

**From:** [Amy Kalish](#)  
**To:** [ebikes@marinwater.org](mailto:ebikes@marinwater.org); [Board Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Amy Kalish](#)  
**Subject:** E-bikes on MMWD lands  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:21:00 PM

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To the MMWD Board,

I urge you to continue your existing ban on e-bikes on MMWD land.

I am already terrified of being hit by a traditional bicycle on most trails. A collision with a fast moving bike weighing 50-80 pounds plus the weight of the cyclist could cause traumatic injuries, possibly in areas not easily accessible.

Trails are already eroded by regular tire tracks, and the recent heavy rains show the impact.

I treasure quiet time on those trails, which is why I've lived in Marin (Mill Valley) for the last 40 years.

The unfortunate proliferation of e-bikes among children and teens makes this all the more troubling; often young riders are unaware of even basic rules of the road and common courtesy, and can be reckless. Kids who've avoided these trails on traditional bikes, because of the exertion involved, could create a new type of user I would not like to come in contact with on a downhill or blind curve.

The dirt portion of the Dipsea trail near my house (and owned by our HOA) is in constant need of attention from tire rut erosion to maintain proper drainage. We are now seeing many e-bikes flying through there, and their heavy tracks are making things much more difficult.

Allowing E-bikes on the MMWD trails would degrade the environment and the experience for others.

Please DO NOT REVERSE THIS BAN.

Sincerely,

Amy Kalish, Flying Y Ranch — 7 Walsh Drive, Mill Valley CA 94941

**From:** [Jonathan Braun](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Comment letter for 3/21 meeting  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2024 12:32:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter for MMWD 3 21 meeting.pdf](#)

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Please see the attached letter with comments for the 3/21 Watershed Committee meeting.

Thank you,

Jonathan Braun

MMWD Board of Directors  
220 Nellen Ave.  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

March 15, 2024

Dear Directors,

I would like to offer the following comments regarding the Draft Recreation Management Plan. Specifically, Strategic Opportunity #3 as it applies to expanded bicycle access in the watershed.

I have lived over six decades adjacent to MMWD watershed lands in San Anselmo. Over the years I have hiked extensively throughout the Mt Tamalpias region and specifically MMWD roads and trails. It's not surprising that conditions have changed significantly over this span of time. However, in recent years the behavior of bicyclists in the MMWD watershed has become disturbingly aggressive.

What I observe is near-universal disregard for posted rules limiting speed and prohibiting bikes on single-track trails. The problem is so bad I now try to avoid all fire roads. I have not seen a single rider slow to the mandated 5 mph while passing pedestrians. I recently observed a rider tearing through Five Corners at what must have been 30-40 mph. This person was also broadcasting highly amplified music. This is not an exception. On any MMWD fire road, Eldridge, Shaver, Rocky Ridge, Lake Lagunitas, and Deer Park, to name just a few, there are now speeding bikes passing dangerously close to walkers.

There is a significant cohort of mountain bikers who seem to feel entitled to violate the rules and ride on prohibited single-track trails. I have submitted reports to MMWD of encounters with bikes on the North Side, Kent, and Sunnyside Trails and have had many encounters on the Yolanda, Bald Hill, Old Sled, and Harry Allan Trails. I am very concerned by the impact of illegal bike riding in the very sensitive Little Carson drainage.

There is also illegal trail building by bikers in the watershed. Prohibited night riding is also widespread.

Despite efforts by agencies to educate bicycle visitors to open space on trail etiquette, the behavior is getting worse. What I observe is an attitude of self-gratification at the expense of others. The Covid-19 impact has resulted in an exponential increase in numbers and poor behavior.

I ***strongly*** urge the Board not to implement the pilot study for multi-use trails in Strategic Opportunity #3. Given the existing lack of compliance with MMWD's adopted rules I don't see how the privilege of increased access for bikes can be justified.

The same issues apply to opening the Watershed to E-Bikes. E-Bike riders are no more compliant with rules that pedal powered bikes. The proposal in Strategic Opportunity #3 is to allow class 1 E-Bikes is unenforceable. I can't see how MMWD rangers will be able to differentiate between the multiple types of E-Bikes.

A new threat is E-Motorcycles. These are now being illegally ridden in the watershed.

I urge the Board to step up enforcement of existing regulations to mediate environmental damage, trail erosion, and a diminished experience for those of us seeking a respite in nature.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Braun

**From:** [Susan Blair](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Allowing e-bikes on the MMWD trails  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 8:09:48 PM

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Dear Board of Directors,

I was born and raised in San Anselmo and have been living in San Anselmo for the last 20 years. I spent much of my childhood and life hiking the trails in the Water District and appreciating the beauty of the surrounding hills and lakes.

It is only in the last few years that the misuse of bikes on the trails and on the streets of San Anselmo has caused me real anxiety and fear.

We often walk our dogs near Red Hill shopping Center and the surrounding area, and have witnessed crazy bike behavior such as kids doing wheelies on SFD, in the Red Hill parking lot and surrounding streets, and riding fast on the sidewalks. This kind of dangerous behavior has not been regulated right here in town. How will it be regulated on the remote trails?

A lot of the dangerous behavior is done by young people under 18 who do not understand the risks, and don't know anything about driving.

I had the experience of having to leap off a single track trail near Sky Oaks when a bike came flying around the corner and almost crashed into me. He kept going and yelled back that there were two more bikes coming. Even though I was close to the Sky Oaks Headquarters, there wasn't anyone I could report the incident to.

Any additional invitation to bikes and especially e-bikes to use the MMWD trails will have a significant impact on hikers. My husband and I are both Senior Citizens who love to hike, but we will think twice before using remote trails if we will be sharing the trail with e-bikes.

We shouldn't have to wait until people are seriously injured or killed before we realize the potential threat to hikers and especially the large percentage of senior hikers in Marin.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint,  
Susan Blair

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Susan Blair  
Retired Teacher/Librarian