward Clapp  
Corte Madera

## Terrie Gillen

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**From:** Leon Rishniw <leon.rishniw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 8:27 AM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Subject:** Advocating electric mountain biking

To MMWD Board member,

I am writing to you in support of continuing and hopefully extending bike access, including electric mountain bikes on Mt Tam and the water district areas. As the birthplace of mountain biking, I'm continually disappointed by the prohibition policies being adopted on Mt Tam with respect to biking, rather than a policy of coexistence.

Electric mountain bikes allow more people who are normally unable to ride on Mt Tam to enjoy the area. They enable broader access to nature and promote a healthier outdoor lifestyle. The only differences between an electric mountain bike and a non-electric one, are that you can climb hills faster and they weigh 15 lbs more. Traversing the mountain and going downhill is identical between both bicycle types. There is minimal, if any, additional risk to all users of the mountain by the marginal increase in climbing speed. As such, I would respectfully request that the Board continue to allow electric mountain bikes full access to Mt Tam water district.

Additionally, I would encourage the Board to consider safe approaches to managing open space between hikers and bikers and equestrians that have proven to be successful in other areas. In the Tahoe area, for example, the use of odd/even days for hiking and biking have proven successful and avoid hostile interactions between the parties. In other areas, Squamish BC, the use of directional trails avoids the head-on encounters that often cause issues.

As an avid mountain biker in Marin for the past 25 years, I continue to enjoy access to the trail systems and beauty that the area provides. I hope the Board can consider a progressive approach to trail use that accommodates the evolving usage of the mountain, rather than a regressive, prohibitive approach.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

--  
-leon

## **Terrie Gillen**

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**From:** John Boeschen <jboeschen@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 9:42 AM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Subject:** Allow ebikes on water district lands - YES

Dear MMWD Board,

I'm writing about ebike access in water district lands. I believe that allowing ebikes to go where other bicyclists are allowed would be beneficial for the community.

As you know, hikers already have 60 miles of exclusive trails to enjoy, while bicyclists are limited to shared fire roads. However, these fire roads are not typically crowded, and there is no reason to ban ebikes from them. Furthermore, the GGNRA allows ebikes, making it inconsistent to have different rules in different jurisdictions on the same mountain.

Riding a pedal-assist bicycle on Mt. Tam is an important aspect of my recreation and physical fitness. As a polite and courteous ebike rider, I respect other visitors and the environment, and I support avoiding impacts to the most sensitive habitats on the watershed, provided it is supported by science. In these areas, there may be additional conditions to minimize impacts, such as seasonal closures or monitoring, but this should not prevent ebike riders from enjoying the trails in general.

In conclusion, I hope you'll consider allowing ebikes on water district lands. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
John Boeschen  
San Rafael

**From:** [Shawn McGhie](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board meeting Thursday, class 1 e-bikes on Mt. Tam  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024 6:18:55 PM

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Marin Water:

I want your support of class 1 e-bikes on Mt. Tam. E-bikes have given me access to Mt. Tam trails since I can no longer physically get up most of the steep roads approaching the watershed. This allows those of us in our 50-60's (maybe older) to enjoy the area. Think of it as a ramp instead of stairs to Mr. Tam.

Thanks,  
Shawn McGhie

## **Terrie Gillen**

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**From:** Bill Abright <billabright1@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 10:01 AM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Cc:** Bill Abright  
**Subject:** E-bike access

Dear Board of Directors,

Thank you for the good water. Nobody in Marin needs to buy bottled water. I was a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on E-bikes for 7 months in 2018 and I am a founding member of the non-profit E-BikeAccess.org

Since then, I have been to almost all of the watershed committee meetings by zoom or in person and I have spoken often. I hope you are not getting tired of my voice.

In 2020 when the MMWD staff proposed a very practical 3 year trial period to get some real data on E-bikes, the Board of Directors at that time were unprepared for the proposal and said they did not have enough information to make a decision.

Now 3 years later the district has spent \$250,000. of rate payers money on a new Recreational Master Plan to get more information, and I have participated in every workshop and meeting. During this period of 5 years more mature mountain bike riders like myself have made the transition to a peddle assist class 1 e-bike. Being out in nature is good for the soul whether on foot or hoof or bike. Class 1 E-bikes have also provided access and inclusion to many new people who would not otherwise be able to explore and enjoy nature in this beautiful place.

