

From: [Jonathan Frieman](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Allow E-Bikes on Mt. Tam NOW!!!!
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 10:50:42 AM

To the Water Board:

In 2017 I commenced mountain biking on an unelectrified bike to accompany one of my many best friends. Because at age 64 I did not have the leg power to make such excursions enjoyable, I quickly discarded that behemoth in favor of an electric bike and found the hills much more accessible.

Rather, with an electric bike, there are no hills in Marin.

That addition of electricity makes an e-bike my preferred means of accommodation, so under the ADA I'm legal. But anyone should be allowed to use an e-bike anywhere, even in the bedroom.

To bolster my point, I was one of 10 persons who served on the advisory committee for the Water Board starting in late 2019 to determine whether e-bikes ought be allowed on the hill. We came out 6-4 in favor. Despite that, the water agency ignored our work—basically making our effort a waste of time and a fractured dog-and-e-bike show—and pursued this long, long path of...well, whatever it's doing now.

I've gone up a few times with Bill Abright and his Over the Hill Gang. They are respectful and caring and loving—and I've seen them voice cautionary epithets at speeding bike riders, regardless of whether those scofflaws are electrified or humanized or mummified. I myself stop when horses come by, and on narrow fire roads, I slow way down. I don't do single trails—way too scary and dangerous.

Basically, it's an enforcement issue. There are 20,000 acres and only 7 rangers. And the enforcers are the people who hike and bike and horse around.

It's sorta like riding in the carpool lane with only one "person" in the car—see my website below—and I ALWAYS drive in the carpool lane. In 23 years of that satisfying illegal activity I've had to WORK to get caught.

The Water Board needs to recognize that e-bikes are indeed just bicycles and allow them to legally access roads and trails where other bicycles are allowed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Frieman, J.D.

www.thecarpoolaneguy.com

founding member of EBIKEaccess.org

From: [John Boeschen](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Allow ebikes on water district lands
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 2:53:02 PM

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: [Bill Abright](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Cc: [Bill Abright](#)
Subject: Ebike Access to MMWD
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 10:16:35 AM

To the Board of Directors Marin of Municipal Water District,

My name is Bill Abright, and I have lived in San Anselmo for 52 years.

I am a hiker, birder, and conservator of nature. Mtn. biking has kept me fit and in regular contact with my dearest friends for over 39 of those years. I ride 3 days a week, and to the top of Mt Tamalpais religiously every Sunday. We celebrated our 30th annual New Years ride to the East Peak this Jan 1st. and I know every twist and turn of every fire road on Mt. Tam.

I am part of a group we call the Over the Hill Gang. Our youngest members, our sons, are in their mid 30s, the oldest is 84. This group is at the center of my Universe.

E-bikes have been part of our group now for about 16 years. Since then our number of E-bikes riders has grown to 10 in 25. Most of us started riding E-bikes at about 65 years old.

Riding with the regularity I do, I have a good perspective on E-bike users. We are the same people who have gotten older and still want access to the watershed that is integral to our lives.

The ADA rules allow for disabled users, but we should not have to wait until we are disabled to become legal users.

We are good stewards of the environment and respect all users. We go slow and say hello, we model good behavior and encourage our fellow riders to do so as well.

Mount Tamalpais is the Birthplace of Mountain biking, There are many well behaved bike riders who depend on access to the watershed for health and wellbeing. Like myself I expect they will convert to e-bikes and continue to ride into their senior years and still feel like a kid on a bike.

I urge the board to recognize that e-bikes are indeed just bicycles and allow them to legally access roads and trails where other bicycles are allowed.

Sincerely,

Bill Abright

founding member of EBIKEaccess.org

From: [Rodger Jacobsen](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: ebike are the same as any other bike except you can be old and still get out
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 10:41:12 AM

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: [Bob Mittelstaedt](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: June 15 Agenda #2. Recreation Management Plan
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 3:11:45 AM

Dear Board members:

Our organization, E-Bike Access, represents responsible, environmentally-sensitive Marin Water ratepayers who favor granting access to class 1 pedal-assist bicycles. We appreciate the efforts of the Marin Water staff to develop a recreation management plan that is equitable to all visitors.

As things now stand, hikers have exclusive use of 60 miles of trails, while bicyclists have none. Bicyclists instead have shared access to fire roads, and pedal-assist bicycles are banned completely. That ban is not only inequitable, it is unnecessary as the experience of the GGNRA demonstrates. The GGNRA treats pedal-assist bicycles the same as other bicycles, consistent with California law. And the ban is unworkable, as the presence of pedal-assist bicycles shows.

In our experience on the watershed, the vast majority of visitors have learned to share the roads in the best tradition of Marinites. The recent survey results prove this point as well. It is time for a recreation management plan that reflects reality on the watershed and stops treating mature, responsible e-bicyclists as criminals.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/c76d9534/Q2rQuNq9xUiMdQoc3I1PFA?>

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



From: [dan cressman](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Pedal Assist eBike Access
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 8:15:27 AM

Dear MMWD Board of Directors:

I have been an active hiker, horseback rider, and mountain bike rider in Marin County for over 40 years. I believe Class 1 Pedal Assist Mountain Bikes should be allowed to access all MMWD trails and Fire Roads that regular mountain bikes are allowed to go on. This is a very simple solution to the ongoing confusion amongst the public who enjoy access to your lands on a regular basis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Cressman
EBike Access
Cell [415.971.8919](tel:415.971.8919)

From: [Kaye Barnett](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Todays Meeting Comment
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 10:22:17 AM

To whom it may concern

I thank you for your time and attention to my comments.

I am a mountain biker riding a class one ebike. I am also an older adult. As you know a class one ebike is a bicycle with an electric assist that must be peddled just like a manual bike. It is no difference as far a bicycle use. There are those that argue that battery power on the mountain is dangerous for fire hazard. If that argument is founded than all electric cars (including Tesla) need to be banded from the roads and parking.

I would suggest that there is far less environment damage being done to Mt. Tam now, even with increase public use, than almost any time is the past. Historical Mt. Tam has always been a destination. Commercial roads have been built to carry wagons and cars up the mountain. A railroad was build and used. There have been hotels, inns and speakeasys on the mountain. There has been farming, cattle ranching and sheep grazing on the mountain. Mt. Tam was used for hunting. Trails were build with little regard for the environment. There was extensive logging was done with mills (ie Mill Valley). There was a paper mill associated with the mountain. Dams were built for our water supply. Heavy rain has caused extensive erosion to fire roads and trails. All in all, I believe we are doing a far better job environmentally than we have in the past.

Bicycles have been documented using the Eldridge Grade since 1885. Bicycles and e-bicycles and now one of the biggest user groups on Mt. Tam. Riding my ebike to, from and on Mt. Tam is more environmentally sound that driving a car and parking on the mountain.

I am very grateful to have this resource. I have been enjoying Mt.Tam for 50 years and have participated in resource feedback.

Regard,
Kaye Barnett

From: [Larry Scheibel](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Visitor Census Data, Recreational Management Plan
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 11:17:16 AM

The results of the visitor census data collected in support of the Recreational Management Plan should be a red flag to the Marin Water Board of Directors. The decrease of 50% in the number of people visiting the watershed to enjoy nature between the 2012 and 2022 censuses indicates that recreational activities are causing serious environmental damage to the watershed. As recreational activities including mountain biking have increased, people who do not feel safe because of this have simply stopped visiting the watershed. I have seen the same things occur at other Bay Area locations.

Larry Scheibel