



Protecting Marin Since 1934

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To the Editor
Marin IJ Readers' Forum

Electric bicycles on county open space roads and bike paths

It is one thing to render an opinion that is not popular with all readers (Editorial March 30, 2019). That is a right of the press. It is another to garble facts and leave readers even more confused! The March 30 editorial incorrectly states that the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission is recommending new rules to allow use of electric bicycles on county open space roads and bike paths. The Commission's recommendation concerns a code revision that would apply only to County Park facilities like the Mill Valley-Sausalito paved multiuse path and other similar paved paths owned and regulated by the county. On these facilities, transportation is a predominant use. With appropriate behavior, electric bikes can be accommodated safely if speed limits are enforced. The code revision would not apply to natural surface roads and trails in Open Space District Preserves. These lands are natural resource reservoirs where recreation is allowed, and they are shared by a multitude of hikers of all ages, dog walkers, equestrians, as well as human-powered mountain bikes. They are regulated under a different code which currently does not permit electric-assist vehicles. MCL will continue to oppose the the addition of electric mountain bikes to the already extensive recreational uses on the County's open space preserves (as well as on MMWD watershed and national and state parklands) as incompatible with long-term protection of plant and wildlife habitats on these public "wildlands."

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