The number of e-bikes in my riding group, the Over the Hill Gang, with 40 years of history riding Mt Tam. has increased to 11 out of 18 and most of the 7 on acoustic bikes are younger. This transition to class 1 e-bikes is happening in every group of cyclist's who have been riding Tam for decades and we hope for a decades more. They have not had greater impact than regular bikes.

I ride faithfully at least 3 times a week and I cover a lot of ground. I seldom see a Ranger anywhere. To continue the unenforceable policy of treating class 1 e-bikes as illegal motor vehicles instead of recognizing them as bicycles like the DMV and the GGNRA have done is to ignore the reality of our situation.

There will be more riders of all walks of life utilizing class 1 e-bikes to access our watershed in the future. Our MMWD staff has more important work to do than to make outlaws out of the residents of Marin. I urge this newly elected board to make a

practical and timely decision to finally allow Class 1 E-bikes the same legal access as other bicycles.

Thank you,

Bill Abright

San Anselmo

**From:** [Charles Dilworth](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E-Bikes in the watershed  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024 8:42:52 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing to voice my strong support for allowing the use of E-bikes in the MMWD watershed. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Thank you,

Charles Dilworth

274 Oak Avenue  
San Anselmo CA 94960

(415) 999-6333

[Charles.d.dilworth@gmail.com](mailto:Charles.d.dilworth@gmail.com)



**From:** [Kathy Zirker-Smith](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E-bikes in the watershed  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024 8:13:39 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing to voice my support for e-bike access in the watershed. My husband and I ride regularly and do so safely and we greatly enjoy it. We know many others who do the same. E-bikes contribute to the community by enabling more people to remain fit and active and by providing a great alternative to cars. I hike even more than I ride and have had no issues with e-bikes on the trails (and I've seen many, many of them.)

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Zirker-Smith

## **Terrie Gillen**

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**From:** Steven Fayne <snfayne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 7:05 AM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Subject:** Right to Ebike

Gentlemen: Please do not place any restrictions on electric bicycles that provide normal assistance on Mount Tam biking trails.

These bikes allow people who otherwise might be restricted because of age or disability to continue to enjoy these beautiful trails.

Ebikes assist the effort.

Ebikes on the mountain in many ways cannot be differentiated from other bikes

Ebike riders should have the same rights as others to utilize Marin bike trails.

Thank you.

Steven Fayne  
San Francisco

**From:** [Geordie Stephens](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Why E-Mountain biking is not only important, but critical to my life in Marin  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024 8:10:59 PM

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Hello,

I would like to have my 3-minutes to describe why E-Mountain biking is a critical part of my life, and the hundreds of others who love Mt. Tam and provide us the true joy and love for the area that enable us to be strong and vibrant individuals in our community.

Thank you.

**From:** [Barry Spitz](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Bicycles on Trails  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024 3:15:51 PM

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Dear Marin Water Directors,

I am writing to strongly urge you not to permit bicycles (and most certainly not e-bikes) on watershed trails. The District (and all of us ratepayers) spend millions of dollars on wonderful work preserving the watershed's water quality and flora and fauna. So it is inexplicable you would take an action so contrary to that work. Bikes on trails cause enormous damage. And new rules would bring countless more visitors to further trash them.

I am also perturbed by the pro-biking faction's use of the buzz word "inclusivity." That is exactly opposite what will happen. Any trail open to bikes would become EXCLUSIVELY for bikers as hikers would be walking in deep, rutted mud and fearing for speeding bikers coming around the next turn.

Please save the peace, and environmental diversity, that watershed lands provide.

I have been hiking on the watershed for 50 years and am author of the books "Mount Tamalpais Trails" and "To Save A Mountain: The 100-Year Battle for Mt. Tamalpais."  
Thank you. -- Barry Spitz, 155 Los Angeles Boulevard, San Anselmo CA 94960

## **Terrie Gillen**

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**From:** Meade Boutwell <meadeboutwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 10:21 AM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Subject:** Electric Bikes on water district lands

Dear Board Members.

