

From: [Art Liberman](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Goldstein, Paul](#); [Ellson, Penny](#); [Courington, Bill](#); [Arthur, Bruce](#); [Nordman, Eric](#); [Arce, Ozzy](#); [Star-Lack, Sylvia](#)
Subject: Remove PRC's proposed E-bike restriction regulation from Consent Calendar
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 7:56:38 AM

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Mayor, Vice-Maor and Council members:

I request that you remove item 7, the PRC recommended regulation for E-Bikes from the Consent Calendar and have an open discussion on this item. Let me give you five reasons.

First – this policy would be negatively impact one group of cyclists, namely seniors.

I am speaking as someone who is 82 years old and who is an avid cyclist. I am a member of PABAC and I ride regularly with a group of senior cyclists, many of whom have e-bikes. One member of our senior cycling group is 94 years old, a Korean War veteran.

There is one specific part of the PRC recommendation that I object to. This would prohibit persons from riding e-bikes on the unpaved trails in the Baylands. This would prevent many seniors from accessing this marvelous area and enjoying the magnificent vistas.

Second -- The PRC recommendation treats all the Open Space Preserves the same way. But the Baylands are different from the other Palo Alto Open Space preserves. The Baylands are flat and the Baylands unpaved trails are really wide gravel roadways. Bicycles have been allowed on the unpaved trails in the Baylands for many years.

Third , the Parks and Recreation Commission has **not** done an adequate amount of community outreach. The PRC rushed their proposal. They held one discussion meeting in October of last year, and then held a meeting in December to vote on the proposal. They presented their proposal to PABAC in November of 2022. At the meeting , PABAC did not endorse the PRC recommendation, Instead, a motion was passed requesting that the PRC delay their proposal until we have a new Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. I am a member of PABAC's e-bike subcommittee, whose members are continuing to hold a dialogue with PRC, specifically with regard to the PRC proposal to ban e-bikes in the Baylands unpaved trails.

Fourth the PRC says their proposal is based on the policies of the Mid-Pen District. However, the Mid Pen District allows E-bikes on unpaved trails in their Ravenswood Preserve . This Preserve borders the Bay and the Preserve and the unpaved trail there are very similar to the Baylands.

At the Mid Pen Directors meeting in June, when they voted to not expand their pilot program of e-bikes access to other unpaved trails, there was no mention of any

environmental damage caused by e-bike riders. At that meeting Palo Alto Open Space Director Yoriko Kishimoto, commenting on a consultant study of the pilot program, said '**there was not much difference in the results of the pilot program between e-bikes and regular bikes. The big decision was to allow bikes on trails.**' As you know, bicycles have been allowed on the unpaved trails in the Baylands for many years.

Fifth, the PRC regulations for the Baylands would be difficult or impossible to enforce. Almost every day, new types of e-bikes are announced by manufacturers. One new e-bike has a battery and motor in the hub in the rear wheel and it is virtually indistinguishable from a manually operated bike. My feeling is that the regulation might not be consistently enforceable even if Palo Alto had a force of trained rangers, and there won't be any of them anyway. The PRC recommendation mentions signs.

I would hope the Council would ask the PRC to reconsider their draft Open Space e-bike policy. The Baylands is like Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. Prohibiting E-bike access on unpaved trails in the Baylands would mean that Palo Alto's regulations would NOT be consistent with those of the Mid-Penn Open Space District. And since it would not be enforceable, I could envisage the regulation would be ignored.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arthur Liberman
Chimalus Drive, Palo Alto

From: [Deborah Goldeen](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: E-bikes In Open Space Preserves
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 3:56:55 PM

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I own two E-bikes. I put 7,000 miles a year on them. Unless it is a necessary commute route, I think E-bikes should be banned from recreational trails.

There is an addictive quality to riding an E-bike, which is great if it gets someone to use a bike instead of a car. But the human mind is inclined to an addiction as a need and a right. It is not.

The "I'm older and I can't ride a bike like I used to argument" is one you are going to hear. I spent two hours out at Fremont Older (MidPen) parking lot and surveyed bike use. Nine out of ten E-bike riders were young males.

Deb Goldeen, 2130 Birch, 94306, (650)799-3652

From: [Michael McHenry](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Item 7 on restricting e-bikes
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 4:31:36 PM

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I object to restricting e-bikes to paved trails in Palo Alto. I am 80 years old and have enjoyed riding with a group of seniors from the Sons in Retirement (SIR) group. Several of us are riding e-bikes due to health issues.

Michael McHenry

From: [Peter Mueller](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: E bike tunes
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 5:58:26 PM

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Dear city council

Please do NOT pass a blanket rule re use of e-bikes on city bike trails.

Please refer the issue to the cities biking committee to draft recommendations.

There are basically 3 classes of e-bikes. Those w 250 watt pedal assist types should definitely be allowed. They are basically no more risky than the large variety of other bikes which some riders drive at high speeds.

I hope you will table this matter until it has been thoroughly reviewed and received inputs from our community.

Thanks much

Peter K Mueller

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