

From: [Bob Mittelstaedt](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 10a, May 6 Board meeting (ebike pilot)
Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 3:15:01 PM

Now that class 1 ebikes have been present in sizable numbers on Mt. Tam fire roads for more than five years, the concept of a "pilot program" seems a bit outdated and unnecessary; Common sense and multiple studies leave no doubt that e-MTBs do not harm the environment.

We understand, however, the political realities in light of the various pro-hiker "conservation" groups that are willing to use their deep pockets to finance litigation when they don't get their way and are facing the prospect of sharing "their" fire roads.

In this unfortunate context, it is understandable that Marin Water would choose to settle. But in the event that others are waiting in the wings to sue, it would be sensible for the Board to expressly find that there is no reason to expect that the pilot will cause any material increased use of fire roads by class 1 e-bikes. This will help ensure that the proposed resolution is exempt from CEQA.

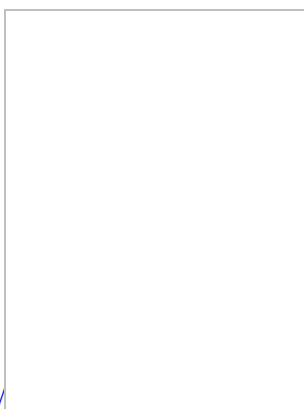
As is, the staff report states that e-bikes are being used on fire roads pursuant to the ADA. This is too narrow. The presence of E-bikes on fire roads today is not limited to ADA. And it is inaccurate to state that "any use of the roads by Class I E-Bikes during the Pilot period would be negligible." The key is that any **increase** in use is expected to be negligible -- which is not to say that any increase in usage would cause any material harm or that the fire roads will ever be anywhere close to capacity.

Finally, it is unfortunate that the pro-hiker, anti-cyclist groups are insisting that Marin Water and its ratepayers underwrite the cost of a bat study. The genesis appears to be a "study" for the Mid Peninsula District which is obviously flawed and not peer-reviewed. If the new study finds no roosting bats in the proximity of the two fire roads to be surveyed, it is most likely the result of the bats choosing to roost elsewhere in the 22,000 acres of the watershed, or elsewhere on Mt. Tam.

As always, we appreciate the diligent efforts of Shaun Horne and those assisting him. We hope this marks the end of the resistance to the idea of e-MTBs on the watershed, and that the parties will work together to make this project a success rather than continue to undermine the Board's decision -- six years in the making -- to formally recognize and legitimize the presence of class 1 e-bikes.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/357d1762/6Oy7harKSUyU12YhJBP18Q?>

[u=https://www.ebikeaccess.org/](https://www.ebikeaccess.org/)



From: [Barbara Salzman](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#); [Ben Horenstein](#)
Subject: MAS comment to Board re. Settlement
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:09:02 PM

Terri,
Please convey this message to Members of the Board for tonight's meeting. Many thanks
Barbara

Dear Members of the MMWD Board,

I will be unable to attend the MMWD Board meeting this evening because Marin Audubon Society's Board meets at the same time. So I am writing with a simple message.

We are pleased we have reached this settlement and we hope the MMWD Directors will approve it tonight.

Many thanks for your support.

Barbara Salzman, President
Marin Audubon Society

From: [Phil](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Subject: Slide for tonight's Board meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:54:55 PM
Attachments: [Monthly Residential Water Use - Gallons per Capita per Day.pdf](#)

Hi, Terrie,

Hope all is well!