Thanks for keeping an open mind on this matter. I am 63 and still ride an acoustic Mt. Bike. I am realizing that Mt Tam is getting taller and I am getting older. I want to continue to ride in the watershed and will be purchasing an e-bike in the near future. The only change in my riding style will be less breathless stops and faster climbs. I will not ride the flats or downhills any faster than I do now. I am all for reasonable caps on top speeds (flats and climbing). I recently rode in Utery State Park in Mesa Arizona. Where all trails are open to all users (hikers, Mt. Bikes and horses). They have done a great job of reminding people about the right- a-way and courtesy approaches. The park was packed and everyone I talked to liked the multi use approach.

Thanks for your time

--

Meade  
M: 415-308-1941

**From:** [Geordie Stephens](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** I am the great Grandson of William Kent, and would love to say a few words  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 7:56:38 AM

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Good morning,

My name is Geordie Stephens, and ride and race e-mountain bikes.

Since moving back to Marin, I have experienced the backlash of e-MTBs on Mt. Tam and the watershed. As you wrote so eloquently,

In the words of William Kent, his hope was to offer “preservation and development of the whole Mt. Tamalpais area as a recreation area and water district.” Kent believed that “parks should serve the needs of a democratic people . . . removing privileges reserved for only a few.”

As stewards of this land that was “handed” to the MMWD by the Kent family, I would very much like to give my perspective on this issue on the night of Feb. 29th.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Geordie Stephens

**From:** [Elizabeth Ireland](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board meeting Feb 29, 2024  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:54:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [MMWD Board 2-27-24 Ireland.docx](#)

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Please include my letter to the Board in the preparation package for the Board meeting this week. I have attached a word doc and the text pasted below.

Many thanks,  
Elizabeth Ireland

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear MMWD Board,

I am the mother you would have seen about 25 years ago, with an “alley-cat” attached to the back of my mountain bike, with first one son and then the second son several years later assisting me in getting up the mountain. Our family has a lifelong love of the bike trails on the mountain and now those boys are homeowners in Marin County and still avid mountain bikers. An e-bike has been a welcome and necessary change as I have aged and the day I kept up with my 30-year-old son as we got to the top of Mt Tam together is still a red-letter day for me! So, I am now the 65-year-old grandmother that rides an e-bike, still enjoying the trails with my sons, husband and soon grandchildren.

I would like to encourage the MMWD Board to approve the use of Class 1 e-bikes on Mt Tam this week. In the bigger picture the GGNRA allows the use of E-bikes without issues. The bikers in our watershed appreciate where we live and are also very aware we are riding at the source of our drinking water, which is so important to us. Our water quality has not been impaired by e-bikes on the mountain.

I am also a hiker and do not believe there is a conflict between those using the trails. The recent survey showed that only 1% feel unsafe, and named coyotes, dirty porta-potties, big horses, dogs off leash, a few rude visitors, etc. as the reason. This is not a valid reason to exclude cyclists or e-bikes from the watershed and mountain.

I encourage the Board to put this issue to rest without further study or pilot programs, keep us older adults out on the mountain and fulfill William Kent’s desire for the park to serve the needs of all.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Ireland

78 Alta Vista Avenue  
San Anselmo, CA 94960

415-407-2893

Dear MMWD Board,

I am the mother you would have seen about 25 years ago, with an “alley-cat” attached to the back of my mountain bike, with first one son and then the second son several years later assisting me in getting up the mountain. Our family has a lifelong love of the bike trails on the mountain and now those boys are homeowners in Marin County and still avid mountain bikers. An e-bike has been a welcome and necessary change as I have aged and the day I kept up with my 30-year-old son as we got to the top of Mt Tam together is still a red-letter day for me! So, I am now the 65-year-old grandmother that rides an e-bike, still enjoying the trails with my sons, husband and soon grandchildren.

I would like to encourage the MMWD Board to approve the use of Class 1 e-bikes on Mt Tam this week. In the bigger picture the GGNRA allows the use of E-bikes without issues. The bikers in our watershed appreciate where we live and are also very aware we are riding at the source of our drinking water, which is so important to us. Our water quality has not been impaired by e-bikes on the mountain.

I am also a hiker and do not believe there is a conflict between those using the trails. The recent survey showed that only 1% feel unsafe, and named coyotes, dirty porta-potties, big horses, dogs off leash, a few rude visitors, etc. as the reason. This is not a valid reason to exclude cyclists or e-bikes from the watershed and mountain.

I encourage the Board to put this issue to rest without further study or pilot programs, keep us older adults out on the mountain and fulfill William Kent’s desire for the park to serve the needs of all.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Ireland

78 Alta Vista Avenue  
San Anselmo, CA 94960

415-407-2893



**From:** [Daniel Brousseau](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Don't restrict Ebikes on MT Tam trails  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 3:06:00 PM

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Dear Marin Water

I'm writing to express my input to any decision to restrict Class 1 e bikes on Mt Tam, in the Watershed or Parks. I am now 60 years old. I've been riding on Tam and GGNRA since age 10. I currently live in Mill Valley in the same house I bought in 2001. We moved to Mill Valley in large part because of the joy of riding on Mt Tam. I switched to a class 1 e mountain bike in 2020 due to a bad back (I can't hike without pain) and generally wanting to take it easier on my heart and lungs. I ride 3-4 days a week on the fire roads. I often ride with friends ranging from late 50s to late 60s and a few in their 70s. Ebikes have allowed us to do what we love into old age, stay social and get exercise outdoors. It would be a travesty to not allow us to ride into our later years together on Mt. Tam as we've done for over 50 years. We follow the rules, are courteous to hikers and other bikers, and we help others in need. Our bikes with us riding at our age are no faster uphill than a fit young person on a regular bike and we're a lot slower downhill. It makes no sense to dis allow class 1 e-bikes. Those who argue otherwise must be terribly un informed, biased, and certainly have not rode an ebike on those fire roads.

Thank you

Daniel Brousseau  
Mill Valley

**From:** [Tim Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E-bikes are ok  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:38:34 PM

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As a 75 year-old Class 1 ebike rider I would like to return to the MMWD trails that I enjoyed for decades on my mountain bike. It's not right that I am no longer welcome to ride on those same trails now that I ride a different bike. We dont need another test period.

**From:** [Andrew Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** E-Bikes on Mt. Tam Water District  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:36:59 PM

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Hi, My name is Andy Ryan and live at 300 Laurel Ave., San Anselmo, CA. I have been riding on MMWD for 20 years and bought an e-bike 4 years ago. I still ride my regular Mt. bike on the Mt 2-3 times a week, but sometimes my body won't let me and I still want to get out. The e-Bike has been a great addition for my physical and mental benefit. As I get older (I am 64 now) I hope to continue to get on the Mt., but will probably use my e-bike more often. I encourage you to continue to allow e-bike on the Mt.

Thanks,

Andrew W. Ryan  
300 Laurel Ave.  
San Anselmo, CA 94960

**From:** [Stu Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Ebikes on Tam  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:22:53 PM

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Hello -

I've been a regular non-ebike mt. bike rider on Mt. Tam for more than 25 years. I support Class 1 ebikes on Mt. Tam because they allow more older people to exercise and enjoy Marin's great outdoors. We should aim for more inclusion, not less.

In my experience, mt. ebike riders are more courteous than regular mt. bike riders.

In any case, please make a decision and stop stringing along all the stakeholders involved in this issue.

Thanks for your consideration,

Stu

J. Stuart Ryan  
Belvedere

**From:** [sbarbieri@aol.com](mailto:sbarbieri@aol.com)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** EBikes  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:48:23 PM

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Board Members:

I have lived in Marin for more than 40 years and have been riding a mountain bike on Marin trails for even longer. As I approached my 70th birthday I found that I was riding less frequently and that I was riding shorter distances – not for lack of desire but as a consequence of diminished stamina. I learned of, rented and then purchased a Specialized ebike and I now ride very frequently and for greater distances. My bike is not a motorcycle. I have to pedal to make it function at all, but I now have available electrical “assist” which makes it possible for me to continue riding. I am able to choose when, how far and how strenuous a ride I am able to manage, which keeps me exercising outdoors.

I don't feel safe on and therefore do not ride any distance on the streets, except to travel from my home to the trails and back again.

I know that the day will arrive when I give up riding my bike but I would like to delay the arrival of that day as long as possible and I would very much appreciate your not causing that date to arrive even sooner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Barbieri  
Kentfield, CA

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**From:** [Rachel Fussell](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of E-Bikes on Mt Tam  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:23:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [MMWD E-Bikes on Mt Tam PFB Letter of Support.docx.pdf](#)

---

Dear MMWD Board Members,

I'm writing to express support for allowing Class 1 electric bicycles on all trails where traditional mountain bikes are already allowed on Mt. Tam.