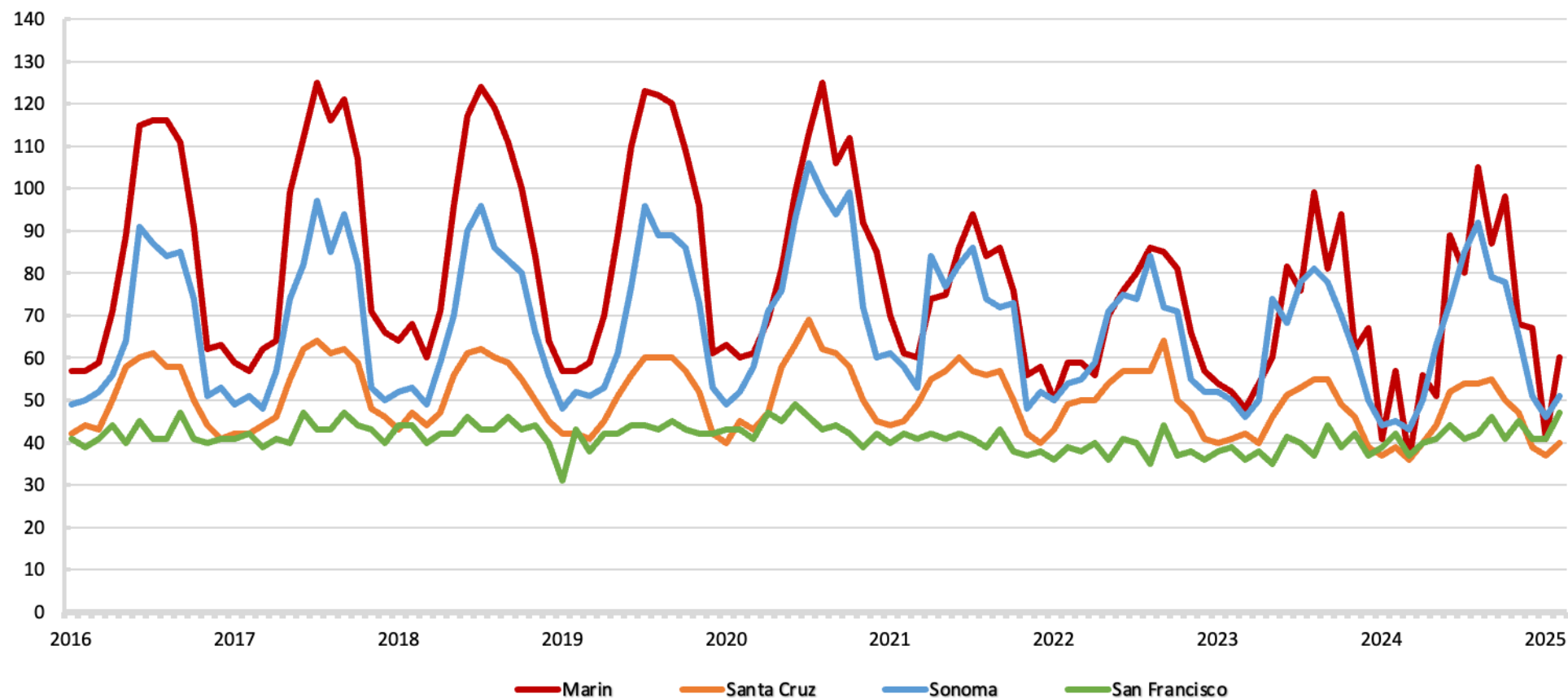
At tonight's meeting, I'm planning to comment on an item not on the Agenda. There's a chart I'll be referring to and I was wondering if you could project it while I'm speaking. It's attached below.

I'll also bring some printed copies in case you can't project this on the screen.

Thanks for any help you can provide!

Best, Phil Sotter

Monthly Residential Water Use - Gallons per Capita per Day



- Before the drought, winter water use in Marin was 55 - 60 gpcd, in Sonoma it was 50 gpcd
- After the drought, winter water use in Marin is 40 - 50 gpcd, in Sonoma it's 40 - 45 gpcd
- Before the drought, summer water use in Marin was 115 - 125 gpcd, in Sonoma it was 90 - 100 gpcd
- After the drought, summer water use in Marin was 85 - 95 gpcd, in Sonoma it was 80 - 85 gpcd
- Marin's 30 gpcd drop in summer water use after the drought is equal to nearly 6 million gallons per day
- In the past two years, Marin's summer water use has rebounded slightly to 100 - 105 gpcd, for a drop of 20 gpcd or 4 million gallons per day
- 4,000,000 gallons per day savings for 180 days is 720 million gallons or 2200 acre-feet
- 6,000,000 gallons per day savings for 180 days is over a billion gallons or 3300 acre-feet
- If Marin could get back its 40 gpcd summer water savings after the drought, it would be saving almost 8 million gallons a day
- 8,000,000 gallons per day savings for 180 days is 1.4 billion gallons or 4200 acre-feet