Please find my full letter with resources and studies to support our stance, attached below.

Best,  
Rachel

--

**Rachel Fussell**

eMTB Policy & Program Manager

(she/hers)

**PeopleForBikes**

P.O. Box 2359 / Boulder, CO 80306

**MOBILE:** 802.310.6685

**[PeopleForBikes.org](http://PeopleForBikes.org)**



February 27, 2024

Dear Marin Municipal Watershed District Board Members,

On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, a national advocacy group and industry association that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding, we support access for Class 1 electric mountain bikes (eMTBs) on Mt Tam. We strive to make bike riding a safer and more inclusive activity for everyone, including those who ride electric bicycles.

We support access for only Class 1 pedal-assist electric mountain bikes on singletrack trails where mountain bikes are already allowed on Mt Tam. Many local governments and land managers made decisions regarding access to Class 1 eMTBs and electric bicycles, as more people ride them in communities throughout the United States. However, the decision-makers who have engaged in in-depth analyses of electric bicycle use have almost universally concluded that electric bicycles should be allowed in areas where bicycles are allowed. Examples of communities that have undertaken significant studies of electric bicycle rider behavior and perceptions from other user groups are attached to this letter. We believe that any objective examination of the facts leads to the conclusion that electric mountain bike riders should be treated like riders of conventional mountain bikes.

PeopleForBikes values the safety of your community members and stands as a partner in this work. We firmly believe that electric bicycles can be an asset to our community and alleviate many other problems we may be confronting concerning traffic, congestion, and parking. We encourage you to closely consider the benefits of electric bicycles to our community and welcome the opportunity to provide any further information. We appreciate the chance to share our resources and knowledge.

Sincerely,



Rachel Fussell  
eMTB Policy & Program Manager  
PeopleForBikes Coalition  
[rachel@peopleforbikes.org](mailto:rachel@peopleforbikes.org)

## **Additional Information on Electric Bicycle Speed, Safety and Studies**

### USDA Forest Service NEPA Analysis indicates Class 1 electric bicycles can be successfully incorporated into trails with non-motorized uses.

- A. The observations and data collected by TNF staff, relative to Class 1 electric mountain bikes' impact on trails, are consistent with the findings from other studies in this topic area. These studies were conducted by varying institutions, universities, and industry groups that performed research on trail impacts from recreational uses. Data from the scientific literature is consistent on several key points:
  - a. Greater sediment yields are produced by equestrians and pedestrians when compared to wheeled modes of transportation. ([East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project Decision Notice & FONSI 2021](#))
  - b. Horse traffic produces the greatest force (weight per unit area) among hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and motorcyclists. ([East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project Decision Notice & FONSI 2021](#))
  - c. Horses cause greater increases in soil compaction, litter, trail width, and trail depth compared to hikers and motorcycles. ([East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project Decision Notice & FONSI 2021](#))
- B. TNF's observations related to trail impacts are also consistent with a study conducted by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) which found similar effects between Class 1 electric mountain bikes and their conventional counterparts ([East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project Decision Notice & FONSI 2021](#)).
- C. Based on a review of their findings, "Tahoe National Forest has determined that inclusion of Class 1 E-bikes as a designated, legitimate use on these trails does not constitute an increased adverse impact to their sustainability," ([East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project Decision Notice & FONSI 2021](#)).

•

### Electric bicycles travel at bike-like speeds.

- A. Class 1 electric bicycles have a motor that cuts off after the rider reaches 20mph. This is not the average speed. On flat and uphill surfaces, electric bicycles travel on average 2-3 mph faster than conventional bicycles (i.e. around 13-14 mph). Studies show that electric bicycles do not travel significantly faster than regular bicycles, and in some instances, are slower, depending on the location and the rider.
  - Langford, B. et al, Risky riding: Naturalistic methods comparing safety behavior from conventional bicycle riders and electric bike riders, Accident Analysis & Prevention (Sept. 2015) ("We find that average on-road speeds of e-bike riders (13.3 kph) were higher than regular bicyclists (10.4 kph) but shared use path (greenway) speeds of e-bike riders (11.0 kph) were lower than regular bicyclists (12.6 kph)").
  - Cherry, C. & MacArthur, J., E-bike safety, A review of Empirical European and North American Studies (Oct. 15, 2019) "[Electric bicycle] riders tend to ride at higher speeds on uphill segments, but not flat or downhill segments."

### Electric bicycle riders comply with laws in the same way as riders of conventional bikes.

- A. Electric bicycle users are like most people and choose to respect the law of the road and be kind to others with whom they share public resources. They would respond more favorably to restrictions on use rather than an outright ban. Most critically, existing studies show that electric bicycle riders comply with laws to the same extent as bicycle riders.
  - Cherry, C. & MacArthur, J., E-bike safety, A review of Empirical European and North American Studies (Oct. 15, 2019) ("For other safety surrogates (wrong way riding, stop sign and signal compliance) e-bike riders behaved in the same way as cyclists, with similar violation rates.");
  - Langford, B. et al, Risky riding: Naturalistic methods comparing safety behavior from conventional bicycle riders and electric bike riders, Accident Analysis & Prevention (Sept. 2015) ("E-bike riders exhibit nearly identical safety behavior as regular bike riders and should be regulated in similar ways").

### The safety outcomes relating to electric bicycle use and conventional bicycle use are similar.

- A. Banning electric bicycles from areas where conventional bicycles are used is not justified based on safety issues or the risk of collisions.



- Cherry, C. & Fishman, E., E-bikes in the Mainstream: Reviewing a Decade of Research, Transport Review (July 2015) (“Overall differences in safety outcomes were not dramatic between e-bike and bicycle riders.”).
- Cherry, C. & MacArthur, J., E-bike safety, A review of Empirical European and North American Studies (Oct. 15, 2019) (summarizing European studies finding that over the same distances traveled, “e-bikes and conventional bicycles have the same crash risk.”).

An electric bicycle ban will not decrease ridership, only complicate enforcement. There is strong demand in the public for electric bicycles.

- A. Ridership is increasing, and people are using electric bicycles to recreate, replace vehicle trips, and augment existing bicycle trips. In 2020, electric bicycle sales grew by 132% (Source: the NPD Group). This is the fast-growing sector of sales in the bicycle industry by a significant margin.

### **Studies by Local Governments**

There are two in-depth studies that local governments have taken to understand electric bicycle rider behavior and craft local ordinances to regulate their use.

#### Fairfax County, Virginia Research (2019)

- A. Overview: Fairfax County, VA worked closely with NOVA (Northern Virginia) Parks to fund a white paper to gain a better understanding of electric bicycles. This research reviewed federal and state electric bicycle laws and model legislation, the difference in safety and behavior between regular bikes vs electric bicycles, other local trail systems policies, current park regulations, and potential alternatives.
- B. Rationale: The increased use of electric bicycles within Fairfax County sparked the need to address current regulations regarding their use. The county chose to research the use of electric bicycles to inform a data-driven policy for their community.
- C. Results: This research found that electric bicycle users exhibit nearly identical behavior as regular bike users, electric bicycle speeds were observed to be lower than standard bike speeds on shared trails, electric bicycles tend to be similar to regular bikes and most trail users are unaware of the presence of electric bicycles when asked.

#### Jefferson County, Colorado Study (2017)

- A. Overview: Jefferson County, CO conducted two studies at multiple parks to gain a better understanding of visitors’ knowledge, perceptions, and concerns related to the use of electric bicycles on urban pathways and natural surface trails. Through ‘Test Ride Surveys,’ visitors are asked four questions before and after riding an electric bicycle to determine familiarity with electric bicycles and any changes in perception and/or acceptance after riding one. Through ‘Visitor Intercept Surveys,’ random park visitors are asked about their perceptions, acceptance, and concerns related to electric bicycles on trails, as well as their ability to detect an electric bicycle sharing the pathway with them.
- B. Rationale: Jefferson County realized that electric bicycles are already in use on its pathways and trails, and that usage will not significantly decrease with a wholesale ban. It has opted to study the issue and engage park visitors to determine whether to allow or prohibit this technology on the transportation and recreation corridors under its jurisdiction.